

Unlocking The Mystery & Treasure Of My Inheritance

Lesson #6- Four Beginnings > Three Failures

Malachi 3:6 For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Heb. 13:8 Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.

God is the same God, but He does not work with man the same way in every dispensation.

God was merciful to and saved both Abraham and the Apostle Paul, but He did not deal with them in the same way. They lived at different times in history and had different responsibilities and obligations before God. Noah =Build Ark; Solomon = Build Temple

Dividing the Bible into Dispensations is a great tool for determining the context of a passage and understanding who its intended recipients are.

One can clearly see God's overall program for man and Plan Of The Ages as He has revealed it.

Dispensations: Show man's failures in history; end in moral/spiritual failure; reflect how God relates to history. Innocence; Conscience; Human Government; Promise; Law; Grace; Kingdom

Covenants: Reveal God's earthly agreements; God's spiritual promises; God's earthly redemption Edenic; Adamic; Noahic; Abrahamic; Mosaic; Davidic; Land; New Covenant

Purpose of 7 Dispensations: Demonstrate there are no conditions under which natural man can behave in a manner acceptable to God. Each Dispensation emphasizes that the believer of any Dispensation must first and foremost be obedient to God. Disobedience always leads to disaster. Each Dispensation is a test from God to man to emphasize God knows best.

The Dispensations also emphasize the fact God is faithful though we are often faithless. From the very beginning God emphasized the Coming Redeemer, the Blood Atonement and God's Amazing Grace.

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.

This Dispensation would continue until God gave man the Mosaic Law at Mount Sinai.

It is clear God does not always work exactly the same way in each dispensation.

What God required of Adam > Don't Eat Of The Tree > He did not require of Moses.

What He required of Noah > Belief; Build the Ark > He did not require of David.

What He required of Moses & David > Keep The Law > He doesn't require of us today.

1. Time has been divided into 3 Ages: Antediluvian; Present Age; Age of Ages

2. Time is also divided into: Time Past [Times of Ignorance; Without Law; Times of the Gentiles] and The Last Days [Times of the Gentiles; Times of Restitution {Times of Refreshing & Fullness of Times}]

3. Antediluvian Age extends from Creation to The Flood and includes the 2 dispensations of Innocence and Conscience.

4. Present Age = Human Government, Promise [time past, times of ignorance, without law]

Noah's descendants did not scatter and fill the earth as God had commanded, thus failing in their responsibility in the 3rd dispensation of Human Government. About 325 years after the flood, upon the plain of Shinar, the earth's inhabitants began building a tower, a great monument to their solidarity and pride (Genesis 11:7-9).

Sovereign God is never perplexed or paralyzed by what people do on earth.

Babel's conceited "Let's go up" was answered by heaven's calm "Let's go down."

Gen. 11:6 "Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

Under the leadership of Nimrod, they established a strong centralized society which would be able to produce a self-sufficient civilization capable of controlling the entire world. This society would no longer be dependent on God. The tower was the focal point of the political and religious life of the people; a symbol of their unity and strength. They deliberately acknowledged their purpose to be contrary to God's command: "LEST we be scattered." Man had proved unwilling to obey God's simple instructions to fill the earth, dividing into many separate, but parallel, governmental units. They preferred to remain together under one great centralized and unified anti-God religious philosophy.

Ryrie "Unless government has the right to the highest form of punishment, its basic authority is questionable and insufficient to protect properly those whom it governs. Human or civil government did not curb man's sin as Noah's drunkenness and the Tower of Babel indicate. Man is unfit to govern himself and the end result will be world-wide disobedience and turning from God and the marring of His glory. [Rom. 1:23]

Romans 1:11-32 graphically describes the resulting moral and spiritual deterioration of Nimrod and his followers. Willfully leaving the knowledge and worship of the true God and Creator, they began instead to worship the creation. This soon led to Pantheism, Polytheism and idolatry. All forms of paganism have come originally from the ancient Babylonian religion. The pagan deities were identified with the stars and planets - the "host of heaven"- with sun-worshipping occupying a central place.

The perversion of Nimrod and his followers soon led not only to astrology but also to spiritism and other evils of paganism and idolatry. Nimrod set up a military dictatorship and established a priestly system in which he was chief priest and later the chief object of worship.

God's Sovereign Will To Populate The Whole Earth Was Accomplished

God brought the construction to a halt, created different languages and enforced His command to fill the earth. The result was the rise of different nations and cultures. The complex religious system established there was apparently carried into all the nations by those who were scattered from it. Thus it is that Astrology and polytheistic pantheism became the established

"religion" of all the nations of the world.

Their plan was soon changed by divine judgment into Babel, Confusion. [Gen. 9:1-2; 11:1-8]

Note: Because of God's judgment, the "gate of the gods" became the "the door to confusion."

Note: God's GRACE spared their lives and gave them opportunity to return to Him.

Man's unity would give people a false sense of power that would lead them into greater rebellion against God.

Ryrie: "Again, the unquestioned judgment of God in the confusion of the languages and dispersing of the people [Gen. 11] shows forth His glory and greatness as above the peoples of the earth. His glory shows through His wisdom in this judgment because with different languages sin now has a barrier and will not spread as fast."

God's Protection Of Man a. God was restraining sin. b. God was slowing down man's demise.

c. God was slowing down technology to allow His plan of salvation to unfold.

Beginning of Nations A Judgment Of God

Men long for the day when there will be one world and one government. This IS NOT God's plan nor His purpose. God intervened here and tangled the thinking of men and twisted their tongues so they would speak different languages. At His appointed time in another dispensation, God will untangle the tongues, will break down boundaries and men will speak one language and will dwell together in peace. Until God brings that about, any effort that man makes is not only futile, but represents a lack of understanding in relation to the plan of God or a deliberate disregard for what God has already planned.

Genesis spans more time than any other book in the Bible. It covers more than all the other 65 books of the Bible combined (~ 2400 years). The total duration is from the time of Creation to the Israelites arrival in Egypt and their growth into a nation (about 1800 B.C.).

Genesis 1-11, the foundation of God's Word, traces in rapid review the line of descent from Adam to Abram. It covers ~2,000 years of mankind's history as told in 4 events.

All the basic doctrines are established.

George B. Shaw: "If the other planets are inhabited, then they must be using the earth for their insane asylum." Gen. 3-11 records multiple failures of man. From the fall of Adam to the Tower of Babel, we read of disobedience, murder, deception, drunkenness, nudity and rebellion.

Note: The Tower of Babel episode was a turning point in human history. In Genesis 10 and 11 the entire human race is before us. The human race had been one unit; no Jew nor Gentile. After the dispersion from Babel, the descendants of Noah and his sons became idolaters. There is no record of any witnesses for God. To remedy this God called out an individual of the seed of Shem. God will now focus on one man and his descendants. The stage is set for Abraham [mentioned 74x in NT] to enter the scene and God to take for Himself a special people, Israel.

In the 4th dispensation of Promise [Gen. 11:10-Ex. 19:4], God works in another unique way with man. The Dispensation Of Promise begins with the call of Abraham.

<i>Stewards:</i>	The patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob	
<i>The Period:</i>	The call of Abraham to Israel's arrival at Mt. Sinai, ~430 yrs.	
<i>Responsibility:</i>	Dwell in Canaan	Genesis 12:1-7
<i>Failure:</i>	Dwelt in Egypt	Genesis 12:10; 46:6
<i>Judgment:</i>	Egyptian bondage	Exodus 1:8-14
<i>Grace:</i>	Moses the deliverer is sent	Exodus 3:6-10

God's Plan For Redemption Begins to Unfold:

The beginning of the Chosen Nation in Abram ~ 350 years; 39 chapters
More than 3/4 of Genesis is occupied with narrating the lives of Abram and the first three generations of his descendants.

Chapters 12-50: God deals with man through 4 great patriarchs to show God's sovereignty.

<u>Abraham</u>	Supernatural Call	<u>Isaac</u>	Supernatural Birth
<u>Jacob</u>	Supernatural Care & Provision	<u>Joseph</u>	Supernatural Direction & Control

Chapters 12-36 Takes place in land of Canaan; Spans ~200 years;

Chapters 37-50 Takes place in Egypt; Spans ~150 years

Abraham's Background: Moon Worship in Ur and Haran:

1. Abraham [9th generation from Shem] was born in Ur; and later moved to Haran with his father and family.
2. His ancestors were idolaters, polytheists and moon-worshippers in the Ur of the Chaldeans. Joshua 24:2 reminded the people "Long ago your forefathers, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River and worshiped other gods."
Jacob's wife Rachel, who probably grew up with Terah's religion, stole her father's "household gods" (31:32-35; 35:2-4).
3. Archaeology shows both Ur and Haran were centers of moon worship. The names Terah, Laban, Sarah, and Milcah contain elements that reveal allegiance to the moon-god.
4. Worship in Sumer involved temples as well as ziggurats with small temples on the top. These temples were staffed by priests (who offered sacrifices and made libations), singers and musicians, as well as male and female prostitutes.

God, through His amazing grace, desired to make another covenant with man and chose Abram as His partner.

Abraham's Supernatural Call: 1. God REVEALED Himself to a 75 year old semi-nomadic shepherd who lived in the Ur of the Chaldees. [1st mention of Abram]

Acts 7:2 The God Of Glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.' [God communicated with Abraham 7x].

a. God Of Glory appears 1 other time in Scripture:

Ps. 29:3 > The voice of the LORD *is* over the waters; The God of glory thunders;

b. Ps. 29 is Millennial Psalm: V. 10 - The LORD sat *enthroned* at the Flood,
And the LORD sits as King forever.

c. This title is a Kingdom title. Therefore, when Jehovah appeared to the father of the Kingdom people, it was as "The God of Glory."

d. The appropriateness of this title is further evident from the religious state of Abram and his family at the time God appeared to him > a state of IDOLATRY.

e. The God Of Glory was in vivid contrast from the "other gods."

f. This is the 1st recorded appearing of God after the banishment of Adam & Eve from the Garden.

2. God SPOKE in Gen. 12:1-3. Hearing the WORD brought about the miracle of faith.

Rom. 10:17 So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

a. This call comes shortly after the destruction of Babel and dispersion of the nations.

b. Three times in Rom. 1:18-28, we read, "God gave them up."

c. God abandoned the nations, suffering them all to "walk in their own ways." Acts 14:16

d. God had dealt in judgment at Babel. Now He deals in GRACE.

e. God's judgment upon Israel resulted in the enriching of the Gentiles. The outpouring of His Divine wrath in the Tribulation Period will be the precursor of His Millennial Kingdom.

3. God said to SEPARATE from the corruption around him.

Note: The connection between Gen. 11 & 12 is significant. The Lord God determined to have a people of His own by the calling of grace, but it was not until the utter depravity of man had been fully demonstrated by the antediluvians, and those at Babel, that God dealt with Abram in sovereign grace. Abram was in his natural state when God appeared to him.

Heb. 11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

True faith is based on the Word of God and leads to obedience.

Consider: Life of Abraham is our example. He was saved by faith, lived by faith and his obedience was evidence of his faith. He obeyed when he did not know where, how, when or why.

James 2:23 refers to Abraham as "God's friend."

Gal. 3:7 Believers in all generations are called the "children of Abraham" (Galatians 3:7).

Abraham's Faith Grew as God revealed himself. Abraham is rightly called "the father of faith;" he blazed the trail for us. By Genesis 12 he is a monotheist, a worshipper of one God.

Abraham called this God by several other names compounded with Yahweh and El:

God Most High	<i>El Elyon,</i>	14:19, 22, "maker of heaven and earth"
Almighty God	<i>El Shaddai</i>	17:1
Everlasting/Eternal God	<i>El Olam</i>	21:33 = "Yahweh"
Jehovah-Jireh	22:14	"The Lord the Provider"

Abraham's monotheism contrasts with the polytheism of his forebears. He believed God to be:		
The Lord of the cosmos	14:22; 24:3	Supreme judge of mankind 15:14; 18:25
Controller of nature	18:14; 19:24; 20:17	Highly exalted 14:22

Abraham was a flawed man who followed a perfect God. God made promises, and entered into a covenant concerning Abraham's offspring and the land they would inherit in the future. What changed him was a constant belief that this God who spoke to him would keep His amazing promises. Abraham's belief in these promises was counted by God as righteousness and his faith shaped his life. Whenever God spoke to him, he obeyed in faith. Abraham and the other patriarchs practiced various forms of worship, including building altars, offering sacrifices, calling on the name of Yahweh, circumcision, prayer, making vows, and tithing -- as well as planting trees and setting up monuments.

Abraham's Obedience: At God's call, he traveled to Canaan and lived for a while in various localities, in particular: Shechem, Hebron, Bethel, and the Negev desert, with sojourns to Egypt and Gerar. Genesis records that Abram

- a. Led a band of armed men to rescue his nephew Lot from kings who had captured him
- b. Interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah (Lot's wicked residence)
- c. Paid tithes to Melchizedek, King of (Jeru)Salem,
- d. He entertained angels.
- e. His heir, Isaac, was born to in their old age by supernatural intervention by God.
- f. His devotion to God was such that he was willing to sacrifice his only son.
- g. He grew wealthy, married again after Sarah's death, and died at the age of 175 years.

Abraham proved to be a mighty man of faith, but his righteousness waned in his descendants.

1. Abraham was afraid and lied in Egypt about Sarah.
2. Isaac seemed to lie more easily (Gen. 26:7).
3. Jacob (Deceiver or Supplanter) was even more blatant in sin. He lied, deceived, tricked, and schemed it appears without a second thought (Gen. 27:6-29).
4. Jacob's sons (with the exception of Joseph) were even more mixed up in vice and evil. From adultery with handmaids and harlots to murder and kidnapping (Gen. 34:25, 37:23-36, 38:12-18), they all seemed to think lightly of sin.

The actions of each generation and the degeneration of the character of the family in each succeeding generation caused God to send Abraham's seed into Egypt and later into bondage. This short dispensation of only 430 years ended with all of Abraham's descendants working as abject slaves in the brickyards of Egypt.

Four times in Genesis, God's plans for the human race were frustrated by Satan. The Fall, The Flood, The Dispersion, The Captivity in Egypt.

The last words in Genesis, "a coffin in Egypt."