



# GOD'S PLAN

FOR THE AGES

DISPENSATIONS

**DISPENSATIONALISM: WHY SHOULD I CARE?**

# **1. A brief working definition:**

**Dispensationalism is a theological system, which understands that God sovereignly governs the history of the human race through a sequence of divinely directed administrations marked by distinctive periods of time as He works out His plan to destroy sin and evil.**

**2 Tim. 3:16, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,**

**2 Tim. 3:17, “that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”**

## **2. Dispensational theology begins with Scripture.**

**2 Pet. 1:20, “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,**

**2 Pet. 1:21, “for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”**

# **THE GOLDEN RULE OF INTERPRETATION**

**When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths indicate clearly otherwise.**

- **Dispensationalism develops from an *inductive* study of Scripture, not a deductive approach.**

- **Dispensationalism develops from a recognition of the progressive nature of God's revelation to man.**



## **Distinctions in Scripture**

**Jesus told His disciples in one place to only take the gospel to the “lost sheep of the house of Israel,” but not to the Samaritans or Gentiles (Matt. 10:5–6).**

# **Distinctions in Scripture**

**Later, Jesus commanded His disciples to preach the gospel to all creatures (Mk. 16:15; Matt. 28:18–20).**

# **Distinctions in Scripture**

**At one time believers are commanded to bring literal, animal sacrifices to one particular temple, but no longer do believers bring animal sacrifices.**

## **Distinctions in Scripture**

**At one time adulterers were to be punished with death (Lev. 20:10), but this is no longer expected (1 Cor. 6:9–11).**

## **Distinctions in Scripture**

**Murderers were not to be punished with death at the beginning (Gen. 4:1–15), yet later were to be put to death (Gen. 9:5–6; Rom. 13:1–7).**

# **Distinctions in Scripture**

**In Leviticus the observance of dietary laws is mandated, but in Acts 10 dietary restrictions are removed.**

**1. Our understanding of God's plan for the ages begins with His first creation, the angels, and the first failure of creaturely volitional responsibility, the fall of Lucifer (Isa. 14:12–14; Ezek. 28:12–20).**

**Isa. 14:12, “How you are fallen from heaven,  
O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are  
cut down to the ground, You who weakened  
the nations!**

**Isa. 14:13, “For you have said in your heart:  
‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my  
throne above the stars of God; I will also sit  
on the mount of the congregation on the  
farthest sides of the north;**

**Isa. 14:14, “ ‘I will ascend above the heights  
of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ ”**



**2. The fall of Adam is tied to this angelic rebellion in Gen. 3:1–7.**

**3. The solution to spiritual death, salvation of the human race, is connected to the defeat of Satan**

**Gen. 3:15, “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”**

## **4. The defeat of Satan is directly related to the coming of the Savior into the world which is evidenced in four ways:**

- Satan tempts the Messiah, the Seed of the woman, in (Matt 4:1–11)**
- Satan is instrumental in the arrest and crucifixion of the Messiah (John 13:2, 27; Rev. 12:1–5)**
- The final victory of our Lord at His return leads to the defeat and incarceration of the Devil and his angels, the demons.**
- At the cross, sin and evil are defeated, the punishment for sin paid, and the love of God revealed.**

**Isa. 24:19, “The earth is violently broken, the earth is split open, the earth is shaken exceedingly.**

**Isa. 24:20, “The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, and it will fall, and not rise again.”**

**Isa. 24:21, “It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones, and on the earth the kings of the earth.**

**Isa. 24:22, “They will be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison; After many days they will be punished.”**

**Isa. 24:23, “Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; For the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously.”**

**Rev. 20:1, “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.**

**Rev. 20:2, “He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;**

**Rev. 20:3, “and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.”**

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- At the cross, sin and evil are defeated, the punishment for sin paid, and the love of God revealed.**



**Gen. 1:28, “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’ ”**

**Gen. 2:15, “Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.”**