

EBC – Adult Bible Study
“Dispensations”
2020

I. *The Dispensation of Freedom (often called Innocence) – Gen 1-3*

A. Review - *Our working definition:* “A dispensation is God’s distinctive method of governing mankind or a group of men during a periods of human history, marked by a crucial event, test, failure, and judgment. From the divine standpoint, it is a stewardship, a rule of life, or a responsibility for managing God’s affairs in His house. From the historical standpoint it is a stage in the progress of revelation” (Nevin, quoted in Ryrie, “Dispensationalism” p. 30. 1995)

B. Man’s Environment and Nature

1. Needs Met (Maslow’s hierarchy of needs)

a. Basic needs –

- i. Food – Ge 1:29; 2:9, 16
- ii. Water – Ge 2:6, 10-14
- iii. Warmth – Mt 6:28-30
- iv. Rest – Ge 2:1-3; Mk 2:27

b. Safety –

- i. Animals – Ge 1:26, 28
- ii. Satan – part of the test of love – Ge 3:1-5; Job 1:12; 2:6

c. Love/ Feeling of value

- i. The Gift of a woman – Ge 2:18-25
- ii. Divine

- Made in God’s Image – Ge 1:26-27
- Put in the Garden - Ge 2:8
- Walked daily in the cool of the afternoon – Ge 3:8

d. Meeting full potential –

i. loving God

- commanded - De 6:5;
- tested – Ge 2:17

ii. Glorifying God - 1 Co 10:31; Ro 11:36; 1 Pe 4:11

iii. Work – Ge 2:15, 19-20

iv. Administration (Stewardship) Requirements

- Be Fruitful and Multiply – Ge 1:28
- Have dominion – Ge 1:28
- Don’t eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil - Ge 2:16-17

2. Man’s Nature

a. Sinless/ Good – Ge 1:31 – (no death)

- i. Perfect – took 930 years for sin to destroy the body

ii. Innocent - the quality or state of being **innocent**; freedom from sin or moral wrong. freedom from legal or specific wrong; guiltlessness:
Simplicity; absence of guile or cunning; naiveté. lack of knowledge or understanding.

b. Had ability to choose (more or less)

i. did not have sinful nature like those born after the fall – Ro 5:12

ii. Ge 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

- you may eat freely – not only amount, but type

- but... you shall not

C. *Crisis: Disobedience with the fruit.* – Gen 3:1-6

1. Satan's Temptation

a. Questioned the one in indirect knowledge – vs 1-3; Ge 2:16-17 (see above)

i. Has God said ... something ridiculous – vs 1; 2Co 11:3

ii. Eve's two-part response

- first part right – vs 2

- second part has an addition - nor shall you touch it – vs 3

b. Deception is the art of wrapping a lie with the truth – vs 4-5; 2Co 11:3

i. the lie - "You will not surely die. – vs 4

ii. the truth – vs 5

- your eyes will be opened, - (vs 7)

- and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." – (Ge 3:22)

2. The Fall – vs 6

a. the temptation worked in three areas of Eve's heart – 1 Jo 2:16

i. the lust of the flesh, - the tree was good for food

ii. the lust of the eyes, - it was pleasant to the eyes

iii. and the pride of life - a tree desirable to make one wise

b. she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. - And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. - 1Ti 2:14

D. *Judgment: Exiled from the Garden; no open communion with God* – Ge 3:7-19

1. Eyes were opened – vs 7 – (cover-up)

a. before - they were naked and not ashamed - Ge 2:25

b. now, self-effort to fix the seen problem - they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings

2. Fear of God's presence – vs 8-10 – (run, hide)

a. heard God walking in the garden – (probably a daily event) - they hid themselves – vs 8-9

b. Adam answers in fear – vs 10

3. The Blame game – vs 11-13 – (shift the blame)

- a. Questioning Adam – Answer – vs 11-12
 - i. blames the woman - The woman, she gave me of the tree
 - ii. blames God - whom You gave to be with me
 - iii. takes a little responsibility – and I ate
- b. Questioning Eve – Answer – vs 13
 - i. blames the serpent – he deceived me
 - ii. takes a little responsibility – and I ate
- 4. The Judgement – vs 14-19
 - a. Of the serpent and Satan – vs 14-15
 - i. Serpent - Cursed more than
 - all cattle, every beast of the field
 - On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life.
 - ii. Satan
 - God installed enmity between you and the woman
 - God installed enmity between your seed and her Seed
 - He shall bruise your head – a mortal would
 - you shall bruise His heel – a non-mortal would
 - b. of the woman – vs 16
 - i. Affects on the woman
 - greatly multiply
 - your sorrow – Pro 10:1; 15:20; 17:25; 1 Pe 3:1-6
 - and your conception;
 - In pain you shall bring forth children – Jo 16:21
 - ii. Conflict with the husband
 - Your desire shall be for your husband, - 1 Co 11:3; Eph 5:22-24; 1Ti 2:11-12,15; Tit 2:5; 1Pe 3:1,5-6
 - And he shall rule over you. – Ge 4:7
 - c. of the man – vs 17-19
 - i. Reason given for the judgment – vs 18a
 - To whom you listened - Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, I commanded you
 - Your disobedience - and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it'
 - ii. "Cursed is the ground for your sake;
 - In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.
 - Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,
 - In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
 - Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."
 - d. of the two of them – vs 22-24
 - i. The reason of mercy – vs 22b
 - lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat,

- and live forever"
- ii. Exile – vs 23-24
 - the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden, He drove out the man
 - He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden,
 - and a flaming sword which turned every way,
 - to guard the way to the tree of life

E. Mercy shown: skins from the animal to cover them -

1. Driven from garden
 - a. lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, – vs 22b
 - b. and eat, and live forever" – (in the sinful state)
2. Fixed two problems that sin caused – D.1.-2.
 - a. Established a blood sacrifice for restored fellowship with God broken by sin
 - b. Covered their nakedness
 - i. God made tunics of skin
 - skins of animals sacrificed - (sanctified speculation)
 - Where did Cain and Abel get the idea of sacrifices and why did Cain know that he should have brought an animal – 4:1-7
 - ii. and clothed them

F. Blessing: A messiah promised

1. The Proto-evangel is a compound word of two Greek words, protos **meaning** "first" and evangelion **meaning** "good news" or "gospel". Thus it is commonly referred to as the first mention of the good news of salvation in the **Bible**.
2. The seed of the woman being Christ
 - a. She expected that one of her children would be that seed – Ge 4:25
 - b. also called the seed of Abraham - Ga 3:16, 19
 - c. also called the seed of David - Jo 7:42; Ro 1:3; 2Ti 2:8
3. The Crucifixion of Christ fulfilled the second half of the verse
 - a. He shall bruise your head – a mortal wound
 - i. Heb 2:14-15 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.
 - ii. Re 1:18 "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.
 - b. you shall bruise His heel
 - i. a non-mortal wound
 - ii. The resurrection