

What are Dispensations in the Bible?

They are Divinely Appointed Administration Periods that God Changed Throughout History Based on Changed Circumstances of How Humanity Could be Saved

In this presentation we will describe four different Bible **Dispensations**

1) In the beginning and later including Israel as well

2) Israel while Jesus Christ was physically on earth and after He died on the cross

3) To the whole world when the Apostle Paul revealed “**Grace**” in Acts Chapter 9

4) To Israel after the Rapture when the Gentile “Grace” age will be over

A clear meaning of a dispensational change in the Bible would be when God commanded Noah to build a boat. We know for sure that we are not in that dispensation.

But we need to make sure we understand what dispensation we are in. Churches in our present Age of Grace reach back into Israel’s dispensation (of works) and take what they like out of the 12 Apostles doctrine and add it to Grace. That’s why there is so much confusion within all the different denominations in the churches today.

The word Dispensation is found in four verses of the King James Bible. The **word Dispensation** is **not found** in **modern bibles** due to their many changes, additions and deletions. The KJV is rarely used in churches today **thus**, Dispensation is not a popular word in the modern churches of today. **The top down Christian attack on the KJV** (God’s Word to us in the English language) has been so successful that the KJV is rarely used in modern churches today.

1 How Humanity got “saved” in the beginning

A sheep or goat was killed and the blood that was shed “**covered**” **the person’s sin. which afterward included the Nation of Israel.** An animal sacrifice was a work that showed that humanity believed God’s commandment for the remission of sins. **Re:** Able brought a lamb.

Then when God chose Israel through the seed of Abraham to be a people unto Himself, there were **many other laws that were given to Israel through Moses** along with the shedding of the blood of animals. An example would be, Circumcision

Leviticus 17:11 KJV “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make **an atonement for your souls:** for **it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.**”

Then a Gentile got “saved” by becoming an **Israeli proselyte** (a convert to Israel religion)

When Adam and Eve sinned, God killed the first animal for the shedding of blood for the covering of their sin. The blood was a **covering for their sin** and the “animal hide” became a **covering for their nakedness as well.** The animal hide gave them a better physical covering, as they tried to cover their nakedness with fig leaves that they sewed together. This blood sacrifice gave them a covering for their sin and **it pointed to the future when Christ’s blood would be shed on the cross for all mankind.**

When Cain and Able brought a sacrifice to God. **Cain (as a tiller of the land)** brought garden gifts to God, **which were rejected by God**. On the other hand, **Able** brought **a lamb blood sacrifice** which was God's requirement for sin and **his sacrifice was accepted**. After this Cain killed his brother Able because he was envious that God accepted Abel's sacrifice and not his gifts. God gave Cain an opportunity to repent of what he had done but in his pride he refused.

2 To Israel when Jesus Christ was physically on earth and after He died on the cross.

John the Baptist, the 12 Apostles and Christ's teaching while He was here on earth.

Works as listed below (which was a preparation for Israel to go into the 7-year Tribulation) – which was at hand. (near).

- They **had to repent** - meaning to have a change of mind about who Jesus was.
- They had to believe **that Jesus was** the Messiah. **Note: they just had to believe He was > their Messiah**. They did not know that Jesus came to die for their sins as well.
- They had to be **(water) baptized**. Which was a ritual for a Jew going into the priesthood
- They had **to endure to the end of the tribulation** which would be happening soon.
- They had to **sell their possessions** and had all things common.

Acts 2:44 KJV "And all Jews that believed were together, and had all things common;"

The only record of a Gentile getting "saved" by the Apostle Peter during the 12 Apostles ministries was **Cornelius** the Centurion, because of his good works toward the Jewish people.

Acts 10:35 KJV "But in every nation **he that feareth him**, and **worketh righteousness**, is accepted with him."

Acts 10:2 KJV "A **devout man**, [Cornelius] and one **that feared God** with all his house, which **gave much alms** to the [Jewish] people, and **prayed to God always**."

Genesis 12:3 KJV "And **I will bless them that bless thee**, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

Please read Acts 10:1- 48 for more of an understanding of how this **Gentile** got "saved" when Peter came to his house, during the 12 Apostles "little flock" church. Contrary to most modern churches claiming that the Gentiles were involved in the early Acts period. **There were no Gentiles in sight. It was a totally Jewish activity.**

Peter said in: Acts 2:16 KJV "But this is that **which was spoken by the prophet Joel**;"

Joel 2:28 KJV "And it shall come to pass afterward, that **I will pour out my spirit** upon all flesh; **and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy**, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions."

Note: this outpouring of the Holy Spirit had nothing to do with Gentiles!

Luke 3:3 KJV "And he [John the baptist] came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance **for the remission of sins**;"

However, doing these listed “works” only gave Israeli the “remission” of sins which is not “forgiveness” of sins. Their (Israel’s) sins will all be “forgiven” as a Nation when Christ physically comes to earth at the second coming.

This part of Scripture is also, where Ananias and Sapphira died when they lied to the Holy Spirit. When they were confronted by the Apostle Peter about it, they died on the spot. They wanted to appear like they were giving all their money from the sale of their land to the “Little Flock” (Jewish church) instead of just part of the sale. Perhaps they were not sincere believers as they were more interested in trying to impress people than their commitment to God.

Acts 5:3 KJV “But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?”

The Israel Religious Leaders rejected: (1) John the Baptist (whom God the Father sent) **strike #1.** (2) Then they killed Jesus Christ the Son of God, **strike #2.** (3) They rejected God the Holy Spirit through Stephen, **strike #3.** After this, God temporarily set Israel aside.

Please Note: Jesus Christ was the expected Jewish Messiah who came to God’s people the Jews. His teaching and message was to Israel. **It was not to the Gentiles.** The fact that they rejected Him shows how corrupted the religious leaders in Israel had become. They put Him to death because they were envious of the large crowds that followed Him.

3 Now we get to the “Dispensation” of Grace to the Gentiles. Which was a secret hid in God since the world begin. **NOBODY knew about this.** God revealed it to the Apostle Paul in Acts 9. Who was on his way to Damascus to round-up more Jewish “little flock” church members to put in jail. Jewish believers who believed that Jesus Christ was their “messiah”

Romans 16:25 KJV “Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,”

God commissioned Saul who became **the Apostle Paul to the Gentiles** with the NEW message of GRACE to the Gentiles.

Romans 11:13 KJV “For I {Paul} speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:”

In Acts 7 after Stephen was **stoned by the Religious Leaders.** God temporarily set Israel **aside** and introduced Grace through Saul the Pharisee who became our beloved Apostle Paul to the Gentiles. Israel was temporarily set aside but **they will be reinstated after the Rapture.**

Acts 9 tells us that **Saul/Paul the Pharisee** was searching for and arresting members of the 12 Apostles Jewish “little flock” church. **Yes, Saul was persecuting** the 12 Apostles church.

A clear contradiction of many churches today believing **that the 12 Apostles and the Apostle Paul’s ministry was the same!**

And **the Risen Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Saul** (which was his Jewish name) on the road to Damascus and **appointed him as the Apostle to the Gentiles** (Paul was his Roman Gentile name which he went by afterward).

1st Corinthians 15:3-4 KJV “For I [Apostle Paul] delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins** according to the scriptures; 4 And **that he was buried**, and **that he rose again** the third day according to the scriptures:”

Ephesians 1:13 KJV “In whom **ye also trusted**, after that ye heard the word of truth, the **gospel of your salvation**: in whom also after **that ye believed**, **ye were sealed** with that holy Spirit of promise,”

You can be saved today right where you are. You don't have to go to a church, to see a Pastor, a Priest or give money to anybody or prove something to somebody or do or not do anything yourself. **The road to God is a “free gift” to you from God.** Jesus Christ has paid for your death in full on the cross. You just need to trust and believe **in Jesus Christ – exclusively**. It is not what you do, **its what Christ did for you!**

Wouldn't you expect that the God of this Universe could make a “free” offer like this to you. **He knows your heart** and He knows if you are seriously **considering or rejecting** what you have now come to understand after getting this far in this explanation of Dispensations.

Oh and by the way, do you want to know how much God loves you? He paid that horrific price on the cross **for you**. It may be “free” to you, **but it cost Him more that we will ever know**. More than you could ever pay! - to **enter Heaven and be in God's presence!!**

There was never a time in history like this before where both Jews and Gentiles were “saved” **both the same way**. This should be easy for anybody to see **that we are in a Dispensation that humanity has never ever been in before**.

Churches in our present Age of Grace reach back to Israel's law program and take what they like out of the doctrine of the 4 Gospels and Acts and add it to Grace. That's why there is a lot of confusion between the **different denominational** churches today. These churches **never choose the item where they have to sell their possessions** and **have all things common** because they know nobody would go for it. They choose things people would like – that's how all these mega churches come about. However to “sell their possessions” **are part of the four Gospel's doctrine of** Matthew, Mark, Luke and John that these **churches go back to** for the other items they like to use.

The 12 Apostles never understood Grace because **God never releveled it to them** in Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and the beginning of Acts. They even had a hard time getting it **after Paul explained it to them**. The Apostle Peter finally did get it and agreed that he would go to the circumcision (Israel) and that the Apostle Paul would go to the uncircumcision (the Gentiles).

Galatians 2:7 KJV “But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of **the uncircumcision** was committed **unto me**, {Paul} as the gospel of the **circumcision** was **unto Peter**,”

Now **both, Jews** and **Gentiles** are **saved the same way**. Grace is the NEW DIVINE WAY to be saved in **God's new current "Dispensation" of GRACE**.

So, anybody that is going back to Israel's four Gospels (and Acts) for their doctrine to be saved could be rejected just like Cain was, **with his idea of what he should bring to God**. The only difference with Grace is that you are saved the moment you trust and believe that Christ paid for your death on the cross, exclusively! **It is not what you do**, its what Christ did for you!

Thus, you are "saved" the moment you believe and you could be "saved" regardless of what you do or don't do after that moment. **Its an operation of God - who knows the moment you believe.**

What God showed us by choosing Saul to bring His Grace message to the world is that there is no **sin on this earth that could not be forgiven by our loving God and Saviour**. He took Saul an "exceedingly mad" Pharisee who was roaming throughout Israel putting **the 12 Apostle's "little flock" Jewish church** members in prison of which some were killed as well. Saul/Paul **who became the Apostle to the Gentiles**, was the first human on earth to be "saved" in this Dispensation of Grace.

This also shows us that God is not angry with us. **It shows us that He loves us, cares for us and wishes that none of us would perish**. He just wants us to be with Him, **both Jews and Gentiles**. And Grace is **God's marvellous plan** available to the whole world to whoever would **trust and believe God's promise**. God revealed grace in due time **but there is a time when it will end!**

Here is a verse that Apostle Paul in the Gospel of Grace, **spoke** about **both** Jews and Gentiles **reigning in heavenly places**.

Ephesians 2:6 KJV "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:"

4 After the Rapture - the Age of GRACE will be OVER

Here is our fourth example of a "Dispensation" where after the Rapture, God will bring Israel back to where they were after they were temporally set aside before introducing Grace.

After the Rapture, when the body of Christ (the Grace age church) is taken up to Heaven. **Grace will be over** and **God will reinstate Israel** as they were before - (**preparing them to go into the Great Tribulation**).

Then Gentiles during this "dispensation" will be "saved" the same way as they were in **our # 2 example**. It will depend how well a Gentile treats and/or help the Jews during their time of the tribulation on earth.

Read Acts Chapter 10:1-48 for details, about the Gentile Cornelius the Centurion.

The Apostle Paul **is our Apostle** in this age of Grace. If you come to God with anything you like from another “Dispensation” you could be out of luck. Remember Cain and how he was rejected **when he decided** to bring something **he wanted** not what was required.

In this Age of Grace the whole Bible is for us but **only the Apostle Paul’s 13 epistles are to us with an exception** - Romans Chapters **9 to 11** were written to Israel. We recommend you watch the following videos, as explaining it here would not do it justice.

For a thorough understanding of why Apostle Paul wrote Romans chapters **9 to 11 to Israel** visit our website. We have a variety of series called **BIBLE STUDIES**. This series is named **Romans Chapters 9 to 11 was Directed to Israel** by Pastor Alex Hurz

Now here are a few verses of a person in the Bible who “believed God” and it was counted unto him as righteousness. – Namely: **Abraham**.

Romans 4:3 KJV “For what saith the scripture? **Abraham believed God**, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.”

Galatians 3:6 KJV “Even as **Abraham believed God**, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

James 2:23 KJV “And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, **Abraham believed God**, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.”

By **believing God** it was **accounted to Abraham as righteousness**

By **Believing God** in this age of Grace **Christ’s righteousness is imputed to us**

By the way Jesus is our God and friend as well

It is quite easy to see how different the Law and Grace “Dispensations” are. However, the above three verses are an example that shows us God knows when we believe, much the same way as it was when God knew that Abraham believed and it was counted to him as righteousness.

By the way, once we are sealed **with the Holy Spirit** we are sealed for eternity. After that we would never lose our salvation. Would we sin after we are sealed – yes, we would **but all our future sins have been paid** for 2,000 years ago as well. Would we then go and sin like crazy – that some accuse that we would?

Not likely because now we know what it cost Jesus Christ on that cross. And **we are on our way to where there never will be any more sin.** Besides, the riches of this world no longer have the appeal that they had before we trusted in Jesus Christ. Amen.

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