

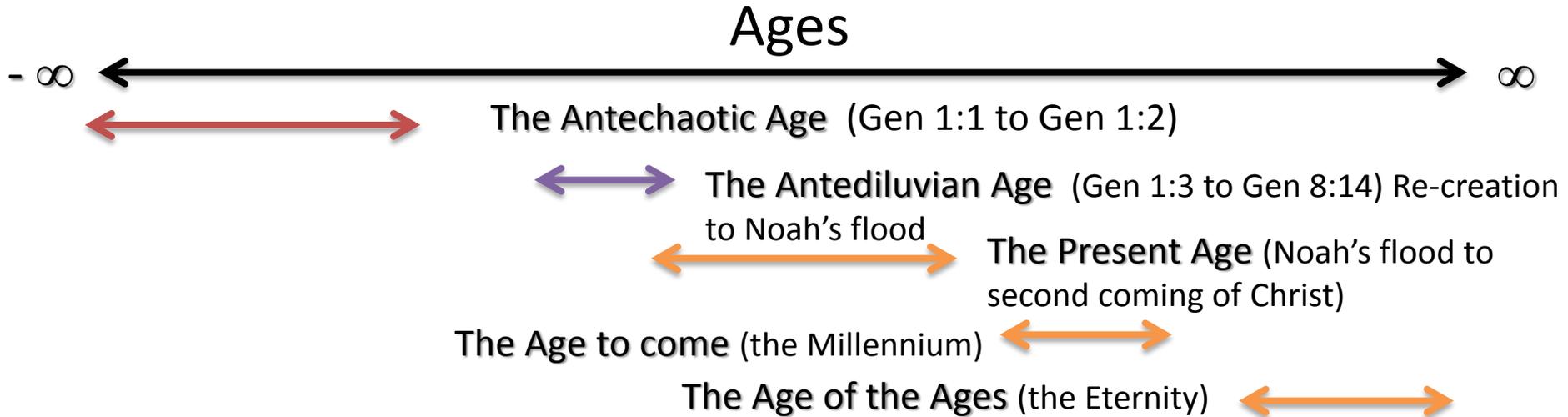
Biblical Dispensation

Dispensation of Innocence

Outline of our study

1. The definition of the name of the dispensation
2. The length of the dispensation
3. The favorable beginning of man in each age
4. The test for man in each period
5. The purpose of God in each test for man
6. The means of God in accomplishing His purpose
7. The failure of man to meet the test
8. The judgment of God upon man because of his failure
9. God's provision of redemption for man at the end of each age

Expressions of the Ages



Eternal Past
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensation of Angels • Col 1:15-18 (invisible things) • 1 Cor 15:40 (celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies)

Dispensation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innocence • Conscience • Human Government • Promise • Law • Grace • Kingdom

Eternal Future

Dispensation is Innocence

Gen 1:3-2:25 (to be precise Gen 2:15-3:21)

This period is also called Antediluvian age (from the creation up to the flood of Noah). There are 2 dispensations in this age, innocence and conscience.

Genesis 1:3 - 2:3 Creation

- First day - Day (light) and Night (darkness)
- Second day - firmament, sky or Heaven
- Third day - Dry land (Earth), Waters (Seas), grass, herb and trees
- Fourth day - Two great lights (Sun and the Moon) and Stars
- Fifth day - Sea livings creatures and birds
- Sixth day - Cattle, creeping things, beasts and man (male and female)
- Seventh day - Rest day, He blessed and sanctified it

Dispensation is Innocence

- Gen 2:5,6 Mist watered the ground, No rain
- Gen 2:7 Formation of Man
- Gen 2:8 Garden of Eden
- Gen 2:9 Tree of life and Tree of the Knowledge of good and evil
- Gen 2:10-14 Four rivers - (Pishon, Gihon, Hiddekel and Euphrates.
- Gen2:15 - God gave him charge over the garden of Eden to tend and keep
- Gen2:16,17 - Instruction on forbidden fruit
- Gen 2:18, 21-25 - Formation of woman
- Gen 19,20 - Formation of beasts and birds and Adam naming them
- Gen 2:25 - Man's innocence
- Gen 3:1-7 Serpent caused woman and then men to sin by eating the forbidden fruit
- Gen 3:8-13 Conversation between God and Adam and Eve.
- Gen 3:14,15 Curse and judgment to the serpent
- Gen 3:16 Judgment on woman
- Gen 3:17-19 Judgment on man
- Gen 3:21 God made temporary arrangements to cover up their nakedness

1. Definition

The word innocence means, the quality of being without consciousness of evil, harmlessness, and freedom from crime, guilt or sin. An innocent person is one who is free from guilt or violation of any law, guiltless, sinless, pure, upright, harmless.

- Adam was perfectly innocent when God put him in the garden.
- They were not even self-conscious to the extent of being ashamed of his nakedness(Gen 2:25). They became self-conscious of their nakedness when sin entered (Gen 3:7).
- When a person is in such a state he or she is God-conscious. In the fall, man lost his God-consciousness and gained his self-consciousness.

2. Length of the dispensation of innocence

Exactly we don't know the length of the Dispensation of Innocence. But knowing the nature of Satan, he would not allowed this to go long for a long time.

- Satan is already jealous of Adam and he would not be happy man ruling the earth (Gen 1:28)
- We have record of God resting on only one Sabbath (Gen 2:1-3). The next statement about God is He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day (Gen 3:8) when man sinned already.
- Looks like both of them never had time to visit the tree of life for when they sinned, they were driven out of the garden and kept away from this tree. (Gen 3:22-24)

2. Length of the dispensation of innocence

- Man's fall was before he knew his wife and had children(Gen 4:1). The children born were sinful as even today. (Psalm 51:5)

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. (Romans 3:23) 23for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:10) As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;

How did Satan come there?

- Serpent was one of God's creation. Serpent was more cunning than any other beast (Gen 3:1). Satan would have chosen serpent to accomplish his purpose.

3. The favorable beginning of man in Innocence

What are the favorable conditions in the garden of Eden?

- Man and woman fresh from the hand of the creator had physical, spiritual and eternal life.
- Had communion and fellowship with God
- Had dominion over the creations, power to make own choice, no other enemies or no one to oppose
- Man was like a miniature God in soul, spirit and a physical body made in the image and likeness of God
- He was uncorrupt, free from prejudices, sinful lusts, and all evil.

3. The favorable beginning of man in Innocence

- He had power over Satan and all the spirits that were loose in the earth.
- Man's body was perfect, no sickness, weakness and all organs are able to function with full ability
- Man was placed in the garden where he had everything to enjoy the fruits, nuts, grains and vegetables to eat including beauty of the nature.
- Man was given a helper, his wife (Gen 2:18)
- He was not expected to be lazy as the Lord put them in the garden to keep it (Gen 2:15)
- He was to reproduce his own kind and keep them obedient to God in harmony with all creation.

4. The test for man in each period

Man was on probation and needed to be tested to see whether he would remain true to God or not before being placed in the eternal responsibility that God had in mind for him.

- Adam had the power to choose whether to obey or disobey
- The penalty for disobedience was made very clear, it was eternal death (Gen 2:17)
- Man would have lived for ever physically (by eating of the tree of life) and spiritually (not eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil)
- The spiritual death (eternal death) came as he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and physical death came as he couldn't eat of the tree of life.

4. The test for man in each period

- Even after sinning, he would have physically lived for ever if he would have allowed to eat of the tree of life. But God didn't (Gen 3:22-24). But no one could have prevented the eternal death.
- So the test for man in the dispensation of Innocence was that he should not eat of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil which would result in loss of his dominion, fellowship with God and eternal death.
- The test was to see if man obeys one simple law, today we need to obey many laws because man failed to obey one simple law.

5. The purpose of God in the dispensation of Innocence

- The purpose of God in man while in the state of Innocence was to see whether or not man would obey to Him, so that he could be trusted for an eternal responsibility in connection with the earth and God's universal kingdom.
- God knew that Lucifer the first ruler of the earth lifted him up in pride and rebelled against God (Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:11-19). So it was natural for Him to test the new ruler to see if he would exalt himself as Satan did.
- God planned if man fell he should do it before he ate of the tree of life, so that he wouldn't have to continue in the same sinful state for ever.
- God also intended that if man fell he should do it before he had off-spring. Therefore He tested them soon after creation.

6. The means of God in accomplishing His purpose

God was testing man to see if he has ambition to become like God. That was the main desire of Lucifer.

- The restriction of man from the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil
- Temptations offered by the devil
- The desire of Lucifer was (Isaiah 14:12-14)
- I will ascend into heaven
- I will exalt my throne above the starts of God
- I will be like the most High
- Without the tempter the first man might have remained true to God.

7. The failure of man to meet the test

- Other passages where the fall of man is mentioned. Romans 5:12-21, 1 Timothy 2:13-14.
- Without having a clear faith in the fall of man one cannot have faith in the redemption of man.
- One must believe in the fall otherwise he cannot be saved.
- Jesus Christ did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance Matthew 9:13
- Man must repent to be saved.

7. The failure of man to meet the test

- John came preaching repentance - Mark 1:4
- Twelve disciples preached repentance - Mark 6:12
- Jesus' final command to preach repentance - Luke 24:46-48
- Peter preaching repentance - Acts 2:38, 3:19, 17:30 (Paul)
- This is the chief fundamental truth of the Gospel of Christ (Rom 1:16, Eph 1:7)
- The failure of man is breaking the commandment of God in eating of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. (Gen 2:16,17)

7. The failure of man to meet the test

The main facts of the story of fall of man are the following:

a. Doubt concerning God's Word (Gen 3:1)

Right from the beginning Satan is against God's Word. Many believe that Bible is full of metaphors. It is very evident wherever metaphors are used. For example, God says, He is a mighty fortress, He is a shelter and strong tower. Also when parables are used, it is written as "parable". Any theory that teaches God does not mean what He says is satanic.

b. Addition to and misquoting of God's Word (Gen 3:2-3)

Woman answered in doubt raised by satan adding additional statement "nor shall you touch it" (Gen 3:3), which is misquotation of Gen 2:16-17.

c. Contradiction of God's Word (Gen 3:4)

- Serpent directly contradicted the Word of God. God said, "the day that you eat of it, you shall surely die(Gen 2:17)". Devil said, "You will not surely die" (Gen 3:4).
- Those who believe God say, men will die if they sin. But those who believe the devil say, men will not die if they sin.
- The soul who sins shall die - Eze 18:4
- The wages of sin is death - Rom 6:23

7. The failure of man to meet the test

d. Misinterpretation of God's Word (Gen 3:5)

Satan gave the basis of many false doctrines of today's world by saying "You will be like God". It is misinterpreted as We have God power, we all part of God, we need to look to the God power within us.

e. Temptation to transgress God's Word (Gen 3:6)

Satan's appeal to man was "He should become like God". This was a strong one as Lucifer fell by this and here man is falling due to the desire for power. This is becoming like God by rebellion. Christ wants us to become like Him by self emptying and humiliation.

f. Transgression of God's Word (Gen 3:6)

Adam and Eve went through the cycle of temptation before the actual sin was committed. James 1:13-16 -13

7. The failure of man to meet the test

When Eve saw the tree, she found it was Good for food, Pleasant to the eyes and Desirable to make one wise.

1 John 2:15-17 the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life

These are the three lines of temptation Christ went through.(Matthew 4:1-11)

Good for food-->Lust of the flesh-->turn the stones to bread

Pleasant to the eyes-->the lust of the eyes-->throw yourself down from the pinnacle

Desirable to make one wise-->the pride of life-->fall down and worship me

If a man or woman overcomes these three lines of temptations, he or she is a overcomer of Satan, flesh and the world.

8. The judgment of God upon man because of his failure

- The curse upon the serpent (Gen 3:14,15)
- The curse upon Satan (Gen 3:15)
- The curse upon woman (Gen 3:16)
- The curse upon the man (Gen 3:17-19)
- The curse upon the earth (Gen 3:17-19)

9. God's provision of redemption

- Immediately after the fall, God 's mercy was manifest.
- He promised a redeemer and He would be born of a woman and would defeat Satan and restore mankind. (Gen 3:15)
- This was demonstrated by the shedding of the blood of animals and clothing of man(Gen 3:21)
- God showed the terribleness of sin by slaying the animal and shedding its blood for the remission of sin (Heb 9:22)
- Since then man shed blood expecting the coming redeemer to shed His own blood to atone for sin (Matt 26:28)