

The Dispensation of Grace

“If ye have
heard of the
dispensation of
the grace of
God” (Eph. 3:2).



The Dispensation of Grace

- The term “dispensation” is the Greek word: *oikonomia*.
- Oikos means “house.” And “nomos” means “law.”
- When we put them together it means “house law or house management.” So the term “dispensation” speaks of the rule of a household.

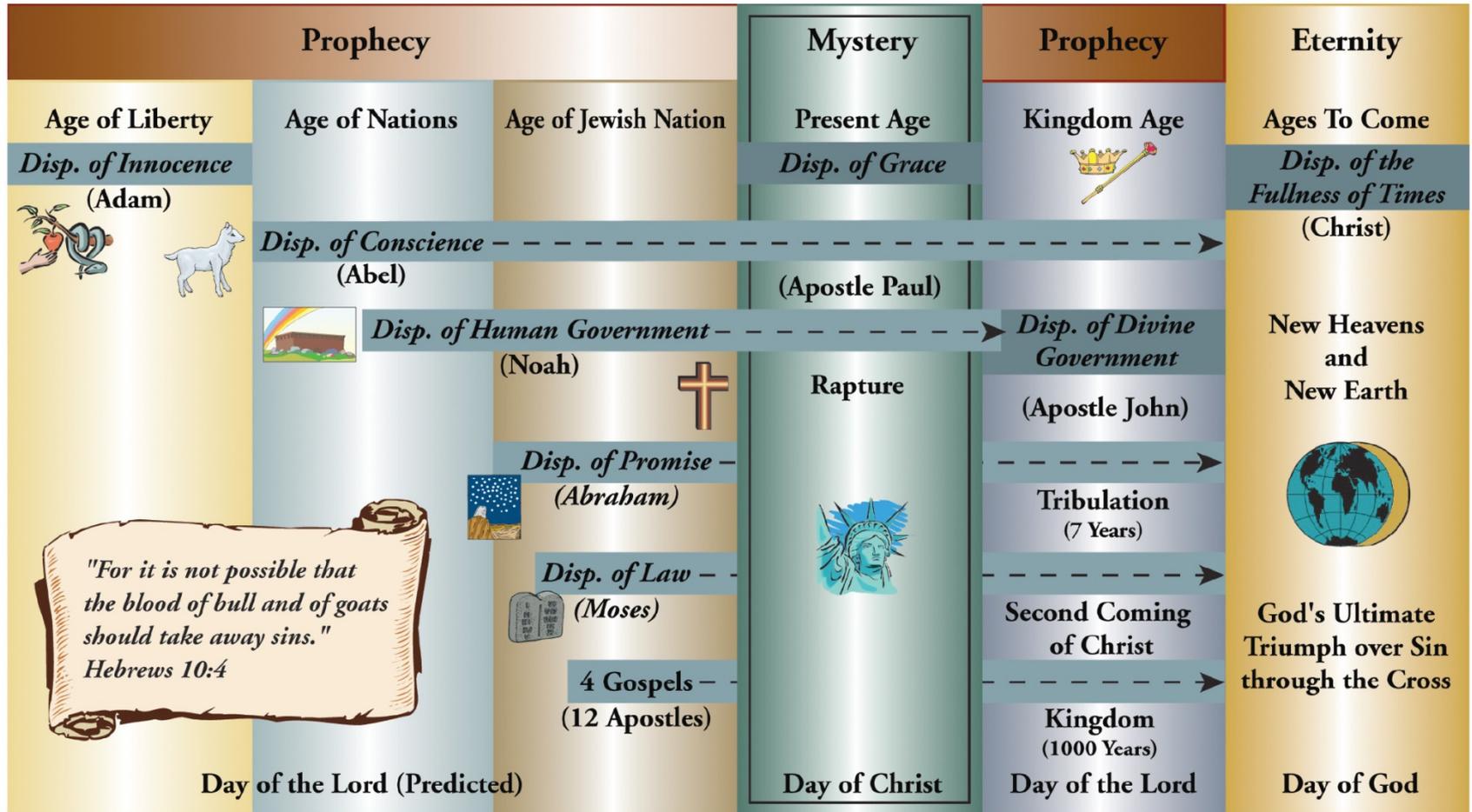


The Dispensation of Grace



- (1) Innocence
- (2) Conscience
- (3) Human Government
- (4) Promise
- (5) Law
- (6) Grace
- (7) Kingdom
- (8) Fullness of Times

The Ages and Dispensations



The Dispensation of Innocence



- After man was created, God dealt with man in his innocence. Man did not know good from evil. He knew only good.
- God dispensed to man that his responsibility was to care for the garden and to abstain from partaking of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:16,17).
- Man's failure came when Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, resulting in the entrance of sin and death (Gen. 3:6).

The Dispensation of Conscience



- With the entrance of sin when Adam and Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they became aware of good and evil. And thus God dispensed conscience.
- Now conscience was to govern man.
- God also dispensed to man the responsibility to bring a blood sacrifice to be accepted by Him (Gen. 4:1-4).
- Man's failure came when violence filled the earth because men refused to heed their conscience (Gen. 6:13), which resulted in God's judgment of the worldwide flood.

The Dispensation of Human Government



- Because of the violence and bloodshed that had prevailed before the flood, God now dispensed human government (Gen. 9:6).
- God dispensed that man was now to govern, putting into the hands of man the responsibility to establish and enforce laws that are in accordance with the righteous standard of God.
- Man's failure came when they became lifted up with pride and with their own importance, and they united together, and desired to make "a name" for themselves and built the tower of Babel (Gen. 11).

The Dispensation of Promise



- After God scattered the people through the confusion of languages, He called out one people, one nation from out of all the other nations.
- God dispensed a promise to Abraham that He would make of him a great nation, and all families of the earth would be blessed through his seed (Gen. 12:1-3). And God promised him a great land (Gen. 17:8).
- God dispensed that circumcision was mandatory as a seal of the covenant made with Abraham (Gen. 17:9-14). Abraham's descendants were responsible to trust God to fulfill the promise.
- Man's failure came when they continually failed to trust God, they forsook the land of promise and moved to Egypt and when given the opportunity to enter the Promised Land after their deliverance from Egypt they refused to enter.

The Dispensation of Law



- After God delivered Israel from Egypt, He dispensed the Law to Moses.
- God revealed that those who were placed under it were responsible to keep all 613 commandments. The blessing of God was conditional and could be realized only if they obeyed and kept the law.
- Man's failure came from their continual breaking of the law, and worshipping of false gods. Under the law, they rejected God the Father through their idolatry. They rejected God's Son and had Him crucified. And they rejected the ministry of the Holy Spirit and stoned Stephen with their own hands.





After Israel's rejection of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, next on God's timetable after their 3 strikes, according to prophecy, was Daniel's 70th week of prophecy, or Israel's 7-Year Tribulation period, which was to be followed by the Millennial Kingdom on earth.

But instead God temporarily set Israel aside and ushered in the Dispensation of Grace which was an absolute secret, "hid in God," "kept secret since the world began" (Eph. 3:9; Rom. 16:25). It was a surprise of grace!

The Dispensation of Grace

- Following the stoning of Stephen, God temporarily set Israel aside. God then dispensed grace to the world (Eph. 3:2).
- God raised up a new apostle, Paul, and revealed to Paul that the Church for this dispensation is the Body of Christ.
- Today, we are saved by grace alone and we are to live by grace.
- And God revealed that this dispensation will close with the Rapture of the Body of Christ.
- Man's failure has come from a refusal to acknowledge Paul's distinct apostleship and the Mystery.



The Dispensation of the Kingdom



- Following the Rapture, God will dispense His wrath on this world in the 7-year Tribulation. God will then establish the kingdom of His dear Son at His Second Coming and will then dispense His kingdom of heaven on the earth.
- Christ will reign as King over all the earth (Zech. 14:9). Justice will fill the earth (Jer. 23:5,6). Peace will prevail (Isa. 9:6,7).
- Israel will be the light of the world and a kingdom of priests. They will have the responsibility of leading the Gentiles in worship of the true and living God.
- Man's failure will come, when at the close of the millennial kingdom, Satan will be loosed from the bottomless pit and he will deceive the nations and raise up an army, in number like "the sand of the sea," in rebellion against God.

The Dispensation of the Fullness of Times

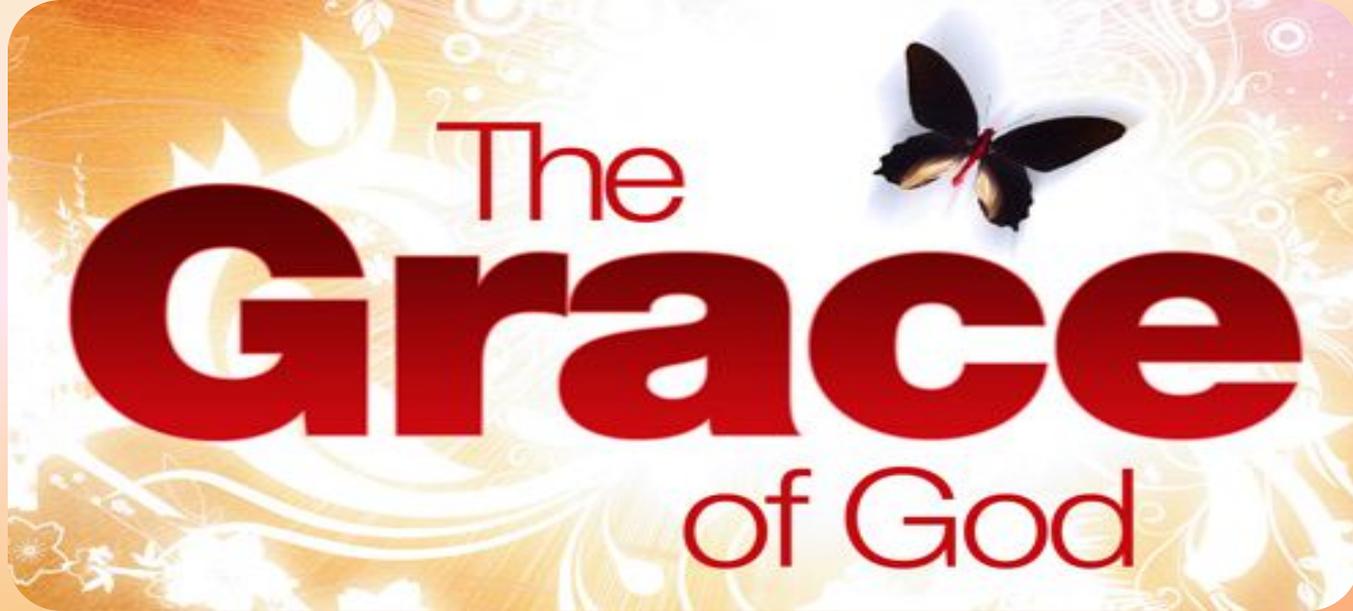


- Following the Battle of Gog and Magog, when all the unbelieving who rise up against God at the end of the kingdom are defeated, God will dispense the eternal state, or the fullness of times (Eph. 1:10).
- The distinction will remain in eternity between the two hopes of God, between those ruling and reigning “in heaven” which is the Body of Christ and those ruling and reigning on the new “earth” which is Israel.
- All will serve the Lord with gladness (II Cor. 5:9). Man will never fail God again. There will no more tears, “no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Rev. 21:4).

Eternal State

Ephesians 1:10:

“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times
He might gather together in one all things in Christ,
both which are in heaven, and which are on earth;
even in Him.”



1 Peter 5:10: God is “the God of all *grace*.”

Psalm 86:15: “But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and *gracious*, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.”



Exodus 34:6: “And the LORD passed by before [Moses], and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and *gracious*...”

Nehemiah 9:17, “But thou art a God ready to pardon, *gracious* and merciful.”

“I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth...for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found *grace* in the eyes of the LORD” (Gen. 6:7,8).



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The Dispensation of Grace

Acts 20:24: “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the *grace* of God.”



The Dispensation of Grace

Romans 3:24 says we are, “justified freely by His *grace*.”

Ephesians 2:5: “by *grace* ye are saved.”

Ephesians 1:7,8: “we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His *grace*.”



The Dispensation of Grace

Romans 5:2: “we have access by faith into this **grace** wherein we stand.”

Ephesians 1:6: “To the praise of the glory of His **grace**, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved.”



The Dispensation of Grace

Ephesians 2:7: “That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His **grace** in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”



The Dispensation of Grace

Titus 2:11,12: “For the *grace* of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.”



The Dispensation of Grace

Colossians 3:16 says we should be: “singing with **grace** in your hearts to the Lord.”

Colossians 4:6: “Let your speech be always with **grace**.”



The Dispensation of Grace

Colossians 2:6 says,
“As ye have therefore
received Christ Jesus
the Lord, so walk ye in
Him.”

We received Christ as
our Savior by *grace*
through faith.



The Dispensation of Grace

Romans 5:20,21: “But where sin abounded, **grace** did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might **grace** reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Grace reigns in God’s dealings with man today!



The Dispensation of Grace

Philippians 1:2: “**Grace** be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Timothy 1:2: “**Grace**, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.”

