

God's Plan for the Ages

Understanding the Dispensations

Lesson 10 – The Dispensation of The Kingdom

The Time The seventh and final dispensation will begin after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and will end with the new heaven and the new earth.

The Scripture The Scripture portion which covers the seventh dispensation is Revelation 20:1-6, however details of millennial kingdom are found in the Old Testament Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel).

Introduction

It has been said that the Bible is a story of two kingdoms, God's kingdom and man's kingdom. God is the Creator and the supreme ruler (Psalm 45:6, 103:19). His kingdom is perfect and eternal. In every dispensation, God has given a stewardship to mankind, with blessings and responsibilities. In every dispensation, man has sought to establish his own kingdom, his own way, and in doing so, he has failed to live under the rule of God, bringing judgment upon himself. God, however, will establish His kingdom on the earth through His Son, Jesus Christ. This has been foretold and anticipated through both the Old and New Testaments. Psalm 2 describes the conflict of man's kingdom with God's kingdom and how God's kingdom will be established on the earth. (read Psalm 2)

What about the Tribulation Period?

Between the Dispensations of Grace and The Kingdom is a seven-year span known as the Tribulation Period. While some consider this a separate dispensation, and others join it to the dispensation of Grace (as God's judgment for the unsaved), **it is best seen as the completion or fulfilment of the Dispensation of The Law.**

In Daniel 9:24-27 we find the prophecy of the Seventy weeks or 490 years that would be for ***"thy people and upon thy holy city"***, signifying Israel. Sixty-nine weeks (483 years) of this prophecy have already been completed, with the remaining week (7 years) to be completed at the end of the Church Age.

It is during this 7-year period that God will complete his judgment on Israel (as well as those who have rejected His grace), preparing the earth for the coming of the King, Jesus Christ.

Even though this time of tribulation will be a time when God will judge sinful men, it will also be a time when people will be saved. **Even in the midst of judgment, God's grace can be seen.**

The tribulation will come to an end as the King sets foot on the earth and begins to establish His kingdom (Matthew 24:29-30). The time of greatest trouble will be followed by the time of greatest blessing.

A key purpose of this millennial (1000 year) kingdom is to fulfil the _____ promises God made to Israel in the Abrahamic (Genesis 12:1-3, 15:18-21), Palestinian (Deuteronomy 30:1-10), Davidic (2 Samuel 7:11-16) and New Covenants (Jeremiah 31:31-40). God is not finished with Israel.

1. Man's State at the Beginning

"Imagine a world dominated by righteousness and goodness, a world where there is no injustice, where no court ever renders an unjust verdict, and where everyone is treated fairly. Imagine a world where what is true, right, and noble marks every aspect of life, including interpersonal relations, commerce, education, and government. Imagine a world where there is complete, total, enforced, and permanent peace, where joy abounds and good health prevails, so much so that people live for hundreds of years. Imagine a world where the curse is removed, where the environment is restored to the pristine purity of the Garden of Eden, where peace reigns even in the animal kingdom. Imagine a world ruled by a perfect, glorious Ruler, who instantly and firmly deals with sin. Humanly speaking, that description may seem far-fetched, a utopian fantasy that could never be reality. Yet it accurately describes conditions during the future earthly kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ."

a. Only _____ People Will Enter the Kingdom (Read Revelation 20:1-6)
When the thousand-year Kingdom begins, only saved people will be allowed to enter the Kingdom. The wicked (unsaved) are removed but the righteous (saved) remain. (Matthew 25:31-34, 41, 46, 13:41-43)

There will, however, be several groups of saved people present:

- **Saved people (Jews and Gentiles) who placed their trust in Jesus Christ for salvation during the Tribulation period** and are alive at Christ's Second Coming will enter the kingdom to form its initial population. They will continue living on this earth in human body with human inclinations, with human desires, and with human activity. Children will be born to those who enter the kingdom in their natural bodies. (Matthew 25:34, 13:43, Isaiah 65:23)
- **All Church-Age believers**, raptured at the beginning of the Tribulation, now with glorified bodies, will return with Jesus Christ to rule and reign with Him on the earth.
- **Tribulation saints** - those who were saved and who were killed (martyred) during the Tribulation period, now resurrected and in glorified bodies. (Revelation 20:4)
- **Old Testament believers**, (in heaven since Christ's resurrection) will be joined to their resurrected bodies at the end of the tribulation period when Jesus returns to earth to set up His millennial kingdom. These too will rule and reign with Christ on the earth. (Isaiah 26:19, Daniel 12:2, Job 19:25-27, Ezekiel 37:1-14)

b. _____ and his demons will be imprisoned, unable to affect those on the earth.

Revelation 20:1-3, Isaiah 24:22-23 tell us that at Christ's coming, Satan and his angels are totally removed from activity and access to earth, with no possibility of release for a thousand years. The purpose for this removal of Satan is clearly stated: "*that he should deceive the nations no more.*" The whole record of human history is a record of the deceitfulness of the devil, but now God says, "that will cease." Satan is bound and thrown into the Abyss with all his angels and God says, "for a thousand years the earth is going to live in peace."

c. Jesus Christ will establish His _____ Kingdom on earth where He will rule and reign over the inhabitants of the earth for 1000 years.

The earthly kingdom of Christ and His rule over the nations is taught in many passages in both the Old and New Testaments. Six times in Revelation 20:2-7, the millennial kingdom is specifically said to be 1,000 years in length.

Some, who are not dispensationalists, seek to interpret the 1,000 years in an allegorical manner. They understand the 1,000 years as merely a figurative way of saying "a long period of time," not a literal, physical reign of Jesus Christ on the earth. Many also believe that we are living in the kingdom age today, that the Church is the kingdom and Christ's reign is only a spiritual one, not literal and physical.

This cannot be so. The characteristics of the reign of Christ are plainly set forth in many passages, when interpreted in their normal literal sense.

Here are just a few of the details given as to the nature of Christ's millennial reign:

- **God will rule in the person of Jesus Christ on the throne of David.** King David reigns as a prince under Christ. (2 Samuel 7:16; Isaiah 24:23; Jeremiah 30:9; 33:15-17; Hosea 3:5; Luke 1:30-33)
- **Christ's rule will extend both spiritually and literally over the entire earth.** (Psalm 2:6-9; 72:8; Daniel 2:44; 4:34; 7:14, 7:27; Micah 4:1-2; Zechariah 9:10)
- **The earthly Jerusalem will be restored,** blessed, and greatly expanded to serve as the seat of government and worship. (Isaiah 62:1; 65:18-19; Ezekiel 48:15-19; Luke 21:24)
- **The heavens and earth will be renewed to restore the creation to Eden-like conditions** and repair the damage from man's long reign of abuse and the judgments of the Tribulation period. (Isaiah 65:17; Matthew 19:28)
- **Many aspects of the curse will be reversed.** People will live to a great age, but death will still occur. As before the flood, animals will revert to vegetarianism and will no longer fear man. (Isaiah 11:6-9; 65:20, 65:25; Ezekiel 47:8-12)

- **All implements of war will be destroyed in favour of implements of productivity.** Nations will no longer go to war. Disagreements between nations will be judged by Christ from Jerusalem. (Psalm 72:3-7; Isaiah 2:5; 9:7; Ezekiel 37:26; Micah 4:3)

Of these things that the Bible says will be true during the Kingdom age, **not one of these is true today!** All of these things will be **literally** fulfilled in the **future** when Jesus Christ is on the throne of this earth.

2. Man's Responsibility

During the Kingdom age countless numbers of children will be born. One thousand years is plenty of time for millions of people to be born and to grow up into adults.

As we have seen, the first children that are born will have saved parents. But having saved parents will not automatically make a child saved. Salvation is not something that parents can give (pass on) to their children through birth (John 1:13). Parents can teach their children about salvation, but each child must believe on Christ for himself.

While salvation is not passed on from parents to children, something else is passed on from parents to children: sin. Even though parents might be saved, they still have the sin nature which they pass on to their children (Psalm 51:5). Those who will be born in the kingdom will be born with wicked, sinful hearts.

What must a person do to be saved (Acts 16:30-31)?

Children born in the kingdom have a responsibility to _____

They have a responsibility to trust the King and allow the King to rule in their heart. Some of these children will believe on Christ but many others will not. Outwardly they will obey the King and follow His rules, but inwardly they will be against the King.

Even during the Kingdom age God will have enemies on earth. Though these enemies do not want to, they will submit to the King and obey Him. They will be afraid to disobey Him because of His power and greatness. They will pretend to honour and serve Him, and they will do what the King says even though in their hearts they are His enemies!

3. Man's Failure

Mankind will ultimately fail the test of the last dispensation. Some unsaved individuals will rebel outwardly against Christ's rule during His reign (Isaiah 11:3-4; 29:20-21; Jeremiah 31:29-30). Others will not rebel outwardly, but they will chafe inwardly.

When the seventh dispensation will end, and Satan will be released from the abyss, these people will follow Satan in his last revolt against God's rule (Revelation 20:7-10).

This failure of great multitudes of people, in spite of the perfect government and exceptional conditions of the seventh dispensation will demonstrate that the ultimate cause of mankind's failure and rebellion throughout history is not his external environment and circumstances. Instead, the cause is mankind's own inward, **sinful nature** which rejects the rule of God and asserts self-rule.

4. God's Judgment

Mankind's failure in conjunction with the seventh dispensation will bring God's judgment. Those people who will rebel outwardly during Christ's reign will be executed (Isaiah 11:3-4; 29:20-21; Jeremiah 31:29-30). In addition, God will crush the huge revolt which will take place at the end of the 1000 year kingdom by sending fire to destroy the human rebels and casting Satan into the lake of fire for everlasting torment (Revelation 20:9-10).

The events that follow will complete all of history:

- **THE FIRE JUDGMENT** (2 Peter 3:10-13 Revelation 20:11)

The old heaven and earth will be burned up. Nothing will be left of it.

- **THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT** (Revelation 20:11-15)

Unbelievers of every dispensation will be raised up to stand before the God whom they have rejected.

- **THE NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH** (Revelation 21-22)

God will make all things new (Revelation 21:5) and establish His eternal kingdom. This is not considered a dispensation, as it will never end. We will examine this further in our final lesson.

Conclusion – Important Lessons to Learn

- **Man has no one to blame for his problems except _____!**

Man has always tried to blame someone else or something else for his problems. Remember what happened with Adam and Eve? (Genesis 3:11-13) Men have been shifting the blame ever since.

The Kingdom age proves that man cannot blame anyone but himself.

Often men try to blame society for their problems and if we do these things all our problems will be solved. If we could only have a perfect environment to live in, this would be the answer! Can man blame society during the kingdom age? **No**

Man will not be able to blame the government because there will be a perfect government. He will not be able to blame poor education because the world will have the best education possible. He will not be able to blame his problems on ignorance because the whole earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord (Isaiah 11:9). He will not even be able to blame Satan, because during the thousand years Satan will have no influence over the earth, and yet men still will refuse to be saved!

The Kingdom age demonstrates that man can point the finger of blame only at Himself! **HE AND HE ALONE IS TO BLAME!**

- **Man's basic problem is _____.**

As we study the Kingdom age, we learn that the best conditions in the world do not change the heart of man (Jeremiah 17:9). The Kingdom dispensation demonstrates what every other dispensation has demonstrated: MAN'S BASIC PROBLEM IS SIN and until sin is dealt with a person's problems remain. If Christ Jesus is received as Saviour and Lord and if He is given control of the heart, then external problems and conditions will not be in the way of enjoying the living God.

- **Jesus Christ is the only _____!**

The Kingdom age will be the grand demonstration that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour (Acts 4:12). Society is not the Saviour. Good government is not the Saviour. Perfect environment is not the Saviour. Education is not the Saviour. All of these things are good, but none of these things is the real answer to the need of the human heart. The people who will take part in the final rebellion (Revelation 20:7-9) will have all of these things but they will not have the most important thing: a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

SIN IS THE PROBLEM. JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY SOLUTION!