

INTRODUCTION

- * Interpreting the Bible literally is extremely important! Rightly dividing the Word of truth is a key to being approved by God.
- * Interpreting the Bible literally leads us into a system of interpretation referred to as Dispensationalism. Dispensationalism is distinguished by its four primary distinctives ... which has as one of its core distinctives: A clear distinction between the church and the nation of Israel.
- * Three weeks ago we began examining the seven most commonly accepted Biblical dispensations. During each of the periods of time that we have covered, we have seen that there is a beginning event, a responsibility/test for man, a failure of man toward that responsibility, and a final event.
- * Today, we continue by considering the Dispensation of Grace ... or the Stewardship of the Church.

INSTRUCTION

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| I. DISPENSATIONAL DISTINCTIVES | A. A Literal Interpretation
B. Progressive Revelation | C. The Purpose of God is Doxological
D. A Clear Distinction Between Israel and the Church |
| II. DISPENSATIONAL DEFINITIONS | A. The Basic Definition: A System of the Regulations of Government
B. The Biblical Definition: A Stewardship of the Revelation of God | |

III. DISPENSATIONAL DELINEATION

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| A. The Stewardship of Innocence (Genesis 1 - 3)
B. The Stewardship of Conscience (Genesis 4 - 8:19)
C. The Stewardship of Government (Genesis 8:20 - 11:32) | D. The Stewardship of Promise (Genesis 12 - Exodus 18)
E. The Stewardship of Law (Exodus 19 - Matthew 27) |
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F. The Stewardship of Church (John 20:1 - Revelation 10:11)

1. THE INITIAL EVENT (John 20:19-23; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2):
2. THE RESPONSIBILITY/TEST (Acts 2:36-41; John 3:16-17; Titus 2:11-14):
3. THE FAILURE (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10; 2 Timothy 4:1-4; 1 Peter 4:17-18):
4. THE FINAL EVENT (1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; Romans 11:25-29; Revelation 10:7; 11:1-3):

The Implications of a Dispensational Approach

I. Literal Interpretation

II. Progressive Revelation (cf. Eph 3:1-9; 1 Tim 3:14-15)

III. Glory of God (1 Cor 10:31)

IV. Distinction between Israel and the Church (Acts 15:1-29; Romans 11:1-2, 11-15, 25-36)

G. The Stewardship of Kingdom (Revelation 20:1-10)

INTROSPECTION

- * DO YOU HONESTLY SEEK TO INTERPRET THE BIBLE LITERALLY? OR, ACCORDING TO YOUR DESIRES?
- * HAVE YOU "PASSED" THE TEST? HAVE YOU REPENTED ("Changed the way you think"), CONFESSED YOUR SIN, AND CALLED UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD FOR YOUR SALVATION?
- * GOD'S PLAN FOR THIS DISPENSATION IS TO WORK THROUGH THE CHURCH. HOW WOULD GOD DESCRIBE YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF HIS PLAN?
- * DO YOU BELIEVE THAT JESUS WILL RETURN FOR THE CHURCH? ARE YOU PREPARED TO MEET HIM?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO "CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK" ... AND, THEREFORE, ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * How well are we doing at Family Bible in seeking to apply the practices and teachings which are taught in God's Word?
- * What are ways that we can fulfill Christ's commission for the church to make disciples?