

**The Historic Unfolding of the Plan**  
**A Super-Natural God Pt 6**  
**Ephesians 3**  
**Bud Wrenn 9/30/07**

**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
<b>Promise;</b> Gen. 12:1 – Ex. 18:27	The Call of Abraham to Moses' encounter with Jethro	<b>Can Abraham and his descendents be faithful to a <u>sworn promise from God</u>?</b>	<b>The <u>Covenant</u>:</b> <i>Genesis 12:2</i> <i>"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.."</i>	<b>The continued lack of faith of the Israelites.</b> <i>Exodus 17:7 .... the Israelites quarreled and .... tested the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"</i>
<b>Law;</b> Ex. 19:1 – The Gospels	The Giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai to the death of Jesus	<b>Will Israel be faithful to God with a <u>moral &amp; judicial code to follow</u>?</b>	<b>Re-affirmations of the covenant</b> <i>Deut. 28:1-2 If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. [2] All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God:</i>	<b>The elevation of the law to idolatry, and the onset of <u>legalism &amp; hypocrisy</u>.</b> <i>Romans 2:23 You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law?</i> <i>Romans 3:28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.</i>
<b>Grace</b> Close of The Gospels – Prophetic Apocalyptic Passages	The Resurrection of Jesus - Apostasy of the Professing Church	<b>Will man's heart be so cold that it will even reject the offer of a <u>personal salvation</u>?</b>	<b>The <u>Universal</u> offer of Salvation</b> <i>John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.</i>	<b>The hardening of mans' hearts will cause many to reject the gift of salvation.</b> <i>1 Tim. 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.</i>

<p><b>The Kingdom</b> Matthew 24-25; Rev. 19:11-22:21; OT Prophetic Passages</p>	<p>The Coming of Christ and then into the eternal Kingdom</p>	<p><b>Will there be perfect obedience to a visible Savior Who is <u>the reigning King</u>?</b></p>	<p><b>The <u>earthly reign</u> of the Messiah.</b> <i>Luke 1:32-33 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, [33] and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."</i></p>	<p><b>The restoration of the nation of Israel.</b> <i>Jeremiah 32:37 I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety.</i></p>
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