1Thess #106

Dispensations - the perfect plan of God the Father.

/The 2023 PRB Ministry Bible Conference will be held October 27, 28, 29th at the Dunnellon Historical Society Depot in

Dunnellon, Florida 34432 \

There are still many details to work out so, more information will come in a few weeks.

This is my last class before vacation. I return to my full-time teaching on Sunday July 9th.

I am speaking and teaching at Grace Bible Church this Sunday the 2nd.

I will partake of the Lord’s Supper there if you are interested.

Like many complex doctrines, theologians and pastors will have minor disagreements about certain terminology or approaches to a doctrine.

Sometimes there are major divisions between theologians and Bible scholars depending upon the doctrine.

Every pastor must come to a resting point of stability about what they believe and only change that stance - when they are truly moved by truth and God the HS.

There are several different approaches to studying and then teaching dispensations.

 REPEAT

The three areas of debate usually revolve around the Mosaic Law, the Tribulation period and the Doctrine of the Hypostatic Union.

I have studied both the aspect of five and seven dispensations as well as four dispensations… which is what I have come to believe in recent years is the proper approach.

The fact is, all the same principles and scriptures and teachings are covered in these other approaches.

It simply comes down to what you believe the WORD and God the HS is leading you to rest upon.

I will never engage in public negativity against another qualified man of God and what they teach.

To our MASTER we all stand or fall - and it is not my job to correct other teachers.

I occasionally, make public statements about what I believe is false doctrine and fluffy teaching, but that is as far as I would ever go.

The majority of men teaching dispensations, understand and follow all the same set of scriptures, principles and doctrinal studies.

Therefore, I need not strain over them teaching 5 or 7 dispensations, or the way I have come to believe it and teach that there are 4 with the importance of stages and seasons under each one.

I believe Col. R.B. Thieme Jr. originally taught 4 dispensations and it was in later years when he completed the book - *Divine Outline of History* (1980’s), that he listed six dispensations.

Yet two of those were directly connected to the original four.

What I always teach my congregation is be critical thinkers…study, do your own homework.

I sat under the same pastor-teacher for over 25 years and I gained a treasure chest of knowledge and the majority of it I teach to you.

Yet… each pastor-teacher must find where GOD the HS leads them and settle into positions they believe are the best avenue for teaching and growing in God’s plan.

Buckle up today, we are going cover a lot of ground with large strokes of Biblical history.

With that said, let me close this series out with some reminders;

/All dispensations are driven by divine revelation as well as covenants which account for stages and movement toward the next dispensation. Each dispensation highlights mankind’s efforts and failure, while showing God’s grace and justice system in correcting and saving fallen man. It is a display of the order and perfection of God through divine rules or ordinances, promises and HIS power, despite mankind’s chaotic freedom. \

Go to Genesis chapter three RF.

/There are tests and responsibilities given throughout each dispensation and a very dramatic change and standard set into place, before a new dispensation begins. Mankind is allowed a certain period of rebellion or failure before GOD brings change. God’s grace and justice system are seen several times before God allows a shift of transition or even silence before a new dispensation begins.\

The key component to watch for is the transfer of responsibility of BD to a new dispensation.

Remember each dispensation is a large piece of divine real estate inside God’s pre designed plan.

/The first large property GOD established was the Dispensation of Gentiles;

The age of innocence in the original Garden, was the foundation piece of this dispensation. It brought forth faith alone in Christ alone, it brought out the initiation of the 4 Divine Institutions. The plan of GOD opened up here for mankind, yet still it needed deeper clarity and definition.\

Gen 3:14 Then the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,
Cursed are you more than all the livestock, And more than any animal of the field; On your belly you shall go,
And dust you shall eat All the days of your life;

/[Gen 3:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/3/15/s_3015) And I will make enemies
Of you and the woman, And of
your offspring and her Descendant;
**He shall bruise you on the head,
And you shall bruise Him on the heel**.”

This became the first judgement and it also pointed to the coming Cross of Jesus Christ as the only answer for mankind. It touched on angelic warfare and the whole plan of God ahead.\

Gen 3:16 To the woman He said,
“I will greatly multiply Your pain
in childbirth, In pain you shall deliver children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.”

[Gen 3:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/3/17/s_3017) Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’;
Cursed is the ground because of you;
With hard labor you shall eat *from* it
All the days of your life.

These are promises – covenants God is making as part of the judgement.

Now we see the first failure and judgment, so we now have grace in action and God’s justice system on display.

Jump over to Genesis chapter nine RF.

/The age of conscience is the next stage under the Dispensation of Gentiles.

We now have an Adamic covenant and animal sacrifice which all point to God’s grace plan and HIS Justice System. It is now a time of responsibilities and new standards – the sin nature is now awakened (Gen 3:1 – Gen 6). Mankind shows what they are capable of, murder under Cain’s OSN and a culture that will continually buck against Gods’ authority.\

Now in as you go to Genesis chapter nine we see GOD has to deal with the angelic attack on the bloodline of mankind. Within this judgement of the flood, mankind is judged for how wicked they had become.

/Gen 8:5 And **the water decreased steadily until the tenth month**; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains became visible.

God became silent after the judgement of the flood. Noah and his family would have to wait on God’s timing for the next season or stage. \

Gen 9:1 Then God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.

God would repeat this command again in verse 7, after God lays down a new law. That no one shall murder again and go unpunished in verses 5 & 6.

Now we see another covenant and a revelation with it. Just as in the Garden a promise and what will happen in the future is brought to light.

Gen 9:8 Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, 9 “Now behold, I Myself am establishing My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you;

Gen 9:10 and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the livestock, and every animal of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, every animal of the earth.

[Gen 9:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/9/11/s_9011) “I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be eliminated by the waters of a flood, nor shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth.”

/Gen 9:12 God said, “**This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature**that is with you, for all future generations; 13 **I have set My rainbow in the cloud**, and it shall serve as **a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth**.

The command to multiply across the earth and this Noahic covenant ushers in an age of human government. \

Now this is all under the umbrella of the Dispensation of Gentiles. As we noted last lesson GOD allows seasons of rebellion followed by judgment or discipline – within each stage we see HIS grace in operation alongside HIS Justice System.

/During this time, we see mankind fully establish the 4 Divine Institutions as well as having a remnant, remaining faithful to the teaching of faith alone in Christ alone. The Tower of Babel (Gen 11) brings a close to this dispensation. God supernaturally, scatters mankind across the world and introduces different tongues. Following Nimrod was the final rebellion and judgement of this dispensation.\

Jump over to Genesis 12.

We see a time of about 400 years between the death of Noah and the call of Abraham.

God allowing HIS reconstruction or judgement to fall into place.

Now the hand off of BD to one man.

/Gen 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram,
“**Go from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house**,
To the land which I will show you; 2 And **I will make you into a great nation,**And I will bless you, And make your name great; And *you shall* be a blessing;

Remove yourself from the cosmic system and come to ME. The opening up of the Dispensation of Israel begins with this covenant, which ignites an age of Patriarchs. \

Abraham would remain a Gentile for another 24 years. This was a transition period at the beginning of the Dispensation of Israel. The family of Abraham would be responsible for the WORD of God.

/Gen 17:1 Now when **Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram**and said to him, “I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. 2 “**I will make My covenant between Me and you**,
And I will multiply you exceedingly.”

This would be the 3rd unconditional covenant and now we see a new race is born from the circumcision and promise.\

This is now God’s grace plan coming into focus yet even slightly more.

There is responsibility and new standards being built upon, new covenants and new revelations are opened up.

/Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would walk in the age of Patriarchs as the foundational fathers. Joseph would close out that age and there would be 400 years of silence and discipline in Egypt. The transition period into the stage of the Mosaic Law would take over 400 years (Exo 1 – Exo 20). \

The nation of Israel would be called to carry the word of God forward yet now with greater responsibility and rituals which needed extreme attention to details.

/The Mosaic Covenant brought in the priesthood, the temple and the escalation of sacrificial callings. the prophets would be brought in because of the rebellious nature of mankind. At each season Israel would fall in and out of God’s plan showing all of us the need for God’s grace plan, of faith alone in Christ alone. \

/After the repeated rebellions, self-induced misery and then captivity under divine discipline was introduced. A decree of discipline was called forth by GOD for a chronological order under the 5 cycles of discipline (Dan 9). A Tribulation of discipline under the decree of the Dispensation of Israel is still in the balance. This was interrupted by the Cross of Christ introducing a new dispensation. \

/The Doctrine of the Hypostatic Union (The Christocentric age) was brought forth under the last stage of the Dispensation of Israel. Jesus Christ would be a prophet in the most unique sense of the word. As the ONE who transitioned and herald in the Church Age Dispensation. HIS life, death, burial, resurrection, ascension and session would solidify all other ages or dispensations. His life and work resolve all aspects of sin, angelic rebellion, covenants and prophecy.\

In essence TLJC handed the responsibility of HIS mind – BD over to a new dispensation.

/The Lord Jesus Christ in HIS humanity ushered in the Dispensation of the Church while still remaining in full compliance to the Nation of Israel and the standards of that dispensation. HE is the CORNERSTONE of the walls to each dispensation adjoining one another, everything collapses without HIM and truly could not be built without HIM!\

Let us close with a recap;

/The Dispensation of Gentiles ended with the transition of the last Gentile – Abram a new believer.

The Dispensation of Israel began with a new believer – a father figure, Abraham first in a line of Patriarchs. Israel would be introduced to the LAW under Moses which ingrained in humanity the purity, the righteousness and justice of GOD and the need for our Savior. \

/The prophets under the Dispensation of Israel would attempt to call back God’s people and offer the grace of God repeatedly. The misery ensued and finally the cycles of discipline were introduced with a decree for completion of the final cycle (Tribulation). This is 7 years owed under the Dispensation of Israel. During the Tribulation 144,000 Jewish evangelists take hold of BD once again. \

The Tribulation does not stand on its own as a dispensation though some may teach it that way. I simply believe from what has been to revealed to me, that it is under the umbrella of the Dispensation of the Nation of Israel.

There was 400 years of silence between the OT and the birth of TLJC, GOD was preparing to bring in something new.

/The WORD became flesh and walked among us during the Christocentric period of the Dispensation of Israel. Fulfilling prophecy that the Messiah would arrive on an exact time, dates and the bloodline of royalty. The Cross brought forth the interruption (intercalation) of a new dispensation, while fulfilling the promises throughout scripture starting in Gen 3:15.\

The humanity of Christ lived and walked in the dispensation under Israel.

Most of the teaching of Christ was attached to OT doctrines but with a view just ahead to the coming CA.

Jesus Christ followed the commands and laws therefore HIS human life does not connote a new dispensation, though some may teach that.

I do not argue… I simply rest in what I believe.

/Christ fulfilled the Dispensation of Israel up to the Cross. HE introduced the royal family and priesthood of a new dispensation (new covenant) during HIS resurrection (age of grace). HE sat down in victory at the heavenly throne and now ensured the coming for HIS bride (Rapture). Christ returns at the end of the Tribulation to take HIS rightful place on the earthly throne. This will open up the last dispensation known as the Millenium. \

The last dispensation begins with Christ HIMSELF visible and speaking truth and BD spread across the whole world.