

Unlocking The Mystery & Treasure Of Our Inheritance

#35 Stirring Up The Nest

Scripture divides TIME from the Creation of Adam to the New Heaven & New Earth.

TIME is divided: Times Past & Last Days

1. Time Past = Creation until Crucifixion

a. Time Past is divided: Times of Ignorance & Without Law

b. Moses & the Law until the Crucifixion; includes the beginning of Times of Gentiles

2. Last Days = After Crucifixion until end of Millennial Kingdom [includes Times of Gentiles & Times of Restitution]

AGES: 1. Antediluvian = The Fall until Flood

2. Present Age: Flood until the 2nd Coming

3. Age of Ages: 2nd Coming until the end of Time

Dispensationalism is the system of theology that provides the best, most literal hermeneutic (method of Bible interpretation).

Consider: Scripture studied this way yields:

a. It gives a correct view of the distinct differences between Israel and the Church.

b. It gives a clear view of God's elect, His redeemed, and His plan - past, present and future.

c. Develops a watchful attitude in a believer's life

Dispensation: Moral or probationary period in man's history;

stewardship arrangement between God and man; pattern of how God worked with man

a. God begins by establishing man in a favorable position and gives him a responsibility.

b. God leaves man to his own inevitable failure; man fails to meet God's requirements.

c. Man's failure is judged by God.

d. God in His mercy intervenes, extends grace and hope for the future.

The classic seven dispensations are Innocence, Conscience, Government, Promise, Law, Grace, and Millennial Kingdom

Note: The 1st 4 Dispensations are In Times Past; Times Of Ignorance; Without Law

Each new dispensation is ushered in by a Covenant. [8 covenants; 7 dispensations]

#1 Edenic Covenant: > Conditional >

Adam is REQUIRED to obey or he will suffer the consequences. God's commands:

(1) Replenish the earth (2) Subdue the earth (3) Dominion over the animals

(4) Tend the garden (5) Restricted to a vegetable diet and (6) Abstain From Eating the fruit

Gen. 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Edenic Covenant ushers in the Dispensation of Innocence.

1. Dispensation Of Innocence = ~33 Years

Origin of: Human race, marriage, sin/death, redemption

Perfect Environment; Created Innocent; Man created in image of God; Became a living soul

Man is ignorant of good/evil; Man has attributes to commune with God

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| Stewards | Adam & Eve |
| Period | Creation To Fall |
| Man's Responsibility | Obey God / Do Not Eat |
| Man's Failure | They Ate - Disobedient |
| Judgment | Curse & Death |

Truth: Innocence and a perfect environment are NOT safeguards against wrong-doing.

Grace Promise of Redeemer Gen. 3:15 New Covenant

#2 Adamic Covenant: [unconditional] Gen. 3:16-19 As the result of Adam's sin, the following curses were pronounced: Enmity between Satan and Eve and her descendants.

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| Painful childbirth for women | Marital strife |
| The soil curse | Thorns and thistles Survival to be a struggle |
| Death introduced | Death will be the inescapable fate of all living things |

2. Dispensation Of Conscience ~1656 Years

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| Stewards | Cain/Seth & Families |
| Time Period | Expulsion From Garden to Flood |
| Man's Responsibility | Do Good, Instituted Blood Sacrifice |
| Man's Failure | Wickedness Was Rampant |
| Judgment | Universal Flood |

Truth: Conscience may produce fear and remorse, but it will not keep men from doing wrong.

Conscience makes us aware of sin but has NO POWER to overcome sin.

Grace Noah & his family are saved

3 Noahic Covenant [Gen. 8:20-9:17] is unconditional and based on God's faithfulness alone.

a. God will not curse the ground nor destroy all the living. Day & night continue.

Seasons will not cease.

b. Noah & family are to replenish the earth with people.

c. They will have dominion over the animal creation.

d. Allowed to eat meat.

e. Capital punishment is established.

f. Never another world-wide flood - Gen. 9:13

g. God's sealed the covenant with His sign = Rainbow

3. Dispensation Of Human Government ~429 Years

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| Stewards | Noah & His Descendants - Govern The Earth |
| Time Period | After Flood To Confusion Of Tongues At Babel |
| Man's Responsibility | Obey Noahic Covenant - Scatter & Multiply |
| Man's Failure | Did Not Scatter; built Tower of Babel, ended in wickedness, defiance; worship creation |

Judgment Confusion Of Languages

Grace: Abraham is chosen—the start of the Jewish race (Genesis 12:1-3)

God tested perfect man in innocence. Man failed and was judged when he was cast out of Eden.
 God tested fallen man's conscience. Man failed and was judged by the Great Flood.
 God tested man under human government. Man failed and was judged at Babel.
 God then tested man under Divine Promise by calling out Abram, who would become Abraham.

#4 Abrahamic Covenant: Gen. 12:1-3 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee:
² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shall be a blessing:
³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curses thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

a. Unconditional - required nothing of Abraham

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| 4. Dispensation Of Promise | 430 Years | Birth of Nation Of Israel |
| Stewards | Abraham, Isaac, Jacob | |
| Time Period | Call Of Abraham to Israel's arrival at Mt. Sinai | |
| Man's Responsibility | Dwell In Canaan | |
| Man's Failure | Dwelt In Egypt | |
| Judgment | Egyptian Bondage | |

Events After Crossing The Red Sea Until Arriving At Mt. Sinai

1. They came to the waters of Marah but could not drink of them because they were bitter.
2. God provided quail in the evening and manna in the morning in Wilderness of Sin.
- 3 They came to Rephidim and again have no water. Moses strikes rock at Horeb.
4. Ex. 17:8 Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.

We have seen God's enduring patience and faithfulness in dealing with His redeemed and chosen but erring people who displayed shameful unbelief and murmuring.

These are the circumstances under which the Dispensation of Law began.

Note: While the Abrahamic Covenant continues and has not yet been completely fulfilled (even to this day), God changed course with His chosen people Israel at Mt. Sinai. God added the Law, and with it a new dispensation, which had a beginning and an ending [Romans 10:4].

The Dispensation Of Law—Exodus 19:5 to:

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

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| <i>Stewards:</i> | Moses and the children of Israel as a nation at Mt. Sinai | |
| <i>The Period:</i> | from Mt. Sinai until Christ Jesus fulfilled the Law with His death | |
| <i>Responsibility:</i> | Keep The Whole Law | Exodus 19:3-8 |
| <i>Failure:</i> | The Law was Broken | II Kings 17:7-20 |
| <i>Judgment</i> | Worldwide Dispersion | Deut. 28:63-66; Luke 21:20-24 |
| <i>Grace</i> | The Promised Savior Is Sent | Isaiah 9:6-7; Galatians 4:4-5 |

1. The dispensation of Law, named after the Mosaic Law, began when God gave the Law to the children of Israel.
2. It came to an end with the crucifixion of Christ and the beginning of the Church.
 - a. It includes the 4 Gospels. John the Baptist lived under the Dispensation of Law. Jesus Christ came to earth during this dispensation.
3. Covered a span of time of approximately 1500 years
4. Majority of Old Testament was written during this time
5. God delivered the 10 Commandments and the Mosaic Law in Exodus 19-23.
 - a. It is called a "covenant" in Exodus 24:7-8; Deuteronomy 4:13; and Galatians 3:19.
 - b. God dealt specifically with the Jewish nation through the Mosaic Law.
 - c. Standard of perfection God required from His people
 - d. Instructions about temple worship directed by priests and sacrifices
 - e. Israel was never to be saved by keeping the Law (Romans 3:20).
 - f. The Law was meant to govern their earthly lives, to define sin, and to point to the coming Savior. Neither did the Law change the provisions of the Abrahamic Covenant.
6. It was God's only *conditional* covenant with Israel in that blessing and success depended upon the people's obedience to the Law [Exodus 19:5].
7. Children of Israel developed as a nation and spanned various historical periods.
8. Age of priests, prophets, [God's mouthpieces] and kings: both good and evil
9. People who lived under the dispensation of law: Moses, Joshua, Samson, Samuel, King Saul, King David, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Ezra, Nehemiah, John the Baptist
10. This dispensation followed the same downward course others did.

God's people repeatedly broke His commands and wandered after other gods.
11. Before the clay was dry on the tablets which the 10 Commandments was written, the nation of Israel made themselves a golden calf and were bowing down and worshiping it.
12. The strict following of commandments was never as important to God as mercy and faithfulness. Hosea 6:6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

Key Note: In the previous dispensations, God had allowed man to govern himself.

Now He purposed to organize a people with laws and regulations and a "visible" system of worship with a local habitation or place of worship. This government would be Theocratic. God would rule on earth via a representative He would appoint.

Exodus 19:1-2 In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai. For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount. [They will remain camped here for 11 months.] [Ex. 19 - Num. 10:1-10: Significant Events at Mt. Sinai: Moses met God in the burning bush. God made His covenant with Israel. Elijah heard God in the still small voice.]

Note #1 It was on Mt. Sinai that Moses was to ascend and descend 8 different times in his communion with God.

Note #2 Mt. Sinai would become the Mount Of Transition, a new moment in God's dealings with men. Up until now, the Israelites could actually hear God speak in an audible voice, but due to their disobedience, God would only speak through Moses.

Note #3 Mt. Sinai would become a Mount Of Transgression when the people of Israel would worship a golden calf.

Note #4 Mt. Sinai would finally become the Mount Of Transfiguration where Moses' face would glow from being in the presence of God. [Ex. 34:29]

Note #5 ~63 chapters of OT are devoted to events that occurred at Mt. Sinai

Ex. 19:3-6 And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the House Of Jacob, and tell the Children Of Israel:

Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. NOW THEREFORE, IF ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, THEN ye shall be a Peculiar [Special] Treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: *And Ye Shall Be Unto Me A Kingdom Of Priests, And A Holy Nation.*

These Are The Words Which Thou Shalt Speak Unto The Children Of Israel.

1. God's purpose in rescuing Abraham's descendants from Egypt was not just to save them from slavery.

It was to establish them as a nation that belongs to Him and represents Him in the world.

2. Ex. 4:22-23 tells us Israel is God's firstborn son. They are His covenant people.

They are to receive special blessings. They have a special mission:

To display God's glory to all and to make Him known throughout all generations.

3. In Gen. 15 & 17, God made a covenant with Abraham, promising to make his descendants into a great nation. NOW, that promise was being realized as God restated His agreement with the Israelite nation, the descendants of Abraham.

4. God purposed to bless the nations by establishing Israel, His Servant, as a mediatorial people, who would be a "light to the Gentiles," and share with the nations the way to enter into fellowship with God.

5. Israel's calling was to a position of both privilege and responsibility. To whom much is given, much is required. To enjoy fellowship with God and serve Him as His representative, they must reflect His holiness and purity.

6. 3 titles for Israel: My own treasure [possession], kingdom of priest, a holy nation

a. This was contingent upon their being an obedient and covenant-keeping nation.

By His grace, God called His people to a very special life. Moses, in his final song, employed this metaphor of God's care for Israel and especially noted there was only ONE God who did this. Deut. 32:10-12 He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

Consider: If freedom doesn't lead to maturity, [grow up into fullness of Jesus Christ] we end up imprisoned in a bondage worse than what we had before. We will be in bondage from within. God used as the "image of maturity," the eagle bearing its young on its wings and teaching them the glorious freedom of flight.

1. When a baby eagle is born, the nest is very soft, secure and cozy.
2. Baby grows to ~80% of adult size and weight by month 3.
3. Adults soar and hover over the nest. This is what you are meant to do!
4. Nest is so comfortable - Eaglet is content to be a freeloader!
5. One day, the adult eagles start behaving strangely. They don't bring the food! They start grabbing hunks of the comfy nest and drop it over the side. Little by little, they take away all the warm, soft lining until the eaglet is left in the very uncomfortable, sticky, prickly nest.

Key Point: Eaglets will never fly and soar as long as the nest is feathered.

They must learn to fly in order to fulfill their purposes in life.

6. The adult eagle grabs the eaglet, places it on the edge of the nest and pushes it out. The eaglet's cries are ignored. This is an act of love so the eaglet will fulfill its purpose.
7. Father eagle never takes his eyes off the eaglet. As they shriek in fear, the father eagle flies out with perfect timing, swoops down with incredible speed, and spreads his huge wings beneath the eaglet before it is dashed to its death below.

Consider: An eaglet cannot fall faster than the father can fly.

The eaglets illustrate 3 aspects of freedom:

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| 1. Freedom From | Out of the nest | Redemption |
| 2. Freedom In | At home in the air | Maturity |
| 3. Freedom To | Fulfill Their Purpose | Ministry |

Egypt As The "Nest" Of The Children Of Israel

Key Point #1 From God's point of view, Egypt was a furnace of affliction for Israel.

Deut. 4:20 But the LORD has taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto him a people of inheritance, as you are this day.

I Kings 8:51 For they are Your people and Your inheritance [heritage], which You brought out of Egypt, from the midst of the iron furnace. [Also, Jer. 11:4]

Key Point #2 However, the Jews often saw Egypt as a "nest" where they at least had food, shelter, and security.

Ex. 16:3 And said to them, Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

Num. 11:1-6, 8 And the people Grumbled And Deplored Their Hardships, which was EVIL in the ears of the Lord, and when the Lord heard it, His anger was kindled; and the fire of the Lord BURNED among them and DEVOURED those in the outlying parts of the camp.

² The people cried to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the Lord, the fire subsided.

³ He called the name of the place Taberah [burning], because the fire of the Lord burned among them. ⁴ And the mixed multitude among them [the rabble who followed Israel from Egypt] began to lust greatly [for familiar and dainty food], and the Israelites wept again and said, Who will give us meat to eat? ⁵ We remember the fish we ate freely in Egypt *and* without cost, the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic.

⁶ But now our soul (our strength) is dried up; there is nothing at all [in the way of food] to be seen but this manna.

⁸ And the people went about, and gathered it, and ground it in mills, or beat it in a mortar, and baked it in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil.

Key Point #3 God delivered them from Egypt because He had something better for them to enjoy and to do, but this meant they had to "try their wings" and experience growing pains as they moved toward maturity.

While there were times when God seemed [to the Israelites] to have abandoned His people, in reality, God, like the mother eagle, was simply stirring up the nest, forcing the Israelites to "try their wings."

When Israel thought she was about to perish, God swooped beneath her, bearing her up.

Question: Is your nest being stirred up? Do you feel as though you are going to be dashed against the rocks?

Remember: Your Heavenly Father is hovering over you, watching every minute. He can "fly faster than you can fall."

Key Point #1: God wants you to know the joy and freedom of soaring - His abundant Life. Taste It! See How Good It Is! You will not settle for anything else!

Ps. 42:1 As the deer pants for the water, so my soul pants for you, O God.

Key Point #2 Growing and maturing will seem like painful lessons, but soaring awaits.

Consider: When the Jews complained about God's dealings with them and yearned to go back to Egypt, they were acting like little children, so God had to discipline them.

"It took one night to take Israel out of Egypt, but 40 years to take Egypt out of Israel."

Question: How long is it taking the Lord to get me to fly, or am I nesting and don't want to be disturbed?