

**A STUDY IN  
DISPENSATIONAL  
THEOLOGY**

**THE DISPENSATION OF  
PROMISE**

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 PROMISE

Text – Gen. 12:1 – 2; Gal. 3:16; Heb. 6:13

\* Dispensationalism – an explanation

A. A dispensation is a particular way of God administrating His rule over the world as He progressively works out His purpose for world history.

I. The Dispensation of Promise

A. The time frame begins at the call of Abraham and lasts till the giving of the Mosaic law at Mt. Sinai

B. Genesis 12 – Exodus 18

II. God’s new ruling factor

A. First 3 ruling factors were not changed

1. Human conscience is still in play
2. Second ruling factor “rule” (or the Restraint) of the Holy Spirit is still in effect.

3. Human Government is also still at work.

B. The ruling factor is now “The Promise of God to Abraham” as a significant factor.

1. When a principle makes a difference in peoples lives it becomes a ruling factor.

(Heb.11:8-30)

a) God’s promise to Abraham and Sarai in Gen 12:2 changed their location.

b) They moved to Canaan sight unseen

III. The special revelation of God in this dispensation.

A. The promises written by Moses.

1. Genesis 12:2-3 (Abrahamic Covenant)
2. Genesis 13:14-17 (Give him the land)

3. Genesis 15 (An heir)
  4. Genesis 17: 1 – 22 (become many nations)
  5. Genesis 22:16-18 (multiply seed)
- B. There are 3 kinds of promises
1. Personal promises (Gen. 12:2)
    - a) To bless Abraham
    - b) To make Abraham's name great.
      - 1) Israel reveres Abraham
      - 2) Islam reveres Abraham
      - 3) Christians reveres Abraham
    - c) Abraham would have many descendants.
    - d) Abraham would be the father of nations.
    - e) Abraham would have Canaan as an everlasting possession.
    - f) Those who bless Abraham would be blessed and those who curse him would be cursed.
  2. National Promises to Israel (Gen. 13;15; 17:1-22)
    - a) Bring Israel into existence and make it great  
This was done under David and Solomon.
    - b) To Give Israel the land of Canaan.  
(This has implications - Middle East today.)
    - c) Establishes the Abrahamic covenant with Israel as an everlasting covenant.
  3. Universal promises - to mankind (Gen 22:15-18)
    - a) God would bless the earth through Abraham's line
    - b) One blessing would be the promise of the Redeemer. The Lord Jesus. Salvation for all.
    - c) From Israel we have the Bible

All three of these groups of promises made a difference in the lives of all.

- IV. Man's responsibility was to obey God on the basis of all four ruling factors.
- V. The Test – Would man obey God on these bases? - No he would not.
- VI. Man's Failure
  - 1) Abraham and Sara had lapses of faith
  - 2) Abraham two times lied calling Sara his sister
  - 3) The sin was repeated by Isaac later on
  - 4) Jacob became the deceiver
  - 5) Canaan was their possession yet they went to Egypt in time of drought.
- G. God's divine judgment
  - 1) The problems with the Arabs, the descendants of Ishmael.
  - 2) Through history the Jews have been slaves and threatened with destruction.

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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.