

Dispensationalism: The Dispensations

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

The Dispensations

- **The Number of Dispensations**
- **Some Questions**
- **The Names and Characteristics of the Dispensations (next week)**

The Dispensations

The Number of Dispensations

The Importance of the Question (how many dispensations)

The Essence of dispensationalism is

1. The recognition of a consistent distinction between Israel and the church
2. A consistent and regular use of a literal principle of interpretation
3. A basic and primary conception of the purpose of God as His own glory rather than the salvation of mankind.

"The question of how many dispensations there are is a pertinent and practical one and worthy of consideration."

The Dispensations

The Number of Dispensations

Some Answers to the Question

Dispensationalists hold anywhere from 4-8 different dispensations.

Much of the material in the Bible is in just 3 dispensations:

- Law
- Grace
- Kingdom

The Dispensations

Some Questions

Distinguishing between dispensations in the following:

- The Noahic Economy
- The Eternal State
- The Mosaic Law
- The Tribulation

The Dispensations

Some Questions

The Noahic Economy:

- Distinguishing between the dispensations of Conscience and Human Government
 1. A fear of mankind is put in the heart of animals
 2. People are permitted to eat the flesh of animals, whereas prior to that time apparently people were vegetarians
 3. The principle of capital punishment is instituted
 4. God binds Himself to a promise of never causing another flood on the earth such as occurred in the time of Noah

The Dispensations

Some Questions

The Eternal State

- Distinguishing the end of dispensations
 - Some hold the eternal state to be the second part of the final dispensation
 - Considering that the dispensational concept of God "running the affairs of His household (the world) that, when temporal history ends, the household arrangement, which is the basis for a dispensational stewardship, also ends."

The Dispensations

Some Questions

The Mosaic Law

- More than one dispensation? The answer seems to be no for 2 reasons:
 1. The prophets always called Israel back to the Mosaic Law, for this was the governing arrangement under which they lived during the entire period.
 2. The Lord Jesus considered the law still operative and incumbent on the Jewish people; therefore, it could not have been abrogated or replaced by the message of the prophets.

The Dispensations

Some Questions

The Tribulation

- Where does it fit?
 - Back to the Law?
 - It's own dispensation?
 - Still the age of grace?

Class writing assignment

After reading this section of the book, explain Biblically what you believe about where the tribulation fits and why. Pick one of the 3 options the book gives or state your own.

*This is your quiz for next week.

Dispensationalism: Defined

Review:

- **The Number of Dispensations**
 - **3-fold essence restated**
- **Some Questions**
 - **4 disputed topics**

Dispensationalism: Defined

Review:

Homework:

- **Writing assignment about the tribulation**
- **Read chapter 3 except for "The Names and Characteristics of the Dispensations"**
 - **3 Observations**
 - **3 Questions**
 - **3 Applications**
- **Contact me if you have issues understanding the writing assignment.**