

**EBC – Adult Bible Study**  
**“Dispensations”**  
**2020**

**VI. *The Dispensation of Grace* – Acts 2 - Revelation 4**

A. Review from Pastor’s note last week - They had no idea that killing Jesus was going to pay for their sins, fulfill the Old Covenant, initiate the New Covenant, and create a whole new people operating by faith and the power of the Holy Spirit.

B. What things are still valid from the previous dispensations?

1. Be fruitful and multiply/ fill the earth
2. Have dominion
3. Eat meat
4. Don’t murder, if you do, your life will be taken – human government
5. Covenant with Abraham promising the land and a future seed – narrowing God’s focus from world plan to one “nation of priests” plan
6. Law of application based on natural law as a means of staying in the land

C. Review of the New Covenant

1. Jer 31:31-34

a. Made with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah

b. Not a conditional covenant like the Old - "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke,

c. What God will do –

i. I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and

ii. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

"No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD.

iii. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

2. Eze 11:17-20

a. Made with the nation of Israel - "Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered,

b. What God will do –

i. and I will give you the land of Israel.'" "And they will go there, and they will take away all its detestable things and all its abominations from there.

ii. "Then I will give them one heart,

iii. and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh,

- "that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them;

- and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

### 3. Eze 36:24-27

- Made with the nation of Israel - "For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.
- What God will do –
  - "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean;
  - I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols."
  - I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. "
  - I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

### D. Indications that a new dispensation was about to begin from Jesus

#### 1. Before the Crucifixion

- Mr 1:14-15 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."
- Jo 14:17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

#### 2. After the Resurrection

- Lu 24:44-48 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. "And you are witnesses of these things.
- Ac 1:6-9 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

### E. The Beginning of the Church – participants in the Blessings of the new covenant

- Some say Acts 2 following the work of the Spirit and the message
  - Coming of the Spirit to dwell in and empower the people of the church to be a holy priesthood – Act 2:1-4; 1Pe 2:5
  - The message – The Gospel – Ro 1:16; 1 Co 15:3-4

- i. Ac 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - ii. Ro 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
2. Some say Acts 9 following the life of Paul – rejected b/c of above

#### F. Rules for the Church Age

- 1. For the Church –
  - a. Walk by faith, Abide with (in) Christ, be filled with the Spirit, walk in the Spirit, let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, seek first the Kingdom of God, let this mind be in you, set your mind on things above
  - b. Mt 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age
  - c. Ac 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
  - d. 1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;
- 2. For the World
  - a. Ac 17:30-31 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."
  - b. Ac 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - c. 2 Th 1:8 obey the Gospel - above

#### G. What About Israel

- 1. Since the new covenant is with Israel, God must work with Israel
  - a. Either replace Israel with the Church and call them Israel
    - i. The point being made is the the promise was made before circumcision or the law that the blessings may be received by faith, not the other two that refer to Israel - Ro 4:9-13, 16;
    - ii. The point of the passage is that being a physical descendant was not what made one Israel, but like Isaac only those who were promised would be Israel - Ro 9:6-8
  - b. Or bring Israel to repentance and fulfill the promises to them – Ro 9-11
    - i. God has always, even during the church age, had a believing remnant of Israel – Ro 11:1-5
    - ii. Has Israel fallen to the point of not being able to be redeemed? – Ro 11:11

- iii. Will they be returned to a place of blessing and prominence? – Ro 11:12, 23-24
- 2. Two reasons why God would not fulfill His promise to Israel as a nation - Jer 31:35-37
  - a. Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): "If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the LORD, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever."
  - b. Thus says the LORD: "If heaven above can be measured, And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel For all that they have done, says the LORD.
- 3. Promises that have yet to be fulfilled
  - a. of a future kingdom for Israel (Isa 60; 65:17; 66:22)
  - b. the seventieth week of Daniel (9:27)
  - c. Ezek 38-39

#### H. Failures of the Church Age

- 1. Legalized grace
  - a. adding the works of the law to be pleasing in God's sight
  - b. due to not understanding
    - i. the finished work of Christ which
      - affects the internal motivation which results in different living
      - affects the standing of the believer before God
    - ii. The complete inability of man to please God in his own strength
- 2. Liberalized or Infiltrated grace
  - a. The Doctrine of Balaam - Rev 2:14
    - i. A perversion of the Christian doctrine of liberty
    - ii. It promotes a breakdown in the separation from the world losing their pilgrim character
  - b. The teaching of the Nicolaitans - Rev 2:15
    - i. Tied to the doctrine of Balaam
    - ii. Two possible origins
      - Followers of Nicolas
      - Other believe comes from two Greek words *nikaw* meaning to rule and *laos* meaning people
    - iii. Subjugates people to Satan authority through compromise with the world neutralizing its effectiveness for the glory of God
      - Worldliness is not measured by a list of dos or don'ts
      - It deals more with attitudes and values, it is a product of our belief system

- Within the legalistic system, we could do all the right things and still have a heart of hypocrisy, bitterness, etc.
  - Within the liberal or infiltrated system, one could allow for sin under the guise of God's love
- c. Psychological or Scientific theoretical infiltration of the Church
    - i. What did the church do before the 1850s when people had problems?
    - ii. What did the church believe about creation before Charles Darwin?
  - d. The Seduction of the prophetess Jezebel – Rev 2:20
    - i. she called herself a prophetess,
    - ii. She taught and seduced God's people to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.
  - e. Luke-warmness – Rev 3:16-17
    - i. Apathetic to spiritual living due to satisfaction with worldly possessions
    - ii. They do not have a good understanding of their true spiritual state

### *I.* Judgment of the Church

1. Notice the end of each letter to the seven churches in Rev 2-3
2. 2 Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
3. 1 Co 3:11-15 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.