

Bird's Eye View Of God's Master Plan Continued

Lesson #22 June 17, 2020

The Word of God: 66 books, by 40 authors, over ~1600 years, in 3 languages, on 3 continents, with 1 divinely-inspired theme of love and redemption for all mankind.

Dispensationalism is a man-made way of understanding what the Bible has revealed to us about God's purposes towards men. Looking through the Bible, we can find seven distinct dispensations, or "ways of doing things" that were God-ordered and God-ordained.

Each dispensation has a purpose in the overall story.

Dispensationalism is not a Biblical concept, nor is it found anywhere in the Bible. It is a theological system of organizing and understanding God's work, but it is not itself Scripture. A literal interpretation of the Bible shows that God has related to mankind in different ways over the course of history, and that Israel and the church are two separate entities.

Innocence Conscience Human Gov't Promise Law Church Law Continued Kingdom
Dispensation of Law #5 lasted almost 1,500 years, beginning with the giving of the law at Mt. Sinai and ending with the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The delivery of the Ten Commandments and the Mosaic Law, found in Exodus 19–23, outlined the standard of perfection that God required from His people, and included the instructions about temple worship and sacrifices. This was the age of priests, prophets and kings, both good and evil. God's people repeatedly broke His commands and wandered off after other gods.

The Establishment of The Mediatorial Kingdom

Moses - 1st Mediatorial Ruler Of Israel through whom God's deeds are accomplished.

1. Many consider the Exodus as the "birth of the nation of Israel."
2. The immediate goal of the march from the Red Sea was Mt. Sinai.
3. The grand climax of the birth was at Mt. Sinai where the 12 tribes were "inwardly united into one nation."
4. The manifestation of God at Mt. Sinai was one of an unprecedented majesty and grandeur.
5. All of its attendant phenomena was visible to an entire nation and intended to reveal the sovereign character of Jehovah.
6. He is the King Eternal and now ready to establish a kingdom of His own on earth among men.
7. The people were to be sanctified for 2 days and be prepared for the third day when God would "come down in the sight of all the people." [Ex. 19:10-11]
8. God greets Moses and the Israelites at Mt. Sinai: Thunderings and lightnings, a thick cloud, the smoke of a furnace, a mighty shaking of the mountain and the increasing tempo of a great trumpet sound.

Ex. 24:16-17 And the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud.

"And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel."

9. God presents His covenant to them.

Ex. 19:4-6 You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'

These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

a. 1st mention of kingdom in the Bible; it is directly associated with the rule of God

b. It is a kingdom "unto God." It is His Kingdom.

c. The kingdom is to be given to one nation which will be lifted up above all other nations.

d. This kingdom has a definite beginning.

e. Israel was to be a "kingdom of priests;" to mediate between God and men.

f. Israel was to be a holy nation. God's own possession and morally pure

g. This covenant was conditional. "If you will obey My voice," then...

h. Ex. 19:8 All that the LORD has spoken we will do."

2. God's theocratic kingdom began with Moses, continued under Joshua and the judges.

3. It reached its highest degree of extension and prosperity under Saul, David & Solomon.

4. It declined after Solomon and the division of the tribes and ended with the departure of the Visible Presence at the Captivity.

Supernatural Preparation For The Mediatorial Kingdom

Deut. 4:34 Or has any god ever taken for himself one nation out from another nation with testings, signs, wonders, wars, awesome power, and magnificent, terrifying deeds as the LORD your God did in Egypt before your eyes?

"You have been shown this in order to know that 'the LORD is God' and there is no one like Him.

1. It was necessary to signalize the appearance of this Kingdom on earth by means of a series of great supernatural acts which were designed to:

Compel belief and which could not be misinterpreted by any of the parties involved.

a. Parties: Moses, the mediatorial leader; children of Israel, the chosen nation; Egypt and the other Gentile nations.

Supernatural Acts:

1. Ex. 3:1-10 Extraordinary theophany at the Burning Bush

a. Call of Moses to be the first of a long line of mediatorial rulers in Israel

b. Miracle occurred at Horeb = the mountain of God = identified with Mt. Sinai

c. Burning fire points to the judging activity of God: a matter of Fatherly chastening as Israel passed through the furnace of affliction in Egypt; would eventually fall on Pharaoh and his hosts in retributive justice

d. God names Himself as "I AM THAT I AM." [Ex. 3:14]

e. God reaffirms His covenant relation with Israel.

Ex. 3:6 Then he said, "I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Moses is invested with divine authority to:

- Command the elders of Israel
- Sound the trumpet of judgment before Pharaoh
- To deliver the nation from the oppression of Egypt
- To lead them into the Promised Land where God would rule over them in mercy and justice

2. Second demonstration of God's miraculous power was intended for the nation of Israel.

a. 3 miracles performed in the sight of the people so Israel would believe that God commissioned Moses to deliver them from bondage and lead them to the Promised Land of the coming kingdom. [Ex. 4:5]

- Rod becomes a serpent [Ex. 4:1-9]
- Hand healed of leprosy
- Water turned into blood

3. Third demonstration of God's miraculous power was intended for Egypt and the surrounding Gentile nations.

Note: Moses issued a simple request to Pharaoh to let Israel leave Egypt to worship their God. Pharaoh's response: Ex. 5:2 "Who is the LORD that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go."

a. Egypt and the other nations needed to be convinced of 3 facts.

- Absolute sovereignty of Jehovah over other alleged gods
- The choice of Israel as the favored nation of Jehovah above all other nations
- The divine authority of Moses as the accredited mediator of Jehovah's word and will

b. It consisted of 12 separate acts of power. Since a kingdom of God was about to be established in history, it was essential that sinful men should be given historic evidence that Jehovah is the true God and sovereign over the nations.

- Rod of God swallowed up the rods of Pharaoh's magicians
- 10 judicial plagues fell upon Egypt with appalling swiftness and progressive severity
- Final blow = Red Sea = Israel delivered; Pharaoh and his armies perished

Effects of Supernatural Demonstration:

1. The power of Egypt against Israel was temporarily destroyed.
2. The Israelites "believed the LORD and his servant Moses." [Ex. 14:31]
3. The fear of Jehovah spread to the surrounding Gentile nations. [Ex. 15:14-17]

The victory Song of Moses after the Red Sea crossing appeared to connect this supernatural demonstration of power with the Kingdom of God.

Ex. 15:18 "The LORD shall reign forever and ever."

Note the Parallel: Supernatural judgments will poured out upon a rebellious world in preparation for the future Millennial Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ at His Second Coming.

1. Same insolent challenge to the true God on the part of the Gentile powers.

Ps. 2:1-3 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? ² As the kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers conspire together against the LORD and his anointed one, they say, ³ "Let us tear off their shackles from us, and cast off their chains."

2. There will be a similar but infinitely greater preliminary miracle, the Rapture of the Church. This will warn men of the supremacy of Jehovah and the ultimate defeat of all who rebel against Him.

3. There will be the same swift progression in the severity of the divine judgments which follow and a striking parallel in the nature of the judgments. [Rev. 6-18]

4. There will be the same victorious outcome, the destruction of the antichrist and his armies in the judgment of Armageddon and the deliverance of the people of Israel. [Rev. 19]

5. There will be another song of victory, significantly referred to as "The Song Of Moses...and the Song of the Lamb. [Rev. 15:1-3]

Dispensation of Law was interrupted when the Jews rejected Jesus and His Kingdom in the NT. The last 7 years will be completed with the Tribulation Period. [490-483 = 7 years left of law] God turns His attention to taking out a people for Himself > The Church

Dispensation #6 of Church Age: Acts 2 - Rev. 3:22

The Church Age is a period between the 69th and 70th weeks of Daniel's prophecy.

Law has another 7 years to run, called Daniel's 70th Week [Daniel 9:24-27], which fills the time between the Rapture and the 2nd Coming.

Jesus Christ is seated at God's right hand in heaven. Jesus is building His church during this time. [Matt. 16:18] The church consists of all who repent and put their faith in the completed work of Christ, whether Jew or Gentile. [Rom. 3:21-24]

Stewards: The Church

Period: From The Day of Pentecost, Acts 2, to the Rapture, I Thess. 4:13-18
Fullness of Gentiles > ~2000 years

Responsibility: Believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, His finished work on the cross
To be brought to maturity by the process of sanctification;
exhibit ever-increasing godliness I Thess. 4:3; II John 1:5

Failure: Lack of maturity; worldliness, many churches falling into apostasy
Gal. 5:4; II Tim. 3:1-5; Rev. 3:15-16

Judgment: Blindness of apostasy and false doctrine; II Thess. 2:3; II Tim. 4:3

Grace: Forgiveness of sins through Christ Jesus I John 1:3-7; John 14:20

With the Holy Spirit indwelling His Church, we are able to walk with the Lord and live as He intends [Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 2:10; 5:17-18; Philippians 1:6; 4:13; Romans 8:14].

The closing of this dispensation will be the descent of Jesus Christ when believers since Pentecost will be caught up to meet Him in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Another characteristic of the Church Age is the word "mystery." There are 5 important mysteries, or sacred secrets, revealed in Paul's epistles about the characteristics of this age.

Mystery: A previously unrevealed TRUTH

1. A mystery period of time during which Israel is nationally blinded, which will last *until* "the fullness of the Gentiles be come in" (Romans 11:25).
2. The mystery of the one body of Christ, the Church, "one new man." Since the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2) all who believe the gospel of Christ, whether Jew or Gentile, have been spiritually baptized into one spiritual body, the Church of Jesus Christ, in which they are no longer regarded as Jew or Gentile, but are new creatures in Christ. Acts 2:47; I Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 2:11-3:10; II Corinthians 5:16-17.
3. "The mystery of Godliness" - God manifest in human flesh; first in Christ, and then through the Holy Spirit indwelling members of the Church and producing His fruit; "Christ in you, the hope of glory." [I Timothy 3:15-16; Colossians 1:24-27]
4. "The mystery of iniquity," which had already begun to work when the apostle Paul lived on earth. This was, and is, a lawless infiltration and leavening of the true saints of God by ungodly, demon and devil-inspired false teachers, and the building of a great counterfeit church system which professes to be Christ's true Church representing Him on earth. It is Satan's caricature of "the mystery of Godliness." [II Thessalonians 2:7]
5. The mystery of Christ's coming for the members of the church which He is building during the Church age. His coming to resurrect those who died in Christ, to change the living saints by giving them immortal bodies and catching them all up *together* to meet Him in the air. [I Corinthians 15:51-57; I Thessalonians 4:13-18]

Side Note: After the Rapture of all the members of THE CHURCH, each member will be brought before the Judgment Seat of Christ to give an account of his/her life. Our works will be tried in the fire to reveal gold, silver, precious stones or wood, hay and stubble. The Bible indicates the marriage of the Lamb will also take place in heaven before Christ's 2nd coming. [II Cor. 5:8-11; I Cor. 3:11-15; Rev. 19:7]

7 Year Period Continuation Of Law [Daniel's 70th Week; Tribulation Period]

After the Church Age runs its course, God will again deal with Israel nationally.

- God continues His prophesied program with Israel and the Gentile nations.
- God will pour out His wrath and judgments on a world which rejected His Son.
- The temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem. The Jews will be able to return to sacrifices during the first 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years.
- The last 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years will be "the time of Jacob's trouble."
- Satan indwells the antichrist whose goal is to kill every Jew. Why?

Hosea 5:15 I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.

Matt. 23:39 For I say unto you, ye shall not see Me henceforth till ye shall say, 'Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!'"

➤ God's outpouring of the final terrible judgments will fall on ungodly Israelites and the "earth dwellers," the unbelieving Gentiles.

➤ Israel will be disciplined in preparation for receiving the Kingdom. [Jer. 30:4-11]

Jer. 30:4, 11 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it. For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet I will not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

Grace: They will recognize Jesus Christ as Their Messiah;

He will pour out His Spirit of Grace upon them.

➤ This 7 year period will end with Christ's 2nd coming.

➤ It ends with the Battle of Armageddon when Jesus Christ defeats Satan and all who followed him. [Rev. 19:11-20:3]

➤ Satan is chained and imprisoned in the bottomless pit for 1000 years.

➤ Beast & false prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire.

The return of the Lord Jesus from heaven to save a repentant remnant of Israel from utter destruction, to judge the nations, and to establish the reign of God on earth, will terminate the Law dispensation, as such, and usher in the Kingdom age. [Romans 11:25-29; Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:3-31; 25:31-46; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12; Revelation 6:1-17; 8:2-10:7; 16:1-21; 19:11-20:6]

Dispensation #7: The Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ

The seventh and final dispensation brings about the culmination of life on Earth and the closest thing yet to how God really wanted to live with us on this planet.

This time Israel will accept the Kingdom offer [Zechariah 12:10, Zechariah 14:8-9].

This Kingdom will fulfill the prophecy to the Jewish nation that Christ will return, be their King and reign in power and great glory. He will be their God; they will be His people.

Stewards: Believers who survived the 7 year tribulation period & their offspring.

NO unsaved enter the Kingdom when it is established.

Period: From 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ until the final rebellion ~1000 years

Responsibility: Be obedient, remain undefiled and worship the Lord Jesus.

[Isa. 11:3-5; Zech. 14:9]

Failure: After Satan is loosed from the Abyss, sinful man rebels one more time.

Rev. 20:7-9

Judgment: Fire from God; the Great White Throne Judgment - Rev. 9-15

Grace: Eternity with the New Heaven & New Earth

Dispensation #7:

- ushers in 1,000 years of peace, where Christ will reign on the earth [Rev. 20:4].
- Israel will be supreme among the nations.
- Universal peace and prosperity will prevail.
- Curse is removed from the earth and animals. [Isa. 11:1-16]
- Final time period during which men will be tested by the opportunity to turn to God and receive His salvation OR turn from Him and reject the Savior.
- Each person's decision determines their final destination.

The characteristics of the preceding ages will be in manifestation:

- The resurrected saints will be there in innocence to reign with Christ.
- Consciences will have been cleansed and the knowledge of the Lord will cover the earth.
- A man will reign on David's throne in Jerusalem - the perfectly just, all-knowing, all-powerful God-man, the Lord Jesus Christ; [Age of Human Government]
- The previously unrealized promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will begin to be fulfilled and will continue to be fulfilled forever.
- The Law will be implanted in the hearts of the saved remnant of Israel.
- God's saving grace will still be extended to children born on earth during that time. [II Sam. 7:10-17; Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31:31-37]

After the 1,000 years are ended, Satan will be released for a short time to test those who have lived in an earthly paradise under Christ.

Those who were born during the millennium, but not tested by Satan, will thus be called upon to choose God or the Devil.

- Satan finds disciples from the four quarters of the earth who join him in compassing the camp of the saints about. But then fire comes down from God out of heaven and devours them. The devil is cast into the lake of fire where he shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.
- The ages of human probation will be terminated. Revelation 20:1-10.

There will be a final judgment of all people, great and small [Rev. 20:11-15].

The Eternal Kingdom, the new heaven and the new earth [Rev. 21 and 22].

Rev. 21:4 "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

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 all because of God's Amazing Grace.