

Unlocking The Mystery & Treasure Of My Inheritance

Lesson #3 Rightly Dividing The Word - *Innocence & Conscience*

Distinguish between these 2 terms:

1. KOSMOS - The external arrangement and beauty of the natural world.

a. It includes the thought of nations, peoples and worldly possessions.

b. "Kosmos" occurs 170 times - always translated "World"

Matt. 4:8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

Matt. 13:38 - The Field is the World.

Luke 11:50 that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation,

2. AION - Means "Age," "Dispensation," or "Indefinite Time"

a. Occurs 28 times - always translated "World" which is misleading and confusing.

(1) Matt. 13: 39-40, 49 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the world [should be AGE], and the reapers are the angels. ⁴⁰ Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.

(2) Rom. 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, [should be AGE]

(3) II Cor. 4:4 In whom the god of this world [AGE] hath blinded the minds of them which believe not

(4) Gal. 1:4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world [AGE], according to the will of our God and Father,

(5) Heb. 1:2 has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; [AGES]

(6) Heb. 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds [AGES] were framed by the word of God, [Jesus] so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

Truth: Jesus not only made the "earth worlds," He also made the "time-worlds."

He planned the "Ages" and the "Dispensations."

At its most basic level, the study of prophecy centers upon God's self-professed plan to restore the broken and sin-wracked universe to a state of holiness, stability and purity. Ultimately, good will come out of evil. Out of Law and conviction, His grace will flourish. Under the stewardship of man, the world has repeatedly fallen prey to a variety of faulty utopian plans. Under the rule of man, the world will continually fall into one crisis after another, until God intervenes to restore some semblance of order and a new beginning. This pattern has been repeated over and over without any general recognition on man's part that he has been saved once again.

This is the core belief in a form of Scriptural understanding whose goal is to make sense of the enormous plan of redemption. Known as "dispensationalism," it simply means stewardship or management plan. John Darby [1800-1882] >Father of Dispensationalism -is credited with bringing new life to a theology that had been buried since the 5th Century.

Darby wrote: "Isaiah 32 revealed a future dispensation in which Israel would inherit a literal, earthly kingdom. I saw there would be a David reign. I saw an evident change of dispensation when the Spirit would be poured out on the Jewish nations and a king reign in righteousness." Darby concluded God's ancient people, Israel, had a prophetic role independent of the Church role. He also placed the catching-away [rapture] of the church prior to Daniel's 70th week.

Late 17th Century: A few began to proclaim their belief in the apostles' teaching regarding the future Millennial reign of Christ on David's throne.

C.I. Scofield: Developed a complete system of notes and outlines that was published in *Rightly Dividing The Word Of Truth* [1890's]. He and Dwight L. Moody joined forces in leading the powerful Bible Conference Movement. Scofield's Bible, issued in 1909, taught the premillennial and dispensational methods. This was the dominant view in America.

In the 20th century, with the return of Israel to the Land, many began to teach we were near the coming of a new era, with Israel becoming head of the nations.

This would be the dispensation of the Kingdom.

Most denominations impugn this school of biblical interpretation and label it as heresy.

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. A watchful attitude in a believer's life

The Scriptures divide time (the entire period from the creation of Adam to the "new heaven and a new earth" of Rev. 21: 1) into seven unequal periods, called dispensations (Eph. 3:2).

DISPENSATION = A moral or probationary period in the world's history

1. In the history of humanity, there is a pattern. Darby observed:

- a. God begins by establishing His creation in a favorable position.
- b. He then leaves it to its own inevitable failure.
- c. God in His mercy intervenes and place man in a new position of blessing.

Each dispensation may be regarded as a new test of man, and each ends in judgment, marking his utter failure in every dispensation. Five of these dispensations have been fulfilled; we are living in the sixth, and have before us the seventh, and last: the millennium.

The classic seven dispensations are Innocence, Conscience, Government, Promise, Law, Grace, and Millennial Kingdom. In each, there is a recognizable, six-fold pattern of how God worked with those living in the dispensation. God gives a responsibility to people, they fail to meet God's requirements, their failure is judged, and God extends grace and hope for the future.

Note: Each dispensation is ushered in by a Covenant. God's 8 covenants with man originate with Him and they all relate to the earth. Six of them were given to individual and representative

men like Adam, Noah, and Abraham. Each covenant has a time element and expires at a certain time. Four of them are distinguished by a "sign."

The Antediluvian Age [Creation To The Flood] is comprised of 2 dispensations.

I. Dispensation of Innocence (Gen. 1:26-30 and 2:15-17 = Responsibility; Gen. 3:1-6 = Failure)

Stewards: Adam and Eve

The Period: From the creation of man to The Fall & Expulsion

Responsibility: To obey God (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-17); Do Not Eat

Failure: Disobedience (Genesis 3:1-6)

Judgment: Curse and death (Genesis 3:7-19)

Grace: A new chance and the promise of a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15)

1. Origin of the human race, marriage, sin, death and redemption

2. Perfect Environment - They were created innocent, ignorant of good and evil.

They have all the attributes necessary to keep them in close relationship with their Creator.

3. Man's Responsibility: Edenic Covenant ushers in the Dispensation of Innocence. > 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

from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. God warned: Penalty! You Will Surely Die!

4. Adam & Eve did not know the heavens above them swarmed with fallen angels under the leadership of Satan.

Question: Should God have warned them of an attack by Satan?

Consider: The commandment "Do Not Eat" should have caused him to beware of any being who would tempt him to disobey and eat.

Consider: If God had plainly told him of Satan's plan, it would have frustrated God's purpose in the testing.

Truth: True obedience is to OBEY without knowing WHY.

Consider: If God had not permitted the human race to be tested and fall, the Universe would never have had the supreme spectacle of His forgiving love and redemptive grace as revealed on Calvary.

5. Satan's purpose was to thwart God's purpose in the creation of man [peopling of the earth with a holy race of people] and to regain the earth, which he had lost by his rebellion.

6. Satan: Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'

Gen. 2: 16 [God's Words] Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but the Tree...

Eve: You shall not eat it, nor shall you TOUCH IT, LEST YOU DIE.

Note: Eve ADDED to the words of God. He did not include touching it.

Eve SUBTRACTED from the words of God: Surely die > Lest you die [doubts certainty of death]

Truth: The commencement of The Fall was the "deceitful handling" of the Word of God.

Rev. 22:18-19 A Warning: ¹⁸ For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in

this book;¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

II Cor. 4:2 But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

7. After Satan sowed the "Seed of Doubt," [his poison was working], he declared God was a liar. "You shall not surely die." [Gen. 3:4] This is the "DEVIL'S LIE."

a. Religious systems today teach man will not be eternally punished.

b. Satan said the acquisition of knowledge will make you "god-like."

c. Satan is currently seeking to build a magnificent civilization on the discoveries and inventions of men and exalt man without God.

d. His aim is the final "Deification of Man;" its culmination in his "superman, The Antichrist," who will sit in the Temple at Jerusalem and proclaim himself to be GOD. [II Thess. 2:3-4]

8. Adam & Eve were created INNOCENT. This is not RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Innocence must be TESTED and pass to become righteousness.

Note: Adam's & Eve's "fig-leaf raiment" could not cover the penalty of their sin; it was a symbol of man's works. God provided the suitable covering that would typify the putting away of sin.

An innocent animal [type of Lamb of God] must be killed to provide the covering.

Heb. 9:22 > Sin can only be put away by the shedding of blood.

Adamic Covenant > Gen. 3:16-19 - Includes 1st Prophecy in the Bible

A. Curses & Death Pronounced: Note: God decreed 7 judgments because of sin.

1. Satan is cursed for as long as he lives.

2. Satan's head will ultimately be crushed.

3. Throughout history, there will be conflict between the serpent's offspring and the woman's offspring; between good and evil.

4. Painful childbirth for women

5. Marital strife; women are to submit to their husband

6. Men have to work to feed themselves. The soil cursed; thorns & thistles; survival =struggle

7. Death introduced and will be the inescapable fate of all living things.

B. Gen. 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

a. One born of a woman would be wounded in the process of destroying Satan.

b. THY SEED = Satan's seed = a prophetic reference to THE ANTICHRIST who as Satan's seed is called the "Son Of Perdition." [II Thess. 2:3]

c. Her Seed = Jesus Christ = who will defeat Satan.

Note: Women DO NOT have a "seed."

This is the Bible's first Messianic Prophecy and predicts a miracle, virgin birth.

Note: Even in the midst of the curse, God's gracious provision of salvation shines through.

Consider: In mercy, God drove them from the garden lest they eat of the "Tree of Life" and be doomed to live "forever" in their sinful, mortal bodies.

This short-lived dispensation ended due to Adam and Eve's failure to NOT EAT the forbidden fruit. This dispensation ended in man's 1st failure, the human race under condemnation and the whole earth cursed. Men claim that innocence and a perfect environment are safeguards against wrong-doing, but the catastrophe of Eden proves this is not true. Its far-reaching effects were the most disastrous. It closed in judgment. "So He drove the man out."

Praise: Satan WILL NOT thwart God's plan and purpose. God's judgment is sure, but He is patient.

Genesis

Revelation

3:1 Satan Entered The Garden	21:27 Nothing That Defiles Will Enter New Jerusalem
3:15 Satan's Opposition To God & Man Began	20:10 Satan Will Be Cast Into The Lake Of Fire
3:16 Sorrow & Pain Began	21:4 No More Sorrow & Pain
3:17 Ground Was Cursed	22:3 No More Curse
3:19 Adam would Return To Dust	21:4 No More Death
3:21-24 Adam Barred From Tree Of Life	22:14 Access To Tree Of Life Regained

II. Dispensation of Conscience—Genesis 3:23 to 9:29

Stewards: Cain and Seth and their families

The Period: Expulsion from the Garden of Eden until the Flood, about 1,656 years

Responsibility: To do good and offer blood sacrifices (Genesis 3:7, 22; 4:4)

Failure: Wickedness (Genesis 6:5-6, 11, 12)

Judgment: The worldwide Flood (Genesis 6:7, 13; 7:11-14)

Grace: Noah and his family are saved (Genesis 6:8-9; 7:1; 8:1)

a. Man is treated as a whole; there are no nations.

b. This dispensation is in "Times of Ignorance" & "Without Law."

Acts 17:30 contrasts "Times of Ignorance" with "Times That Are Now."

God "winked at" what He could not overlook in the Legal Dispensation.

c. The fall transmitted to the race the knowledge of good and evil and gave the conscience a basis for right moral judgment. This dispensation will reveal what man will do if left to his own will and conscience, which have been tainted by the inherited sin nature.

d. Rom. 2:15 tells us the conscience was the standard by which men accused or excused themselves. Guided by conscience, man was supposed to choose to do good and approach God by means of a blood sacrifice (Genesis 4:4).

e. Mankind violated his conscience and failed in his responsibility to choose to do right. Apparently, God wanted man to discover he could not let his conscience be his only guide. Conscience proved to be a very poor guide,

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

Conscience imparts NO POWER.

f. Remember: The Law was not given until after the Exodus.

Rom. 3:20 tells us "by the LAW is the KNOWLEDGE OF SIN."

g. They were without EXCUSE because God was very near to mankind then. His voice was heard in rebuke > Cain [Gen. 4:10]; in communion > Enoch [Gen. 5:22-24]; in counsel > Noah [Gen. 6:3].

h. They were not without a KNOWLEDGE of God, but they glorified Him not. God "gave them over to VILE AFFECTIONS." > their daughters to cohabit with fallen angels. [Rom. 1:18-32]

Question: "How could God hold them accountable for being wicked when He gave them no specific laws to keep?"

The answer: Man has an unwritten law written in his heart or conscience (Rom. 2:14-15).

Gen. 3:22-6:8 tell us of the generations of Adam.

Name	Meaning Of Name
Adam	Man [is]
Seth	Appointed
Enosh	Mortal
Kenan	Sorrow [but]
Mahalalel	The Blessed God
Jared	Shall Come Down
Enoch	Teaching
Methusaleh	His Death Shall Bring
Lamech	The Despairing
Noah	Rest, Comfort

1. Cain [gotten or acquired] and Abel [vapor] are representative men.

Cain of the wicked line and Abel of the righteous line from Adam

I John 3:12 not as Cain *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his brother.

And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

2. Abel believed a bloody sacrifice was necessary for a religious offering.

Heb. 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

Cain believed an offering of "works" taken from the soil God had cursed was sufficient.

God accepted Abel's but rejected Cain's.

Note: Gen.4:7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire *is* for you, but you should rule over it."

God reminded Cain there was still time to bring a "sin offering."

Cain demanded that God be pleased with his own efforts and refused to follow God's plan.

Gen. 4:8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

3. A scheme of Satan to destroy Abel, through whom the "Promised Seed" was to come.
4. Satan was also the instigator of Cain's "religion," spoken of by Jude [1:11] as "The Way Of Cain" [substitution of works for a blood sacrifice]. Origin of Human Religions
5. Cain moved away [from God's presence] had a son, Enoch [not the translated one]. Then he began to build a city with all its attendant evils. His descendants were Jubal: inventor of musical instruments and Tubal-Cain, an instructor of workers in brass and iron.
6. Men in those days used their brains to improve and build a "godless civilization."
 - a. Men lived close to 1000 years. Their immense accumulation of knowledge, experience and skill must have advanced the arts and sciences and resulted in a marvelous civilization.

The Wickedness & Judgment Of Man

Gen. 6:1-4 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, ² that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they *were* beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

³ And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he *is* indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." ⁴ There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore *children* to them. Those *were* the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

1. Gen. 6:1 Men began to multiply on the face of the earth. As a result the godly descendants of Seth were, by intermarriage, swallowed up by the godless descendants of Cain.

2. In the midst of this godless civilization a startling event occurred.

Gen. 6:2 the sons of God saw the daughters of men, [includes the daughters of Cain and Seth] that they *were* beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

The "sons of God" must mean beings different from the human race.

Note #1: "Sons of God" doesn't have the same meaning in the OT and the NT. In the New Testament it applies to those who have become the "Sons of God" by the New Birth.

[John 1:12; Rom. 8:14-16; Gal. 4:6; I John 3:1-2]

Note #2: In The OT, it applies to the ANGELS. Used 5x [2x in Gen. 6:2-4; 3x in Job: 1:6; 2:1; 38:7]

Note #3 A "Son of God" denotes a being brought into existence by a CREATIVE ACT of God. [Angels and Adam > Luke 3:38].

Note #4 Adam's natural descendants are not the special creation of God. Adam was created in the "image [likeness] of God" [Gen.5:1]. Adam's descendants were born "in his likeness."

[Gen. 5:3]. Therefore, all men born of Adam and his descendants by natural generation are the "sons of men." It is only by being born again [John 3:3-7] which is a NEW CREATION, that they can become the "SONS OF GOD" in the New Testament sense.

Conclusion: I believe the sons of God in Gen. 6:2 were ANGELS.

Note #5 This passage seems to teach of sexual relations between angels and human beings. Can we confirm this in the New Testament?

II Pet. 2:4-9 tells us "God spared not the 'angels' that sinned, but cast them down to hell (Tartarus) and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment."

Jude 1:6-7 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; ⁷ as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Consider: I do not think these angels are the 1/3 who fell with Satan in his rebellion.

Note #1: Satan's angels [are free] and are not "reserved in everlasting chains in darkness," but are to be cast into the "Lake of Fire" [Ghenna] which is prepared for the DEVIL and HIS ANGELS when he is cast in. [Matt. 25:41]

Note #2 It seems these angels are condemned for a particular sin. When we read the context of the 2 above passages, the character of the sin is evident > "Fornication" and "Going After Strange Flesh."

Note #3 Same sin that caused the destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah. The inhabitants demanded Lot surrender the 2 Angels he had received into his home that they might "know them."

Note #4: Scriptures clearly teach angels can assume fleshly bodies and eat and drink with men. [Gen. 18:1-8]

Note #5 We can clearly see that the "Sons of God" assumed human bodies and AS MEN married the "Daughters of Men."

Note #6 The "time" of the sin is given as just BEFORE THE FLOOD.

Note #7: The progeny of this union was a race of GIANTS, "MIGHTY MEN," "MEN OF RENOWN." [Gen. 6:4] The word translated "giant" means "the fallen ones," the "Nephilim."

Gen. 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.