

**A STUDY IN
DISPENSATIONAL
THEOLOGY
AN INTRODUCTION**

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“Dispensational Theology” as taught by Rev
Reginald Showers. A study found on the Bible
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DISPENSATIONALISM

An introduction

Introduction:

To correctly interpret the Scriptures, it is important that we have a clear view of how God organized the Bible. If we try to apply certain passages out of context, we will be doing great violence to the truth of Scripture and add much burden and confusion to ourselves. It becomes very hard to defend standards that we hold to be biblical if our proof texts will not allow that interpretation. For example;

- Why did the Holy Spirit “come on” some people in the Old Testament only to leave them later? (i.e. Sampson, Samuel, David, Zachariah, John the Baptist)
- Why do we worship on Sunday and not on Saturday, the Sabbath? The Ten Commandments tell us to “remember the Sabbath and keep it holy”.
- Why do we not stone disobedient children, adulterers or homosexuals as God’s people were commanded to do in the Old Testament. (Leviticus 20:10-14)

Explanations – God deals with mankind at different times in different ways. We call the study of these differences Dispensationalism.

I. Dispensationalism – an explanation

A. (a simple explanation) Dispensationalism is a system of theology which attempts to develop the Bible's philosophy of history. (An explanation of history from God's point of view.) It explains why things developed as they have on the basis of God's sovereignty.)

B. Dispensation = "*Oikonomia*" Lit. House management or administration. (How God exercises His rule over the world) (I Cor. 9:17; Eph. 1:10; 3:2; Col. 1:25)

C. (a theological explanation) A dispensation is a particular way of God administering His rule over the world as He progressively works out His purpose for world history.

D. In each dispensation there are certain unique characteristics.

1. There is a particular way that God administers His rule (a unique ruling factor.) Sometimes there is a combination of ruling factors.

2. In each dispensation there is a special responsibility for man that is in accord with God's ruling factor. The responsibility of man is always perfect obedience to God's rule.

3. A new divine revelation which is given at the beginning of the dispensation which has never been seen by man before.

4. Each dispensation applies a test for man. The test is, “will man obey God’s rule perfectly?”

5. Man fails the test in each dispensation.

6. Each dispensation involves divine judgment because of man’s failure.

E. Important considerations

1. There are different dispensations but never different ways of salvation. God’s plan of salvation has always been Grace, through faith in the Word of God based on the sacrifice of Jesus.

2. A dispensation is not an historical age.

3. A dispensation may involve all mankind or only a portion of mankind.

4. A dispensation may or may not continue the previous ruling factors but will have a unique ruling factor never seen before.

5. Each dispensation will demand a special revelation from God. Dispensationalism requires the concept of progressive revelation. God did not reveal all His truth at one time but little by little as man could receive it. For example; Moses understood more of God’s grace than did Abraham, Daniel than did David.

The 7 Dispensations

1. The dispensation of Innocence
2. The dispensation of Conscience
3. The dispensation of Human Government
4. The dispensation of Promise
5. The dispensation of the Law (Mosaic)
6. The dispensation of Grace
7. The dispensation of the Millennium.

