

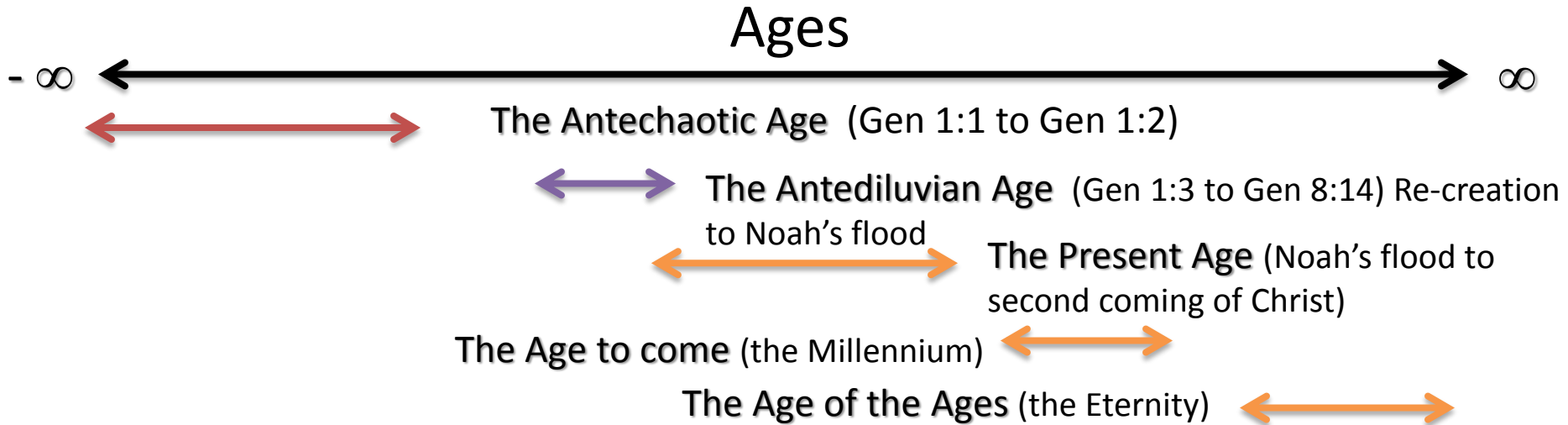
# Biblical Dispensation

*Dispensation of Grace*

# 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"> <li>• Dispensation of Angels</li> <li>• Col 1:15-18 (invisible things)</li> <li>• 1 Cor 15:40 (celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies)</li> </ul> |

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

| Eternal Future |
|----------------|
|                |

# 1. Definition

- Grace is free, eternal and the unmerited love and favor of God .
- The Greek word "charis" is found 156 times in the NT. This word is translated as "grace" 130 times, "favor" 6 times, "thank" and "thankworthy" 12 times, "pleasure" 2 times, "acceptable", "benefits", "gift", "gracious", "joy", and "liberality" each one time.
- Grace is we deserve nothing, but He gives us everything.

## 2. Length of the dispensation of Grace

- This age began about 30 AD. The length of this dispensation is until Christ comes.

### 3. The favorable beginning of man in Grace

- This dispensation had the most favorable beginning as Christ himself started his earthly ministry
- He instead of the prophets became the voice of God for man
- He came as Savior for the world to redeem mankind
- He destroyed the work of the devil and manifested His power
- He established church and endued with power
- He made a provision for man to fully reconcile with God
- The grace of God was fully revealed to man to meet his need for body, spirit and soul, John 1:14-17

## 4. The test for man in Grace

The grace of God and the work of Christ on the cross demand faith and obedience to God necessary to please God and to be saved in this age.

## 5. The purpose of God in the dispensation of Grace

- The purpose of God in this dispensation is calling out of all nations a people for His name.
- It is God's will to save all if all would believe, 1 Tim 2:4, 2 Pet 3:9, but all will not believe, 1 Cor 12:12-31, Eph 2:14-15, 4:7-16.
- Those who believed are saved as the church Christ Jesus came to build.
- Matt 16:18, I will build my church and gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
- The present church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets , Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone.



## 6. The means of God in accomplishing His purpose

- God uses men who are called, anointed, and ordained to preach the gospel to all nations and to head the work of the church, 1 Cor 12:1-31, Eph 4:7-11.
- He uses the believers to witness and live the truth as an actual demonstration of the gospel of grace, Acts 1:8
- There also ministry of the Spirit and ministry of angels as invisible agencies energizing the believers for such work of God, John 14:12-17.
- The whole work of man, the work of angels, the work of the Holy Spirit are all done because of the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

# 7. The failure of Israel

- Over 2000 years, Israel had been the ministers of God in earth and when Christ came, they were given their last chance to prove true to God and evangelize the world.
- By this time Israel developed hatred against God that they rejected the preaching of John the Baptist, Jesus and the early disciples.
- For this reason God had rejected Israel, destroyed and scattered them among all nations of the world, Matt 24:1-3.
- God had not dealt with them as a nation until recently He started gathering them as a nation because of the covenant he made with their fathers.

## 7. The failure of the early church

- Failure to the early church is seen in the days of Apostles, Acts 5 & 6 the believers were having divisions and strife over various questions.
- The church was divided by false teachings, Acts 15.
- Epistles give account of failure among believers either due to their personal conduct or their doctrine.
- The Epistles were written to correct false doctrines and to teach personal holiness in life.

# 7. The failure of the early church

- The Epistles also account for divisions, strife, heresies, unclean living, wrong marriage relationships, disorders in ordinances, false teaching on meats, drinks, spiritual gifts, resurrection and many other Christian doctrines.
- Church started out perfect, powerful and full of faith and unselfishness; but soon many Christians became careless, indifferent, faithless, and backslidden.

# 7. The failure of the church till today

- Christianity suffered major persecution during the early church era after the death of Jesus Christ.
- Early Christians were persecuted by Roman Emperors. The persecution started in AD64 under **Nero** (c. 64-68). During this period Peter and Paul were martyred. This persecution continued up to AD 324 by 10 different persecutors. The Persecution of Nero (64 AD) , Domitian (c.90-96) ,Trajan (98-117) ,Hadrian (117-138) ,Marcus Aurelius (161-181) , Septimus Severus (202-211) , Maximus the Thracian (235-251) ,Decius (249-251) ,Valerian (257-260) ,Diocletian / Galerius (303-311)
- Soon after the persecutions, Christianity entered into a spiritually dark age.

## 7. The failure of the church till today

- During 4th century, the worshippers of the statues of Roman Gods, Goddesses and Emperor including Cybele(seebalee), Apollo, Asclepius, Aphrodite(afroditee) and Zeus(zoos) now became worshipers of saints including the heavenly queen Mary, the mother of Jesus.
- Out of this alliance between the Roman emperor and the Christian church came the birth of Roman Catholicism.

## 7. The failure of the church till today

- The result of the church compromising with the world is the birth of Roman Catholicism. Popes and bishops ruled the church and murdered millions as they would not conform to the Roman Catholic Religion.
- Imagine the effect of the compromise the church in made with the world from 4th century to 16th century until Martin Luther came and started the Protestant Reformation.

## 7. The failure of the church till today

- Even today millions are deceived by Satan on the name of Christianity worshipping idols and worshipping human as God.
- Many churches reject the truths of salvation, redemption, forgiveness, holy living, healing, anointing of the Holy Spirit, Fruit of the spirit, gifts of the Holy Spirit and many other truths.
- Churches allowed world to enter into it.
- Churches are being closed.



# Major deceptions today

- False Doctrine
- Lust
- Pride, Vanity and Arrogance
- Lying
- False Dreams, Visions and "Miracles"
- Bitterness
- Lack of Faith

- Jehovah's witnesses
- Mormonism
- Unitarianism
- New Age movement, Yoga, Transcendental Meditation
- Oneness movement

## 7. The failure of the church till today

- Bible is being taken out of churches. Thousands deny the facts of the Bible such as virgin birth of Christ, resurrection, creation, rapture, second coming, judgment, heaven & hell.
- Many churches that claim to be orthodox deny some part of the Bible and reject the experiences the early church went through along with the Apostles.

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

Judgment will come upon man as he rejected God's provision of grace. He will go through torment of the devil for 3.5 years and the wrath of God during another 3.5 years.

## 9. God's provision of redemption

God will not allow the church to go through the tribulation. His provision of redemption is by rapturing the church. (1 Thess 4:16-17, 1 Cor 15:51-52)