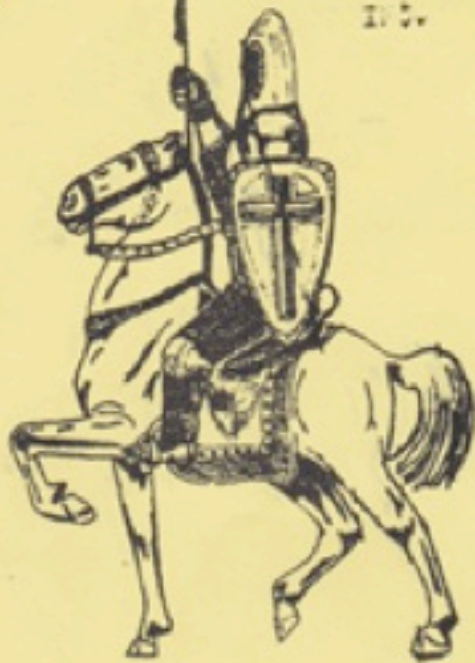


Christian Training Center



**CHRISTIAN TRAINING CENTER, INC.
THE CHARISMATIC BIBLE INSTITUTE**

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BOOK FIFTEEN

GOD'S DIVINE PLAN OF THE AGES

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SPECIALIZED TRAINING IN GIFTS AND MINISTRIES

Book 15: God's Divine Plan of the Ages
Lesson 1: The Divine Program of the Ages
Ephesians 1:10
By Dr. Albert Grimes

What is meant by the term Dispensational Truth, what is the importance, and why is it necessary to study this subject?

The word "Dispensation" occurs four times in the New Testament as in the following scriptures:

1 Corinthians 9:17, "For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me."

Then in Ephesians 1:10, "That in the dispensation of the fulness of times..." Then, in Ephesians 3:2, "If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward."

And, in Colossians 1:25, "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God."

The word "Dispensation" refers to "economy" and it originally meant "a stewardship" or "the managing of a house or a household".

In the study of the subject of dispensational truth it is applied to God's activities. It is a study of how God is managing His great universal household, His various methods of dealing with all the beings under His dominion, both angels and men, and of His great plan of redemption and His testing of men for their place in His future perfect kingdom.

As applied to the Bible itself, it reveals the different classes of people God addresses in scripture and the various periods, or ages, marked off by the Lord for the accomplishing of His purpose.

The student of the Bible needs to understand the necessary distinctions in order to "rightly divide the Word of Truth" as in 2 Timothy 2:15.

Thus, Dispensation Truth is a foundational study that will give the student the broad outline of the Bible upon which to build further truth.

THE DIVISION IN THE WORD

The Word of God is divided into consistent periods of time. This is suggested by the many different terms.

We have the word "Age". This word is to be found, translated in the English Bible as "world" in the following scriptures:

Matthew 13:49, "So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just."

2 Corinthians 4:4, "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

Then in Galatians 1:4, "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father."

Then, we have the word "Ages". Ephesians 2:7, "That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

Then, Ephesians 3:5, "Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit."

Also, Ephesians 3:21, "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

Also, in Colossians 1:26, "Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints."

Then there is the word "Times". Luke 21:24, "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

Then, in Acts 1:7, “And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.”

Then, in Acts 17:26, “And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.”

Then, in Ephesians 1:10, “That in the dispensation of the fulness of time...”

Then, in 1Thessalonians 5:1, “But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.”

Again in 1 Timothy 4:1, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times...”

Again in 1 Peter 1:20, “Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,”

Then another word which suggest to us a time period is the word “Fullness” as found in Romans 11:25, “...until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.”

Then in Galatians 4:4, “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.”

Then again in Ephesians 1:10, “That in the dispensation of the fulness of time...” So these words that we have dealt with, Age, Ages, Times, and Fullness, all teach the fact that there are distinct divisions of time in relationship to God’s plans and purposes, and it was God who made them.

GOD'S DIVINE PLAN OF THE AGES

Book 15

QUESTIONS ON LESSON 1

1. What does the study of dispensational truth relate to?
2. Why does the Bible student need to understand the necessary distinctions?
3. What terms are used that suggest these Bible divisions?

Book 15: God's Divine Plan of the Ages
Lesson 2: The Different Ages in God's Program

Ephesians 3:5

By Dr. Albert Grimes

Now in our first lesson we have been made to understand that God's program is divided into periods of time which the Bible calls ages.

What is an age in the Bible sense? An age in scripture is a period of time from one violent or decided change in the earth's surface or condition to another, or a marked change involving the earth's inhabitants.

Or we could give this definition of the word "Age". An age in scripture and in geology is from one cataclysmic or climatic change to another, in the earth's surface or condition.

This definition is correct when we examine scripture. Beginning from the creation of the original earth in Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Then, in Genesis 1:2, "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

A cataclysmic change had taken place in the original earth which became the end of this first age or period of time.

The next age began with the reconditioning of this ruined earth, as described in Genesis 1:3-25. Now this second age came to an end with another violent change. The earth was flooded with water, mentioned in Genesis 7:19.

The next age began after the flood of Genesis 7:19. This age will continue until the Revelation of Christ, as he comes down to this earth again to set up his kingdom. Matthew 24:29,30. The earth will undergo a change which will end the age. Earthquakes and climatic conditions will change the earth.

The next age will begin with the thousand years reign of Christ on the earth. Revelation 20:1-6. And that age will end with the destruction of the earth's surface with fire described in 2 Peter 3:10-13.

The next age will begin with the new heaven and earth of Revelation 21:1. This doubtless refers to the fullness of time referred to in Ephesians 1:10. This age will never end, but go on eternally.

We have described the different ages in the scripture. Now let us study how the ages are related to time.

TIME IN REGARDS TO THE AGES

There are two kinds of time mentioned in the Word of God. There is God's time and time as it relates to the working out of God's plan for this earth.

When we deal with God's time, we must understand that what we are now dealing with is something outside of time as we know it, something that took place in a dateless past, and will continue on into a dateless future. This kind of time is related to as beginnings. John 1:1,2, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God."

1 John 1:1, "That which was from the beginning..."

1 John 3:8, "...for the devil sinneth from the beginning..."

2 Thessalonians 2:13, "...because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation..."

Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

These beginnings in a dateless past were speaking of the time when God first formulated his plans and purposes for the universe, beginning before earth's time began.

TIME AS IT RELATES TO MAN

Time as we know it, began in Genesis 1:14, "And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs (or monuments), and for seasons, and for

days, and years.”

Genesis 1:16, “And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.”

Man’s system of time comes from the heavens, and time as we know it relates to a definite period relating to the ages.

THE AGES BEFORE EARTH’S TIME, AND AGES AFTER EARTH’S TIME

Outside of earth’s time as we know it the scripture mentions two ages, the Alpha, or Creative Ages, and after earth’s time the Omega or Ages of the endless ages.

The Lord makes a statement in relationship to this in Revelation 1:8, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”

The Alpha, the beginning, is the beginning of Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

The Omega, the ending, is mentioned in Revelation 21:5,6, “And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new...6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end (the first and the last)...”

During earth’s time there are three ages spoken of.

THE CREATIVE AGES

These ages began in a dateless past, and they extend from the creations of the earth in Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth,” through the judgment of Genesis 1:2, “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters,” to the reconditioning described in Genesis 1:3-25.

THE ANTEDILUVIAN AGE

Meaning before the flood. This age extended from creation of man, Genesis 1:26, Genesis 2:7, until the flood came upon the earth, Genesis 7:24, “And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.” This age ended as ages have been described.

THE PRESENT AGE

This age extends from the flood right through to the revelation of Christ, which takes place after the tribulation. This is stated in Matthew 24:29,30, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

THE KINGDOM AGE

This age will begin with the setting up of Christ’s Kingdom upon the earth, Revelation 20:5-7. This age will last for one thousand years. Then, it will end at the renovation of the earth by fire described in 2 Peter 3:10-13.

THE FINAL OR ETERNAL AGES

This age will begin as 2 Peter 3:10-13, and the new heaven and earth of Revelation 21:1 begin. This will

end the age and the fulfillment of Ephesians 1:10, “That in the dispensation of the fulness 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.”

GOD'S DIVINE PLAN OF THE AGES
Book 15
QUESTIONS ON LESSON 2

1. What is an Age in the Bible sense?
2. Explain why this definition is correct in relationship to the Bible?
3. Explain the different ages.
4. Explain the two different kinds of time mentioned in the Word of God.
5. What ages are outside of earth's time?
6. How many ages are there during earth's time? Name them.

Book 15: God's Divine Plan of the Ages

Lesson 3: Dispensations

Ephesians 1:10

By Dr. Albert Grimes

A study of the scripture also reveals the fact that the ages which we have spoken about are also divided into what scripture calls Dispensations.

The word "Dispensation" means the management, oversight, administration of other's property, the office of a manager, overseer, stewardship.

So it speaks of an administration by God of a certain period of human history. It's a period of time in which man is tested as to his obedience to some specific revelation of the will of God.

The dispensations do not relate to salvation. Faith in Christ in every age is the only way into the experience of salvation. We could say that a dispensation is a shorter period of time, dividing some of the ages which relate to man's time. There are seven such Dispensations.

**THE ANTEDILUVIAN AGE HAS IN IT TWO DISPENSATIONS
THE DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE**

This dispensation extended from Genesis 1:26 to Genesis 2:7. When man was created, he was placed in a perfect condition, but sin entered into the human race and God drove them from the garden of Eden in Genesis 3:24. This ended the dispensation of innocence.

THE DISPENSATION OF CONSCIENCE

This extended from after Adam sinned and was driven out of the garden in Genesis 3:24 until the flood came upon the earth, Genesis 7:24, lasting about 1656 years.

**THE PRESENT AGE HAS IN IT FOUR DISPENSATIONS
THE DISPENSATION OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT OR ORGANIZATION**

This dispensation extended from after the flood, Genesis 9, until the dispensation of the nations in Genesis 11:9.

THE DISPENSATION OF PROMISE

This extends from the calling of Abraham in Genesis 12. This dispensation relates to Abraham and his descendants before Israel became a nation.

After the dispensation of the nations, God permitted the nations to work out their God determined plans in their regards as stated in Acts 17:26. And he chose one family, that of Abraham, to be the channel of redemption and blessing to the world, the bringing forth of the seed of Genesis 3:15.

This dispensation lasted until the descendants of Abraham went into Egypt, Exodus 1:1-5.

THE DISPENSATION OF LAW

This dispensation extended from the time that God gave the law to Moses, Exodus 20, until the crucifixion of Christ as stated in John 1:17, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE

This dispensation of grace extended from Calvary to the rapture of the church, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. This dispensation is already 2,000 years up to our time.

It must be understood that sometimes there are shorter periods of time, between the dispensations. There was one such period which lasted during the flood, between the dispensation of Conscience and Human Government.

Then another period while the children of Israel were in Egypt between the dispensation of Promise and the dispensation of Law.

Then still another period relating to the tribulation period which exists between the dispensation of Grace and that of the Kingdom.

Then still another period which related to the earth of 2 Peter 3:10-13. Now we have no evidence how long either periods of time are, only that of the flood and tribulation period. The flood lasted for one year and ten days, Genesis 7:11.

The tribulation period is seven years long, made up of two periods of 3 1/2 years each. The four periods of time are called parenthetical. They are periods marked off between dispensations.

THE DISPENSATION OF THE KINGDOM

We should understand that not only is the kingdom an age of time, but it is also a dispensational testing of man, the last period of man's dispensational testings.

This, then, is an outline of the seven dispensations which divide the ages.

To conclude, the shorter periods of time between the ages, we have one more that we should add. This period is between the end of the kingdom and the new heaven and earth. It also relates to the White Throne Judgment of Revelation 20:11-15, and the renovation of the earth as stated in 2 Peter 3:10-13. These two events take place together, the Great White Throne Judgment in heaven while the renovation of the earth takes place in the earth.

GOD'S DIVINE PLAN OF THE AGES
Book 15
QUESTIONS ON LESSON 3

1. What are Bible ages divided into?
2. How many dispensations are there in the Bible? Name them.
3. Is a dispensation a time of testing for the Human Race? Explain.
4. How do these dispensations end?

Book 15: God's Divine Plan of the Ages
Lesson 4: The Alpha or Creative Ages
Genesis 1:1-25
By Dr. Albert Grimes

In our study on ages we found that there were two ages outside of earth's time as related to man.

The first age is the Alpha or the Creative ages before man's time.

This age relates to the whole period of the creations described to us in Genesis 1:1-25. As we study this section of scripture we are faced with problems of interpretation with regards to Genesis 1:2, "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

Now two interpretations are put forth. One is called the Original Chaos Interpretation, which suggests that the in Genesis 1:2 is describing the first stages of creation of the earth, and the rest of the six days are only the completing of creation.

This interpretation is accepted by those who teach the Bible in the light of science and evolution.

The second interpretation is called the Divine Judgment Interpretation which teaches that the first original earth of Genesis 1:1 was created perfect, and that Genesis 1:2 is describing a condition that afterwar4ds came upon the earth of Genesis 1:1, because of divine judgment.

In this study we teach the second interpretation, for we feel that it is more Biblical, and answers a lot of questions which relate to creation.

It is evident from scripture that Genesis 1:1 was a completed act of creation, as is stated in Isaiah 45:18, "For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited..."

The Hebrew word for "vain" is "to-hew" or "to-hoo", meaning to be waste, a desolation, a worthless thing, confusion, empty place, without form.

God did not create it that way. It was created perfect to be inhabited.

The fact that judgment came upon the earth of Genesis 1:1 is also pointed out in other parts of the scriptures. The Prophet Jeremiah predicts the judgment that Babylon will bring upon Jerusalem. He sees in a vision the judgment as it came upon the earth of Genesis 1:1 in Jeremiah 4:23-26, "I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. 24 I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. 25 I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by his fierce anger."

The Prophet, in revelation, went back in time to Genesis 1:2 and described what happened to the first original earth of Genesis 1:1 and the proper translation of Genesis 1:2 reveals the same truth revealed in Jeremiah 4:23-26.

Genesis 1:2, "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

WHY WAS THE ORIGINAL EARTH JUDGED?

The Bible explains this in clear illustrations which when understood solve our problems. It is to be noticed that this created earth has always been connected with beings. It was created to be inhabited, and whatever happens to the beings that inhabit it, happens also to the earth.

The earth was cursed because of Adam's sin. This curse remains upon the earth even today according to Romans 8:19-22.

The earth in its last stages will be burned over and renewed according to 2 Peter 3:7-13, because glorified beings are to live upon it. So, the creation is now waiting for a manifestation as sons in order that it may be delivered from the bondage of corruption, Romans 8:19-21.

Because of these facts we have reason to believe that the original earth was judged because of the rebellion of Lucifer, as pointed out in Ezekiel 28:12-19, and Isaiah 14:12-17. And it became as it is described in Genesis 1:2, “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”

The earth and its planetary heavens were rendered a chaos. No one knows how many millions of years this chaotic condition of the earth lasted.

This condition is further described in 2 Peter 3:6, “Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.”

The word “perished” means “to destroy fully”. The flood of Noah’s time did not destroy the earth.

We have other evidence of this great catastrophe in the fact that the bodies of ancient mammoths complete with bones, skin, and hair have been found frozen in Siberia.

The News Agency, TASS, said, “K. Strienchkor discovered parts of the huge elephant like mammal jutting through the hart frozen earth near a tributary in Siberia’s Nigerkd River. The animal’s hair and skin are well preserved”.

This find is a rare one. Only about thirty such finds have been made in Siberia and Alaska. The giant beast will be studied in a deep cave in Siberia where the weather will keep it frozen. May 12, 1971.

It has been stated by an expert that in order for an animal of that size, about fifteen tons of flesh and bones, to be completely preserved, the whole insides of the animal would have to be frozen within a matter of seconds by some drastic change in the weather.

These same animals have been found with plants still in their mouths, proving that the conditions in which they lived was semitropical, yet in seconds the weather changed and these huge frozen beasts are the evidence.

This possibly explains the reason why in Genesis 1:21-24, “And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind... Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind...”

The word “create” or “created” is only mentioned in Genesis 1:1 and again in Genesis 1:21. After the distinction of the first kind of animal, birds, and so forth, God evidently created a new kind. And it was these that Adam named in Genesis 2:19-20, and it was these same kind, that went into the ark of Genesis 7:14,15, and which we have with us today.

Now we still have the evidence of this great catastrophe in the fact that the northern and southern points of our earth are still covered with ice.

No one knows how long this chaotic condition of the earth lasted. But, in 4,000 B.C. God said, “Let there be light,” and six days of reconditioning began. And after six days chaos became “kosmos”, an ordered system again.

Now we have spoken of the fact of the judgment of the earth. Now let us answer the question, “Why was it judged?”

THE FALL OF LUCIFER

God had set an angelic prince over the planet earth after he created it. Lucifer was his name, as related in Isaiah 14:12, “...O Lucifer, son of the morning!...” The description of this being is revealed in Ezekiel 28:13-15, “Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering (referring to the garment which he wore), the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”

On the first earth of Genesis 1:1, he dwelt in the garden of God. Ezekiel 28:13, He was clothed as a priest of God, and set by God as the anointed cherub, Ezekiel 28:14. He was perfect in all his ways, Ezekiel 28:15. He was a king, Isaiah 14:13, “...my throne...”

That he dwelt upon this earth is without question as pointed out in Isaiah 14:13,14, "...I will ascend into heaven...14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds..."

These two statements prove that when his rebellion began, he was upon this earth. And, as Priest and King, he had the responsibility of directing the earth's inhabitants in their worship of God, and ruling over them.

A pre-Adamic race is a logical necessity when we regard Lucifer as Priest and King. Sin entered his heart when he declared it his purpose to exalt his throne, which God had given him upon the earth, above God's throne, and take the place of God in the worship of the pre-Adamic race.

His rebellion is described in Isaiah 14:13,14, "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God..." The stars of God refer to angelic beings. "I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north..."

The term "in the sides of the north" refers to the position of the Holy City where God dwells. In a prophetic statement this is referred to in scripture in Psalm 48:2, "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King." It is also stated that in the north part of the sky, there is an empty place relating to the sides of the north, the location of the Holy City in Job 26:7, "He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing."

"I will ascend above the heights of the clouds. I will be like the most high."

The earth creatures to whom he ministered followed him into his sin. The judgment of God fell in the form of banishment from the earth, and an everlasting prison-house was prepared for him and the host of beings that followed him, related to in Revelation 12:4, "And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth..." One third of the angels and the earth creatures followed him in his rebellion and were all doomed with him into everlasting fire as in Matthew 25:41, "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

The earth over which he ruled came under the judgment of God, and its planetary heavens became a chaos as recorded in Genesis 1:2, "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

That a pre-Adamic race existed upon the first earth of Genesis 1:1 is revealed in the statement God made both to Adam, and then to Noah in Genesis 1:28, "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth..."

The word "replenish" means to "restock". Then in Genesis 9:1, "And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth."

Now we know that the flood had destroyed the rest of the human race. Noah was commanded to replenish the earth. The word in Genesis 1:28 would refer to the same thing, that a pre-Adamic race had also been destroyed.

THE RECONDITIONING OF THE RUINED EARTH

The record of Genesis 1:3-25 and Genesis 2:1 refers, not to the work of the original creation of Genesis 1:1, but to a period referring to seven literal days comparing Exodus 20:11, "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day..."

The word "made" means to "accomplish", "advance", "appoint", and does not relate to a creative act.

So these six days refer to the regeneration or the reconstruction administered by the Holy Spirit according to Genesis 1:2. And the Spirit of God moved or "hovered" over the face of the waters to bring the earth out of its chaotic condition.

THE FIRST DAY

Genesis 1:3-5, " And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day."

The word of the first day does not concern the sun or moon, or stars, for they appear the fourth day. It is

speaking of cosmic light. Scientists used to scoff at the record of Genesis, because it spoke of light existing before the appointing of the sun, since the sun was considered to be the only source of light.

It has been proven, however, that cosmic light could and does exist on the earth apart from the sun.

THE SECOND DAY

Genesis 1:6-8, “And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. 7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.”

The work of this day embraced the placing of the firmament, an expanse of space called heaven, or the atmosphere above us and the vapors in the heaven, or clouds, which covered the earth. Thus, the waters which covered the earth, like mist, were separated by an expanse of space from the fluid waters which were upon the earth. So the first heaven came into existence.

THE THIRD DAY

Genesis 1:9-13, “And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. 10 And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good...”

The volcanic eruption that caused the earth to become without form in Genesis 1:2, “And the earth was without form and void...”, prepared the ocean beds which covers more than two thirds of the surface of the earth.

Genesis 1:11, “And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. 13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.”

Genesis 1:11,12 embodies what we see in the springtime, the resurrection of plant life, from the seed which lay sleeping in the earth during the winter period.

The submerging of the earth in water, or ice, did not destroy their seeds. Evidence of fossil remains of plant life in the earth strata of rocks proves the existence of plants on the earth before the calamity of Genesis 1:2. God simply called these seeds to again spring forth.

THE FOURTH DAY

Genesis 1:14-19, “And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: 15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. 16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. 17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, 18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. 19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.”

The word “made” as used in verse 16 means “to appoint” and does not refer to creation. The sun and moon and stars were all created in Genesis 1:1.

They were appointed, the Sun, to give light, and life upon the earth, the Moon to give light at night, and both were for signs, seasons, days, and years.

They were appointed to be earth’s time clocks. Thus earth’s time began after their appointment.

THE FIFTH DAY

Genesis 1:20-23, “And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath

life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. 21 And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. 23 And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.”

In Genesis 1:21 we find the word “create” related to birds, beast, fish and so forth, and in Genesis 1:2 we have the word “void” meaning empty of life, a ruin.

Now we have statements from scripture proving that God did not create it first in a ruined, void condition, but that it was created to have life upon it, as in Isaiah 45:18, “...he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited...”

All life having been destroyed in Genesis 1:2, God again created a new species of birds, beasts, and so forth, different from what lived upon the first original earth of Genesis 1:1.

These facts are proven by fossils and actual remains of complete bodies and bones of birds and animals of species not belonging to our present earth.

There are two kinds of formations found in our earth. There are bone formations belonging to the dinosaur and mammals which belong to the Genesis 1:1 creation.

The second type which relates to the species created in Genesis 1:21 are the same kind we have today, and are to be found at the base of mountains.

The bones of the carnivorous and carnivores were found mingled together proving the fact that when the flood of Genesis 7:23 destroyed them they were both seeking survival upon the tops of mountains, yet they were drowned. This is the reasons why their bones mingled together at the base of mountains.

THE SIXTH DAY

Genesis 1:24-31, “And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. 26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth...”

The double work of the sixth day included land animals, and man. These birds, beasts, and creeping things are the same species we have today.

The fact that they were all created after their own kind, which is expressed six times, shows that they were not evolved from one common species.

That man was both created and made is also pointed out in Genesis 1:27, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

This creation relates to the inner man, his spirit. His body was formed as in Genesis 2:7, “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life...” And then the third part of man came into being, his soul, “and man became a living soul”.

Man, then, is not a descendant of the ape. The fact is, there is an impassable gulf between the lowest order of man and the highest type of beast, which science has failed to bridge. The missing link has never been found.

How true in relationship to the unregenerated man, as stated in Romans 1:22, “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.”

Evolution is the best the unregenerated man can come up with. It is evidently a doctrine of devils, 1 Timothy 4:1.

EVOLUTION

“Long before there was anything alive on the barren rocks of continental masses, quite different in shape from those which we now know, the oceans of the world had already spawned a multitude of living things, such

as single one-celled animals, sponges, jelly fish, worms, and jointed, legged animals with soft bodies incased in crab like armour.

This kind of life had existed for ten millions of years, before torpedo shaped organisms with an internal stiffening running the length of its body was born, to become the father of the fishes. Amphibians, a class of vertebrates, frogs, toads, newts, salamanders and animals that live both on land and in water, also became the father of reptiles, birds, and mammals.

The evolution of this stiffening rod, which later in vertebrate history became surrounded by articulating bony rings, can be compared to the great invention such as the wheel. Once it was there, innumerable variations and refinements became possible.

It took a fish, for there to be an amphibian. Before a reptile could be born, birds and mammals both went through a reptilian stage before they became what they are today.

No animal is ill-equipped for the life it leads. In fact, each has the necessary paraphernalia to render it perfect, for its own special way of life.

Most animal groups started in the water and so did the vertebrates in the form of primitive fish, some 500 million years ago.

Vertebrates owe their elongated, internally supported and muscularly flexible bodies to their beginning struggles in running water. And even though later, many of them deserted lakes and pools and became land animals, for about 100 million years the vertebrates were strictly water creatures. Then, the first amphibian's fins changed into weight bearing legs.

Reptiles added dry skin and the protective shelled eggs to the list of land inventions.

A final physiological advance was the ability to maintain a steady internal body heat, despite fluctuations in the outside temperature.

Over the course of millions of years of evolution only the insects have equaled the vertebrates in the exploitation of terrestrial habitats.

The birds descended from land going reptiles some 150 million years ago."

Evolution is the greatest hoax ever fostered upon mankind. A doctrine of devils, prepared to contradict the truth concerning the creation of man.

That all the different kinds of animals were created separately is proven from the fact that when different species are crossed, their offspring are sterile, which means that it cannot produce its own kind. Thus, one species cannot cross over into another species.

And the offspring of that cross produce an altogether different species. This disproves the whole theory of evolution.

The crossing of the jackass and the mare produces the mule, and the mule is a hybrid, and is sterile. It cannot produce its own kind.

That the whole human race is of one common origin is clear from the fact that when different races of the earth intermarry, their offspring is not sterile, like the mule, but fertile as pointed out in Acts 17:26, "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation."

Neither was Adam created a baby or a primitive savage, but a full grown man, perfect in intellect and knowledge. If not, he could not have named the beasts of the field, and the fowls of the air, as is pointed out in Genesis 2:19,20, "And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field..."

The fact that his descendants had such skills in the inventions of mechanics and musical instruments is pointed out in Genesis 4:21,22, "And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ. 22 And Zillah, she also bare Tubalcain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron..."

They also could build cities and towers, Genesis 4:17, "And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch."

Noah and his sons build the ark, which was made from wood, 450 feet long and 75 feet wide and a depth of 45 feet, similar to the proportions of a modern ocean liner. And, even after the flood, they still knew how to

make brick and build a city and a tower as in Genesis 11:3,4, “And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar...” This slime which was used for mortar, it was pitch or tar which came out of the earth.

Genesis 11:4, “And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven...”

These things prove that men before and after the flood were men of intellect and attainment. And, instead of having “evolved” upward, men in most cases have degenerated downwards.

We find a study of the human race, and history proves that there has always been a high intellectual group of nations in the center of civilization, and that at the outside of this center primitive tribes who have degenerated, and lost the abilities that men were endowed with. This degeneration is explained in Romans 1:19-32.

It is quite evident that God in His creation of man has gifted them with abilities which would enable them to build a society upon the earth.

Thus, in the creative ages, we see how the heavens and earth were created, judged, and reconditioned, and how man was created and made God’s under ruler. The time covered by this whole period is not known.

GOD'S DIVINE PLAN OF THE AGES
Book 15
QUESTIONS ON LESSON 4

1. What does the Alpha of the creative ages relate to?
2. What two interpretations are put forth describing what could have happened to the earth in these ages?
3. Why do we accept the second interpretation?
4. What other scriptures refer to this judgment?
5. Why was the original earth judged?
6. What evidence do we find that may prove the fact the earth may have remained ages in a chaotic condition?
7. Why did God in Genesis 1:21-24 create a new kind of birds, beasts and creeping things?
8. Who was Lucifer?
9. Explain how he fell from his great position.
10. What statements refer to the possibility of a pre-Adamic race?
11. What condition did this ruined earth remain in?
12. In short, outline and explain what took place in the six days of reconditioning.
13. Explain what evolution is, in relationship to the unregenerated man.
14. What fact proves that the human race is of one common origin?
15. What facts prove that Adam was not a primitive savage?
16. What do we find when we study the history of the human race?

Book 15: God's Divine Plan of the Ages
Lesson 5: The Antediluvian Age
By Dr. Albert Grimes

This Age has in it two dispensations, that of Innocence and Conscience.

THE DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE

Described to us in Genesis 2:7 to 3:24, the time period is not known.

HOW ADAM CAME INTO BEING

From scripture we have found that each species of birds, beasts, and creeping things, were all created by God and that no evolution took place. Each species had a particular part in God's creative purpose.

Then, Adam, as God's under ruler, was both created and made. The inner man of the spirit was created by God as stated in Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

The bodies both of man and woman were made. That of man was made out of the dust of the ground as stated in Genesis 2:7, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." The third part of man's being came into existence after the spirit and body were placed together.

Eve's body was made sometime later, and God performed the first operation, and took one of Adam's ribs, and from it he made a woman as stated in Genesis 2:21-23, "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man..."

We have already studied how Adam named all the birds, beasts, and the creeping things, and the fact that Adam was distinct and separate from those created creatures is further brought out in Genesis 2:20, "And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him."

And, it's possible in seeing that each one of these creatures had matters caused Adam to inquire of God concerning the same. Then Eve was made.

THE REASON FOR MAN'S CREATION

A twofold purpose is revealed in the scriptures. First, man was to be God's under ruler in the place of Lucifer, who had formerly ruled over the earth.

Genesis 1:26, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

Adam then exercised authority over all that God had created. He had a perfect understanding of all that God had created because he named them himself.

Not only did he understand them, but also absolutely controlled them. As their master we must also understand, that there was no fear or dread in God's creatures. This came after the flood, as is stated in Genesis 9:2, "And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth..."

The possible conditions that existed in regards to the birds, beasts, creeping things, are to be brought to pass again in the earth during the thousand years reign of Christ on the earth and are described in Isaiah 11:6-9, "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 And the sucking child shall play

on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

Isaiah 65:25, “The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.”

Now while the curse is upon the earth, and creation is in bondage and corruption (Romans 8:19-21) we as children of God are protected from creatures who have fear and dread regarding us, which Satan has something to do with as pointed out in Luke 10:19, “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

It is evident from scripture that those creatures have power to hurt as is stated in Revelation 9:3, “...and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.”

Then, we have the statement in Mark 16:18, “They shall take up serpents...”, meaning if it is necessary to do so.

This same protection is related to us again in Psalms 91:13, “Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.”

But Adam lived as the ruler of all God's created creatures in as perfect harmony, free from all fear, and dread.

Second, Adam was created to have fellowship with God Himself as is pointed out in Genesis 3:8, “And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...”

Under the blessing of God they were to perform three functions as stated in Genesis 1:28, “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...”

They were to be fruitful. This relates to the bringing forth of children, not with sorrow, that afterwards came through the fall as is stated in Genesis 3:16, “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children...”

They were to replenish the earth. It is quite understandable that God would have explained to Adam and Eve the fact that already there had existed a race of beings upon the earth, and their distinction. And, that they were to replace Lucifer in his rulership and populate the earth with a race of sinless human beings.

MAN'S CONDITION

We have stated that we are now dealing with man's stage of innocence. This was the condition of Adam and Eve.

In a state of innocence the knowledge of good and evil does not exist. The principle of this is brought out after Israel as a nation had refused to go into the land of Canaan. The children were not blamed as in Deuteronomy 1:39, “Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it.”

So man existed in a state of innocence, a free-will being, able to decide his own destiny.

It must also be understood that both men and the birds, beasts, and the creeping things all were vegetarians as stated in Genesis 1:29,30, “And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.”

With this condition existing in the earth, nothing was being destroyed amongst God's created creatures for meat, and there was no evidence that death in any form existed.

And, man was to be eternally kept in life by eating of the tree of life. God had placed them in the most beautiful environment as described in Genesis 2:8-15, “And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil...”

The location of Eden according to the four rivers that begin where it existed would place it in Armenia,

between Russia and Turkey and between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea.

Genesis 2:15, “And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”

So Adam and Eve lived in innocence and in a world of perfect harmony, and in fellowship with God. But, this perfect condition was built upon the ruins of a former perfect condition and the results of it were still in existence.

Lucifer had now become Satan with a kingdom of his own. One third of the angels had followed him in his rebellion against God as is stated in Revelation 12:4, “And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth...” Stars relate to angels.

Then in Revelation 12:7-9, “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels...9 And the great dragon was cast out...and his angels were cast out with him.”

Then the host of pre-Adamic beings, other than angels, are also under his rulership and he is their prince as in Matthew 12:24, “...but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.”

Since man was a free-will moral agent with full power of choice it is reasonable and logical that God should propose a test of his obedience and loyalty.

To be innocent is not enough. Man must be tested and approved before he can become righteous before God. This testing had already taken place in regards to the angels of God. Two thirds chose by their own free-will to follow God. Thus by this act they had sealed their eternal destiny. They would be His angels for eternity, righteous in His presence.

By obedience they had learned the knowledge of good and evil, having now the power to overcome the evil.

But, Lucifer had received the knowledge of good and evil by an act of disobedience with no power to overcome the evil and had thus sealed his destiny.

Now Adam was faced with the same principle, and as an act of obedience was forbidden to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil as in Genesis 2:16,17, “And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

THE FALL OF MAN

Thus far in our study we have related to man in his untested state of innocence, yet God’s under ruler in the earth, the head of the human race.

And not matter what he did, he was in a sense sealing the destiny of his own race. If he obeyed God’s commandments, God would have a race of sinless human beings, and the pre-Adamic condition of the earth would have continued. But, if he disobeyed, like Lucifer, he would seal his own destiny, and the destiny of the whole human race, who descended from him. This we know is what happened.

It is evident that Satan had been watching the procedure of reconditioning and man’s elevation to the place that he once had.

So, with Satanic determination he set about to once again regain what he had lost. First, he gained the confidence of one of God’s subtlest creatures, and possessed it and in this way he entered into the garden of Eden, and he gained the confidence of Adam’s wife, Eve.

In tempting Eve, Satan tried to prove that God’s Word is not to be accepted as such. And, that God did not really love them because he kept from them the knowledge of good and evil, as pointed out in Genesis 3:1-5, “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?...”

The possibility of speech coming from a creature is possible when the creature is controlled by the Holy Spirit or an evil spirit as is pointed out in Numbers 22:28, “And the Lord opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times?”

It is evident that the serpent being controlled by Satan could speak as in Genesis 3:2-5, “And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in

the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”

The teaching of James 1:14,15, is helpful here. “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

Satan was appealing to the three basic desires of the human being. These are revealed in scripture. Genesis 2:9, “And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.”

Then in Genesis 3:6, “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”

Now it was this act of disobedience that brought sin into the human race. It was this act that brought to an end, the Dispensation of Innocence.

We must understand a principle here. It was because of the fact that a woman usurped authority that was not hers. She took a position that was not hers. It was not her place to make these kinds of decisions. She took the place as head of the family, and because she usurped authority she was deceived by Satan, as the scripture teaches in 1 Timothy 2:11-15, “Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. 12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. 15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.”

Then, in 1 Corinthians 14:34,35, “Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law. 35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.”

These two sections of scripture have been misinterpreted in a lot of cases. And, it is necessary that we have a correct interpretation.

1 Corinthians 14:34,35 relates to the woman who was disturbing the church services by asking questions of their husbands about what was being preached.

They were requested not to do this, but to be quiet and later they were to ask their husbands these questions at home.

For we are taught that the woman can pray and prophesy in church in 1 Corinthians 11:5, “But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.”

Then the section in 1 Timothy 2:11-15. There are two Greek words relating to “teaching” in the New Testament: “didaxai” means to teach while “didaskein” means to be a “teacher”.

Paul is saying, “I do not permit a woman to be a teacher.” The context here has to do with church order and position of the man and woman in church worship and work.

The kind of teacher Paul has in mind is spoken of in Acts 13:1, 1 Corinthians 12:28,29, and Ephesians 4:11, God-called teachers recognized by the church as those who have authority in the church in matters of doctrine and interpretation. This power the woman does not have to formulate the doctrine for the church.

But, this does not exclude the teaching of classes of women, girls, or children, and they can teach what the Teachers have laid down as doctrine.

We should constantly remind ourselves that seventy-five per-cent of our missionary force in the world are women.

Then the statement in 1 Timothy 2:15, “...she shall be saved in childbearing...” This statement relates itself to the statement concerning Adam in Genesis 3:19, “In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread...”

These statements express man and woman’s necessary duty. We could interpret it in this way. Just as hard labour is the man’s necessary duty in a set of circumstances and surroundings that without it would cause him to deteriorate instead of making progress in character, so the pains of childbirth become the salvation of the woman and in the same sense, and for the same purpose, that of enabling the woman to adjust herself in her circumstances and surroundings so that she too will do the same.

This act of disobedience by both Adam and Eve as the head of the race of human beings, brought the whole race into sin and death as stated in Romans 5:12, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

WHAT HAPPENED TO ADAM AND EVE AFTER THEY HAD DISOBEYED GOD?

We have stated that both Adam and Eve existed in a state of innocence. They had no knowledge of good and evil, as is stated in Genesis 2:25, "And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."

There was no sense of embarrassment, or guilt. They were like children under the age of accountability.

But, after they ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil as in Genesis 3:6, "...she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." Now it must be understood that God had fulfilled all the desires of those human beings, but the one regarding the knowledge of good and evil as stated in Genesis 2:9, "And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil."

Then in Genesis 2:16,17, "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

What was the purpose of withholding the knowledge of good and evil from them?

There is a spiritual law in God's universe: "to receive the knowledge of good and evil through disobedience only gives the evil power over us."

The whole of Bible History teaches this truth. Lucifer fell this way. And so did Adam and the whole human race.

If Adam and Eve had refused the tempter's lies and obeyed God, the very act of obedience would have caused them to know good and evil, but they would have had power over the evil, and been able to obey the good.

THE RESULT OF THE FALL

As we study the fall of man we are made to understand that a distinct change came into the live of Adam and Eve. From the state of innocence which they had lost, conscience came into existence and with it, shame and guilt as is stated in Genesis 3:7, "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

It has been suggested by some that Adam and Eve, before they fell into sin, they were clothed with a garment of light.

So, the fall brought a consciousness of sin, of condemnation, and of separation from God, as indicated by the fact that Adam and Eve hid themselves from God as in Genesis 3:10, "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." What the conscience does in man is brought out in the event where the Jews accused the woman caught in adultery in John 8:9, "And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last..."

Not only was conscience born in man to convict him of wrong, but the death God said would be the result of eating of the fruit of the tree began. Genesis 2:17.

THERE ARE THREE STATES OF DEATH

In these three forms of death, one is the result of the other as in Romans 5:12, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

The first stages of death is spiritual death. Ephesians 2:1, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins."

This death which is in the spirit of man, does not mean that man has no human spirit. He has, but it is dead in the sense that it is dead to spiritual things.

The condition of the fallen man in his state of death is described in Romans 3:9-23. Spiritual death then separates us from God.

The second stage of death is physical death. It is described in Genesis 35:18, "And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died)..."

So in physical death, the soul and spirit leave the body as is stated in John 19:30, "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."

It is also explained as being absent from the body as in 2 Corinthians 5:8, "...to be absent from the body..."

The last stage of death is second death. This takes place after physical death. It is the final death, of eternal separation from God, for those outside of Christ.

The child of God will not be "hurt" or take part in this as in Revelation 20:6, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

It is described as being cast into the Lake of Fire in Revelation 21:8, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

The child of God had been quickened or made spiritually alive. Ephesians 2:1, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins," through his acceptance of Christ.

And Christ also through death, has overcome physical death as is stated in Hebrews 2:14,15, "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

HOW CHRIST OVERCAME DEATH

Christ had to first die himself in order to get into the underworld. Before the cross of Christ, Satan had the power in the realm of the underworld and the righteous dead went into the lower paradise in the heart of the earth, and were as prisoners, although blessed. Luke 16:25.

This underworld is described in Luke 16:19-31. This is an event which took place in the underworld. It is not just a parable as some would have us believe. Jesus never called proper names in parables and here he calls one, Lazarus.

Then, in Luke 23:42,43, concerning the thief on the cross, "...43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." This is in the underworld.

Christ in his spirit entered into this underworld as stated in Ephesians 4:9, "...he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?"

He was in this underworld three days and nights according to Matthew 12:40, "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

And while he was there he proclaimed liberty to the captives in paradise as in 1 Peter 3:19, "By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison."

David in Psalm 16:10, said, "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell..." This referred to this event.

Then the taking out of the captives is revealed in Ephesians 4:8, "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men." These righteous were then taken with Christ after his resurrection into the third heaven. Now Christ has overcome the three stages of death for the child of God as in Revelation 1:18, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

Christ will reign until death in all its forms is destroyed, until all of God's elect are glorified, as stated in 1 Corinthians 15:25,26, "For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."

Not only did the human race suffer because of Adam's sin, but the creation as well was made subject to death and corruption also as stated in Romans 8:19-23, "For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

So when the children of God will be glorified, and manifested as sons of God, so the creation will also be freed from the curse which came upon it because of Adam's sin.

Having studied the broad aspect of the results of the fall of man, now let us look at the results of individual judgment that God placed upon the creatures and the beings who were involved in the fall.

THE CURSE UPON THE SERPENT

Genesis 3:14, "And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life."

Because the serpent as an animal allowed itself to be used by Satan it was cursed. It must have fully understood what was involved, otherwise it could never be brought under judgment and God spoke to it in the same sense.

It was to crawl upon its belly and its food would always be contaminated with the dust and even in the thousand years reign, it would eat it as is stated in Isaiah 65:25, "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat..."

It shall never recover itself from the curse that God placed upon it.

THE CURSE UPON SATAN

Genesis 3:15. This is the golden text of the Bible, the revelation of the Christ, the seed of the woman who was to bruise the serpent's head.

Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

It is to be noticed, that there would first be enmity, or war, between Satan and the woman, and in all heathen countries the woman is degraded. Then between Satan's seed, and the seed of the woman, which was Christ. This could relate first to the enmity between the children of Satan and the children of God, then, in the last days, against the antichrist and Christ Himself, 1 John 4:1-5.

The bruising of Satan's head came when Christ died on the cross, and it was there that Satan bruised his heel.

Then it also relates to the conflict that Satan has continually tried to destroy the seed. This is an interesting study which goes through the entire scriptures and will finally end in Revelation 20:10, "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

THE CURSE UPON MAN

Genesis 3:19, 22-24, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return..."

Before Adam fell into sin, he ate of all that God provided, fruit and herbs without any labour as stated in Genesis 1:29, "And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat."

He was a husbandman. He dressed the trees and kept the garden, Genesis 2:16, and there was no thorns,

nor thistles, or weeds.

But now Adam was to labour for what he ate. He was to sweat in his work, to obtain his food. He was also driven out of Eden in order to keep him from eating of the tree of life in his sinful state as stated in Genesis 3:22-24, “And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever...”

The possibility seems to exist that Adam in eating of the tree of life even in his sinful state he would live forever in his mortal body. Genesis 3:23, “Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.” So he was driven out of the garden in order that he may make his own living.

The next verse, verse 24, implies the fact that when Adam realized his condition and the possibility of death, that he tried to once again to enter into the garden. Then God drove him out. Genesis 3:24, “So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”

This is the curse that came upon Adam.

THE CURSE UPON WOMAN

Genesis 3:16, “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”

This submissiveness is pointed out in scripture. Ephesians 5:22, “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.”

There is much wrong teaching going forth in these days in relationship to this submissiveness of wives and husbands.

In the first place, the scripture is discussing saved husbands, not unsaved, and it is to be noticed, that the husband relates to Christ in comparison.

Verse 22, “...submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.” If the husband is related to the Lord in comparison he as to be a certain kind of husband, certainly not one who does not serve God.

Verse 23, “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”

The same comparison applies in verse 24, “Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.”

Then the husbands responsibility is described also in Ephesians 5:25, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.”

Ephesians 5:28, “So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.”

There are some that teach that a woman is to be subject to a man, even if he is away from God, and no matter what he does, or says, she is still to be subject. This is not scriptural.

Then it must be understood that all teaching relating to marriage and subjection and children and the home relates to homes of the believers. God has no instructions for children of the devil. It is his own children he is teaching.

THE CURSE UPON THE EARTH

Genesis 3:17, “...cursed is the ground for thy sake...”

Genesis 3:18, “Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee...”

The same death and corruption entered into the earth itself, and all it produced.

THE CURSE UPON THE OTHER CREATED THINGS APART FROM MAN

Genesis 9:2,3, “And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered...”

Although this came later, after the flood, it was still the result of the fall of man.

The whole of God’s created creatures began to live on one another, killing for meat, bringing in death and destruction.

So the whole of creation was made subject to vanity in Romans 8:20, “For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope.” The word “vanity” means “depravity”.

But as man’s sin brought upon creation this depravity, so man’s glorification shall bring its deliverance as in Romans 8:19, “For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.”

Then in Romans 8:21, “Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.”

God’s love for Adam and Eve, even after they had fallen into sin, is to be seen in the promise of a Redeemer as in Genesis 3:15, the “seed of the woman” speaking of Christ who would bruise the serpent’s head.

Genesis 3:21, “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.” These skins evidenced the death of the animal which died as a substitute for them. This shedding blood of the animal as in John 1:29, “...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

The skins are a type of righteousness, our covering as in 1 Corinthians 1:30, “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.”

Then in Galatians 3:27, “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Having put on Christ, and Christ is our righteousness, their skins were a type of this covering.

Thus ended the Dispensation of Innocence.

THE DISPENSATION OF CONSCIENCE

Genesis 4:1-8:14. This dispensation lasted about 1656 years, from the Fall of Man to the Flood. Adam and Eve by their disobedience became aware of four things.

1. Of the existence and danger of Satan, and his power in the universe opposed to God, and His purpose, and the solemn realization of what had happened to him, and all who were to come forth from him.
2. Of the consequences of disobedience and unbelief.
3. Of the advantage of faith and confidence in God, and His wisdom.
4. Of the necessity of choosing the good, and rejecting the evil.

Conscience was awakened by the fall. Adam and Eve had no conscience before then. Conscience is a faculty in the soul of man. It is the knowledge of good and evil which they acquired by eating of the forbidden fruit.

Man is now being tested as to which he will choose, good or evil. The conscience according to the knowledge man has will determine in man what is good, and what is evil.

We must understand that these Dispensational testings do not relate to Salvation. Salvation in every age has always been obtained by faith in Christ.

These Dispensational testings prove man to be incapable of serving God, apart from redemption. The following are some of the outstanding features of this period preceding the flood.

Genesis 4:1-2, “And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord. 2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.”

In the beginning of the first civilization we have a statement relating to men applying their abilities in methods that are well known to us, Herdsmen, Farmers, a Pastoral life.

This type of beginning of civilization does not relate to us what is taught by the Evolutionists in regards to the inarticulate savages that were the beginning of our so-called civilization. Let us note, that in the center of civilization where the beginnings of civilization began, there has always been a high standard of civilizations.

Now in their two men, Cain and Abel, we see two seeds, one Godly as Abel, and the other self-willed and rebellious. Cain and Abel were doubtless grown men at the time here recorded in Genesis 4:1-2, for Adam was 130 years old at the birth of Seth, who was born after Abel died.

Genesis 5:3, "And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, and after his image; and called his name Seth."

Not only in their two men, Cain and Abel have we two seeds, but we have also two types of religions or two types of approaches to God, in relation to sacrifices. These two types have continued until this day.

It is quite evident that Adam had instructed his sons in regards to approaching God in the right way, in regards to sin, for we read in Genesis 4:3-4, "And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. 4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering."

Genesis 4:5, "But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell."

Thus, two ways to God were established in civilizations, one that brought the fruit of their own labor, the religion of works, and one that offered a substitute, one died in his stead, as Christ died for us relating to the acceptance of Christ as Saviour.

God made one last appeal to Cain, as in Genesis 4:7, here "...sin lieth at the door...", or "a Sin offering crouceth at the tent door". All Cain had to do would be to take the lamb outside of his own tent door and offer it to God, but in his rebellion he refused.

As we have stated, Abel's offering implies a previous instruction for it was by faith he offered it to God as stated in Hebrews 11:4, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh."

These two men then are symbolic of two classes of people today. One class represented by Cain who are willing to acknowledge the existence of God, but they refuse to acknowledge themselves as sinners, and would present to him their own good works.

The other class represented by Abel, conscious of the holiness of God, and their own unworthiness and sin, come presenting in faith the worthiness of God's sacrificial lamb, Jesus Christ, as their only plea for acceptance.

It was because of this same method of approach to God that caused Cain to kill his own brother as in Genesis 4:8, "And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him."

The reason is stated in 1 John 3:12, "Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."

THE GODLESS CIVILIZATION OF THE ANTE-DILUVIAN AGE

Genesis 4:17-24. This early civilization which perished in the Judgment of the flood, was Cainistic in origin and character, for after God cursed Cain for killing Abel as stated in Genesis 4:12, "When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth." With this curse upon him, he went out from God's presence as stated in Genesis 4:16, "And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden."

The word "Nod" is very descriptive in its meaning. It relates to "vagrance", "to wander", then to being "scornful". This speaks of the condition and the attitude of Cain.

This Godless civilization produced cities, those who lived in tents, and accumulated cattle, and who invented mechanical things, and musical instruments. It also did produce the first polygamist and those who were workers in brass and iron, and weapons, for war, as in Genesis 4:17, "...and he builded a city...", relating to Cain.

Genesis 4:19, "And Lamech took unto him two wives..." Genesis 4:20, "...he was the father of such as

dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle.” Genesis 4:21, “...he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ.” Genesis 4:22, “...an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron...”

It is evident as we have stated that the line of Cain that built the first civilization were Godless. But we notice that, not relating themselves to this Godless line were those who called themselves after the name of the Lord, and doubtless worshipped God as in Genesis 4:25,26, “And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth (meaning appointed): For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. 26 And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the Lord.” The word “Enos” means mortal.

HOW LONG DID MEN LIVE BEFORE THE FLOOD

It is evident according to scripture that men lived from eight hundred and ninety five years as in Genesis 5:17, “And all the days of Mahalaleel were eight hundred ninety and five years: and he died”, to nine hundred sixty and nine years in Genesis 5:27, “And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died.”

THE CONDITIONS THAT EXISTED BEFORE THE FLOOD

Now we have been made to understand that there were those in the days before the flood who worshipped God as stated in Genesis 4:26, “...then began men to call upon the name of the Lord.” Then we also have described to us the man called Enoch. It is said that he walked with God in Genesis 5:24, “And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.” Further statements are made concerning him in Hebrews 11:5, “By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”

There are teachers who teach Enoch as a type of the saints which are caught out of the world before the tribulations, Matthew 24:21-22, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Enoch is a type of the church. The flood is a type of the tribulations, Matthew 24:21-22.

Noah and his family in the ark, are a type of Israel protected from the Antichrist during the tribulation, Revelation 12:6,14.

The evidence is clear, that the Sethites were gradually drawn away from their walk with God, and finally were overwhelmed in the sinfulness of the Cainites.

The sin that brought about the destruction of the whole human race, all but one family, is revealed to us in Genesis 6:1-6. There are two interpretations in regards to Genesis 6:1-6. Some claim that the sons of Seth, and the daughters of Cain, there intermarried, and the result being a godless race.

Now as both the descendants of Seth, except eight persons, and of Cain were destroyed in the flood, it is evident that they were not separate tribes at that time, and were equally sinners in the sight of God. The scriptures are supposed to mean what they say. When men, we are told, began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, the “sons of God” saw the “daughters of men”.

The use of the word “men” signified the whole human race, and not simply the descendants of Cain. Thus distinguishing the “sons of God” from the descendants of Adam.

The event in Genesis 6:1-4, “And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, 2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose... 4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.”

Four names are used in Genesis 6:1-4, “Bne-Ha-Elohim” rendered “Sons of God”; “Bnoth-Ha-Adam” rendered “daughters of men”; “Ha-Nephilim” rendered “giants”. “Ha-Gibborim” rendered “mighty men”.

The title, “Bne-Ha-Elohim”, “sons of God”, has not the same meaning as in the Old Testament that it has in the New Testament. In the New Testament it applies to those who have become the sons of God, by the new birth, as in John 1:12, Romans 8:14-16, Galatians 4:6, 1 John 3:1-2. In the Old Testament it applies

exclusively to the angels, and is so used five times. Twice in Genesis 6:2-4, and three times in Job, where Satan and angelic beings are classified with the Sons of God. Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7.

It is evident that a union of “sons of God”, angels, married with the daughters of men. The objections to this interpretation are based on the words of Jesus as to marrying relationships of the redeemed in heaven, and when he said “they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven”, as in Matthew 22:30, “For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.” Also Mark 12:25, and Luke 20:35,36.

They say that this teaches that angels are sexless. It says they do not marry in heaven, not that they do not have the power to procreations, but that it is not the nature of “holy Angels” to seek such a relationship.

But it does not follow that if they had the power they would not exercise it in a fallen state. Then we must understand that angels are all males, and they never die.

Because we will be like angels in the sense that we will never die, there will be no necessity for the righteous in heaven to marry, and therefore the marriage relationship will be discontinued, but it does not follow that husbands and wives will not know each other as such in the other world.

Then we must understand that angels have bodies, and could eat of Abraham’s calf in Genesis 18:1-8, and Lot’s unleavened bread in Genesis 19:1-3.

The fact that they could eat and drink suggests to us the possibility under certain conditions their ability to perform other functions also.

Then we must understand that Genesis 6:1-6 is not the only scripture dealing with this problem, for as we turn to Jude 1:6, “And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.”

Their sin is described in Jude 1:7, “Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

When we study 2 Peter 2:4-7, we have there historical events placed in order, and first in order, before the flood, these same angels are spoken of, as in 2 Peter 2:4, “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell (or Tarturus), and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.”

Second in order, 2 Peter 2:5, “And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.”

Third event, 2 Peter 2:6, “And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly.”

Fourth event, 2 Peter 2:7, “And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked.”

As the fall of man did not sever completely the communications of angelic beings with the human race, we see no reason why fallen angels could not be attracted by the beauty and comeliness of the females of a race inferior, but not far removed from them, and desire to have intimate companionship with them.

As Christ was born of a virgin by the Holy Ghost without the instrumentality of a human father, so it would appear according to Genesis 3:15, that as the seed of Satan, the Antichrist, in imitation of the birth of Christ, is to be born of a woman, not necessarily a virgin with Satan as his father.

If Satan has the power of procreation, why not other fallen angels?

When Moses sent the twelve spies into Canaan in Numbers 13:1-33, they reported on their return that they had seen giants, or “Nephilim”, the same as the giants of Genesis 6:1-4 who existed on the other side of the flood.

Does it not look as if even after the flood, there were some sporadic cases of angelic co-habitation with the daughters of men, and was not this the reason why God called for the extermination of the Canaanites that He might blot out their descendants of the Nephilim?

This same thing is to be repeated in the days before Christ comes again to set up His Kingdom.

Matthew 24:37-38, “But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark.”

We must also understand that the coming of Christ referred to, is the revelation mentioned in Matthew 24:29,30 after the tribulation period. So the days before this event would be the days of tribulation when Satan

is cast out of heaven as in Revelation 12:7-9 into the earth that there may be a repeating of these incidents as took place before the flood.

So it was because of this sin the whole human race became contaminated except eight persons. This was the reason for the flood.

This ended the Dispensation of Conscience, but conscience as a faculty still remained in man's soul, to determine what was right and what was wrong.

THE FLOOD

In its relationship to the Dispensations, the flood is a parenthesis period, and an episode which took place between the Dispensations of Conscience, and the Dispensation of Human Government, in the same sense as the Tribulation Period is a parenthesis period between the Dispensation of Grace, and the Dispensation of the Kingdom.

The Satanic intervention into the human race as in Genesis 6:1-6 was brought about principally to try and destroy the seed of the woman (Christ), Genesis 3:15, but God saved Noah and instructed him as in Genesis 6:13-22, and in Hebrews 11:7, "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."

This ark that Noah built was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and with a depth of 45 feet. He built this in the face of the fact that he had not seen rain, because up to that time it had never rained upon the earth according to Genesis 2:5-6, "...for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. 6 But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground."

After all the animals and Noah and his family entered into the ark, the Lord shut them in.

Genesis 7:16, "And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the Lord shut him in."

There were two places where the water that covered the earth came from, as described in Genesis 7:11, "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened."

In other words, "The springs of waters in the ocean beds were opened and the windows of heaven were opened." In other words, it began to rain from heaven, and it rained as stated in Genesis 7:12, "And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights."

The whole period of the flood, lasted for one year and ten days, and all life upon the earth was destroyed, as in Genesis 7:23, "And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark."

This would not include all life that lived in the seas.

THE COVENANT WITH NOAH AND HIS SONS

In this covenant which God made with Noah, and his sons, which would relate even to us in this day, is described in Genesis 9:11-17, "And I will establish my covenant with you, neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth..."

Genesis 9:12, "And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations."

Genesis 9:13, "I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth."

Genesis 9:14, "And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud."

Genesis 9:15, "And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh..."

We must understand, that up to this time in earth's history that twice the earth has been flooded with

water. In Genesis 1:2 and in Noah's time, but we have God's promise that no more will this earth be flooded.

GOD'S DIVINE PLAN OF THE AGES

Book 15

QUESTIONS ON LESSON 5

1. Explain how Adam was created and made.
2. How was Eve created and made?
3. Explain the twofold purpose for man's creation.
4. Under the blessing of God, what three functions were Adam and Eve to fulfill?
5. In the State of Innocence, does the knowledge of good and evil exist? Explain.
6. How did man, and all God's created creatures eat, and how were Adam and Eve kept in an eternal state?
7. Where was the Garden of Eden located?
8. Did Lucifer (who had now become Satan) have a rulership? Explain.
9. Why was it necessary for man and woman to be tested?
10. In Adam's testing, in what two ways would he be sealing the destiny of the human race?
11. How did Satan prepare for the temptation of Adam and Eve?
12. In what way did Satan try to prove to Eve that God had lied to her?
13. What three basic desires did Satan appeal to in the woman to make her sin?
14. In sinning, what did the woman do?
15. What effect does Eve's action have upon women today in the church?
16. Does that mean that a woman cannot teach in the church? Explain.
17. Explain the statement in 1 Timothy 2:15.
18. What did Adam's and Eve's disobedience bring upon the human race?
19. What happened to Adam and Eve after they sinned?
20. What happens when we receive the knowledge of good and evil through disobedience? How are we to receive it?

21. Explain the three states of death.
22. How did Christ overcome death?
23. What happened to the creation because of Adam's sin? And the serpent? And Satan? And man? And woman? Answer in short form.
24. What does Genesis 3:15 reveal in regards to Christ?
25. What ended the Dispensation of Innocence? Was the time of this Dispensation known?
26. Between what two events does the Dispensation of Conscience exist, and for how long?
27. What did Adam and Eve by their disobedience become aware of?
28. How did the first civilization begin?
29. What two kinds of seeds were produced by Cain and Abel?
30. Why did God reject the offering of Cain?
31. What two religious ways were established because of these two types of offerings?
32. What two classes of people do these two men represent?
33. Why did Cain kill his brother?
34. Describe the Godless civilization of the Antediluvian Age.
35. What happened after Enos was born to Seth?
36. How long did some men live during this period?
37. What is Enoch a type of?
38. What happened to the Sethites?
39. Explain in short form what the terms "Sons of God" and "daughters of men" represent.
40. In what other scriptures are these angels spoken of?
41. What does 2 Peter 2:4-7 place in order and what does it reveal?
42. Did these same giants, born before the flood, exist in any other time? Explain.
43. What happened to the whole human race because of this union?
44. The flood as a parenthesis period, took place between what two periods?
45. What was Satan's purpose in Genesis 6:1-6?

46. How were Noah and his house saved?
47. How big was the ark?
48. How long was the whole period of the flood?
49. What part of the covenant that God made with Noah applies even today?
50. Up to what time in earth's history had it been flooded?

Book 15: God's Divine Plan of the Ages

Lesson 6: The Present Age

By Dr. Albert Grimes

In this age there are four Dispensations:

1. Human Government
2. Promise
3. Law
4. Grace

THE DISPENSATION OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT

Genesis 8:15 to Genesis 11:9. This Dispensation of human government or first organization lasted for 427 years, from after the flood to the dispersion of the nations in Genesis 11:9.

After Noah came out of the ark, God gave Noah the principles relating to the dispensations.

First, God blessed Noah as in Genesis 9:1, "And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth."

But in regards to the birds, beasts, and creeping things, a distinct change is to be noticed which related to the curse, because of Adam's sin, Genesis 9:2, "And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered."

Noah was given the power of life and death, over the birds, beasts, fish, over every living thing. And ever since man has received this authority, he has needlessly killed wildlife and in many areas different species face extinction.

The reason for this authority over living creatures is because the diet of man was changed as in Genesis 9:3,4, "Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. 4 But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat."

We have studied that before man's fall, both man and birds, beasts, fowls and fish were all herb eaters. But why the change in diet?

This possibly could be the reason. After sin entered, and man had a fallen nature, that was in itself a nature of sin, a diet of meat was in a sense a protection against the invasions of evil into the life.

It is to be noticed in 1 Timothy 4:1-3, "...seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils..." These spirits teach the abstaining from meats, contradicting God's command of Genesis 9:3.

It is common knowledge that most spiritualist mediums, and those in the occult, are vegetarians. This kind of diet allows spirits to have more control over them.

Then as we go further into the scriptures we find God's commandments to His own people Israel in regards to clean, and unclean meat in Leviticus 11:3, "Whatsoever parteth the hoof, and is clovenfooted, and cheweth the cud, among the beasts, that shall ye eat."

The explanation for this is the animal that parteth the hoof, has glands that give off fluid which protects the animal's legs against poisonous weeds.

The fact that it chews its cud, points out that it has two stomachs and any poisonous substance it may eat does not go into the flesh of the animal. Therefore, its meat is good to eat.

Then in Leviticus 11:9, "These shall ye eat of all that are in the waters: whatsoever hath fins and scales in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers, them shall ye eat."

With the fish that have scales, the impurities of the body, came out through the scales just like the human sweat through the pores. This makes the meat clean.

These laws as we have said relate to Israel, and are not to be enforced in the Dispensation of Grace, as is suggested in the fact that when the Jews who were saved, tried to bring the Gentiles under the law, the Apostles made this statement in Acts 15:20, "But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and

from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.”

Thus in our day we are instructed in 1 Timothy 4:3-4, “Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats...” These statements relate to doctrines of devils.

But it goes on to say in contradiction to these statements, 1 Timothy 4:3, “...which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.”

Speaking of the meats, 1 Timothy 4:4,5, “For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving. 5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.”

God further placed in the power of man, the tremendous issue of visiting the punishment of death upon men, and beast, for the destruction of human life, as in Genesis 9:5-6, “And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. 6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.”

This principle of capital punishment is the foundational principle upon which all laws are built, including every form of lesser punishment. With this command, human government was instituted.

This provision was designed of God to curb in an ungodly world the tendency to violence and murder. In other words, capital punishment is a divine institution.

The fact that in our day capital punishment in most countries has been abolished is the reason for the terrible crime wave conditions that exist.

THE THREE DIVISIONS OF THE HUMAN RACE

Now from the sons of Noah, there came forth the three divisions of the human race as stated in Genesis 9:18,19, “And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan. These are the three sons of Noah: and of them was the whole earth overspread.”

Now because of the irreverent actions of Ham towards his father Noah as described in Genesis 9:20-24, the destiny of one part of the human race was determined.

Sometimes in life people make some mistake or do something wrong, not realizing the far reaching implications of their act.

Another such act as this one, is to be seen in the mistake that Abram made in having a child by Hagar. Ishmael, who has turned out to be exactly as God described him in Genesis 16:12, “And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.”

The Arab, the descendants of Ishmael, have always contested their right to the land of Palestine. They claim that being descendants of Abraham entitles them to the land and the Jews who for 2,000 years were not in the land as a nation, that they have no right to it at all.

This trouble remember started because of Abraham's mistake.

So the curse which came down upon Ham sealed the destiny of that part of the human race, that descended from Ham as is described in Genesis 9:25-27, “And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren...”

The name Ham, means “hot or sunburned” relating to a tropical habitat, relating to the person, and the climate in which he was to dwell.

According to the scripture, after the descendants of Ham were scattered by the Lord in Genesis 11:8, from the area of the plains of Shinar, that they are next found to have been in Canaan in 1 Chronicles 4:40, “...for they of Ham had dwelt there of old.” This refers to a town in the mountains of Judah. Joshua 15:58.

Then Egypt is mentioned as being the land of Ham in Psalm 105:23, “Israel also came into Egypt; and Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.”

There are some tribes in Africa who claim to be direct descendants of the Egyptians, but it is evident that they formed nations as in Genesis 10:20, “These are the sons of Ham, after their families, after their tongues, in their countries, and in their nations.”

Now God leaves the nations to take over the territories which He had determined for them. Then He began to deal with the line of Shem, in order to produce the promise made in Genesis 3:15, and to produce a

nation who in the earth would witness to the fact of the one God to the rest of the nations of the earth.

So from Genesis 11:10-32, we have the generations of Shem to Abraham, the one person from whom would come Israel, and the coming seed, which was Christ.

From this point in Bible history, the nations of the world are only mentioned as they are connected with Israel, and the program of God.

From Genesis 12 through to Malachi and the period of the Gospels, and the rest of the New Testament this principle must be understood. And also as we proceed with our study on the different periods, or dispensations, that each dispensation reveals to us another way in which God deals with man.

And what revelations are revealed in one dispensation is carried over into the next until the whole program of God is unfolded. Then looking back over these periods of time, we will fully understand how God has dealt with humanity as a whole.

THE DISPENSATION OF PROMISE OR THE PERIOD OF THE PATRIARCHS

This Dispensation of Promise covers a period from Genesis 12 through Genesis 50, when Jacob and his sons went into Egypt, lasted 430 years, and it concerns the lives of men who we call Patriarchs.

The word, related to those who were the fathers, or rulers of a family, or a tribe. The Patriarchs we are now concerned with are Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob's twelve sons.

Why do we call this Dispensation that of Promise? We do so because everyone dealt with in this period is dealt with in regards to what God has promised to them.

They were called because of these promises. They lived because of them, and yet never fully saw them fulfilled as is stated in Hebrews 11:39-40, "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: 40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

THE CALL OF ABRAHAM

Now we have already made the statement that Abram was a direct descendant of Shem, and it was through Abraham that God was to bring forth His plan regarding a witness to the nations of the world, and also bringing forth of the seed of Christ.

Now Abram was the beginning of the Hebrew nation, and his family had settled in Ur of the Chaldees. Now it is stated in the scriptures that Terah, Abram's father, was an idolater, as in Joshua 24:2, "And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods."

Now the call of Abraham is referred to in Acts 7:2-4, "And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran, 3 And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee. 4 Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell."

Now in regards to the principle of promise, as we have spoken, it is also stated in Acts 7:5, "And he gave him (referring to Abraham) none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child."

Now the promises set forth to Abraham are found in Genesis 12:1-3, "Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

These statements which God made to Abram relate to a covenant which God unconditionally would bring to pass in His sovereignty.

This is indicated by the fact that when God made this covenant with Abram in Genesis 15:9-12, according to this scripture, when two people make a covenant with each other, both together walk through the

divided animals of sacrifice, but Abram was put to sleep by God, and God alone went through and confirmed the covenant Himself, proving that it was an unconditional covenant.

What they had, God unconditionally promised Abram.

1. That He would give the land of Canaan as stated in Genesis 13:14,15, “And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: 15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.” Then in Genesis 15:18, “In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.”
2. That from Abram would come a great nation, Israel, and that this nations would not be as other nations but would be a separated nation unto God as stated in Deuteronomy 7:6, “For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.” This nation was chosen of God to be His witness in the earth.
3. God also promised to bless Abram, and make his name great. This God brought to pass as in Genesis 13:2, “And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.” He also became the father of all who believe as stated in Romans 4:16, “Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all.”
4. God also promised to bless all who would bless Israel, and curse all who would curse Israel. It must be understood that every nation, since Israel has become a nation, has been blessed, or cursed on the basis of this statement.
5. The term in Genesis 12:3, “...and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed”, relates to the coming seed, Jesus Christ, who would descend from Abraham according to the flesh as is stated in Matthew 1:1, “The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”

Not only did God reveal these things to Abram, but he also did reveal the fact of Israel going into Egypt for four hundred years as in Genesis 15:13-16, “And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; 14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance... 16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.”

After Abraham died God chose Isaac, his son, and the same promises were made to him in Genesis 26:3-4, “Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father; 4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.”

After Isaac died, the same promises were given to Jacob, the son of Isaac, Genesis 28:13-14, “And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; 14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”

God, as we have already stated in Genesis 15:13-16, had already predicted that the seed of Abram would go into a strange land and abide there four hundred years.

The purpose of this, was that Israel may become a great nation, and the land of Egypt was chosen by God for this purpose.

But it was necessary for God to bring them into the land of Egypt. This He did by causing a great famine to come upon the earth as stated in Genesis 41:56-57, “And the famine was over all the face of the earth... 57 And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands.”

But before this famine started, God in His sovereignty moved Joseph into Egypt in order to save those of Israel.

JOSEPH SENT BY GOD TO PRESERVE GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE

This is a wonderful illustration of how God can guide and protect His children.

While Joseph was very young, God gave him revelation of his exaltation as stated in Genesis 37:5-11. These dreams related the fact that his own brethren and father and family would some day bow down to him and that he himself would be exalted to a high position.

Now how God works out the circumstances in order to get Joseph into Egypt is an amazing story.

God first uses the envy of his own brethren as in Genesis 37:4, "And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him."

It was because of this hatred, that they sold Joseph to the Midianites as in Genesis 37:28, "Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt."

Now in the will of God, Joseph was brought down to Egypt, and was sold into a certain household as in Genesis 39:1, "And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither."

Then Joseph was wrongly accused by the wife of Potiphar and was thrown into prison as in Genesis 39:20, "And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison."

Now in the intricate workings of the will of God, the butler and the baker, of the King of Egypt, offended their lord and were put into the same prison where Joseph was.

Genesis 40:1-3, "And it came to pass after these things, that the butler of the king of Egypt and his baker had offended their lord the king of Egypt...3 And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound."

Now both the butler and the baker dreamed dreams, which Joseph was able to interpret as in Genesis 40:5-22.

Then two years after this event, the King of Egypt dreamed, Genesis 41:1, "And it came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed..."

The King after demanding an interpretation of his dream, which related to the famine which was to come upon the earth, could not find one.

Then the butler who had been in prison with Joseph remembered him as the one who had interpreted their dream as in Genesis 41:12,13.

Then Joseph is called by Pharaoh and he was able to interpret the dream of the King as stated in Genesis 41:16-45.

Joseph was then able to advise the King in regards to what to do during the years of plenty, and the years of famine in Genesis 41:33-36.

And as God had moved Joseph in to Egypt, so now he moved Jacob and his sons also in Genesis 42:1-3, through the famine, and the revealing of Joseph to his brethren, Genesis 45.

And God promised to Jacob what he had already promised to Abraham, the fact that He would make him a great nation, Genesis 46:1-3.

Thus, the Dispensation of Promise ended with Israel in Egypt and God multiplied them into a nation as in Exodus 1:7.

Now in the few chapters of Exodus, Exodus 1 through to 20, we have another parenthesis period, relating to Israel's growth as a nation in Egypt, their slavery, and their deliverance and their experiences in the wilderness.

THE DISPENSATION OF LAW

This Dispensation extended from the giving of the law at Mount Sinai, Exodus 20, to the death of Christ on the cross, a period of over a thousand years. The scripture relates to this in John 1:17, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

In this dispensation, God made a covenant with Israel establishing the foundation of Israel's moral and

social life.

THE LAW OF GOD IS COMPREHENDED IN THREE MAIN DIVISIONS

1. The commandments which express the holy will of God, and comprehend all related to in Exodus 20:1-17.
2. The judgments which interpret the relations of man with his fellow man in the family, in the household of servants, or employees, and in the wider relations of neighbors, Exodus 21:1-23,33.
3. The ordinances which made provision for their religious life and worship, Exodus 24:12 to 31:18.

The government relating to Israel, which under the law was Theocratic, God ruled on earth through a representative, Moses, Joshua, and the judges for about 450 years, Acts 13:20.

But Israel rejected the Theocratic form of rulership, and demanded a king like other nations, as stated in 1 Samuel 8:7, "...but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them."

They were not to be like other nations but they were chosen to be a kingdom of priests with God ruling over them, as in Exodus 19:5-6.

God gave them kings, and Saul reigned forty years, David forty years, and Solomon forty years. At the death of Solomon, the kingdom of Israel became divided. The tribe of Benjamin joined with Judah, and became a kingdom known as Judah, 1 Kings 12:21, and ten tribes became known as Israel.

Israel as a nation lasted after this division 254 years. Then because of sin, was taken into captivity into Assyria, 2 Kings 17:20-23.

Judah lasted as a nation 369 years. Then because of sin was taken into captivity into Babylon, 2 Kings 25:21.

After seventy years of captivity, the Jews as they were named, returned to Palestine. It was during this period when Jesus was born, ministered, and offered the kingdom again to Israel, but they slew Jesus, thus rejecting the kingdom.

And in 70 A.D. Jerusalem was destroyed by Titus the Roman, and the Jews were driven out of Palestine, and scattered in unbelief into the nations as stated in Romans 11:25, "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in."

Although they now have their own nation, they are still for the most part, including the nation of Israel today, in the same blindness.

The fullness of the Gentiles relates to the Church period. So while Israel is out of favor, God is dealing with the Church.

Then we should also understand that while Israel is put to one side as a nation, the "Times of the Gentiles" exists as in Luke 21:24, "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

The times of the Gentiles refers to a period, from the time Judah went into captivity, until the Revelation of Christ, related to in Matthew 24:29-31. When Christ shall destroy the last form of Gentiles world power as stated in Revelation 19:11-21.

In the Dispensation of Law, God dealt with His own people on the basis of the law. This period ended at the death of Christ.

THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE

In this dispensation, God deals in grace, not law. There are many in our day that do not understand the purpose of the law, and they are trying to again bring the believer who is now under grace, back under the law.

We should understand that the Church of God was never under the law, because the law and ordinances were done away at the cross.

The Book of Galatians was written because certain Jewish teachers were trying to bring the Galatian

Church under the bondage of the law, after they had received Christ as Saviour as stated in Galatians 1:7, “Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.”

The scripture teaches that the Law was added until Christ came. After Christ came he dealt with the law and the ordinances putting them away.

Ephesians 2:14-16, “For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.”

The law and the ordinances were the wall, that separated the Jews and Gentiles. Christ broke down that wall by putting away the law and the ordinances, and brought both Jew and Gentile into the same one Body, The Church. This same thought is brought out in Colossians 2:14-16, “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. 16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days.”

Because the law and ordinances as means of righteousness have been blotted out, we are not under any obligations to keep holy days, or refrain from the eating of certain meats, or the keeping of Sabbaths.

We have been redeemed from the law’s demands as stated in Galatians 3:13, “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us...”

When the Jewish teachers tried to put the Gentile Church under bondage to the law, what did the Apostles say in regards to it?

After Christ had put away the law and ordinances, the wall that had kept Jews and Gentiles apart was broken down. Jewish teachers still tried to bring the Gentile Church under bondage to the law again.

In the Old Testament a Gentile could only become part of the Jewish Commonwealth by becoming a proselyte to the Jewish religion, and he too came under the law and the ordinances. But after Christ died on the cross, and blotted out the law and the ordinances, it was not necessary for a Gentile to become a Jewish proselyte, because the Church Age had come in, and the Jews and Gentiles were all being saved through faith in Christ.

It was hard for some of these Jewish teachers to accept that. They still wanted the Gentiles to come under the Old Testament order. But Paul is strongly against this perverted gospel as stated in Galatians 1:8, “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”

The same is true today of those who still try to bring the Church under the law.

What was the Apostles’ reaction to this false teaching? Acts 15:1, “And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.”

Not only were they trying to get the believers to submit to circumcision, but they were trying to bring them into bondage under the law, as a means of salvation. The Apostles’ answer to this was Acts 15:10,11, “Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? 11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.”

The Apostles denounced it as a yoke of bondage, which we, nor our fathers were able to bear, teaching it is through grace that we are saved.

Acts 15:24, “Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment.”

It is quite evident that the Apostles did not accept this teaching. Acts 15:28,29, “For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; 29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.”

THE CHURCH AND ALL BELIEVERS ARE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH IN CHRIST, NOT BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW

Salvation, or regeneration, comes only on the basis of faith in Christ, not by anything that we can do, or keep.

Salvation is an accomplished work that Christ wrought. We only have to believe and accept it by faith. There is no merit in faith. I am accepting the work of another. If I were able to merit salvation because of works, it would not be faith. Faith is the only possible way of being saved as stated in Galatians 2:16, "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

The purpose of the law is it produces the knowledge of sin as stated in Romans 3:20, "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

So a man is justified, given a right standing with God, without the deeds of the law as in Romans 3:28, "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."

Because of the weakness of human flesh, the law could not be kept. Therefore it had no saving effect on man.

That is why Christ died in order that this weakness in the flesh could be overcome as stated in Romans 8:3, "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh."

Or in other words, his death nullified sin, overcame it as a power in our lives. Romans 8:4, "That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

This righteousness is something that is lived as we walk in the Spirit. Not something we produce by works, but by a walk of faith in the Spirit as in Galatians 3:11, "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith."

Not only are we saved by faith but we live by faith. Our salvation is based upon what He has done for us. And our whole Christian life is lived upon the same basis. This is the rest spoken of in Hebrews 4:9,10, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. 10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his."

Some people are still trying to obtain salvation through works and still trying to maintain what they think they have through works. They are working themselves to death.

And when they die, and wake up in heaven, they will realize, for the first time, that what they have worked so hard for, and so hard to keep, was bought for them by Christ.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW, AFTER CHRIST DIED

The law in the Dispensation of Grace is God's standard of righteousness. It condemned the whole world of mankind, as stated in Romans 3:19, "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."

Its purpose then was a standard of righteousness. It condemned the whole world. The law made our sin, more sinful. It named it. Romans 5:20, "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound..."

After we have come to Christ, the law as a standard of righteousness has no claim upon us. It stands as a standard of righteousness for the sinner as stated in 1 Timothy 1:9,10, "Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man..." (This relates to a person who has accepted Christ), "but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;"

The law and ordinances then were something to be kept in Old Testament times. But they were done away at the cross. But the ten commandments law as a standard of God's righteousness is still in effect today. Not as a means of salvation, but to bring the sinner under condemnation for his sin, and bring him to Christ.

The Dispensation of Grace extends from the Cross of Christ to the Rapture of the Church, John 19:30, 1

Thessalonians 4:13-18. In prophetic events relating to God's people Israel, this dispensation is put in between the dispersion of Israel in blindness in the nations and their restoration to their own place again in God's program as stated in Romans 11:25,26, "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in..."

The term, "fulness of the Gentiles" relates to the Church, when it is completed, after which Israel shall again be restored as in Romans 11:26, "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob."

The purpose of this dispensation then is to gather all of the nation's people for His name, called the Church, and composed of both Jews and Gentiles as stated in Acts 15:14, "Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name."

We must understand that in the Dispensation of Grace, the Jews have no special privileges just as other sinners have no special privileges. They must accept Christ as Saviour, and when saved, they do not maintain their Jewish standards, but they become members with the Gentiles of the one Church as stated in Ephesians 2:12-22, verse 16, "...And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby..."

This bringing together in one, both Jew and Gentile, was called a mystery. It was only revealed in New Testament times as stated in Ephesians 3:1-6, verse 5, "Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit."

Verse 6, "That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel."

Colossians 1:25,26, "...26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints."

Then it was only predicted in the gospel of Matthew 16:18, "...I will build my church." The facts of the Church were not even understood by the Disciples even after Christ's resurrection. All they understood was the Kingdom as in Acts 1:6, "When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?"

The Church then was a revelation given to the Apostles and the Prophets.

But we must also understand that the Kingdom principles are now being carried out in the Church, and witnessed to through the Church as stated in 1 Peter 2:9, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

These same words were spoken of Israel in Exodus 19:5-6, but after they rejected the Kingdom as offered by Christ, it was taken from Israel and given to the Church, as stated in Matthew 21:43, "Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."

We should never lose sight of the fact that in the Dispensation of Grace two principle things are being brought to pass, the Church and the Kingdom, and one must never take the precedence over the other,

We are born into the Kingdom, as stated in John 3:5, "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

Then we as born ones, are added to the Church as stated in Acts 2:47, "...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

We are members of His Body the Church as in 1 Corinthians 12:12, and at the same time we are children of the Kingdom as in Colossians 1:13, "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."

The Church is to be completed in this Dispensation, but the full completion of the Kingdom principles is still a future eternal thing in God's program as stated in Luke 1:33, "And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

The Church is not the Kingdom, but the Church is in the Kingdom. The Church will reign in the Kingdom forever. But it will forever maintain its identity as the Bride of Christ.

This dispensation is one of grace and favor and long suffering towards those who will be saved as in 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

There will be definite indications that will point to the close of the Dispensation of Grace. The first is that of apostasy as stated in 1 Timothy 4:1-3, departing from the faith in the religious systems in the world.

But yet within the Body of Christ the outpouring of the Spirit will be experienced. Acts 2:17,18, and the Church will maintain its witness until Christ comes. Ephesians 4:11-16, and Matthew 16:18, "...the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (the Church)."

The second indicating fact is the coming of dangerous times in the earth as stated in 2 Timothy 3:1-5, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come..." These perilous dangerous times are preparing the world for the Antichrist.

So this dispensation will end with a religious apostate Church coming into power, and in the world itself, perilous times will exist.

Then the Church of God completed will be taken out of this world. This also brings an end to the Present Age.

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Now just as the flood was a parenthesis period, an event which took place between the Dispensations of Conscience and the Dispensation of Human Government, so the Great Tribulation is also a parenthesis period between the Dispensation of Grace and the Dispensation of the Kingdom.

The tribulation is related to in Matthew 24:21-22, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

This tribulation will end with the Revelation of Christ as He comes to the earth to set up His Kingdom and overcome the armies of the Antichrist, Revelation 19:11-21.

Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit as stated in Revelation 20:1-3, "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season."

The Beast and the False Prophet will also be cast into the Lake of Fire as stated in Revelation 19:20, "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."

THE DISPENSATION OF THE KINGDOM OR THE KINGDOM DISPENSATION

This period of time in God's plan is also called the Millennium which means the thousand years reign of Christ upon the earth as stated in Revelation 20:1-7, where the term thousand years is mentioned six times. Verse 2, "...and bound him a thousand years", Verse 3, "...till the thousand years should be fulfilled...", Verse 4, "...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years", Verse 5, "...until the thousand years were finished...", Verse 6, "...and shall reign with him a thousand years", Verse 7, "And when the thousand years are expired..."

This Millennium begins as we have stated with the Coming of Christ, with his armies, and saints as in Revelation 19:14, "And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean."

1 Thessalonians 3:13, "...at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints."

THE NATURE OF THE MILLENNIUM KINGDOM

Christ Himself shall reign over the nations as stated in Jeremiah 23:5, “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.”

Revelation 19:15, “And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron...”

The Apostles of Christ will also judge the twelve tribes of Israel as pointed out in Matthew 19:28, “And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

The Church will also rule over the Gentile nations as stated in Luke 19:11-19, Verse 17, “...because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.”

Verse 19, “And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.”

Then in 1 Corinthians 6:2, “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?”

The capitol city in this kingdom will be Jerusalem according to Isaiah 2:1-4, “...or out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem...”

And there will be no more war for the period of the Kingdom as stated in Isaiah 2:4, “And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

Pilgrimages will be made by representatives of the nations to Jerusalem as stated in Zechariah 14:16, “And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.”

And the nations who do not obey the Lord, and send representatives, the Lord shall punish them as in Zechariah 14:17-19, “And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. 18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. 19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.”

The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord. The word shall go forth to the ends of the earth as stated in Isaiah 2:3, “And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”

The animal life shall be changed, and restored back, as they were before sin came into the world as stated in Isaiah 11:6-9, “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den (the asp is a poisonous snake, as is the cockatrice, an unidentified snake). 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

There will be one universal language during the Kingdom. Language became the barrier that separated peoples, but in the Kingdom there will be one language as there was before as in Genesis 11:1, “And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.”

Then in Zephaniah 3:9, “For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent.”

This then is a description of the Dispensation of the Kingdom, that will last for a thousand years.

But regardless of these conditions, man will still prove himself to be totally depraved and capable of rejecting Christ, even with these existing conditions, and Satan bound in the bottomless pit.

When this Kingdom is over, Satan will be loosed out of the pit. He will still be able to go forth into the earth and gather a great host, and once again rebel against God as stated in Revelation 20:7-9, “And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations

which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”

Thus, this last Dispensation of the Kingdom will end with a rebellion against God. After which Satan shall be cast into the Lake of Fire forever and ever as in Revelation 20:10, “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

After the Dispensations are finished, God begins preparation for the eternal ages to begin, first by the White Throne Judgment, which takes place in heaven. This is the final judgment of the wicked as stated in Revelation 20:11-15, “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Now while this judgment is taking place in the heavens, the renovation of the earth takes place in the earth as is described in 2 Peter 3:7-13, “But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men...10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up...12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

This new heaven and earth is spoken of in Revelation 21:1, “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.”

Then the Omega ages, the eternal ages, will begin as in Revelation 21:6, “And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end...”

In these eternal ages, God will make all things new as stated in Revelation 21:4-5, “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.”

The Holy City will descend from heaven to earth, as stated in Revelation 21:2, “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven...”

Revelation 21:10, “And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,”

God himself shall dwell in it with men, and God shall be our God as stated in Revelation 21:3, “And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.”

Thus the Ages and Dispensations shall be completed. We should understand that time as we know it relating to Bible History is a small wedge placed into eternity.

GOD'S DIVINE PLAN OF THE AGES
Book 15
QUESTIONS ON LESSON 6

1. In the present age, how many dispensations are there? Name them.
2. What change took place in the birds, beasts and creeping things? Why?
3. What possible explanation can we have for the change of diet?
4. Explain the reason why there are clean and unclean animals and fish. Would this principle relate today?
5. Why did God institute capital punishment? What happened when it was abolished?
6. What three divisions of the human race came from Noah's sons?
7. Explain the history of Ham's descendants.
8. What nations came from Shem?
9. To what nations is Japheth related?
10. What kind of rebellion ended the Dispensation of Human Government?
11. Explain what God did to confound the nations.
12. What does Acts 17:26 reveal?
13. From what nation would Christ come from?
14. From this point in human history, in what degree are the nations mentioned?
15. What are we to understand concerning the revelations from these different dispensations?
16. How long did the Dispensation of Promise last?
17. Who were the Patriarchs?
18. Why is this period called the Dispensation of Promise?
19. Why were these promises never fulfilled?
20. What nation came from Abraham and where did he come from?
21. What promises did God make to Abraham? Relate the five terms.
22. What other statements did God make to Abram concerning Israel going into Egypt?
23. Who were the descendants of Abraham that also received these promises?

24. In what way and why was Joseph sent to Egypt?
25. How did this dispensation end?
26. In the Chapters of Exodus 1 through to 20, what do we have?
27. How long did the Dispensation of Law extend? How long a period?
28. What kind of a covenant did God make with Israel in this dispensation?
29. What are the main divisions in the law?
30. What kind of government was Israel to have under the law? How long did it continue before it was rejected by Israel?
31. In rejecting God's form of government, what kind of government did they demand?
32. When were the tribes of Israel divided?
33. After this division, how long did Israel and Judah last before they both went into captivity?
34. How long was it before they returned to Palestine? What also happened during this period?
35. Explain what the fullness of the Gentiles is related to.
36. What does Luke 21:24 relate to?
37. When did this Dispensation end?
38. In the Dispensation of Grace, how does God deal with man?
39. Why was the book of Galatians written? What do some in our day still try to do?
40. When was the law put away? What scriptures prove this?
41. What did Christ redeem us from? Give scripture.
42. What did Paul pronounce upon those who preach a legal gospel?
43. Did the apostles accept this legal teaching?
44. How are believers justified?
45. What is the purpose of the law after Christ died?
46. Between what two events does the Dispensation of Grace exist?
47. What has happened to Israel until the fullness of the church comes in?
48. In the Dispensation of Grace, what must the Jews do in regards to Christ?

49. What is the mystery relating to Jews and Gentiles?
50. In the Dispensation of Grace, what two principles are being brought to pass?
51. What is the relationship between the church and the kingdom?
52. What will be the indications that will point to the close of this dispensation?
53. As a parenthesis period, the tribulation is between what two dispensations?
54. What does the Dispensation of the Kingdom relate to?
55. What are the main principles of the kingdom?
56. How will the Dispensation of the Kingdom end?
57. What will happen to begin the eternal ages?
58. What should we understand regarding time, as we know it, relating to Bible history?