

Israel, the Church and the Nations in History and Prophecy

God works with humanity in three spheres:

- 1. In Creation (material)** God, the Creator, has made of “one blood” all people to dwell on the earth (Acts 17:24-27). There is one “human race”.
- 2. In Redemption (spiritual)** God, the Redeemer, divides people into two classes in relation to salvation – the saved and the lost (John 3:36, Rev 22:11)
- 3. In Providence (moral)** God, the Governor of the ages, deals with man in three classes: “Jew [Israel], Gentile [nations] and church of God” (1 Cor 10:32)

God has *distinct plans* for 1. Israel, and 2. the nations, and 3. the church (composed of saved Jews/Gentiles) both in the dispensations and in the eternal state. (Note: N/A below indicates “not applicable”)

GOD'S DEALINGS with MEN	1st Dispensation Innocence	2nd Dispensation Conscience	3rd Dispensation GOVERNMENT	4th Dispensation PROMISE	5th Dispensation LAW	6th Dispensation CHURCH/GRACE	7th Dispensation KINGDOM	The Eternal State (The Day of God)
The Nations Hebrew = 'goyim'; Gk = 'ethnos' often transl. 'Gentiles'	N/A	N/A	Noah's sons become families and nations. The nations divide at Babel (Gen 10-11). God sets their times & boundaries (Deut 32:8, Acts 17:26)	God “gives the nations up” (Rom 1:24-28), allowing them to walk in their own ways (Acts 14:16), and overlooking the “times of ignorance” (Acts 17:30) until the coming of Christ.	The nations live “without law” (Greek: anomos). No codified written law is ever given to the Gentile nations. They live by their God-given conscience (Rom 2:12-15, 1 Cor 9:21).	The coming of Christ inaugurates a change. “God NOW commandeth all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30). The apostles are told to “Go therefore and teach all nations” (Matt 28:19).	The nations are ruled by Christ and His Church. They are blessed through Abraham's seed. Earthly Jerusalem becomes the world's capital; Israel the world's centre (Mic 4:2-8, Zech 14:16-19).	“The nations of them which are saved” shall walk in light of the heavenly New Jerusalem and bring “glory and honour” into it (Rev 21:23-26). New Jerusalem, the city with foundations, joined to earth (Heb 11:10, Rev 21:2).
Date: 2,348BC 1,913BC 1,491BC ← 606BC Times of the Gentiles →								
The Nation of Israel	N/A	N/A	N/A	Abram: “I will make of thee a great nation” (Gen 12:2). Abram is unconditionally promised a tract of land at the centre of the world (Gen 13:15, 15:18-21).	Israel a nation born out of Egypt (Hos 11:1), is put “under law” (Gk: hupo nomos) at Sinai as a rule of life (1 Cor 9:20). Loses national headship through idolatry (Deut 28:13).	After rejecting Christ, Israel is temporarily set aside, its special privileges suspended (Rom 11:11-25). After the rapture, Israel will go through ‘Jacob's trouble’ before being finally restored (Jer 30:7).	Jerusalem becomes the global centre of worship (Mic 4:1-2, Isa 62:1-9). Israel becomes a kingdom of Priests on earth in the “promised land” (Isa 61:6, Dan 12:13).	Israel lives on the New Earth eternally in the land promised to Abraham, existing as a distinct entity from both the rest of the nations and the church, the body of Christ (Jer 31:35).
The Church The body of Christ	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	The church begins at Pentecost and is completed at the rapture. She is “not under law, but under grace” (Rom 6:14-15) being “in law to Christ” (1 Cor 9:21) (Gk: ennomos). Christ is the Church's rule of life.	The Church reigns with Christ in connection with His throne (Matt 19:28, Luke 19:17, 1 Cor 6:2, 2 Tim 2:12, Rev 2:26, 3:21, 5:10, 20:4) as He administers “the fullness of times” (Eph 1:10).	The Church eternally retains her distinct unique character. She is to be the eternal display of God's grace (Eph 2:7). Glory to God will be <i>in the church</i> unto all generations of the age of the ages in Christ Jesus (Eph 3:20-21).

At the beginning of history: God begins to deal with nations first (Gen 10), then Israel (Gen 12, Exod 12), and finally the church begins on the Day of Pentecost in AD32 (Acts 2)

At the end of history: God will fulfil his purposes *in reverse order*. The church (saved people, whether Jew or Gentile) is called out in salvation during this present evil age (Acts 15:14) and is then taken to heaven at the rapture (1 Thess 4:16-17, 5:9, 2 Thess 2:6-8). God then takes up dealings with the nation of Israel again in the time of “Jacob's trouble” in Daniel's 70th week (Jer 30:7, Dan 7:24-27), regathering the nation back to the land at His 2nd coming (Isa 11:11-12, Amos 9:14, Acts 15:16). Finally the blessing flows to the nations of the world, bringing them peace, blessing and the knowledge of God in the Millennium and in eternity (Gen 22:18, Mic 4:2-8, Rom 11:15, Acts 15:17).