

Dispensational Premillennialism: God Is History – B

Eschatology: Study of God Developing
People in His Image
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Dispensations a Necessity

- Dispensations clarify
 - God's plan of redemption and salvation through Jesus Christ
 - Satan's defense of revealing man as unworthy of God's affection
- Satan's goal – to prove his is worthy when man rejects God, accepts him as god, to be gods themselves
- Satan is not trying to defeat God but proving *all* are sinful and therefore negate his sentence
 - If he can prove all are sinful, then all sin is God's fault (theodicy); thus, God will have to accept Himself as the source of sin and reinstate him (Satan)
 - Satan promotes **universalism** (all paths lead to salvation), which is the goal of Gnosticism: once reinstated, Satan rules over man like now, only forever

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Dispensations a Necessity

- Practical application of *divine oikonomia*; God putting history in order
 - Helps us to understand the process by which God develops redemption and salvation while demonstrating His mercy and longsuffering
 - Helps us to understand why *our* (Satan's) defense of *our* (Satan's) sinfulness is inadequate compared to God's provision for *our* salvation
- Demonstrates God's commitment to developing His people
 - Only in true Christianity does God assume the role of sinful man, pays the penalty for sin then, gives His righteousness to the unrighteousness believer

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The Dispensations

- **Sinlessness** (Sin inherent in all of God's sentient creatures)
 - Genesis 1:1-3:24
 - Failure of sinless flesh and blood man to prevent sin (independence)
 - Man lost his intimate relationship with God (living his slavery to sin, Satan)
 - God promised redemption from the Seed of woman for those who believed in Him (independence from Satan, dependence to God) based only on the conditions for salvation throughout the Bible
 - Repentance
 - Faith

The Dispensations

- **Will** (Self control of sin is impossible thereby excusing sinners)
 - Genesis 4:1-9:17
 - Failure of sinful man to control sin, living his independence (unconstrained)
 - Man could not control sin – murder of Abel (Worthlessness)
 - Man could not control sin – nearly snuffing out the Gospel
 - Cataclysm (Flood) prevented this goal by rearranging the earth
 - God's counterpoint was Noah and his family who believed God and were saved through the Cataclysm, totally dependent on God
 - Sin came through the Cataclysm AEB Noah and Ham

The Dispensations

- **Society** (Self control of sin is impossible thereby excusing sinners) (Sinful men unify to resist God, to be free)
 - Genesis 9:18-11:32
 - Failure of sinful man to build Godly societies around the world
 - Society developed to control man's sinfulness preventing self-destruction but maintaining independence from God through (Gnostic) religious government
 - God gave them different languages promoting their unique differences thus delaying Satan's defense goal
 - A remnant maintained belief in God providing a counterpoint to Satan's defense argument
 - Abraham
 - Job

The Dispensations

- **Religion** (Sinful men cannot keep or want God's righteousness)
 - Genesis 12:1-Acts 1:25
 - Failure of man to achieve God's righteousness or accept God's grace
 - God developed a unique society from Abram, an idolater, as a visible demonstration of His mercy, longsuffering
 - Law expressed God's righteousness highlighting man's sinfulness – Jesus demonstrated this righteousness and was crucified by intolerant religion
 - Most people chose sin while some, [David], believed God (Ps 51:16-17)
 - God revealed His plan for Israel, and Gentile, gradually via the Prophets

The Dispensations

- **First Fruits** (Sinful man cannot accept God's grace)
 - Acts 2:1-Revelation 19:21
 - Failure of man to accept God's grace and salvation
 - With the Jews rejection of Him, Christ pours out His Spirit on those who were/are rejected by them, mainly Gentiles, for a time (Ro 9:11)
 - The Church, designed to be a testimony of living grace, quickly becomes another sinful religion incorporating Gnosticism, persecuting true believers
 - God has those who reject religion (law) and accept Christ's grace
 - Satan rebuilds a unified society to achieve his goal, lost at the Tower of Babel, fusing government and religion (Gnosticism) demonstrating man's innate sinfulness by following Satan as their "messiah" (spirit guide)

The Dispensations

- **Millennial Kingdom** (Sinful man rejects God's grace even when living under the visible reign of Christ)
 - Revelation 20
 - Failure of man to reject sin while living in God's visible kingdom on earth that demonstrates His mercy and longsuffering; recalling the Jews to salvation and fulfilling His covenants to the faithful: Abraham, David
 - The Kingdom begins with only those who are saved but who birth sinners
 - Satan is bound during most of this Kingdom period; thus, man shows his innate sinfulness without the excuse of Satan (Satan does not cause sin)
 - Satan is released and majority of people join him in rebelling against God
 - Yet, there are the faithful ones who gather to Him at Jerusalem

The Appeal is Ended

- The Accuser has made his case
 - Satan has proven that man is unworthy and innately sinful (free will)
 - God provides grace for those He has chosen which never includes Satan, and the angels that followed him (sovereignty)
- This present universe is ended
 - God made a way of escape for men by sacrificing Himself for sin
 - God satisfied the judgment of sin for those who were saved
 - God created a new man to be without sin for all eternity future
 - God shows that mercy and longsuffering based on faith in Him forgives sin; Satan, and **all** angels, do not understand this Gospel (1Pe 1:12)

The Final Dispensation

- **Eternity** (The sinners God elected to His grace)
 - Revelation 21
 - God has already given past believers new bodies at the Rapture, those who are alive at the end of the Kingdom now receive their new bodies.
 - God creates a new universe and earth for us
 - Christ dwells with us from New Jerusalem providing the only light we need
- All who are not in this creation are in the Lake of Fire (in their new bodies) for eternity receiving what they most desired in this life, **separation from God's grace**

Epilogue

- Why did God chose this approach?
 - God cannot create "perfect" people who understand good and evil as demonstrated by the angels who did not sin but cannot understand God's salvation nor man's special relationship with God (Ge 2:15-17; 3:1-7)
 - Knowing good and evil comes only through knowledge tempered by experience (He 5:11-14)
 - Satan, in making his defense, becomes the instrument in developing God's people (Ex: Job)
 - His intentions were evil; thus, he is condemned for his sin
 - God wrought the "goodness" from his evil (Ro 8:28-30)

Epilogue

- Dispensational Premillennialism is
 - The history of God developing a people for Himself for eternity
 - Requires the normative hermeneutical interpretation of the Bible
 - The only eschatological approach that
 - Accepts the Bible as sufficient, complete for all righteousness
 - Believes that God is able to do in the future as He did in the past
 - Provides hope for all who accept the grace of our sovereign Lord
- This is why I am a Dispensational Premillennialist

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