

THE SEVEN DISPENSATIONS	THERE ARE 4 CYCLES COMMON TO EACH DISPENSATION. SOMETIMES THERE IS OVERLAP IN TRANSITION.			
	1. REVELATION FROM GOD (PRIVILEGE GIVEN TO MAN)	2. RESPONSIBILITY (MAN'S STEWARDSHIP)	3. MAN'S REBELLION & FAILURE TO OBEY	4. GOD'S RETRIBUTION & JUDGMENT on MAN
1. INNOCENCE (Gen 1-3) Adam and Eve	God creates man innocent, in His image, blesses and sets Him in Eden ruling over creation (Relationship, reflection and rule). Eve his Adam's complement (Gen 1:26-31).	To live in accordance with his role, to fill and subdue the earth, to tend garden, to obey God's prohibition. To acknowledge his dependence (Gen 2:15-17).	Adam and Eve's wilful disobedience, rebellion and rejection of their role under God. They follow Satan and eat of the tree.	Expulsion from Eden. Death by sin. Curses on the serpent, the woman, the man and the ground (Gen 3:22-24). The whole creation groaning.
2. CONSCIENCE (Gen 4-Gen 8) Cain and Abel, Enoch and Methusaleh	Man, a sinner, learns his need for sacrifice (Gen 4:1-7). Enoch prophesies the coming of Lord to judge (Jude v14). No written, codified law given yet.	To "do well" (Gen 4:7) and to live in accordance with conscience (Rom 2:13-15), to sacrifice and to walk with God (Gen 5:24).	Cain's defiance and his city building. Bigamy practised... all flesh corrupted. Only evil continually. The "sons of God" (Gen 6:5-12).	God sends the worldwide flood. The old world and all flesh destroyed (2 Pet 3:6). Conscience continues.
3. HUMAN GOVERNMENT (Gen 9-Gen 11) Noah, Shem, Nimrod	Noahic covenant ("everlasting" – Gen 9:17). Promise of no repeat of the worldwide flood. Seasons guaranteed while the earth remains. Dread of man put upon beasts.	Be fruitful, spread out, fill the earth (Gen 9:1). Animals can be eaten but not blood. Capital punishment introduced (government) (Gen 9:5-6).	Refusal to spread out. Defiance in federation and idolatry at Babel under Nimrod (Gen 11:4, 10:8).	God scatters by confusing languages (Gen 11:7-9). Nations introduced. Human government continues.
4. PROMISE (Gen 12-Exod 11) Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph	Abrahamic Covenant. The God of glory appears to Abram and promises him a seed, land and blessing perpetually, and through him the world. Justified by faith.	To leave Ur, become a pilgrim, believe the promises, accept the sign of circumcision. (Other nations allowed to go their own way - Acts 14:16, 17:30).	Abraham's faithless visit to Egypt, Ishmael born from Hagar, the failures of Isaac and Jacob. Joseph betrayed and sold.	Slavery in Egypt (Gen 15:13). All males over 20 die in the desert wanderings, but the unconditional promise to Abraham continues (Gal 3:17).
5. LAW (Exod 12 Acts 1) Moses, the Judges, the Kings and the prophets	The Mosaic covenant. The "giving of the law and the service of God." 613 laws (ceremonial, national and moral), including the 10 commandments. The sacrificial system of offerings.	Israel under a tutor (Gal 3:24-25). Thou shalt/not. "All that the Lord has said we will do." Curses or blessings (Deut 28). Keep the Sabbath as the sign of the covenant.	Israel turns aside to idolatry (Ex 32:8). Breaks the covenant (Jer 31:32). They kill God's prophets. They reject Christ: "This is the heir, come let us kill Him."	Captivity in Assyria/Babylon. Dispersed by Rome in AD70. Mosaic law abolished. "Blindness in part has happened unto Israel until..."
6. CHURCH Acts 2 – Rev 3/19 Peter, Paul	God speaks "in Son". Grace and truth by Jesus Christ. A Man in the glory...the Spirit on earth. God's wisdom is Christ crucified and risen. Judgment appointed.	God NOW commandeth all men - the nations - everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30). People responsible to believe and obey gospel (2 Thess 1:8).	Only a few saved (Luke 13:23). Christ rejected: antichrist enthroned. Men believe "the lie" and reject "the truth" (2 Thess 2:11)	The great tribulation. Seals, trumpets, vials, earthquakes, flaming fire and vengeance. Armageddon.
7. KINGDOM Rev 20 Christ the King and His bride the Church	Christ reigning as the King (Zech 14:9). Righteousness reigning (Isa 11:4-5). Satan bound. Creation liberated. Global peace. Israel in New Covenant relation. The Church Christ's complement (Eph 1:23)	Obedience and submission to the King who rules with a rod of iron (Isa 65:20). Annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem (Zech 14:16). Final test of man, under 1,000 years of peace.	Satan loosed. Those born in the Millennium but still unconverted join a worldwide rebellion against the Lord's anointed (Rev 20:7).	Fire from heaven. Universe passes away (2 Pet 3:10). 2nd resurrection. Final judgment. New heavens/earth. Righteousness dwells (2 Pet 3:13).

TWO KEY WORDS:

The word "Age"

(Greek: aion, from which we get the English word "aeon")

The word means: "A period of time viewed in relation to what takes place in it. An era marked by spiritual or moral characteristics" (as in "the golden age"/"age of Tudors")

Key verses:

- King of the ages (1 Tim 1:17)
- Before the ages (1 Cor 2:7, 2 Tim 1:9)
- Creator of the ages (Heb 1:2)
- The completion of the ages (1 Cor 10:11, Heb 9:26)
- This present evil age (Gal 1:4)
- The purpose of the ages (Eph 3:11)
- The age to come (Eph 1:21)

The word "Dispensation"

(Greek: oikonomia, from oikos/house and nomos/law, from which we get the English word "economy")

The word means: "An administration of affairs, a stewardship, a mode of dealing" (as "the Obama administration" or "Household management"). Each age in the plan of God (aion) is administered in a certain way (oikonomia) and man is held responsible as a steward under God.

Key verses:

- Give account of thy stewardship (Luke 16:2)
- The dispensation of the fullness of times (Eph 1:10)
- A dispensation of the grace of God (Eph 3:2)
- A dispensation of the gospel (1 Cor 9:17)