

Dispensationalism

Dispensation - How God manages His Rule over the world as He progressively works out His purpose in World history to bring Himself glory.

Essential characteristics of each dispensation:

(Ronald Showers, There really is a difference, pg 30)

In order for a Dispensation to be distinct from all other dispensations, it must have three essential characteristics

First - It must have a particular way of God administering His Rule. Each dispensation is characterized by a unique ruling factor or a combination of ruling factors.

Second – Each dispensation has a responsibility for man. Each dispensation gives man the responsibility to obey God in accordance with the rules God gives in administering His rule.

Third – Each dispensation is given by divine revelation, which has not been given before.

In order for man to know God's new way of ruling and obeying, these three things must be revealed to him. In other words each new dispensation requires new revelation from God.

Secondary Characteristics of each Dispensation:

First – each dispensation applies a test for man

Secondly – each dispensation demonstrates the failure of man to obey the particular rule of God which characterizes that dispensation.

Third – Each dispensation involves divine judgment because of man's failure.

Important clarification in dealing with dispensations.

1) - Dispensations are different ways of God administering His rule over the world. They are not different ways of salvation. Throughout history God has employed several dispensations but only one way of salvation. Salvation has always been by the grace of God through faith in the word of God, and God has based salvation on the work of Jesus.

2) – A dispensation may involve a particular way of God's rule over all mankind or over only one segment of mankind. For example, the dispensation of human government is over all of mankind, yet the dispensation of the Mosaic law was only over the nation of Israel.

3) – A new Dispensation may continue or discontinue some ruling factors of previous dispensations, but it will have at least one new ruling factor never introduced before. Dispensationalist usually will name that new dispensation after that new ruling factor.

7 Dispensations:

- 1- Dispensation of Innocence
- 2- Dispensation of Conscience
- 3- Dispensation of Human Government
- 4- Dispensation of Promise
- 5- Dispensation of the Mosaic Law
- 6- Dispensation of Grace
- 7- Dispensation of the Millennial Kingdom

Dispensations of The Bible

