

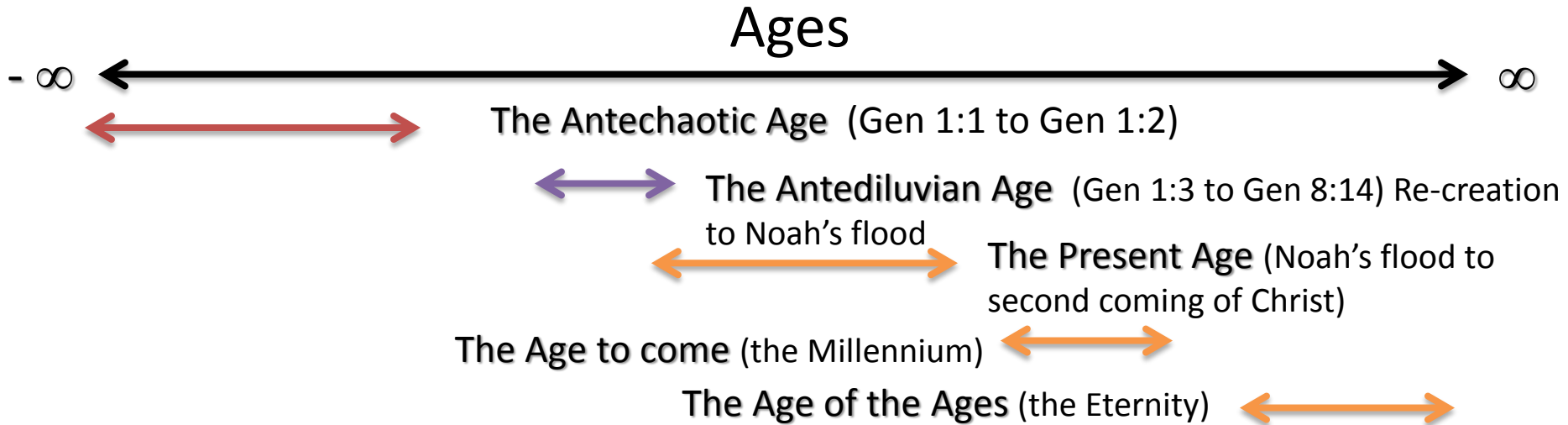
Biblical Dispensation

Dispensation of Human Government

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

After the flood, God blessed Noah and instituted human government by law and man was held responsible. The laws can be found in Gen 9:1-7

1. Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth - Gen 9:1,7
2. Beasts, bird, all that move on the earth and the fish are given into your hand - Gen 9:2
3. Every moving thing on earth that lives shall be your food, even the green herbs - Gen 9:3
4. You shall not eat the flesh with its life, the blood - Gen 9:4, (Lev 17:11)
5. I shall demand account for every man. Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man - Gen 9:5,6

1. Definition

6. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth. I set the rainbow in the cloud as the sign for this covenant -Gen 9:11,12

- It is necessary in human government to punish criminals to the crimes committed. It is also the duty of all men to help establish and support human government for the preservation of society.
- At this time God instituted capital punishment. (the death penalty, or execution is the killing of a person by judicial process as a punishment for an offense.)

2. Length of the dispensation of Human Government

This dispensation lasted from the flood to the call of Abraham, a period of years as proved in Gen 11:10-32, as follows:

Genealogy		Reference
Shem		Gen 11:10
Arphaxad		Gen 11:12
Salah		Gen 11:14
Eber		Gen 11:16
Peleg		Gen 11:18
Reu		Gen 11:20
Serug		Gen 11:22
Nahor		Gen 11:24
Terah		Gen 11:32
Total		

Shem was still alive at the time of Abraham.

3. The favorable beginning of man in Human Government (Gen 8:15-9:17)

- Noah was 601 years old and ripe in experience and wisdom
- All the three families were fully grown and married
- They had the warning of the flood behind them
- The eternal covenant (Gen 9:11)
- The knowledge of true worship (Gen 8:20,21)
- The human government and its laws (Gen 9:1-7)
- All the wicked generation and the giants were gone, favorable to start a holy generation.
- More revelation about God

4. The test for man in each period (Gen 9:1-7)

- Test is to obey the laws of the human government.
- To prove true to the Lord by executing the laws

5. The purpose of God in the dispensation of Human Government (Gen 9:1-7)

- To give another chance for man to prove true to his responsibility.
- Man failed to choose good without law, now the law is given

6. The means of God in accomplishing His purpose (Gen 9:1-6)

- Laws were provided, government was established
- God began true worship
- Destroying the wicked generation and leaving the righteous ones

7. The failure of man to meet the test (Gen 9:18-11:9)

Failure of Noah

- Noah who was a preacher of righteousness (Gen 9:20-24, 2 Peter 2:5), who before the flood had condemned drunkenness, became drunk and was shamefully uncovered. It may not be a deliberate act, but it happened. Whether sin is deliberate or not, it is still sin.

Failure of Ham

- Gen 9:22-27, Ham sinned in revealing the shamefulness of his aged father. His lack of honor to parents cursed him to be a servant of servant to his brethren, Gen 9:25.

7. The failure of mankind in general

Failure of mankind in general

- In the first passage Gen 9:1-6 we see God giving definite laws for mankind. But in the last passage Gen 11:1-9, men deliberately rebelled against God.
- Pride, self-boastfulness and hero-worship became prevalent in this age. Nimrod was the example of this failure of all men. (Gen 10:8-9, 1 Chron 1:10). Josephus says, Nimrod persuaded mankind not to ascribe their happiness to God, but to think that his own Excellency was the source of it. He was the founder of the kingdom in Shinar with four cities - Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh (Gen 10:8-10). He became leader of men by hunting down and killing the beasts.

7. The failure of mankind in general

- He inspired men to build a city and a tower to reach Heaven and to make themselves a great name. Nimrod and his queen Semiramis started the Babylonian cult, a new religion. Semiramis was worshipped as "Rhea", the mother of the Gods. Prostitution was compulsory in this religion. Semiramis made Babylon the seat of idolatry and sin. The so-called Christian festivals such as Christmas, Lady Day, Easter, and Lent, and many other modern rituals and practices such as the sign of the cross, the Rosary, the order of monks and nuns, rituals in certain churches all came from this Babylonian religion and were observed centuries before Christ. - *Ref. Encyclopedia Britannica, the book of Nimrod III, page 239.*
- As could not deal with men of this age, He gave them up and turned to Abraham and his seed and dealt with them exclusively during the next two ages.

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

- First judgment was sending confusion of tongues upon man and scattering them on the face of the earth. (Gen 11:1-9). By doing this God defeated the united effort of men in their rebellion against Him, and fulfilled His original purpose of spreading them abroad in the earth.
- The second judgment was in the days of Peleg, who died 340 years after the flood. This judgment was the division of earth into islands and continents. Gen 10:25, 1 Chron 1:19. In Gen 1:9-13 the earth was one land and the waters were one body of water. This is the reason many people are found in islands and continents separated widely by much water.
- In Rev 21:1, the new earth will again be the land of one body with no waters.

9. God's provision of redemption (Gen 8:20, 12:8)

- 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.