

The Historic Unfolding of the Plan
A Super-Natural God Pt 5
Ephesians 3
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DISPENSATION - The method or scheme, during an era of time, according to which God carries out **His purposes towards men**. A dispensation is an era of time during which man is tested in respect to **obedience** to some definite revelation of God's will.

A dispensation is cumulative. In other words, each dispensation **builds upon** those previous dispensations.

Dispensation	Duration	The Question	The Critical Issue	The Turning Point
Innocence; Gen. 1:28-3:6	Creation of Man until the first sin	Can created man be <u>obedient to his Creator</u>?	The Command: Genesis 2:16-17, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; [17] but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."	The first <u>sin</u>: Genesis 3:6 <i>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.</i>
Conscience; Gen. 3:7-8:14	Casting Out of Eden to the Flood	Can sinful man live with his conscience guiding in areas of <u>right and wrong</u>?	The <u>Curse</u> resulting from sin: Genesis 3:23 <i>So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.</i>	God's judgment of the absolute depravity of man: Genesis 6:5 <i>The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.</i>
Human Government; Gen. 8:15-11:32	Disembarking of the Ark to the Scattering of the Nations	Can man live in <u>peace in communities, nations, etc.</u> according to God's commands?	The Commands: Genesis 9:6-7 <i>"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.</i> <i>As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it."</i>	The Exaltation of <u>Self</u>: Genesis 11:4 <i>Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."</i>