

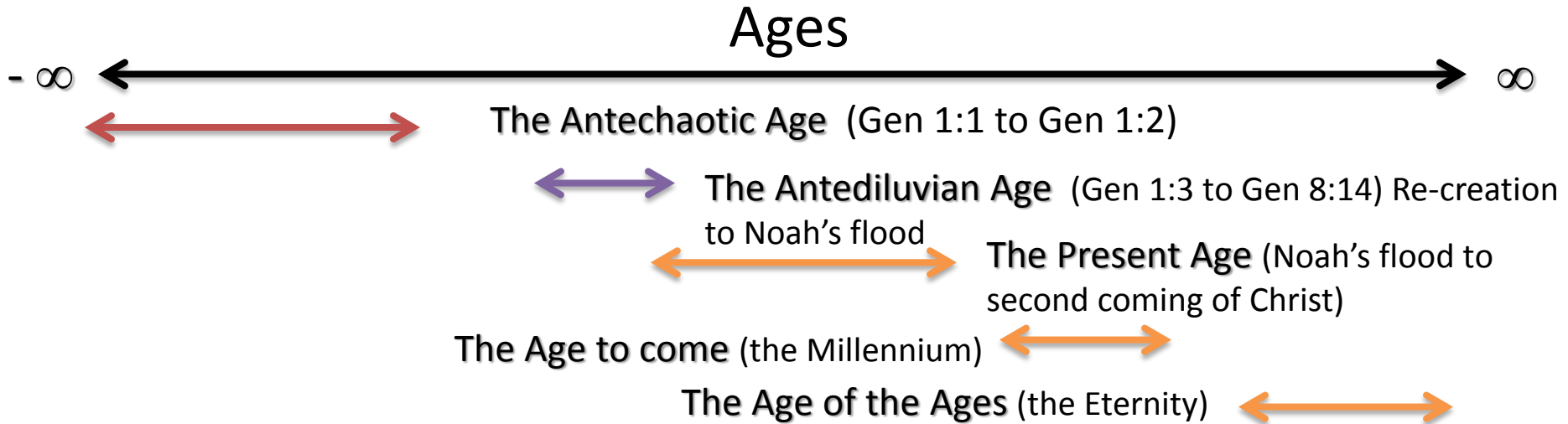
Biblical Dispensation

Dispensation of Conscience

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

1. Definition

- Conscience is the knowledge of our acts, states or character as to right or wrong
- The sense of right and wrong that governs a person's thoughts and actions
- Nerve system of soul
- Red light or warning light on the dashboard of the car
- It is a weighing scale for self judgment

2. Length of the dispensation of conscience

The length of dispensation of conscience is 1656 years. This is obtained by adding the number of years starting from the fall of man till the flood. (Gen 3 - Gen 7).

2. Length of the dispensation of conscience

Genealogy	Descendants born at	Since restoration	Total years lived	Reference
Adam	130 years old when Seth was born	130	930 years	Gen 5:3
Seth	105 years old when Enosh was born	235	912 years	Gen 5:6
Enosh	90 years old when Cainan was born	325	905 years	Gen 5:9
Cainan	70 years old when Mahaleel was born	395	910 years	Gen 5:12
Mahaleel	65 years old when Jared was born	460	895 years	Gen 5:15
Jared	162 years old when Enoch was born	622	962 years	Gen 5:18
Enoch	65 years old when Methusaleh was born	687	365 years	Gen 5:21
Methusaleh	187 years old when Lamech was born	874	969 years	Gen 5:25
Lamech	182 years old when Noah was born	1056	777 years	Gen 5:28
Noah	600 years old when the flood came	1656	950 years 500 - Shem, Ham, Japheth 600 - flood (lived 350 years after the flood)	Gen 7:6,11

3. The favorable beginning of man in conscience

- Even though man sinned, God already made a provision for redemption through the seed of woman - Gen 3:15
- The curse would be lifted and he would be restored to his original position
- Man has got knowledge on sacrifices to God as God had killed animals in the garden for skin to cloth man. Further proof is from the story of Cain and Abel, Gen 4:4.
- Man also know that God had made a temporary arrangement to cover up their sins by animals blood.
- Men began to call upon the name of the Lord (Gen 4:26). Awareness to pray to God for their needs.

4. The test for man in each period

- The expectation of God during the dispensation of innocence was to see man obeys God.
- But during the dispensation of conscience, the expectation of God was to see if man obeys his conscience.
- His test was to do the good and refuse the evil and to have faith in God and the coming redeemer who would bruise serpent's head.
- The test is to see if man does good and be accepted by God or he allows sin to rule over him, Gen 4:7

5. The purpose of God in the dispensation of conscience

- The purpose of God is to test man under freedom to see if man could choose to follow God's will or to follow his new master - the devil.
- There is no tree of knowledge of good and evil to refrain from or there is no specific law and commandments to follow.
- As man had within him the knowledge of good and evil, there was a freedom within him to choose good or evil according to his conscience.

6. The means of God in accomplishing His purpose

- During the age of conscience God allowed total freedom for man to choose without restraint and compulsion.
- God permitted him to go the full limit of wickedness that he might experience the wrong usage of his will that the future generation might profit by this experience.

7. The failure of man to meet the test

The failure of Adam (Gen 6:3)

- We can read that in Gen 6:3 *And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*
- This verse is wrongly used to prove that someday God's Holy Spirit will quit striving with all men. No, this verse talks about Adam.
- My spirit - because Adam's spirit was directly given by God. It refers to the spirit of Adam.
- Strive - My spirit I have created in man will not always remain in him.
- Man - singular referring one man Adam, also the use of personal pronouns such as he, his refer to one man Adam.
- 120 years - It doesn't mean that every man is going to live for 120 years.

7. The failure of man to meet the test

The failure of Adam (Gen 6:3)

...It reveals that Adam is going to live 120 more years that Gen 6:3 refers to 810 years after creation as Adam lived for 930 years.

- This verse throws light upon the ungodliness on earth after 810 years after creation and 846 years before the flood.
- During Enoch's day God had already planned to destroy the earth with flood. Enoch divinely called His son as Methuselah who was born 969 years before the flood. Methuselah means "*when he is dead it shall be sent.*" Methuselah died on the year of the flood.
- Adam himself was so wicked, even God gave him 120 years to repent. Whether he ever repented is not clear. He is not mentioned as a faithful Godly man in Hebrews 11.
- If Adam, the direct creation of God, after seeing Him face to face failed Him, what must have been the condition of many others.

7. The failure of man to meet the test

The failure of Cain (Gen 4:1-16)

- The failure of the first man who was born in the earth
- Both Cain and Abel were taught by Adam or by God himself to bring their first fruit to God
- Both brought their offering
- One was humble and godly and the other self-willed and rebellious
- Cain should have understood what God expects from him when his offering was rejected (Gen 4:5)
- Even at least Cain should have realized when the Lord said you do not do well and there is sin in your life. (Gen 4:7)
- Desire of vengeance led Cain to murder and God's curse upon him (Gen 4:11-12)
- **Proverbs 21:3** To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.
- **Mark 12:33** And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

7. The failure of man to meet the test

- The failure of Cain's descendants (Gen 4:17-24)
- *Genesis 4:17 C.H. Dodd, a British Biblical Scholar (cited by Adam Clarke, The Holy Bible with A Commentary) shows that it would have been possible for Adam and Eve, in the more than 100 years he estimates may have elapsed since their union, to have had over 32,000 descendants at the time Cain went to Nod, all of them having sprung from Cain and Abel, who married their sisters.*

7. The failure of man to meet the test

The failure of Cain's descendants (Gen 4:17-24)

- We have an account of the godless civilization produced by Cain and his descendants.
- Cain himself set a wicked example before his descendants.
- He started the first city and aimed to have everything that was pleasing him.
- His children became more wicked as time went on. Many similarities of modern civilization are seen in the early time.
 - City life and its evils first appeared (Gen 4:17)
 - Jabal the first cattleman dwelling in tents introduced flesh and milk as food to escape tilling the soil (Gen 4:20)
 - Jubal invented the "harp and organ" (wind instruments) to be used in the song, dance and pleasures of all kinds which go with the crowd. (Gen 4:21)
 - Tubal-Cain, a worker in brass and iron forged weapons of war. The earth was filled with violence, bloodshed and wars (Gen 4:22, 6:11-13)
 - Lamech was a murderer and the first polygamist in record (Gen 4:23-24)
- From these few facts we can imagine what was going on during the initial 100 years since creation.

7. The failure of man to meet the test

The failure of Seth's descendants (Gen 4:25 - 5:32)

- It is not just two lines or branches of the human family. Gen 5:4 Adam had sons and daughters. Every son of Adam started a branch, but not all are mentioned in the Bible. It is estimated that there were at least 150,000,000 people at the time of flood. (India population is 1.2 billion) (Canada population 34 million).
- Except Enoch and Noah Bible doesn't account for any Godly generation in the line of Seth.

7. The failure of man to meet the test

The failure of all men in general (Gen 6:1-7, 11-13)

- The ungodliness of this age is stated in many scriptures: Gen 6:5-7, Matt 24:37-39, Luke 17:26-27, 1 Pet 3:20, 2 Pet 2:4-5
- There were only three mentioned godly till now on the earth. If there had not been one godly man on earth at the time of flood, God would have destroyed the whole and recreated the earth.
- But at the time of Moses, God was about to destroy the whole Israel because of sin, but Moses stood in the gap and interceded.
- Unfortunately, no mention that Noah interceded for the lost.

7. The failure of man to meet the test

The failure of Sons of God (Gen 6:1-7, 11-13)

- The different views on the identity of "Sons of God" are
- 1) they were fallen angels, 2) they were powerful human rulers, or 3) they were godly descendants of Seth intermarrying with wicked descendants of Cain.
- The expression "Sons of God" is used only five times in the Old Testament and every time it refers to angels. Gen 6:2, Gen 6:4, Job 1:6, Job 2:1, Job 38:7.
- A potential problem with this is in Matthew 22:30, which indicates that angels do not marry.
- The weakness of views 2) and 3) is that ordinary human males marrying ordinary human females does not account for why the offspring were "giants" or "heroes of old, men of renown." Further, why would God decide to bring the flood on the earth. (Genesis 6:5-7)

7. The failure of man to meet the test

- As previously noted, the weakness of the first view is that Matthew 22:30 declares, “At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.”
 - does not say “angels are not able to marry.” Rather, it indicates only that angels do not marry.
 - it is referring to the “angels in heaven.” not to fallen angels.
- However, while angels are spiritual beings (Hebrews 1:14), they can appear in human, physical form (Mark 16:5).
- The men of Sodom and Gomorrah wanted to have sex with the two angels who were with Lot (Genesis 19:1-5).
 - It is plausible that angels are capable of taking on human form, even to replicate human sexuality and reproduction.
 - Why do the fallen angels not do this more often? God imprisoned the fallen angels who committed this evil sin, so that the other fallen angels would not do the same (Jude 6).

A side note on Angels...

5 divisions of angels. Angels have no soul, no revelation of the Word, no salvation. Eph 3:10

1. Seraphim Is 6:2, 6 wings 2 to cover face, 2 to cover feet 2 to fly, they declare God's holiness

2. Cherubim Eze 1: 5,6 living creatures with wings and 4 faces, Eze 41:18 Cherub had 2 faces, Satan was a Cherub Eze 28:14, protect the glory, protected the tree of life, Gen 3:24.

3. Living creatures, Rev 4 angels of judgment having eyes all over

4. Archangels, means angels of high rank. Angels of war Michael, Gabriel-the messenger are mentioned as Archangels.

5. Common angel, angels have no wings, look like young men, to protect the saint, (Psalm 34:7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.)

A side note on Angels...

Two classes of fallen angels:

- **Angels that are bound in hell:** 2 Pet. 2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;
- Jude 6-7 angels gave themselves to sexual immorality as Sodom and Gomorrah.
- **Angels that are loosed in heaven:** Rev 12:7-12 - the fallen angels are loose along with the devil in the heavenlies and will be cast down on earth before the coming of the Lord.

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

(Gen 6:11 - 7:24)

- God's judgment upon man was the flood.
- Flood was necessary to destroy the ungodly and preserve the seed that is yet to come.
- Destruction came upon men as judgment as men sinned against God.
- God did not take away the judgment as it is not in His original plan. No.. God doesn't compromise on sin. Where sin is found, there is always judgment.

9. God's provision of redemption

- The ark was not the provision of redemption of soul, it saved men alive physically so that the earth could be replenished again.
- The provision of redemption has been the same in all ages; faith in the coming redeemer who will shed His blood to atone for sin.
- Noah sacrificed animal and bird as a token of his faith in the coming redeemer, Gen 8:20.