

FRAMING THE AGES – THE DISPENSATIONS

Dispensations – an age

Based on specific covenants

Becomes the rule of life – sometimes for a single period, and sometimes it overlaps for a number of periods.

In each new dispensation God gives new revelation which requires a response from man.

What starts off a new dispensation and what ends a previous one is grounded in what God has chosen to reveal at a specific point in time.

INNOCENCE

Man's responsibility - Gen 1:28-30; 2:15-17

Earth:

Multiply and fill the earth

Subdue the earth

Rule over every living thing

Garden:

Cultivate the garden – keep it

Man's test - Gen 2:17 Do not eat.

Man's failure - Gen 3:18

Resulted in total depravity – sin touched every part and area of their being and every area of their human lives. Rom 5:12-21; Eph 2:1-2

Man's judgement - Gen 3:9-19

Expulsion from the Garden

A curse upon the earth - Rom 8:19-23

God's display of Grace - Gen 3:15

Promise of a Redeemer

Ends with The Fall

CONSCIENCE Rom 1:18-32; 2:11-16

Man's responsibility - live until he dies

To the woman - Gen 3:16

To the man - Gen 3:17-19

Believe that God has a solution for his situation - Gen 3:15

Offer a blood sacrifice for sin - Gen 4:4

FRAMING THE AGES – THE DISPENSATIONSCONTINUED

Man's Test - He is to do good and not evil - Gen 3:22

Man's Failure - Gen 6:5

violence, corruption, evil

Man's Judgment - Gen 6:6 - 7:23

world-wide flood

God's display of Grace

salvation of Enoch - Gen 5:18-24

salvation of Noah and his family and the animal kingdom - Gen 7:1-16

Ends and Continues

Responsibility to live according to one's conscience continues - Rom 14:14

The need for a blood sacrifice has ended - Heb 10:18

HUMAN GOVERNMENT - Gen 9:1-17

Man's Responsibility

replenish the earth - Gen 9:1,7 (table of nations - Gen 10:1-32)

establish human government - Gen 9:5-6

Man's Test

disperse and fill the earth

Man's Failure

Tower of Babel - Gen 11:1-9

Man's Judgement

God dispersed mankind - Gen 11:8

God's Display of Grace

God preserved the Messianic Line - Lk 3:34-38

Ends with the Messianic Kingdom - Rev 19:15

PROMISE - Abraham -Isaac - Jacob

Rom 4:1-25; Gal 3:15-19; Heb 6:13-15; 11:19

Man's Responsibility

believe the promise of God - Gen 15:6; Rom 4:3

Isaac - Gen 26:3

Jacob - Gen 35: 9-12

Christ - Gal 3:16

FRAMING THE AGES – THE DISPENSATIONSCONTINUED

Man's Test

 dwell in the land I tell you to

 Abraham - Gen 12:1-3

 Isaac - Gen 24: 1-9

 Jacob - Gen 28:10-15

 keep yourselves separate from the Canaanites

Man's Failure

 Abraham went to Egypt - Gen 12:10

 Isaac contemplated leaving - Gen 26:1-6

 Jacob left the land with God's blessing - Gen 46:1-7 but ended in slavery

 The Israelites intermarried with the Canaanites and entered business
 partnerships with them.

 Example: Judah (line of Christ) Gen 38

Man's Judgment - Egyptian Bondage

God's Display of Grace - God preserved Israel and will continue to do so both
inside the Land and outside of it. The Day will come when Israel will receive the
promises. - Rom 11:25-29

Never ends - everlasting

The Promise unfolds by means of 4 unconditional Covenants:

Abrahamic

Palestinian

Davidic

New

FRAMING THE AGES - DISPENSATIONScontinued

MOSAIC LAW - See separate study

Ex 19:1-6

Gal 3:17-29

Gal 5:1-4

GRACE - Acts 2:1ff through Rev 19:21

Jn 1:17

Man's Responsibility

Accept the Finished work of Christ

Rom 3:21-26; Rom 10:1-13; 1Jn 5:9-13

Man's Test

Will a person accept God's offer of The Free Gift of Salvation by the simple act of faith in the finished work of Christ?

Man's Failure

Gal 5:1-5; Gal 3:1-4; Both individually and as a body Rev 17:1-5; 3:14-22

Man's Judgment

The Tribulation - Rev 18:1-8 - for the visible unbelieving church

Rev 20:11-15 -for the individual who finds himself raised for the GWT Judgment - Dan 12:1-3

God's Display of Grace

Rapture - 1Thes 4:13-18; 2Thes 2:1-14

Begins with Pentecost and ends with the Rapture

NOTE: No Grace for those not found written in the book of life - Rev 20:15

KINGDOM AGE - MILLENNIUM

Man's Responsibility

Believe in the finished work of Christ

Obedience to the King - Rev 19:15

Man's Test

Same as the Age of Grace - Believe God the Father's Testimony concerning the Saving Work of His Son - 1 Jn 5:9-13

No believer will die physically during the Millennium - Rev 20:5-6

FRAMING THE AGES – THE DISPENSATIONSCONTINUED

Man's Failure

Multitudes will refuse to believe and join the rebellion of Gog and Magog at the end of time - Rev 20:7-10

Followed by GWT Judgment

Followed by the New Heaven and Earth

Man's Judgment

Destruction by divine fire out of heaven - Rev 20:9

God's display of Grace

All of the covenant promises will be fulfilled

All prophecies will come to their completion except new heavens and earth)

All mankind will experience paradise restored

And after 1000 years is completed

Time comes to an end

Eternity begins - Rev 21:1 - 22:5