

DISPENSATIONS OF THE BIBLE – A BRIEF

Definition:

1. **Dispensations** are God's **divine perspective** and **administration** of the **events** and **flow** of history, which includes **progressive revelation** and **man's responsibility**, to the accomplishment of **His purpose** to **glorify Himself**.
2. The term dispensation comes from the Greek word *oikonomia* – *οἰκονομία* – meaning: **“the law of the house.”** It is sometimes translated **“stewardship,” “management,”** or **“administration.”** (Eph. 1:10; 3:2, 9; Col. 1:25)

The Dispensations of the Bible:

1. **Dispensation of Innocence (Freedom):** 4004 BC: 3904 BC (?)=100 years (?)
Edenic Covenant (Gen. 2:7-3:6)
2. **Dispensation of Conscience (Moral Responsibility):** 3904 – 2348 BC=1556 years
Adamic Covenant (Gen. 3:7-8:15)
3. **Dispensation of Human Government (Civil Gov't.):** 2348 BC-1921 BC=427 yrs.
God **purified the human race** by bringing eight people through the flood.
Noahic Covenant (Gen. 8:15-Gen. 12)
4. **Dispensation of Promise (Patriarchal Rule):** 1921 BC – 1491 BC=430 years
God established a **“new race,” the Hebrew people.**
Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12-Exodus 18:27)
5. **Dispensation of Law (Legal Dispensation):** 1491BC – AD 30=1520 years
God established a **“new nation,” the nation of Israel.**
Mosaic Covenant: (Exodus 19:1-Acts 1:26)
6. **Dispensation of the Hypostatic Union (The incarnation of Jesus Christ):**
4 BC – AD 30=33 years
Davidic Covenant (2 Sam. 7:8-16; 1 Chron. 17:7-14; Matt. 1:1-Acts 1:26)
7. **Dispensation of the Church (Dispensation of the Mystery, Dispensation of Grace):** AD 30 – (?)=1981 years plus (?)
New Covenant to the Church (Acts 2:1-Rev. 4:1; cf. Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25; 2 Cor. 3:6)
8. **Dispensation of the Tribulation (Jacob's Trouble):** Begins after the Church Age.
Duration=7 years plus (?)

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Continuation of the Mosaic Covenant, the 70th week of Daniel.

(Jer. 30:7; Dan. 9:24-27; Matt. 24:9-29; Mk. 13:9-23; Rev. 4:2-19:21)

9. **Dispensation of the Kingdom (The Messianic Dispensation, The Millennium, The Stone Kingdom, Dispensation of the Fullness of the Times):**

Duration=1000 years plus (?)

Fulfills all of these covenants:

Abrahamic Covenant

Land Grant Covenant (so-called Palestinian Covenant)

Davidic Covenant

New Covenant to Israel

Phinehasic Covenant (through the line of Zadok)

(Daniel 2:44, 45; 7:14; Matt. 16:27, 28; 26:29; Eph. 1:10; 2 Pet. 1:11; Rev. 20)

10. **Dispensation of the Eternal State:**

The Eternal Covenant (1 Chron. 16:17; Isa. 61:8; Jer. 32:40; Ezek. 16:60, 62; Ezek. 37:26; Rev. 21; 22)