

AN INTRODUCTION TO DISPENSATIONALISM
By Pastor Richard Jones

A. The Fundamentals of Dispensationalism

1. An explanation of what a dispensation is

- a. The word “**dispensation**” (oikonomia is used some _____ times in the New Testament and is translated in various ways such as “stewardship, dispensation, administration, commission” (Lk.16:2,3,4; 1 Cor.9:17; Eph. 1:10; 3:2,9; Col.1:25; I Tim.1:4).
- b. A dispensation has been defined as “a period of time during which man is tested in respect to his obedience to some specific _____ of the will of God” (Scofield).
- c. A dispensation may also be defined as a “stewardship, administration, oversight, or management of other’s property. This involves _____, _____ and _____ on the part of the steward” (Ryrie).

2. The importance of understanding the different dispensations

- a. The Word of God cannot be interpreted by a “hop, skip, and a jump” method, it must be rightly _____ (II Tim. 2:15). To do this we must understand the different dispensations and learn to distinguish between things that _____.
- b. Understanding the different _____ is the key that unlocks the Scriptures and enables us to rightly divide them. Without the dispensational key we would have no answers for such questions as:
 - (1) Why was eating meat prohibited during the time that Adam and Eve were in the garden (Gen. 1:29), but was permitted during the time of Noah (Gen. 9:3)?
 - (2) Why did God prohibit capital punishment after man’s sinful fall (Gen. 4:15) but insisted upon it at a later time(Gen. 9:5,6)?
 - (3) Why did God call for sacrifices and offerings in Abraham’s day and doesn’t call for them in our day?
- c. Without the dispensational key it is easy for people to confuse the way

of salvation and to adopt practices which place _____ demands upon others.

3. An illustration of what is involved in a dispensation.

a. The word dispensation literally means “the _____ of a _____” and it carries the idea of a steward administering the affairs of a household.

b. This idea is seen in the parable of the unjust _____ (Luke 16:1-8).

Notice:

(1) The rich man would dispensationally represent _____ (16:1).

(2) The steward who is responsible to the rich man would dispensationally represent _____ responsibility to God (16:1).

(3) Here we can also see a specific _____ of faithfulness (16:2).

(4) Notice a _____ element is also involved - “no longer be steward” (16:2).

(5) Then we see there was a _____ day that came (2) and there was a _____ which took place because of this steward’s _____ (3).

4. The names of the different dispensations:

a. There are _____ dispensations found in the Word of God. These are referred to as *innocence, conscience, human government, promise, law, church* or grace, and *the millennium or kingdom*.

b. Notice as these names imply, in each dispensation man is under a specific _____ of conduct for which he is responsible to God.

B. Some Facts about Dispensationalism

1. As it relates to salvation:

a. Dispensationalism does not teach different ways of salvation. It

shows different rules of life and responsibility which tests man's _____ to God's will during a particular time.

b. Notice that salvation is always by _____ through _____ and it rests upon the basis of Christ's _____ which was shed.

c. The principle of faith was operative in the lives of all the Old Testament saints because this is the only way to _____ God (Heb. 11:6).

(1) We note however that the _____ of their faith was not the incarnate crucified Son of God (Acts 17:30; Jn. 1:21; 7:40).

(2) The Old Testament saints did not always understand the redemptive significance of the prophecies or types concerning the _____ of _____ (I Pet. 1:10-12).

(3) Notice the faith which the O.T. saints had in God was manifested in _____ ways (Heb. 11:1-40).

(4) We see when the O.T. saints exercised their faith in various ways in obedience to God's will it was counted unto them for _____ (compare Gen. 15:6; Rom. 4:5-8).

(5) We conclude then that obedience to God's revelation was not salvation by works, it was the _____ of their faith which proved that they were saved.

2. As it relates to God's revelation:

a. We can see there is a _____ of God's revelation during each period of time or dispensation. This means more of God's person, righteousness, justice, holiness, and etc. can be seen historically. The apex will be during the millennium when the Lord Jesus reigns on the earth.

b. In each dispensation we can see the rule of life or responsibility is _____ or greater.

c. We notice in each successive dispensation that more people are _____.

d. Finally we can see changes in conditions and changes in God's revelation as a result of man's _____ and God's _____.

C. The Features of each Dispensation

1. Rule of life

In each dispensation God delegates authority to others in order that His _____ might be carried out in that particular period of time.

2. Test

Each dispensation presents a _____ of man's obedience to God's revealed will at that time. This test is not a way of salvation nor to see what man will do, for God already knows. The test is for man's benefit to see his own weakness apart from faith in God.

3. Failure

Each dispensation shows man's _____ in his stewardship and his failure in believing God.

4. Judgment

In each dispensation man is responsible to God and must give an account to Him. Failure always brings _____.

5. Crisis or crucial event

Each dispensation terminates or ends with a _____ event.

Answer Key To Introduction To Dispensationalism

A

1

- a. Nine
- b. Revelation
- c. Responsibility, Accountability, and faithfulness

2

- a. Divided, differ
- b. Dispensation
- c. Unscriptural

3

- a. Law, house
- b. Steward
 - (1) God
 - (2) Man's
 - (3) Test
 - (4) Time
 - (5) Reckoning, judgment, Unfaithfulness

4

- a. Seven
- b. Rule

B

1

- a. Submission
- b. Grace, faith, blood
- c. Please
 - (1) Object
 - (2) Sufferings of Christ
 - (3) Various
 - (4) Righteousness
 - (5) Evidence

2

- a. Progression

- b. Elevated
- c. Saved
- d. Failure, judgment

C

- 1 Will
- 2 Test
- 3 Failure
- 4 Judgment
- 5 Momentous