

THE SEVEN DISPENSATIONS	THERE ARE 4 CYCLES COMMON TO EACH DISPENSATION. SOMETIMES THERE IS OVERLAP IN TRANSITION.			
	1. REVELATION FROM GOD (PRIVILEGE GIVEN TO MAN)	2. RESPONSIBILITY (MAN'S STEWARDSHIP)	3. MAN'S REBELLION & FAILURE TO OBEY	4. GOD'S RETRIBUTION & JUDGMENT on MAN
1. INNOCENCE (Gen 1-3) Adam and Eve	God reveals Himself as Creator. Creates man in His image and sets Him in Eden ruling over creation (Relationship/reflection/rule). Eve is Adam's complement (Gen 1:26-31).	To live in accordance with his role, to fill and subdue the earth, to tend garden, to obey God's prohibition. To acknowledge his dependence (Gen 2:15-17).	Adam and Eve wilfully disobey. They rebel against God and reject their designated roles, following Satan they eat of the tree.	Expulsion from Eden. Death by sin. Curses on the serpent, the woman, the man and the ground (Gen 3:22-24). The whole creation now groaning.
2. CONSCIENCE (Gen 4-Gen 8) Cain and Abel, Enoch and Methusaleh	God promises a Seed to crush the Serpent's head. Enoch prophesies the coming of Lord to judge (Jude v14). The holiness of God is revealed, but no codified law is given as of yet.	To "do well" (Gen 4:7). To approach God by sacrifice and to walk with Him (Gen 5:24). To live in accordance with conscience (Rom 2:13-15).	Cain's defiance and his city building. Bigamy practised... all flesh corrupted. Only evil practised continually. The "sons of God" (Gen 6:5-12).	God sends the worldwide flood. The old world and all flesh destroyed (2 Pet 3:6). Conscience continues in all future dispensations.
3. HUMAN GOVERNMENT (Gen 9-Gen 11) Noah, Shem, Nimrod	Noahic covenant ("everlasting" – Gen 9:17). God promises not to repeat the worldwide flood. Seasons guaranteed while the earth remains. Dread of man is put upon beasts.	To be fruitful, spread out and fill the earth (Gen 9:1). Animals can be eaten but not their blood. Capital punishment introduced (i.e. government) (Gen 9:5-6).	Humanity refuses to spread out in total defiance of God expressed in the federation and idolatry at Babel under Nimrod (Gen 11:4, 10:8).	God scatters by confusing the city builders' languages (Gen 11:7-9). The Gentile nations are introduced. Human government continues.
4. PROMISE (Gen 12-Exod 11) Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph	Abrahamic Covenant. The God of glory appears to Abram and promises him a seed, land and blessing perpetually, and through him the world. He is justified by faith.	To leave Ur, become a pilgrim, believe the promises, accept the sign of circumcision. (Other nations are allowed to go their own way - Acts 14:16, 17:30.	Abraham's faithless visit to Egypt; Ishmael born from Hagar; the failures of Isaac and Jacob; Joseph betrayed and sold.	Slavery in Egypt (Gen 15:13). All males over 20 die in the desert wanderings, but the unconditional promise to Abraham continues (Gal 3:17).
5. LAW (Exod 12, Acts 1) Moses, the Judges, the Kings and the prophets	The Mosaic covenant. The "giving of the law and the service of God." 613 laws (ceremonial, national and moral), including the 10 commandments. The sacrificial system of offerings introduced.	To keep the law. Israel under a tutor (Gal 3:24-25). Thou shalt/not. "All that the Lord has said we will do." Curses or blessings. Israel must keep the Sabbath (sign of the covenant).	Israel turns aside to idolatry (Ex 32:8). Breaks the Mosaic covenant (Jer 31:32). They kill God's prophets. They reject Christ: "This is the heir, come let us kill Him."	Captivity in Assyria/Babylon and eventual worldwide scattering by Rome in AD70. Mosaic law abolished by God. "Blindness in part has happened unto Israel until..."
6. CHURCH Acts 2 – Rev 3/19 Peter, Paul	God speaks "in Son". Grace and truth by Jesus Christ. A Man in the glory...the Spirit on earth. God's wisdom is Christ crucified and risen. Judgment appointed.	God NOW commandeth all men - the nations - everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30). People are responsible to believe and obey gospel (2 Thess 1:8).	Only a few are saved (Luke 13:23). Christ rejected: antichrist enthroned. Men believe "the lie" and reject "the truth" (2 Thess 2:11)	The great tribulation. Seals, trumpets, vials, earthquakes. Christ returns in flaming fire, taking vengeance on the unrepentant at Armageddon.
7. KINGDOM Rev 20 Christ the King and His bride the Church	Christ reigning as the King (Zech 14:9). Righteousness reigning (Isa 11:4-5). Satan bound. Creation liberated. Global peace. Israel in New Covenant relationship. The Church is Christ's complement (Eph 1:23)	To submit to the King of Kings, who rules with a rod of iron (Isa 65:20). An annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem required (Zech 14:16). This is the final test of man, under 1,000 years of peace.	After 1,000 years Satan is loosed. Those born in the Millennium, but who remain unconverted, join a worldwide rebellion against the Lord's anointed (Rev 20:7).	Fire from heaven destroys the rebels. The universe passes away (2 Pet 3:10). The 2nd resurrection. Final judgment. New heavens/earth. Righteousness dwells (2 Pet 3:13).

TWO KEY WORDS:

The word "age"

(Greek: aion, from which we get the English word "aeon")

The word means: "A period of time viewed in relation to what takes place in it. An era marked by spiritual or moral characteristics" (as in "the golden age"/"age of Tudors")

Key verses:

- King of the ages (1 Tim 1:17)
- Before the ages (1 Cor 2:7, 2 Tim 1:9)
- Creator of the ages (Heb 1:2)
- The completion of the ages (1 Cor 10:11, Heb 9:26)
- This present evil age (Gal 1:4)
- The purpose of the ages (Eph 3:11)
- The age to come (Eph 1:21)

The word "dispensation"

(Greek: oikonomia, from oikos/house and nomos/law, from which we get the English word "economy")

The word means: "An administration of affairs, a stewardship, a mode of dealing" (as "the Biden administration" or "household management"). Each age in the plan of God (aion) is administered in a certain way (oikonomia), as man is held responsible as a steward under God.

Key verses:

- Give account of thy stewardship (Luke 16:2)
- The dispensation of the fullness of times (Eph 1:10)
- A dispensation of the grace of God (Eph 3:2)
- A dispensation of the gospel (1 Cor 9:17)