



Bible Study Series-III

DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH OR AGES

- **%God, who at sundry times and in diverse manners spoke** in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto these last days spoken unto us through his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who \bar{o} \bar{o} \bar{o} ..sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high...+(Heb 1:1-3)
- **%For the earnest expectation of the creation waiteth for manifestation....** Because the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty..... the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now....+(Rom. 8:19-22)
- **%That in the dispensation of the fullness of times** he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in him.+(Heb.1:10)
- **Introduction**
- Triune everlasting God in His wisdom has divided all time and eternity into the mystery of successive ages or dispensations. In these ages He in diverse manners revealed himself, His plans and purposes of creation through the prophets. Bible scholars could understand and distinguish God's plan of eight sundry times. (Sundry times also means dispensations or Ages.) ie.
 1. Dispensation of Innocence (Gen. 1:28-3:6)
 2. Dispensation of Conscience or Moral Responsibility (Gen. 3:7;4:1-8:14)
 3. Dispensation of Human Governance (Gen. 8:15-11:32)
 4. Dispensation of Promise (Gen. 12:1-Ex.18:27)
 5. Dispensation of Law (Ex.19:1-Acts 1:26)
 6. Dispensation of Church/ Ecclesiastical (Grace) (Acts 2:1)
 7. Dispensation of Kingdom of God (Rev.20:4) and
 8. Dispensation of New Heaven and Earth(Rev.21-22:21).

The above dispensations one through seven are distinguished, showing the progressive order of God's dealings with or revelations for humanity that links together time-periods during which man is put into specific and varying tests as to his obedience to God. But, the last dispensation is totally different from all others. It is a dwelling age/place **New Heaven and Earth** that is the being prepared for the saints of all previous ages to live throughout eternity. A dispensation- without time-period and tests.

The revelations about the **first seven dispensations** are some time to the whole human race and at other times to a particular people, Israel. One cannot impose strict limits and place termination of these dispensations. There is some overlapping or continuation and the divinely-given stewardship seem to continue after the **time-era of special testing of man** has ended. This tests starts from the beginning of human history to its end. **Man has failed** in every past dispensation, has failed in this present dispensation and will in the future. But, during each of them salvation has been and will continue to be available to man and man is privileged to reconcile to God by His grace. **Before the cross man was saved** in prospects of Christ's atoning sacrifice, through believing the revelation thus far given to him. **After the cross man has been saved** by believing the sacrificial death of Lord Jesus Christ.

The **fallen man** in sin of every age has grieved the Creator of the Universe, - the Almighty God. The disobedience of **man** in the first dispensation of innocence made him driven out of the beautiful Garden of Eden has brought death to him and curses on **Earth- the creations of God**. Because of the curse, the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

The Adamic Covenant conditions the life of fallen man- conditions which must remain till in the kingdom age. The first promise of a Redeemer (Gen.3:15) begins with the seed Abel. After Cain killed his brother Abel, Eve bore a son ~~Seth~~ God said %he hath appointed me another **seed** instead of Abel.+In the successive ages, after ~~Seth~~the appointed seed were, Noah (Gen6:8-10), Shem(Gen 9:26-27), Abraham (Gen 12:1-4), Isaac (Gen 17:19-21), Jacob(Gen28:10-14), Judah (Gen 49:10), David(2Sam 7:5-17), Immanuel- Christ(Isa 7:10-14; Mt 1:1, 20-23; Jn. 12:31-33; 1Jn 3:8). The promised seed ~~Christ~~born of the women ~~Mary~~is different from all others. His birth was foreordained, foretold during the ages. This promised seed has God's DNA as he is Son of God. In the middle of dispensations this seed ~~Lord~~ Jesus Christ~~incarnated~~, died, and resurrected to deliver man from the curse of sin. Now He is sitting at the right hand of the Majesty on high. This is ample proof for the fulfilment of God's prophetic revelation about Christ second coming before the Kingdom age. In Isaiah 46:10 God said %my counsel shall stand, and I will do my pleasure+

The last dispensation is set aside by Almighty God to bring about total **deliverance** from curses of Sin and **restoration of heaven and earth to its original glory** through His son Lord Jesus Christ.

So we learn the purposes of dispensations are:

- iX. To place man under a specific rule of conduct as to how he should behave in obedience to God.
- X. Deliverance of God's creation (Man & Universe) from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty.

The period, plan, purpose, the result of man's sins and God's judgment of different dispensations will be briefly discussed one after another.
