



A BETTER WAY TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

Session 7

THE DISPENSATION OF THE KINGDOM

To be Dispensational means to read the Bible using the normal rules of grammar and the universally accepted meaning of words as expressed by the writer. In other words, unless the writer indicates otherwise, we take him at his word.

“When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense.”

How is this possible? Only by studying. Studying the Bible takes work.

The apostle Paul makes it clear how we are to approach the Scriptures. In **2 Timothy 2:15** he writes,

*“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**”*

The Seven Dispensations							
	Innocence	Conscience	Government	Promise	Law	Grace	Kingdom
Scripture	Genesis 1-3	Genesis 4-8	Genesis 9-11	Genesis 12 - Exodus 18	Exodus 19 - Acts 1	Acts 2 - Revelation 19	Revelation 20
Duration	From the creation of Adam to his fall.	From the fall of Adam to the flood of Noah.	From the flood to the call of Abraham	From the call of Abraham to the giving of the Mosaic Law	From the giving of the Mosaic Law to Pentecost (?)	Transitions from Pentecost to the Rapture	From the second coming of Jesus through the new heaven and new earth
The Responsibility Before God	Fill and steward the earth; do not eat from the tree.	Obey the dictates of conscience.	Replenish the earth; rule righteously	Live in light of the promise	Keep the Mosaic Law	Believe the Gospel by faith alone.	Worship and obey Christ, the King
The Judgment From God	Separation from God	The flood	Confusion of language	Egyptian slavery	The curses of the covenants and captivities	No judgment for believers. Rapture.	Fire from heaven after 1,000 years.

Today we will look at the seventh dispensation, the Dispensation of the Kingdom.

We long for a leader to provide us with peace and deliver us from our fears and economic turmoil. Politicians accomplish some of these things for a time, but then others take their place and we are thrust back into need for deliverance. In this final dispensation the perfect world leader will finally arrive, and He will never be replaced. Yet, even under his perfect rule, some in the world will rebel.

In this dispensation, Jesus Christ will return to earth to establish his long awaited kingdom and will rule one the entire world (Daniel 7:13-14; Zechariah 14:9; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 19:15).

Two Phases of His Kingdom

1. The millennium—1,000 years (Revelation 20:4-6).
2. The new heaven and the new earth (Revelation 21:1; Isaiah 65:17)

The Davidic Covenant

-Psalm 89:3-4

-2 Samuel 7:8-16 (God makes several promises)

- He made David a great name (vv. 8-9)
- He will grant Israel a permanently secure place of their own (vv. 10-11a)
- He will establish his kingdom from a direct descendant of David (vv 11b-13)
- God's relationship with this descendent will be as a father to a son (v. 14)
- God will never revoke these kingdom promises (v. 15)
- "I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever" (vv. 13b, 16)

Some of these promises were fulfilled in the life of David's son, Solomon. It is only in Jesus Christ, however, that complete fulfillment will be realized. This was prophesied by the angel Gabriel and announced to Mary, the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:32-33).

Yet, this announcement was given hundreds of years earlier to the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 9:6-7)

What will it be like to live during the millennium?

1. Christ will rule and reign with perfect righteousness (Isaiah 9:7; Isaiah 11:1-5; Psalm 96, 97, 98, 99).
2. Resurrected saints (Jews?) will rule with him (1 Corinthians 6:2).
3. Satan's influence will be halted for a "little season" (Revelation 20:1-3; 2 Corinthians 4:4)
4. War and civil strife will be abolished (Isaiah 2:1-4; Isaiah 65:17-25)
5. The conditions will be similar to what Adam and Eve enjoyed before their disobedience.
 - Earth will yield great productivity (Joel 2:21-26; Amos 9:13)
 - Human life will experience great longevity (Isaiah 65:20).

- Animals will become vegetarian again (Isaiah 11:6-9; 65:20)

One Negative Aspect

- Those who populate this millennium, entering from the tribulation, will still need to be saved from sin. When Christ returns all nations will be gathered (Matthew 25:31-34) and he is going to separate them one from another on the basis of how they treated the Jews (My brethren in Matthew 25:40). Some of these will give birth to children, who will likewise have sinful and mortal bodies no different from children today. They will need to put their faith in Jesus Christ. Some will, and some will not. Those who refuse will experience God's judgment.
- The first part of the kingdom will end with mankind's failure to honor God as they should, and their failure to submit to the righteous rule of King Jesus, which will be the fundamental responsibility given to humanity during this dispensation.
- Satan will be set loose (Revelation 20:7-9). He will succeed in inciting the majority of earth's inhabitants to attack Jerusalem, the city from which Christ will reign during the millennium. The Lord will send fire from heaven to crush the rebellion, and Satan will be finally cast into the Lake of Fire forever and ever.
- The final judgment of all the wicked dead of all ages, sometimes referred to as the Great White Throne Judgment will take place at this time. All cast into the lake of fire will not have had their names written in the Book of Life.

The New Heavens and the New Earth

After God puts down this rebellion, He will create a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1)

Finally, the redeemed of the Lord will enjoy fellowship with God (Revelation 21:3)