

**A STUDY IN  
DISPENSATIONAL  
THEOLOGY**

**THE DISPENSATION OF  
INNOCENCE**

Material for this study was taken from;

“Dispensational Theology” as taught by Rev  
Reginald Showers. A study found on the Bible  
Broadcasting Network Bible Institute. [bbnradio.org](http://bbnradio.org)

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# DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE

## Review

Explanations – God deals with mankind at different times in different ways.

### I. Dispensationalism – an explanation

A. (Simple) Dispensationalism is a system of theology which attempts to develop the Bible's philosophy of history. (It is 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. (Theological) A dispensation is a particular way of God administering His rule over the world as He progressively works out His purpose for world history.

C. The dispensations are usually named after the Ruling Factor employed by God at that time.

### II. The Dispensation of Innocence

(The time of the unconfirmed favorable disposition of man toward God.)

#### A. The time frame

1. The Creation of Man through the Fall
2. Genesis 1:26 – Genesis 3:24

#### B. God's ruling factor

1. The unconfirmed favorable disposition of man toward God

a) Before the Fall, man and God fellowshiped together in the cool of the evening.

b) They obeyed God's instruction and took care of the Garden of Eden.

2. This favorable disposition of God was unconfirmed. Man liked God and fellowshiped and obeyed Him. However, man was not permanently locked into this opinion of God.

a) Man was created liking God. He did not have a choice to like or dislike God.

b) Because of the fact that man did not have a choice his attitude toward God was not confirmed (set firmly). Man could change this attitude toward God by choosing not to obey.

c) To confirm this right attitude man had to have a choice. He needed a chance to choose God. [untested virtue is not virtue.]

C. The special revelation of God to man in this dispensation. The things that God wanted man to understand Cp. Gen.1:28-29; Gen 2:15-17,24

1. Man must not eat of the forbidden fruit.

2. Man is to cultivate the Garden of Eden

3. Adam and Eve were to live together in a martial (one flesh) relationship.

4. They were to reproduce.

5. They were to have dominion (rule over)

the earth

D. Man's responsibility in this dispensation

Man was to obey God on the basis of man's favorable disposition toward God. He was to obey because he loved God. He would be put to a test.

E. The Test – Would man obey God on the basis of an unformed favorable disposition of God?

F. Man's Failure

1. Satan (the enemy of God) persuaded man to choose to rebel against God.
  2. This gave man the alternative to like God and obey Him on that basis.
  3. Man chose to rebel
  4. Satan told them that to disobey would make them to be just like God.
  5. God is the ultimate authority. He is answerable to no one.
  6. Satan made them believe that if they rebelled they would be the ultimate authority in their own lives.
  7. When man rebelled, he did several things.
    - a) He rejected God's rule over him
    - b) He declared self-rule. (We will be our own gods) He became "man centered" This is where Humanism entered the world.
- [Here is where the fall actually occurred]

The outward evidence of the fall was the eating of the fruit.

G. God's divine judgment

1. At this point man died spiritually. The result of his rebellion was judgement, disease and death. Physical death did not occur immediately but its degeneration began and death was inevitable. Man became separated from God. The enmity occurred.

a) Man lost that favorable disposition toward God.

b) It was replaced by enmity. (Enmity: A feeling or condition of hostility; hatred; ill will, animosity, antagonism.)

*"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subjected to the law of God, neither indeed can be."* Romans 8:7

c) Man is now subject to disease, deformity, accidents and death. In Genesis 5 the phrase "and he died" is repeated over and over again.

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## 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.

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## NOTES

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