

Dispensationalism: Defined

Based upon the book: "Dispensationalism" by Charles C. Ryrie

Dispensationalism: Defined

Aspects of understanding the concept:

- Etymology (last week)
- Scriptural Use of the word dispensation (last week)
- The relation of the dispensations to progressive revelation (last week)
- **Characteristics of a dispensation**
- **The Sine Qua Non of Dispensationalism**

Dispensationalism: Defined

Characteristics of a Dispensation

Primary Characteristics (marks distinguishing one economy from another):

1. The different governing relationship with the world into which God enters in each economy.
2. The resulting responsibility on mankind in each of these different relationships.

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Characteristics of a Dispensation

Three distinguishing characteristics of a different dispensation:

1. A change in God's governmental relationship with man.
2. A resultant change in man's responsibility
3. Corresponding revelation necessary to effect the change

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Characteristics of a Dispensation

Secondary Characteristics

- A **test** (human responsibility)
 - "Will a person respond favorably toward the responsibility of the particular economy under which he is living?"
- A **failure**
 - Governmental economy
 - Salvation
- A **judgment**

*The above characteristics are **not** the sine qua non (absolute essential) of a dispensational arrangement.

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Characteristics of a Dispensation

Objections

- The previous slides detail a **cross-sectional** view of dispensationalism. (kind of lineal like a time-line)
 - Emphasizes the administration of grace that prevails today.
- Another view could be **longitudinal** or **spiral** perspective
 - Emphasizes the fact that God has always been and will always be a God of grace.

There may be an objection to dispensationalism based upon the above truths but recognizing that there is only a difference in the revelation of God's grace but no difference in his actual grace. This is true for all of God's attributes. While one is emphasized more during one dispensation, another may be emphasized more in another.

Dispensationalism: Defined

Sine Qua Non

The absolutely indispensable part of dispensationalism

1. A dispensationalist keeps Israel and the church **distinct**
 - Israel: earthly focus
 - Church: heavenly focus
2. This distinction is born out of a system of hermeneutics that is usually called **literal interpretation**.
3. The underlying **purpose** of God in the world is **His glory**.
 - Not man centered (soteriological)
 - May I preach right here for a moment?
 - John 17:1,5,22; John 1:4,9,14,18; Rev 5:8-13, 21:23

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Review:

Characteristics of a dispensation

- Primary characteristics
 - Distinguishing economies:
 - The different governing relationship with the world into which God enters in each economy.
 - The resulting responsibility on mankind in each of these different relationships.
 - Disguising characteristics:
 - A change in God's governmental relationship with man.
 - A resultant change in man's responsibility
 - Corresponding revelation necessary to effect the change
- Secondary characteristics
 - Test
 - Failure
 - Judgment
- Objections (answered by the two perspectives):
 - Cross-sectional view
 - Longitudinal or spiral view

Dispensationalism: Defined

Review:

The Sine Qua Non of Dispensationalism

- Absolutely indispensable part
 1. A dispensationalist keeps Israel and the church **distinct**
 2. This distinction is born out of a system of hermeneutics that is usually called **literal interpretation**.
 3. The underlying **purpose** of God in the world is **His glory**.