

Dispensations In The Bible 2Timothy 2:14-19

A Bible Survey

A series to help us rightly handle God's Word so that we can better understand His Will.

Survey: "A general view, examination, or description of something."

This material is designed to be a general overview, a piecing together of the Scripture in our minds. This study may be described as a "bird's eye view" of the Bible.

When we can step back and see the big picture, we can then zoom in on sections and know the context and see more clearly what God is doing. Our goal is to have a good understanding of the ways God has dealt with man and the way God deals with mankind today. The Bible is an incredible book, and we simply seek to appreciate it in ways that bring us ever closer to our God.

Original - Steve Fontenot; Current - Kris Emerson

Old Testament Library of Books: 39 Books

17 History (Genesis – Esther); 5 Poetry (Job – Song of Solomon); 17 Prophets (Isaiah – Malachi)

Another way to break down the Old Testament:

5 Law (Genesis – Deuteronomy); 12 History (Joshua – Esther); 5 Poetry (Job – Song of Solomon); 5 Major Prophets (Isaiah – Daniel); 12 Minor Prophets (Hosea – Malachi)

New Testament Library of Books: 27 Books

4 Biographical (Matthew – John); 1 Historical (Acts); 21 Doctrinal (Romans – Jude); 1 Prophetic (Revelation)

Titles are not absolutes. All New Testament books include doctrinal teachings, historical information, and prophecy! These help in memorization and getting a good Bible overview.

Dispensation

"A system of revealed commands and promises regulating human affairs" (Webster 7th New Collegiate Dictionary).

"A religious system or code of commands considered to have been divinely revealed or appointed" (American Heritage Dictionary).

oikonomia – "Primarily signifies the management of a household or of household affairs (oikos – house, nomos, law). Note: A dispensation is not a period or epoch (a common, but erroneous, use of the word), but a mode of dealing, an arrangement or administration of affairs" (Vines)

"The word oikonomia properly signifies the plan which the master of a family, or his steward, hath established for the management of any sort of business" (Macknight, Apostolic Epistles)

Luke 16:1-4 - (management" *ESV, NASB*) ("stewardship" *KJV, NKJV, ASV*)

Ephesians 1:9-10 - ("plan" *ESV, NASB*) ("dispensation" *KJV, NKJV, ASV*)

It refers to the religious system by which God dispenses His blessings (or curses!). He, as "master of the house," determines how He will manage His house. In one period He did so through covenants with patriarchs. In another period He did so by a covenant with Israel. And now, He deals with man through a covenant with Christians.

Covenant

"A written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties especially for the performance of some action" (Webster's, 1995).

Covenants in the Bible are basically agreements between two people on what will or will not be done. (**Genesis 21:22-34** – Abraham and Abimelech) (**Genesis 31:43-55** – Jacob and Laban).

However, when speaking of God's covenants, it is what God has purposed to do for man, independent of man's agreement. It may or may not have conditions to be met. That depends entirely on the will of God.

"Covenant" also refers to conditions that must be met for the covenant to be fulfilled. It sometimes refers to the commands of God - **Deuteronomy 4:13; Leviticus 26:14-15**

Patriarchs

A patriarch is the head of a family, tribe or nation. The Greek word patriarches is derived from patria, meaning "family", and archo, meaning "to rule." So, Abraham was a patriarch, since he was the head of his family - **Hebrews 7:4**

Jacob's sons were patriarchs, because they were heads of tribes - **Acts 7:8-9**

David was a patriarch, he was the head of a ruling family, through which God promised the Christ.

David lived during Jewish Dispensation; God still made a covenant with this patriarch - **Acts 2:29**

Demonstrates that each is not strictly governed by time and that both can exist simultaneously.

Patriarchal Dispensation

Patriarchal Dispensation represents God establishing covenants with people through His dealings with the head of family, tribe or nation. Patriarchs were the stewards to manage God's family.

Noah – **Genesis 9:8-17**

God made a covenant with Noah, but it affected all his descendants.

Even animals, it seems, would be affected by virtue of their connection to Noah. ("*with you*" v.12)

Unconditional covenant. Noah cannot alter God's plan, nor can any of Noah's descendants.

This patriarchal covenant included a "*sign of the covenant.*" This serves as a constant reminder.

Abraham – **Genesis 12:1-3,7**

God made a covenant with Abraham that would affect his family for generations.

Even we are affected as descendants of Abraham according to faith - **Galatians 3:29**

This patriarchal covenant included three elements:

Great Nation – Land of Canaan – All Families Blessed

Jewish Dispensation

People share in this covenant by virtue of being an Israelite (or Jew). Therefore it is often called the Jewish Dispensation. It may also be called "Mosaic Dispensation," since this national law was made through Moses. Moses & Jews were stewards to manage God's family.

distinguished this from patriarchal covenants - **Deuteronomy 5:3**

God spoke to Moses, but the agreement was for all Israel - **Exodus 19:5-6; 24:7-8; 34:27-28**

Covenant included more than the "Ten Commandments"

This dispensation with Israel included blessings and curses! (**Deuteronomy 29:1,10-21**).

God's covenant with Israel temporary by design **Hebrews 8:7-13**

There were still Patriarchal Covenants during this time.

David – **2Samuel 7:8-17**. An "*everlasting covenant*" with David - **2Samuel 23:5**

Abraham – **Galatians 3:17-19**, "added." Jewish covenant did not nullify God's promise to Abraham.

Why this covenant when God had already established a plan for the nation and for all mankind through Abraham?" It was added to bring law to the Israelite nation, but also to illuminate their sins and their need for a Savior! - **Galatians 3:17-19**

Christian Dispensation

People share in this covenant by virtue of relationship with Jesus Christ. Could also be called "The Christ Dispensation," since agreement is established through Jesus. Christ & Christians are the stewards to manage God's family.

It is distinguished from the Jewish Dispensation. - **Hebrews 8:7-12**

It is different in regard to whom it is through and whom it includes.

Following this, God established no Patriarchal covenants with men.

Covenants to Abraham and David were fulfilled in Christ.

Everything about this Dispensation is revealed to us in the Word of God!

The One through whom it exists - **Matthew 28:18-20**

The Price paid to ratify it - **Luke 22:20; Hebrews 9:16-18,26-28**

Its Beginning point - **Luke 24:44-47**

Its Ending point - **1Corinthians 15:22-24**

Who can be a part of it - **Ephesians 1:9-10; 3:8-10; 1Timothy 1:3-4**

These three passages include the Greek word translated "*Dispensation.*" (KJV)
(plan/stewardship)

Conditions associated with it "*IF*" - **Colossians 1:21-23**

Blessings for those who are a part of it! - **Ephesians 1:7-14**

Bible Survey

Our future studies will look at Scripture in light of these dispensations (ordered plans; stewardship).

Third Sunday of each month this year.

A sheet of questions is available to help reinforce some of the things in this lesson. Use them as you see fit.

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