

THE DISPENSATIONS

FALL, 2020

“THE JUDGMENT ON THE FAILURE OF MAN TO MEET GOD’S DISPENSATIONS TO HIM”

OCTOBER 28, 2020

I. GOD HAS GIVEN TO HUMANITY THE RULES FOR HOW TO LIVE ON THIS PLANET CALLED DISPENSATIONS

- A. *These are NOT rules on how to be justified with God.*
 - 1. *The way to be justified with God is with faith. Faith or trust is the operating principle of the universe. God is relational and relationships are based on trust which will be expressed as loyalty, love, faithfulness, covenant love and obedience*
 - 2. *The principle is stated this way from the word of God: “For by grace are (we) saved through faith and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast”*
- B. *The rules or dispensations are given to all men and all men are responsible to keep them. However, it is only the justified who can and do keep them in the spirit they are given. The justified keep the spirit of the law if not its letter. They do so by faith rather than duty.*
- C. *The dispensations, even if kept by the letter, cannot justify a human before God, if not kept by faith.*

II. EVERY DISPENSATION HAS SEEN A DISASTROUS FAILURE WITH SOME JUDGMENT TO FOLLOW. THAT IS FOLLOWED BY A RESET OF A NEW DISPENSATION WITH A CARRY OVER OF THE PREVIOUS ONES. THE CARRY OVER IS GIVEN BY GOD IN THE NEW.

- A. *Innocence or Freedom - FAILURE: due to distrust of God; eating from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **Man operating in his freedom by himself will not keep the responsibilities neither will he be justified before God due to his lack of faith.** JUDGMENT: Spiritual death of a disconnection with God, no more communion with Him as they are removed from the Garden; soulful death of the disconnection from the word of God and His wisdom, there is no longer revelation available to him and he is left with his unaided, unbalanced reason alone and a conscience informed with the memory of God and His will; physical death will follow now when God lets him live out the*

number of days allotted to him, he then returns to the dust from which he was taken.

- B. Conscience - no new responsibilities are given; the former dispensation applies and is to be kept in a more hostile environment and by the power of his conscience. *FAILURE*: he becomes more hostile himself and takes on the wildness of the wilderness of which he is now a part. His violence increases exponentially. He violates the marriage requirement and marries into the angelic community creating a violent, wicked, ungodly hostile breed of non-human. If this continues the promised human redeemer seed will not come to save the earth. **Clearly the conscience of man unaided by God's grace not only cannot keep the responsibilities but will not act in faith.** Those which find grace with God and respond with faith are justified. *JUDGMENT*: world-wide flood destroying all life but the 8 humans and all the animals on the Ark.
- C. Civil Government - Mankind on earth is acting now with a reboot of the whole of creation. Creation mandate is still in place as it is reiterated but now man can eat meat as well as plants. His relationship with the animals now becomes hostile. He cannot commit murder and capital punishment is put in place. *FIRST FAILURE*: He continues his rebellion against God by isolating himself from God and the angels who caused them to sin before the flood. They will be the gods the eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil had "promised" them. They unify around the tower of babel. *RESPONSE*: God responds by instituting civil government mediated by the members of the divine council to hold them in check. *SECOND FAILURE*: The members of the divine council rebel and stop teaching men how to get back to God and to administer good government on earth. Men fail but using governmental authority to use their own people for support of their greed and coveting to attack other nations to steal, kill and destroy. They will either destroy or enslave other nations. **Man without a self-governing principle at work within him will not be governed but will seek to have what others have and defy God.** *JUDGMENT*: God called out His own people, Israel, to reveal what a theocracy is to look like. The judgment on the Gentile nations is yet to be completed giving them time to repent. **Judgment will be at Armageddon with Christ's second coming.**
- D. Patriarchy, Land Covenant, Promise, Law. The next dispensation is called by any of the names here since it is hard to characterize which

aspect of it to emphasize. *FAILURE: Though promised a great land with great provision and great laws backed by the power of God, they failed to believe Him and acted as the Gentiles even adopting their Gods. **Man working only by duty cannot keep the covenant of God and will model the rebels around him rather than accept the guidance of God.** PRESENT*

JUDGMENT: Dispersal into all the world rather than in the land of promise and covenant. If they want to emulate the Gentiles rather than be God's special chosen people then they will have to live among the Gentiles until they repent and accept their true king, the Lord Jesus Christ.

- E. Church age or age of Grace. This is our present dispensation. It carries with it all previous dispensations that were not eliminated by necessity or those proclaimed as new and has added to it the necessity to repent of faith in any one other than God almighty and the command to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the ruler of the whole cosmos which He created has now redeemed and is destined to inherit. *FAILURE: Refusal to trust and submit to the Lord Jesus Christ. JUDGMENT: The Day of the LORD to judge Israel for unbelief and empower them by grace to believe and receive the Christ! A "day" in which the power of the Gentiles over the world is brought to a close and the age of the Gentiles ends forever. The Gentiles will be judged for their unbelief, for their cruelty to one another (violations of all the other dispensations) and the way in which they have treated Israel. It all ends in the Second Coming of Christ. The last dispensation will be the Kingdom Age.**
- F. The dispensations were not God's experiment trying to find out what would work and what might not. He is omniscient and has full knowledge of all things. The dispensations are given for arrogant MAN to learn of his own inherent inability to please God, to destroy his pride and grant him humility which brings grace, which births faith which justifies a human being before his God. Man believes in his own ability to save himself; he learns very slowly and very belligerently. He is foolish despising instruction, wanting only to make his own opinions known and wanting no authority over him at all. The dispensations are the case God builds to demonstrate to man that attempting to please God without first trusting Him is a dead end. With each stewardship opportunity God has laid out for man for his own protection and well-being, he has failed miserably. Man is incapable of being justified to God without faith.*

II. THE DAY OF THE LORD, THE DAY OF GOD'S JUDGMENT ON THE FAILING OF HUMANITY IN EVERY STEWARDSHIP GIVEN HIM

A. The day of the LORD announced and described

Isa 2:12 For the day of the LORD of hosts Shall come upon everything proud and lofty, Upon everything lifted up-And it shall be brought low- (NKJV)

Isa 13:6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. (NKJV)

Isa 13:9 Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. (NKJV)

Isa 34:8 For it is the day of the LORD'S vengeance, The year of recompense for the cause of Zion. (NKJV)

Jer 46:10 For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, A day of vengeance, That He may avenge Himself on His adversaries. The sword shall devour; It shall be satiated and made drunk with their blood; For the Lord GOD of hosts has a sacrifice In the north country by the River Euphrates. (NKJV)

Joe 2:1 Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand: (NKJV)

Joe 2:11 The LORD gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it? (NKJV)

Joe 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. (NKJV)

Am 5:18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light. (NKJV)

Am 5:20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it? (NKJV)

Ob 1:15 "For the day of the LORD upon all the nations is near; As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head. (NKJV)

Zep 1:7 Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD; For the day of the LORD is at hand, For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests. (NKJV)

Zep 1:8 "And it shall be, In the day of the LORD'S sacrifice, That I will punish the princes and the king's children, And all such as are clothed with foreign apparel. (NKJV)

Zep 1:14 The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. (NKJV)

Zep 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold Shall be able to deliver them In the day of the LORD'S wrath; But the whole land shall be devoured By the fire of His jealousy, For He will make speedy riddance Of all those who dwell in the land. (NKJV)

Zep 2:2 Before the decree is issued, Or the day passes like chaff, Before the LORD'S fierce anger comes upon you, Before the day of the LORD'S anger comes upon you! (NKJV)

Zep 2:3 Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, Who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden In the day of the LORD'S anger. (NKJV)

It is not known to unbelievers, but is accompanied by signs to those who have believed in Christ

1Th 5:2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. (NKJV)

2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the

elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. (NKJV)

*Joe 2:28 "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.
29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.*

30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

32 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls. (NKJV)

Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

Mal 4:6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse." (NKJV)

It is not meant for believers in Christ who have accepted the terms of God's peace: receive Christ as your substitute who has by His own death paid for sins in full, taking upon Himself in our behalf the full wrathful judgment for our sin on the cross. God's wrath is satisfied by Christ.

1Th 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.(NKJV)

1Th 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, (NKJV)

Ro 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. (NKJV)

B. The day of the LORD is also the 70th week of Daniel and is known as the tribulation and the great tribulation. It is divided into two equal times of 1260 days or 3 1/2 years. The latter 3 1/2 years are known as

the Great Tribulation or the time of Jacob's trouble and is characterized by the presence and the anger of the Devil in his pursuit of God's elect. That is matched by the horrifying outpouring of God's wrath. Dan 9:24-27

Da 9:24 "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

25 "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate." (NKJV)

C. The Day of the LORD is detailed in Revelation 5:8-19:21

D. The Day of the LORD includes and/or involves:

The restoration of Israel to the land

The rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem

The revival among Jewish people in their enlightened faith in Jesus as the Messiah

The appointment of 144,000 Jewish evangelists, 12,000 from each tribe assisting in bringing the gospel world wide

Two powerful witnesses to and in behalf of the Jewish people who are killed by AntiChrist and risen again from the streets of Jerusalem

The rise of an ancient one from the pit who will become the Antichrist world leader. He will ultimately receive a head wound, die and be recovered only to be fully inhabited by Satan.

Changes in the sun, moon and stars

Climate changes with earthquakes, flooding, water poisonings, solar radiation of extremes, fires, plagues, etc

Unleashing of demons who have been chained for centuries
The presence of phenomenon never before seen on earth
Death in extraordinary number
Disease, war, terror, fear yet much without repentance
The most notable and visible interaction of the angelic and the
human ever seen before
The final war in heaven itself
The wrath of God visibly poured out on the earth