

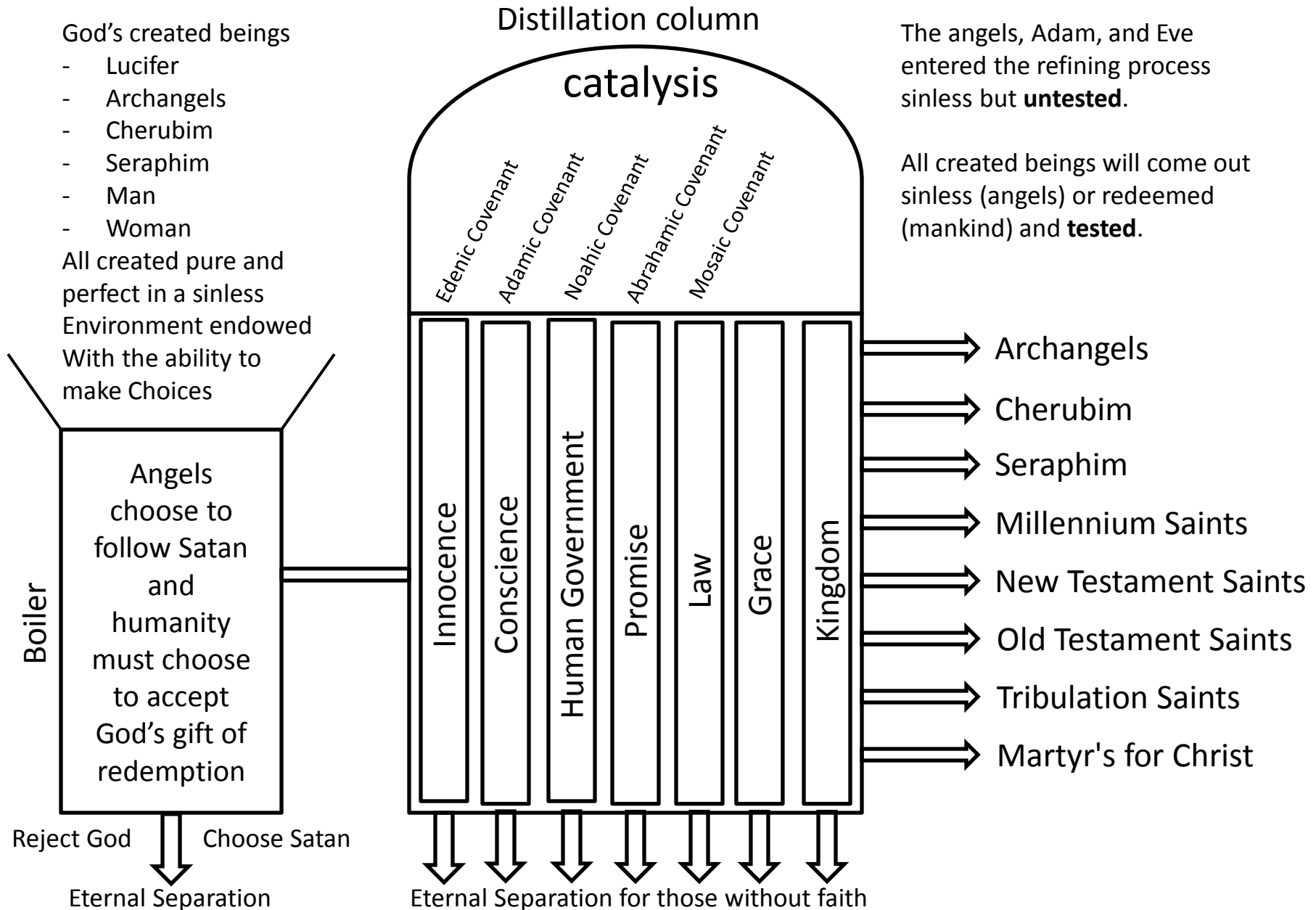
Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Revealed Plan of God from Eternity Past to Eternity Future



www.RefiningaCreation.org

God's Refining Process for His Created Beings



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

God is OUTSIDE and APART
from the Universe

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The Universe is HIS Creation

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We are GOD'S Creation

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We only know God by His
REVELATION to us

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Review of past lessons

God has revealed Himself to all
of us through the **SCRIPTURES**

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Review of past lessons

God's Revelation to His
Creation



Man moved by the
Holy Spirit



Inspired
Scriptures
Inerrant

Old Testament
recognized by
Jewish synagogue



New Testament
recognized by
Christian church

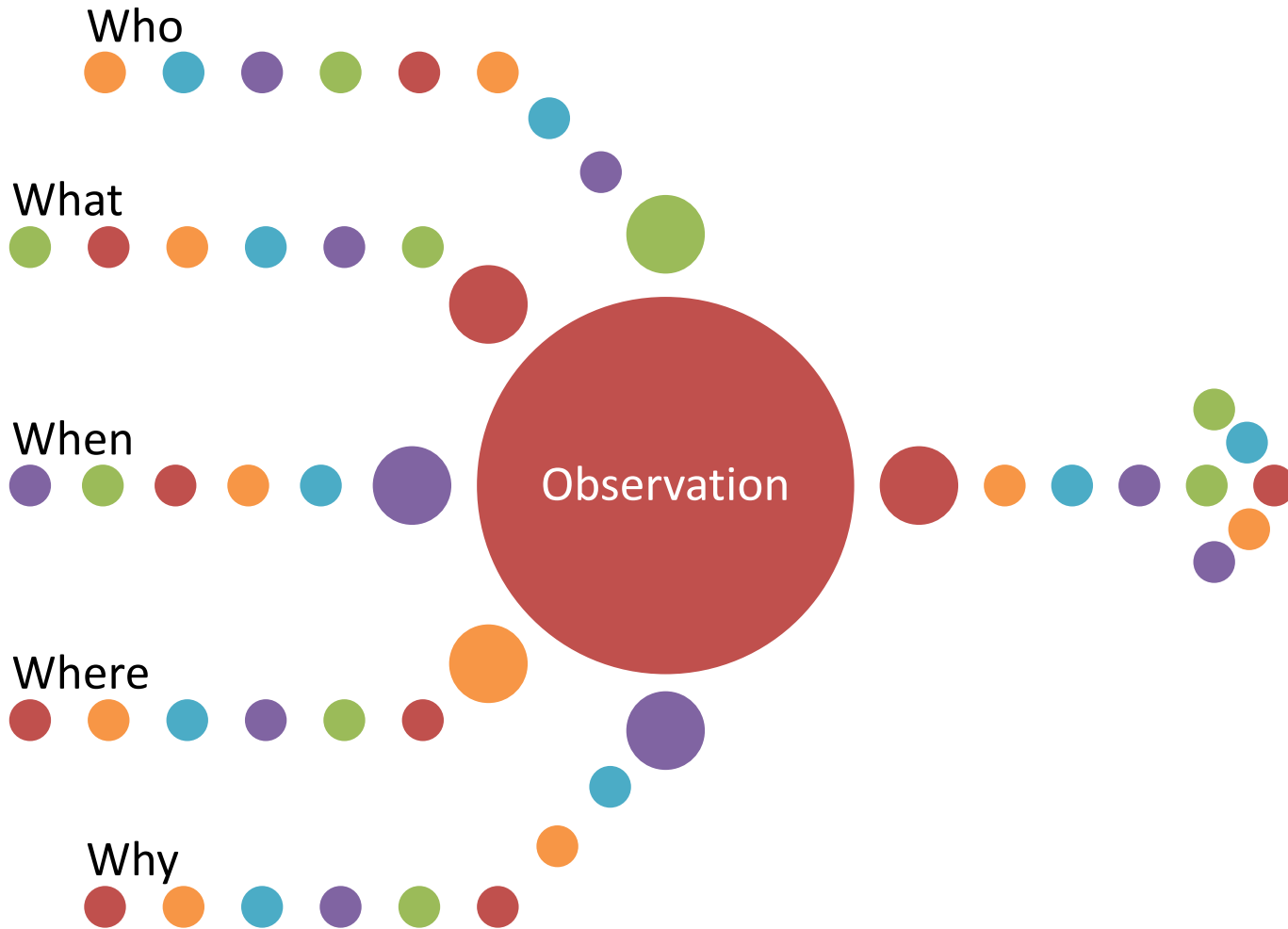


CANON

We believe that in the composition of the **original manuscripts**, the Holy Spirit guided the authors even in their choice of expressions and this throughout all the pages of the Scriptures still without eroding the personalities of the different men.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

1. Scripture interprets
scripture



2. Meaning of words by
usage



3. Context,
context, context



4. Grammatico-historical
interpretation



5. Assume literal or
normal interpretation



Literal
Interpretation

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Review of past lessons

6. Figurative language
convey actual concepts



7. Human drama must
come forth



8. Culture, history,
social, etc. play part



9. Recognize God's
management in economy



10. Recognize progressive
revelation



Literal
Interpretation

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Review of past lessons

Original audience



Modern audience



Application is a bridge between the Biblical meaning and the present-day life situations

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Review of past lessons

1. Observation



2. Interpretation



3. Application



Spiritual
prosperity
of man



“All the historical, doctrinal, and practical truth of the Bible is for one purpose: to promote the spiritual prosperity of man. The Bible is not an end; it is a means.” Bernard Ramm

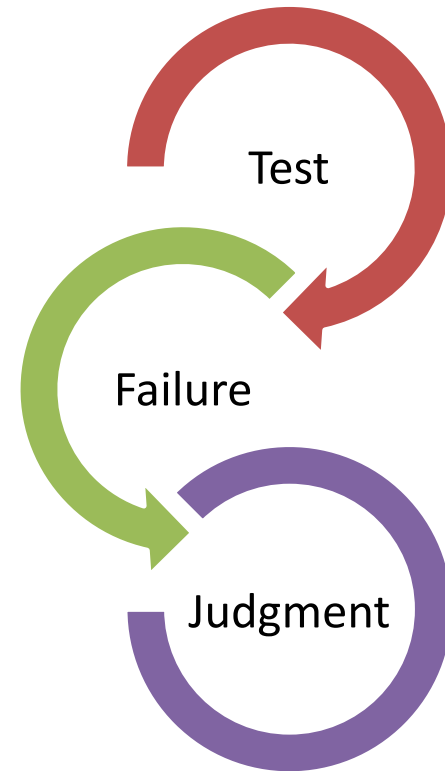
Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Dispensational Theology

“A dispensation is a distinguishable economy in the outworking of God’s purpose.”

The Greek word *oikonomia* comes from the verb that means to manage, regulate, administer, and plan. The word itself is a compound whose parts mean literally “to divide, apportion, administer or manage the affairs of an inhabited house.”



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Review of past lessons

Dispensational Theology Definitions

Covenant

- Bilateral, two-sided, temporary
- Unilateral, one-sided, permanent

Tribulation

- First purpose to bring about conversion of Nation of Israel
- Second to pour out judgment on unbelieving man and nations

Pretibulation Rapture

- The church, dead and alive, will be resurrected and translated prior to tribulation
- Rests on the literal method of interpretation

Premillennial view

- Christ will return to earth, literally and bodily before millennial age begins

Millennial Kingdom

- 1000 literal years of fulfillment of the promises given in the Abrahamic Covenant

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Review of past lessons

Indispensable Positions of a Dispensationalist

Israel & Church Distinct

- The substance of Judaism is God's consistent and **earthly** purpose
- The substance of Christianity is God's consistent and **heavenly** purpose

Distinction born out of literal interpretation

- Literal method of interpretation extends to eschatological studies
- Prophecies concerning Christ's first coming were literal, expectation of prophetic passages of second coming will be literal

Purpose of God is His divine glory

- Scripture is not man-centered as though salvation were the main theme, but it is God-centered because His glory is the center
- Salvation is not an end in itself but is rather a means to the end of glorifying God

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Review of past lessons

Dispensations Recognized by the Apostle Paul

Past ages – Prior to the Church

- Colossians 1:25-26 -Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the **past ages** and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,

The Church – The stewardship of God's grace

- Ephesians 3:1-3 - For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles if indeed you have heard of the **stewardship of God's grace** which was given to me for you; that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.

The Kingdom – The fullness of the times

- Ephesians 1:9-10 - He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to **the fullness of the times**, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.

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Review of past lessons

Common throughout all Dispensations

History is from the viewpoint of God.

Clear time when one ends and another begins but allowing for transition.

God is moving everything in His ordained direction.

New revelation designates shift from one dispensation to another.

Some things remain the same but other things differ. Salvation always by faith.

Each has own responsibilities and tests.

Each dispensation moves God's plan closer to completion.

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Review of past lessons

Angels - Nature and Attributes

Spirit beings

- Reveal in the form of human bodies (Gen. 18:3), “spirits” (Heb. 1:14), no marriage (Mark 12:25) no death (Luke 20:36).

Created beings

- The Lord created the angels by His word (Ps. 148:2–5). Angels sang praise (Job 38:6–7). Christ created (Col. 1:16).

Created simultaneously and are innumerable in number

- Singular act (Col 1:16); no reproducing (Matt. 22:30), “myriads” (Heb. 12:22), “countless thousands” (cf. Rev. 5:11).

Higher order than man

- Mankind, is “lower than the angels” (Heb. 2:7). No death (Luke 20:36). greater wisdom (2 Sam. 14:20), yet limited (Matt. 24:36). Greater power (Matt. 28:2; Acts 5:19; 2 Pet. 2:11), yet limited (Dan. 10:13).

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Review of past lessons

Angels - Prominent Individuals

Michael

- Michael (Dan. 10:13; 12:1; Jude 9). The name Michael means “who is like God?” and identifies the only one classified as an archangel in Scripture. Michael is the defender of Israel who will wage war on behalf of Israel against Satan and his hordes in the Tribulation (Rev. 12:7–9). Michael also disputed with Satan about the body of Moses, but Michael refrained from judgment, leaving that to God (Jude 9).

Gabriel

- Gabriel (Dan. 9:21; Luke 1:26). His name means “man of God” or “God is strong.” Gabriel explained the events of the seventy weeks for Israel (Dan. 9:21–27). In Luke 1:26–27 Gabriel told Mary that the One born to her would be great and rule on the throne of David. In Daniel 8:15–16 Gabriel explained to Daniel the succeeding kingdoms of Medo-Persia and Greece. Gabriel also announced the birth of John the Baptist to Zacharias (Luke 1:11–20).

Lucifer

- Lucifer (Isa. 14:12) means “shining one” or “star of the morning.” He may have been the wisest and most beautiful of all God’s created beings who was originally placed in a position of authority over the cherubim surrounding the throne of God.

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Review of past lessons

Angels - Divine Attendants

Cherubim

- Cherubim are “of the highest order or class, created with indescribable powers and beauty. Proclaimers and protectors of God’s glorious presence, His sovereignty, and His holiness. They stood guard at the gate of the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:24); Golden figures covering the mercy seat (Exod. 25:17–22); Attended the glory of God in Ezekiel’s vision (Ezek. 1). Extraordinary appearance with four faces—that of a man, lion, ox, and eagle. They have four wings and feet like a calf, gleaming like burnished bronze. In Ezekiel 1 they attended the glory of God preparatory for judgment.

Seraphim

- Seraphim, meaning “burning ones,” are pictured surrounding the throne of God in Isaiah 6:2. They are described as each having six wings. In their threefold proclamation, “holy, holy, holy” (Isa. 6:3), it means “to recognize God as extremely, perfectly holy. Therefore, they praise and proclaim the perfect holiness of God. The seraphim also express the holiness of God in that they proclaim that man must be cleansed of sin’s moral defilement before he can stand before God and serve Him.”

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Review of past lessons

Angels – Ministry to Christ

Angels predicted His birth - Luke 1:26–38

Angels protected Him in infancy - Matt. 2:13, 20

Angels ministered to Him after the temptation - Matt. 4:11

Angels strengthened Him at Gethsemane - Luke 22:43

Angels announced His resurrection - Mt. 28:5–7; Mk 16:6–7; Lk 24:4–7; Jn 20:12–13

Angels attended His ascension - Acts 1:10

Angels will attend His Second Coming - Matt. 25:31

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Review of past lessons

Angels - Ministry to Believers

Physical protection – Ps. 34:7, 35:4-5, 91:11-13; Acts 5:19, 12:7-11; Rev. 7:1-14

Physical provision – 1 Kings 19:5-7

Encouragement – Acts 27:23-25

Direction – Acts 8:26, 10:3,22

Assist in answers to prayer – Acts 12:1-11; Dan. 9:20-27, 10:10 – 12:13

Carry believers home – Luke 16:22

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Review of past lessons

Angels - Relationship to Unbelievers

Announced the destruction of Sodom – Gen. 19:12-13

Will announce destruction of world powers – Rev. 14:4-18

Judged the people of Jerusalem for idolatry – Ezek. 9:1-11

Struck Herod Agrippa I dead for his blasphemy – Acts 12:23

Will cast unbelievers into furnace of fire – Matt. 13:39-42

Will sound the trumpets during the Tribulation – Rev. 8:2-12, 9:1, 13, 11:15

Will pour out the bowl judgments upon earth – Rev. 16:2-17

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Review of past lessons

Fallen
Angels

Purpose

Promote Satan's program in opposing God by promoting rebellion, idolatry, false religions, and oppression of mankind.

Relation to
Believers

Wage war, accuse, plant doubt, tempt to sin, persecute, prevent service, disturb the church.

Destiny

Defeated by Christ and will be cast into the abyss during Millennium and cast into lake of fire as final punishment

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Review of past lessons

Faithful
Angels

Purpose

To serve God in worship, in ministry, in being God's messengers, to act in God's government, protecting God's people, and executing God's judgment.

Relation to
Believers

Reveal truth, guide, provide physical needs, protect, deliver, encourage, act in answering prayer, accompany the dead.

Destiny

To be in God's presence and Christ's presence in His kingdom.

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Review of past lessons

Satan – Past and Future

Satan fell from his original exalted position.

As the anointed cherub Satan led a host of angels, possibly one-third of all the angels, from heaven in his fall (Ezek. 28:16–17; Rev. 12:4).

Satan's ultimate defeat was pronounced in Eden.

God informed Satan that he would have a minor victory ("you shall bruise him on the heel"), but Christ would have a major victory through the cross ("He shall bruise you on the head" Gen. 3:15).

Satan was rendered powerless through the cross.

Christ partook of humanity, and through His substitutionary death He defeated Satan, rendering him impotent in the believer's life. Satan had the power of death over people but that power was broken through Christ (Heb. 2:14).

Satan will be cast out of heaven during the Tribulation.

The casting out of heaven (Rev. 12:13) is an act of judgment and probably refers to the stellar heavens, also known as the second heaven (not the presence of God).

Satan will be bound in the pit for 1,000 years.

At the triumphant return of Christ, Satan is bound for 1,000 years and shut up in the abyss, no longer able to deceive anyone on earth for the duration of the Millennium (Rev. 20:2–3).

Satan will finally be cast into the lake of fire.

At the end of the Millennium, Satan is released whereupon he deceives many people, leads a rebellion against God, is defeated and finally cast into the lake of fire for eternity (Rev. 20:7–10).

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Review of past lessons

Satan – Present activities

Satan binds the lost (Matt 13:19; Mark 4:15; Luke 8:12; 2 Cor 4:4)

- Through counterfeit religions that mimic true faith: By false doctrines (1 Tim 4:1), By false ministers (Matt 7:15, 21-23; 2 Cor 11:13-15), By false Christ's (Matt 24:23-24; 1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3), By false followers (Matt 13:25, 36-39), By a false, complicated, and perverted gospel (2 Cor 11:3-4; Gal 1:8), By false religions (Matt 12:27; Rev 2:9)
- Through religions and philosophies that are openly anti-Christian: By materialism, the lust of the eyes (John 13:2, 27), By hedonism, the lust of the flesh (Eph 2:1-3; John 3:19-20), By spiritism: Direct devil worship (Lev 19:31; 20:6, 27; Deut 18:9-12), Idolatry (Deut 32:16-17; Ps 106:36-37), Self worship, humanism (1 Sam 15:23)

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Review of past lessons

Satan – Present activities (cont.)

Satan opposes God's people (Matt 16:23; 2 Cor 2:11; Eph 6:11-12)

- Satan opposes believers through temptation (Matt 4:1; 1 Thes 3:5): Temptation to materialism (Matt 6:24; 1 John 2:15-17), Temptation to immorality (1 Cor 7:5), Temptation to pride and self-sufficiency (1 Chr 21:1; 1 Tim 3:6), Temptation to lie (John 8:44; Acts 5:3), Temptation to doubt (Gen 3:1-5)
- Satan opposes believers through divisions (Eph 4:26-27; James 3:14-16)
- Satan opposes believers by accusing them (Luke 22:31-32; 1 Pet 5:7-9)
- Satan opposes by trying to destroy Christian leaders (1 Chr 21:1; 1 Tim 3:7)
- Satan opposes by mixing unbelievers in church (Matt 7:15; Acts 20:29)
- Satan can oppose believers by causing physical problems (Job 2:7; 2 Cor 12:7)
- Satan can oppose thru civil govt. and persecution (Dan 10:10ff; Rev 2:10)
- Satan .. by lies (Jn 8:44), false miracles (2 Thes 2:9), and hindrances (1 Thes 2:18)

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Review of past lessons

Mankind in Relation to Angelic Conflict

Satan attacked man's volition, which is focal point of man's character and the angelic conflict.

The failure of human volition mirrors the failure of the angelic volition prior to the rebellion.

Satan scored a tactical victory in the garden.

God knew Adam would fall and provided a grace plan.

Satan's tactical victory sealed his defeat.

In man's fall, Adam violated: Personal love for God, Reversed the male/female roles that God had ordained, Rejected position as servant of God

As a result of fall, God is able to demonstrate His righteousness and justice and that it is compatible with His love that He demonstrated thru His grace.

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God's Economies for Mankind

Overview



Edenic



Adamic

Innocence



Noahic

Human Government



Abrahamic

Promise



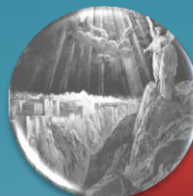
Mosaic

Law



Postponed

Grace

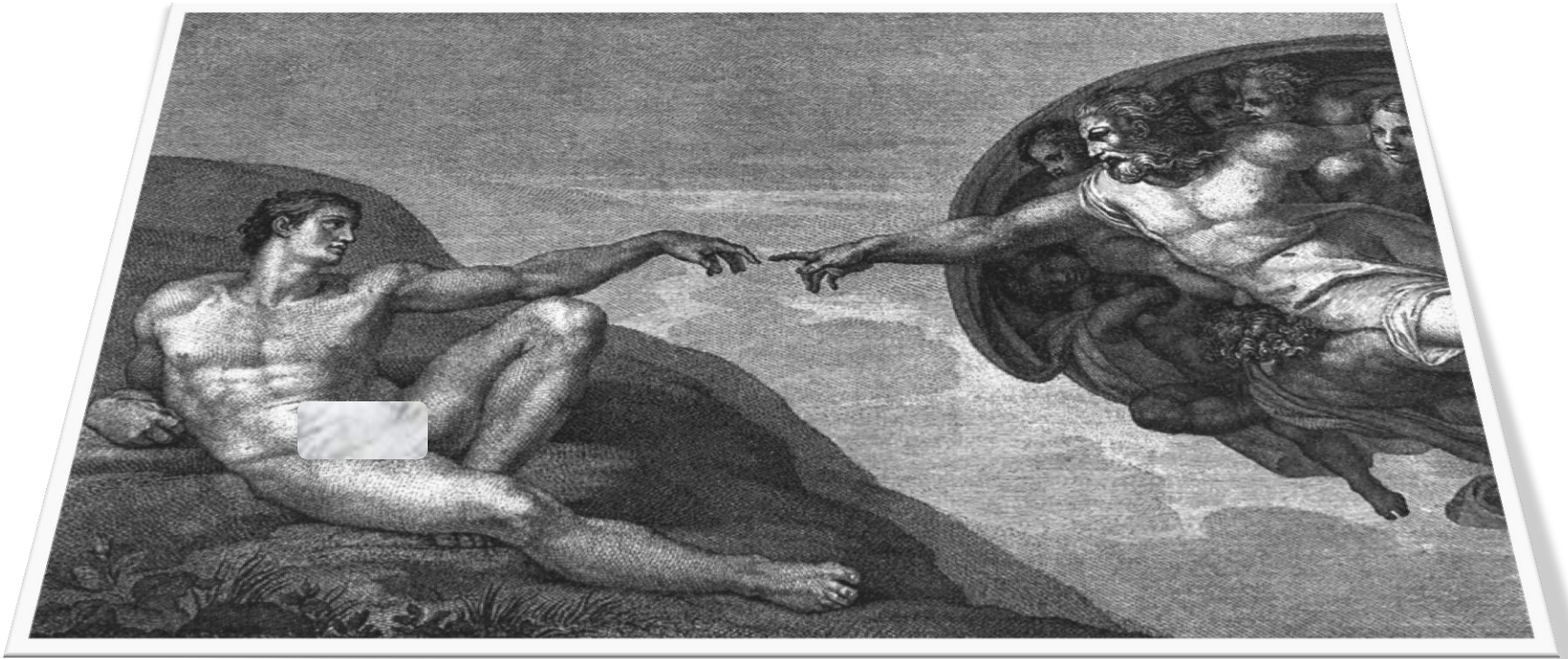


Fulfillment

Kingdom

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The First Economy



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The First Economy

Edenic Covenant (Gen 1:28-30; 2:15-17; Hos 6:7)

Parties to the Covenant

God and Adam

Conditions of the Covenant

Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth

Subdue the Earth

Rule over the animal kingdom

Plants are for food (vegetarian)

Defined roles

Guard the garden

Not eat from one tree

Penalty for violating the commands is death

Token of Covenant

Tree of Life

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The First Economy

The Divine Institutions

The term "divine institution" has been used by Christians to speak of those absolute social structures instituted by God for the entire human race—believers and unbelievers alike. Though modern paganism views them as by-products of man's psycho-social evolution, the Bible insists God Himself installed at least three of them at creation.

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The First Economy

The Divine Institutions

The first divine institution is responsible dominion (Gen. 1:26-30; 2:15-17; Psa. 8:3-8). Although the earth and its produce is the Lord's (Psa. 24:1), mankind was assigned to manage it under God's authority. Man was placed as a derivative "lord". Later, at the fall, this dominion would become perverted but not taken away.

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The First Economy

The Divine Institutions

The second divine institution, marriage, is defined in terms of the first. The woman was brought to Adam specifically as a "helper". Why did he need help? Because of his calling before God to rule nature. Unlike animals, mankind's so-called sexual differentiation is not merely for procreation; it is also for dominion. The "one flesh" relationship, while truly romantic and sexual, occurs inside the larger context of the first divine institution. ...That marriage is the chief means of dominion is seen in the New Testament. The man-woman distinction typifies the Christ- Church distinction (Eph. 5:22-33; Rev. 19:7-8) in which the Church completes Christ in His calling.

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The First Economy

The Divine Institutions

The third divine institution is built upon the first and second. Marriage normally leads to dominion through a family. In the Bible it is the family, not the individual, that is the basic unit of society (property, for example, is titled under Mosaic Law to families). When God sent His Son, He sent Him not to a church, not to a state, not to an isolated existence; He sent Him into a family.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The First Economy

Dispensation of Innocence

Man's Responsibilities

Man's responsibilities in the garden were to fulfill the Edenic Covenant, essentially to multiply and fill the Earth and subdue it. Mankind was forbidden to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Gen 2:15-17

Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

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The First Economy

Dispensation of Innocence

Man's Failures

Man's failure was to eat of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. It is important to note that while the woman was deceived, the man made a conscious decision to disobey God.

Genesis 3:4-7

The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

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The First Economy

Dispensation of Innocence

Man's Failures (cont.)

To her (Eve), it seemed that the tree was: (1) “good for food” (that is, something appealing to the physical, bodily appetites); (2) “pleasant to the eyes” (that is, something appealing to the emotions – the esthetic senses); (3) “desired to make wise” (that is, appealing to the mind and spirit, and to one’s pride of knowledge and spiritual insight). ... Temptations thus may be directed against either the body, soul, or spirit – or, as in Eve’s case, against all three at once. The source of temptations is said by James, again stressing all three aspects, to be “earthly, sensual, devilish” (James 3:15)

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The First Economy

Dispensation of Innocence

The Resulting Judgment

Genesis 3:16-19

To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you." 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; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The First Economy

Dispensation of Innocence

The Problem of Human Redemption

the fellowship between God and humanity was broken by the disobedience of the one man Adam. But by the light of the revelation that came through Moses and the prophets, from Adam to Christ, it was not absolutely clear, although disclosed in a general way, how God would act and what He could do to prevent the entire human family from going off into everlasting death—separation from God and the glory of His might forever and ever in the place of incarceration for the wicked. Since the human family in the person of Adam sinned, as we learn in Romans 5:12,13, what could God do to retrieve the situation? How could He act in regard to the situation that had developed?

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The First Economy

Dispensation of Innocence

The Problem of Human Redemption

1. The loss must be retrieved on the human level and in the realm of the will.

Under God's moral government the losses sustained by man must and can be retrieved only on the human level and within the realm of the will. Since Adam and Eve on the human level frittered away their high position, the losses sustained must, under the divine moral government, be retrieved on the same plane.