

“WHAT EXACTLY IS A DISPENSATION?”

I. THE SEVEN DISPENSATIONS

A. DEFINING A Dispensation

1. The word “dispensation” and its derivatives are found _____ times in the NT.
2. The word “dispensation” comes from the compound Greek word _____.
3. *Oikonomia* is derived from the Greek words, *oikos* which means _____, and *nomos* which means _____ or _____.
4. *Oikonomia* is where we get our English word _____.
5. The central idea in the word “dispensation” is that of _____ or _____ the affairs of a household.
6. “*A dispensation is a particular way of God administering His rule over the world as He _____ works out His purpose for world history.*” -Dr. Renald Showers

B. FEATURES in A Dispensation

1. There is a particular _____ (usually the name of the dispensation).
2. There are specific _____ for man to carry out.
3. There is new divine _____ given by God.
4. There is a certain _____ to determine man’s obedience.
5. There is a particular _____ allotted (an age) to comply.
6. There is a certain _____ by man in every dispensation.
7. There is always a particular _____ by God that follows.

C. The SEVEN Dispensations in SCRIPTURE

1. **INNOCENCE** (Genesis 1:26-3:23)
 - a. Time Element: _____ of man to the _____ in the Garden
 - b. Ruling Factor: *Unconfirmed (or untested) favorable disposition*
 - c. Man's Responsibility: *Multiply, dominion, cultivate Garden, do not eat of the Tree*
 - d. Man's Failure: *Adam _____ God and _____ of the Tree*
 - e. God's Judgment: *Spiritual death, sin curse on all creation, exiled from Garden*

2. **CONCIENCE** (Genesis 3:24-8:15)
 - a. Time Element: *From the _____ of man to the _____*
 - b. Ruling Factor: *Human conscience and the restraint of the Holy Spirit*
 - c. Man's Responsibility: *Choose good over evil by conscience, animal sacrifice*
 - d. Man's Failure: *People did _____ listen to their conscience, but did _____*
 - e. God's Judgment: *Worldwide flood*

3. **HUMAN GOVERNMENT** (Genesis 8:16-11:9)
 - a. Time Element: *From the Flood to the _____ of _____*
 - b. Ruling Factor: *Conscience, Holy Spirit, and Human Government*
 - c. Man's Responsibility: *Multiply, eat meat, defend from animal, capital punishment*
 - d. Man's Failure: *To _____ on the earth and populate*
 - e. God's Judgment: *Confusion of languages*

4. **PROMISE** (Genesis 12:1-Exodus 19:7)
 - a. Time Element: *From the calling of Abraham to the _____ of the _____*
 - b. Ruling Factor: *Conscience, Holy Spirit, H. Government, the Divine Promise*
 - c. Man's Responsibility: *Believe Promise of son Isaac, remain in the Promised Land*
 - d. Man's Failure: *Abraham _____ Ishmael-Jews _____ in Egypt*
 - e. God's Judgment: *Israelite-Arab tension, Egyptian bondage (400 years)*

5. **MOSAIC LAW** (Exodus 19:8-Matthew 27:51)
 - a. Time Element: *From the giving of Law to the _____ of _____*
 - b. Ruling Factor: *Conscience, Holy Spirit, H. Government, Promise, Law*
 - c. Man's Responsibility: *Keep the Mosaic Law*
 - d. Man's Failure: *Jews _____ the Law and they _____ their Messiah*
 - e. God's Judgment: *Assyrian cap. 722 BC, Babylonian cap. 586, dispersion 70 AD*

6. **GRACE** (Acts 2-Revelation 3)
 - a. Time Element: *From the death of Christ to His _____*
 - b. Ruling Factor: *Conscience, Holy Spirit, Government, Promise, God's Grace*
 - c. Man's Responsibility: *Trust Jesus Christ as Savior, walk by faith in Christ*
 - d. Man's Failure: *Believers _____ to walk by faith-Unbelievers _____ J.C.*
 - e. God's Judgment: *Believers-chastened, unbelievers-sent to Hell, world-Tribulation*

7. **KINGDOM** (Revelation 20 and numerous O.T. and N.T. passages)
 - a. Time Element: *From the 2nd Advent to the _____ of _____ from the abyss*
 - b. Ruling Factor: *Conscience, Human Government, Jesus Christ's rule*
 - c. Man's Responsibility: *Trust Jesus Christ as Savior, worship the King*
 - d. Man's Failure: *Some reject the King _____ and some _____*
 - e. God's Judgment: *Outward rebellion-executed, inward rebellion-executed*