

# GOD'S PLAN THROUGH THE AGES

## INTRODUCTION

### 1A. God's Plan: *Establish a Kingdom of Righteousness*

1B. Overarching theme of the Bible: *"God establishing his kingdom of righteousness."*

1C. Genesis 1, 2: *Redemption not necessary*

2C. Revelation 21, 22: *Redemption complete*

2B. Genesis 1-2: *God lays the foundation for His "Kingdom of Righteousness"*

3B. Revelation 21-22: *God brings to fullness His Kingdom of Righteousness*

4B. Genesis 3-Revelation 20: *The outworking of God's plan in history to establish His kingdom on the earth*

### 2A. Satan's war against God

1B. Genesis 3 - Revelation 20: *Satan's opposition to God's plan - his war against God*

2B. The highest angel becomes the adversary: *Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:11-17*

3B. One-third of angelic host drawn into Satan's rebellion: *Rev 12:3-9*

4B. A war of cosmic proportions in both the physical and spiritual realms

5B. A war that God, in His wisdom, has allowed.

6B. Two theaters of battle

1C. In the heavens: *Between the holy angels of God and Satan's legions of fallen angels*

2C. On the earth: *A battle for the souls of men*

7B. Satan's goal: *Defeat God and become the sovereign ruler over all creation*

### 3A. God's program in history: *Carried out in successive stages / phases (i.e., "dispensations")*

# OVERVIEW OF DISPENSATIONALISM

## 1A. The outworking of God's program in history

- 1B. Carried out in successive stages / phases (dispensations)
  
- 2B. Universal agreement: *Everyone understands there are some stages / phases in God's program*
  - 1C. For example: *No present access to the Tree of Life*
  - 2C. For example: *No present requirement to offer sacrifices*
  - 3C. For example: *Judgment by world-wide flood no longer a threat*
  
- 3B. Agreement among dispensationalists: *These phases represent the organizing principle by which God carries out his purposes and executes his plan in history, largely in connection with biblical covenants.*
  
- 4B. Differences among dispensationalists
  - 1C. Concerning the number and timing of the phases
  - 2C. Concerning the distinguishing features of each phase
  - 3C. Concerning the degree of continuity / discontinuity between the phases
  
- 5B. Broad disagreement within Christendom: *Most of Christendom does not accept dispensational theology primarily because of difference in hermeneutics*

## 2A. A literal, grammatical, historical hermeneutic

- 1B. What is "hermeneutics"? (in the plural)
  
- 2B. What is a "hermeneutic"?
  
- 3B. Reveals (among other things)...
  - 1C. Reveals the God-centeredness of history
  - 2C. Reveals a distinction between Israel and the church
  - 3C. Reveals a distinction between the Kingdom of God and the church
  
- 4B. When consistently applied, leads to a specific theological system: *"Dispensationalism"*

## 3A. "Dispensational Theology"

*Dispensational Theology can be defined very simply as a system of theology which attempts to develop the Bible's philosophy of history on the basis of the sovereign rule of God. It represents the whole of Scripture and history as being covered by several dispensations of God's rule. (Renald Showers)*

**4A. "Dispensation"**

*"A dispensation is a divinely revealed system of morals, values, promises, and rules that God imposes on a particular generation." (John Walvoord)*

**5A. "Dispensationalism"**

*"A theological system, ...*

*derived from a literal, grammatical, historical hermeneutic, ...*

*which recognizes that God carries out His plan to establish His kingdom through a series of phases in history, ...*

*each with its own rules, responsibilities, and promises of blessing as set forth by God, ...*

*as well as judgments against unfaithfulness, wickedness and unbelief." (David James)*

**6A. "Dispensation" in NT usage: οἰκονομέω / οἰκονόμος / οἰκονομία****1B. Ephesians 1:10: οἰκονομία****1C. Translated as "dispensation" (KJV, NKJV)**

*that in the **dispensation** of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.*

**2C. Translated as "administration" (NAS)**

*with a view to an **administration** suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him*

**2B. Luke 16:1-3**

*He also said to His disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a **steward** (οἰκονόμος) and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. So he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your **stewardship** (οἰκονομία), for you can no longer **be steward** (οἰκονομέω).'*

**1C. Verb: οἰκονομέω  
(1x - Luke 16:2)****2C. Noun: οἰκονόμος  
(10x - Luke 12:42; 16:1, 16:3, 16:8; Rom. 16:23; 1 Cor. 4:1, 2; Gal.4:2; Tit. 1:7; 1 Pet. 4:10)****3C. Noun: οἰκονομία  
(9x - Luke 16:2, 16:3, 16:4, 1 Cor. 9:17; Eph. 1:10; 3:2; 3:9; Col. 1:25; [1Tim. 1:4 - textual variant here, NKJV = "edification" > οἰκοδομία])****7A. Features / Characteristics of a dispensation:**

*A unique (usually covenantal) arrangement in God's governance of mankind in which...*

**1B. God gives new revelation for the present and future dispensations****1C. Concerning man's ongoing and new responsibilities and accountability****2C. Concerning God's promises of blessing and judgment (including the consequences associated with commendation and condemnation)**

2B. God holds man accountable for faithfulness to his responsibilities

3B. God fulfills his promises of judgment and / or blessing

**8A. End-Times distinctives of Pretribulational Premillennial Dispensationalism**

1B. The imminency of the Rapture

2B. The relative timing of the Rapture, Tribulation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming, the Millennium, and the Final Judgment

| <b>Dispensations</b>   | <b>Historical Eras</b>   |
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| <p><b>1. Innocence</b><br/>                     Genesis 1:28 - 3:6<br/> <i>Before 4000 B.C.</i></p>  | <p><b>1. Creation to the Fall</b></p>  |
| <p><b>2. Conscience</b><br/>                     Genesis 3:7 - 8:14<br/> <i>Before 4000 B.C.</i></p>   | <p><b>2. The Fall to the Flood</b></p>   |
| <p><b>3. Government</b><br/>                     Genesis 8:15 - 11:32<br/> <i>Before 2300 B.C.</i></p>   | <p><b>3. The Flood to Abraham</b><br/> <i>1: The Flood to the judgment at Babel</i><br/> <i>2: Babel to the call of Abraham</i></p>  |
| <p><b>4. Promise</b><br/>                     Genesis 12 - Exodus 18<br/> <i>2200 - 1445 B.C.</i></p>  | <p><b>4. Abraham to Moses</b><br/> <i>1: Life of Abraham</i><br/> <i>2: Life of Isaac</i><br/> <i>3: Life of Jacob</i><br/> <i>4: 400 years in Egypt</i></p>   |
| <p><b>5. Law</b><br/>                     Exodus 19 - Acts 1<br/> <i>1445 B.C. - 30 A.D. (or 33)</i></p>   | <p><b>5. Moses to Pentecost</b><br/> <i>1. Deliverance and Wanderings under Moses</i><br/> <i>2. Conquest and Settlement under Joshua</i><br/> <i>3. Era of the Judges</i><br/> <i>4. United Kingdom Era</i><br/> <i>5. Divided Kingdom Era</i><br/> <i>6. Babylonian Conquest, Exile and Return</i><br/> <i>7. "Era of Silence"</i><br/> <i>8: Life of Christ</i></p> |
| <p><b>6. Church</b><br/>                     Acts 2 - Revelation 3<br/> <i>30 A.D. to at least today</i></p>   | <p><b>6. Pentecost to the Rapture</b><br/> <i>1. Apostolic Era</i><br/> <i>2. Early Church through the Reformation</i><br/> <i>3. Reformation to the present</i></p>   |
| <p><b>7. Day of the Lord</b><br/>                     Revelation 3 - Revelation 20<br/> <i>At least 7 years from today to at least 1007 years from today</i></p> | <p><b>7. The Rapture to the Great White Throne Judgment</b><br/> <i>1. The Rapture, Tribulation and 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming</i><br/> <i>2. The Millennial Kingdom</i><br/> <i>3. The Great White Throne Judgment</i></p>   |

# ETERNITY PAST THROUGH THE CREATION

Genesis 1:1 — 27

## ***“In the beginning God . . .”***

- 1A. The person of God: *The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit*
  
- 2A. The plan of God: *Establish a Kingdom*
  
- 3A. The procedure of God: *Create a realm and subjects*
  - 1B. Creation of the spiritual realm and subjects (heaven and the angels)
  
  - 2B. Creation of the physical realm and subjects (the universe and man)
  
  - 3B. Creation's time frame: *6 literal, 24-hour days*
  
- 4A. The purpose of God: *To demonstrate His sovereignty and bring glory to Himself*
  
- 5A. The power of God: *“And God said . . .” — and it was so*
  
- 6A. The proclamation of God: *“Everything is very good”* (Gen. 1:31)

*God's Plan through the Ages in the*  
**DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE**

#1: Genesis 1:28 — 3:6

**1A. The Creation and Rise of Man**

- 1B. Man's original nature and condition  
*Experientially innocent, morally righteous, spiritually alive, completely free*
- 2B. Man's original home and environment: *The Garden of Eden*
- 3B. Man's original relationship with God
- 4B. Man's original relationship with others
- 5B. Man's original relationship to the Creation
- 6B. Man's original purpose and responsibilities

**2A. The Rebellion and Fall of Angels**

- 1B. Time of the rebellion
- 2B. Participants in the rebellion
- 3B. Nature of the rebellion
- 4B. Results of the rebellion

**3A. The Rebellion and Fall of Man**

- 1B. The timing of the rebellion
- 2B. The rebellion is incited
- 3B. The rebellion is consummated

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| **Dispensational Transition #1 Begins** |

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- 4B. The rebellion is confronted

- 5B. The rebellion is judged
  - 1C. Judgment upon the serpent
  - 2C. Judgment upon the woman
  - 3C. Judgment upon the man
  - 4C. Judgment upon the Creation
  
- 6B. The rebellion's consequences
  - 1C. Man dies spiritually
  - 2C. Man dies physically
  - 3C. Man forfeit's his dominion
  - 4C. Satan gains a realm and new subjects

*God's Plan through the Ages in the*  
**DISPENSATION OF CONSCIENCE**

#2: Genesis 3:7 — 8:14

**1A. Requirements for victory and establishment of God's kingdom**

- 1B. Retake and restore the realm of the kingdom
  
- 2B. Retake and restore the earthly subjects of the kingdom
  - 1C. Spiritual restoration: *forgiven sin & eternal life*
  - 2C. Physical restoration: *an incorruptible, immortal body*
  - 3C. Positional restoration: *God's regent on the earth*

**2A. God's provision and promises**

- 1B. Promise of victory over the serpent and his offspring
  
- 2B. A sacrifice and covering
  
- 3B. Access blocked to the Tree of Life

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| **Dispensational Transition #1 Complete** |

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**3A. A series of firsts: The first birth, sacrifice, murder**

**4A. Conflict between the offspring of the serpent and the woman**

- 1B. The seed of the serpent: "children of the devil" - characterized by conflict, death and destruction
  - 1C. Cain
  
  - 2C. 7<sup>th</sup> generation: *Lamech*
  
- 2B. The seed of the woman: "sons of promise" - characterized by peace, redemption and restoration
  - 1C. Abel and Seth
  
  - 2C. 7<sup>th</sup> generation: *Enoch*



**5A. Genesis ch. 5: And he died...**

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| **Dispensational Transition #2 Begins** |

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**6A. The Flood**

1B. Wickedness abounds: *"The sons of God saw the daughters of men..."*

1C. "Sons of God" >> Angels (**Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7**)

2C. "Sons of men" >> Humans (**Gen 11:5; 2 Sam 7:14; 1 Kings 8:49, etc**)

2B. God proclaims judgment: *"I, Myself, am bringing floodwaters on the earth..."* (**Gen 6:17**)

3B. God promises blessing: *"But I will establish My covenant with you..."* (**Gen 6:18**)

4B. God executes judgment: *"And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth."* (**Gen 7:10**)

5B. Prophetic significance of the Flood account

**Isaiah 54:7-10**

**Matthew 24:37-44**

**2 Peter 3:5-7**

*God's Plan through the Ages in the*  
**DISPENSATION OF GOVERNMENT**

#3: Genesis 8:15 — 11:32

**1A. The Noahic Covenant**

- 1B. A command to re-fill the earth: Noah becomes the new father of all of mankind
- 2B. Meat added as permissible food (*blood prohibited*)
- 3B. Institution of a basic form of government (*capital punishment*)
- 4B. Eternal, unconditional promise to never again destroy the earth by flood
- 5B. The sign of the covenant

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| **Dispensational Transition #2 Complete** |

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**2A. Satanic opposition continues: Ham's sin**

- 1B. The curse upon Canaan ("children of the devil")
- 2B. The blessing upon Shem ("sons of promise")
- 3B. The blessing upon Japeth ("children of the devil")

**3A. Noah's sons and their descendants (*Table of Nations*)**

- 1B. Ham
  - 1C. Southern peoples
    - 1D. Mizraim: Egypt
    - 2D. Cush: Ethiopia, northern Sudan
    - 3D. Put: Libya
  - 2C. In the Promised Land: Canaan
  - 3C. Nimrod's kingdom: Eastern peoples
- 2B. Shem: Middle East peoples
- 3B. Japheth: Northern peoples and "sea peoples" (Philistines)

**4A. Babel: Mankind united against God**

## 1B. The city

1C. World's governmental HQ

2C. Prophetic significance

**Isaiah 14:13****Revelation 17**

## 2B. The tower

1C. World's religious HQ

2C. Prophetic significance

**Isaiah 14:14****Ezekiel 28:14-16 (indirectly)****Revelation 18**


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**| Dispensational Transition #3 Begins |**


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3B. God's judgment: *Division of language*

1C. Forces division of the world into nations

2C. When: 5 generations after the Flood (**Gen 10:25**)3C. Prophetic significance: *unknown languages as a sign of judgment***Deut 28:49****Acts 2:4, 16-12 >> Joel 2:28-32****1 Cor 14:21 >> Isaiah 28:11-12**

*God's Plan through the Ages in the*  
**DISPENSATION OF PROMISE**

#4: Genesis 12:1 — Exodus 18:32

**1A. Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12, 15, 17)**

**1B. Stage #1: Call of Abram**

Seven Promises **(Genesis 12:1-3)**

- 1C. *I will make you into a great nation*
- 2C. *I will bless you*
- 3C. *I will make your name great*
- 4C. *You will be a blessing*
- 5C. *I will bless those who bless you*
- 6C. *I will curse those who curse you*
- 7C. *All peoples on earth will be blessed through you*

**2B. Stage #2: Promise of land and descendants (Genesis 13:14-17)**

- 1C. Command: *Look around you at the land*
- 2C. Promise: *I will give all that you see to you and your offspring*
- 3C. Promise: *I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth*
- 4C. Command: *Walk throughout the land because I am giving it to you*

**3B. Stage #3: Promise of a physical heir (Genesis 15:1-6)**

- 1C. *"Do not be afraid. I am your shield and very great reward."*
- 2C. *"A son coming from your own body. . . Your offspring will be as numerous as the stars."*
- 3C. Moses: Abram believed God and *he credited to him as righteousness.*

**4B. Stage #4: Cutting of the covenant (Genesis 15:7-21)**

- 1C. Abram's sacrifice
- 2C. Warning of future captivity / servitude
- 3C. Promise of deliverance with great wealth
- 4C. Ratification of the covenant
- 5C. Promise of the land from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates

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| **Dispensational Transition #3 Complete** |

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5B. **Stage #5: Confirmation and sign of the covenant (Genesis 17:1-22)**

1C. Recitation / confirmation of the covenant

2C. Sign of the covenant

**2A. Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah**

1B. The sin

2B. Prophetic significance

**Matt 10:15, Mark 6:11, Luke 10:12****2 Peter 2:6, Jude 7****Revelation 11:8****3A. Conflict between the "sons of promise" (godly line) and the "children of the devil" (wicked line)**1B. Descendants of Lot (*Moabites and Ammonites*)

2B. Descendants of Isaac and Ishmael

3B. Descendants of Jacob (Israel) and Esau (Edom)

4B. Descendants of Jacob and Egypt

5B. Prophetic significance

**4A. The life of Moses**1B. 1<sup>st</sup> 40 years: In Egypt2B. 2<sup>nd</sup> 40 years: In Midian

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**| Dispensational Transition #4 Begins |**

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3B. 3<sup>rd</sup> 40 years: From Egypt to the threshold of Canaan

1C. Call of Moses

2C. The plague judgments

3C. The Passover

4C. The Exodus

4B. Prophetic significance

*God's Plan through the Ages in the*  
**DISPENSATION OF LAW**

#5: Exodus 19 — Acts 1

*The Era of Moses (Exodus — Deuteronomy)*

**1A. The giving of the Law**

- 1B. The first tablets
- 2B. The gold calf incident
- 3B. The second tablets

**2A. The significance of the Mosaic Covenant in God's program**

- 1B. For Israel nationally
  - 1C. Officially unites the God of the universe with His chosen people
  - 2C. Provides an objective basis for Israel's blessing and judgment by God
  - 3C. Provides a basis for justly governing the people of God
  - 4C. Demands strict separation from the pagan nations
- 2B. For Israelites personally
  - 1C. Provides a basis for understanding God's holiness and how to deal with sin
  - 2C. Provides a basis for understanding the need for a permanent solution to man's sin problem
  - 3C. Provides a means for expressing faith and fellowship with God
  - 4C. Provides principles and laws for appropriately relating to others
- 3B. For the nations

*Provides a means for all to participate in the Covenant and experience fellowship with God through union with the nation of Israel and observance of the Law*
- 4B. HOWEVER...
  - 1C. The Law was never a means of salvation for anyone in any generation
  - 2C. The pattern was always "Abraham believed God..."
  - 3C. The Law was not a curse, but a blessing, holy, righteous, good (Ps. 1, 19, 119; Rom. 7)
  - 4C. But, all who rely on the Law (for justification) are under a curse (Gal. 3)

**3A. The Significance of the Ark and the Tabernacle in God's program**

- 1B. God's dwelling place and throne is on the earth among His people
- 2B. Between a holy God and His broken Law: *The blood of an innocent sacrifice*

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**| Dispensational Transition #4 Complete |**

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**4A. Failure at Kadesh-Barnea and God's 40-year Judgment**

- 1B. The report of the spies
  
- 2B. The response of the people
  
- 3B. The consequences
  
- 4B. The provision

**5A. The Land Covenant: "The Treaty of the Great King" (Deuteronomy)**

- 1B. The general form: *A.N.E. treaty between a king and his subjects*
  
- 2B. The basis: *The great and gracious deeds of the benevolent Great King*
  
- 3B. The conditions: *Blessing requires complete loving obedience and loyalty*



*God's Plan Through the Ages in the*  
**DISPENSATION OF LAW**

#5: Exodus 19 — Acts 1

*The Era of Joshua and the Judges (Joshua — Ruth)*

**1A. Joshua: Conquest and Settlement of the Promised Land**

- 1B. **Succession:** The Lord confirms Joshua's commission as Moses' successor (1)
- 2B. **Grace:** The Lord demonstrates His grace to a pagan prostitute (2)
- 3B. **Deliverance:** The Lord delivers Israel into the Promised Land as He delivered her out of Egypt (3, 4)
- 4B. **Dedication:** Israel celebrates the Passover and dedicates this new generation with the sign of the covenant (5)
- 5B. **Central Campaign:** The Lord provides victories at Jericho and later Ai (after an initial defeat) (6-8)
- 6B. **Covenant Renewal:** Israel renews the Mosaic Covenant in its entirety (8)
- 7B. **Southern and Northern Campaigns:** Israel defeats the Kings of the North and South (9-11)
- 8B. **Victory:** Israel documents the Lord's victories with a defeated Kings list (12)
- 9B. **Division / Settlement:** Israel divides the Land for settlement (13-22)
- 10B. **Farewell:** Joshua reminds Israel that faith and obedience are necessary for any given generation to experience the complete fulfillment of God's eternal and unconditional promises (23)
- 11B. **Second Renewal:** Joshua renews the Mosaic Covenant once again, this time at Shechem (24)

**2A. Judges: 350 years of apostasy and anarchy**

- 1B. 350 years - 7 cycles: **SIN >> JUDGMENT >> REPENTANCE >> DELIVERANCE**
- 2B. 13 judges (+ Eli and Samuel)
- 3B. The incomplete conquest issue (**Judges 3:1-2**)
- 4B. "Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord" (**7 times: 2:11, 3:7, 3:12, 4:1, 6:1, 10:6, 13:1**)
- 5B. God's final commentary on the era of the Judges (**Judges 21:25**)

*God's Plan through the Ages in the*  
**DISPENSATION OF LAW**

#5: Exodus 19 — Acts 1

*The Era of the United Kingdom (1 Samuel — 1 Kings 11)*

**1A. Two kinds of priests**

- 1B. Samuel, God's priest (and prophet and judge)
  
- 2B. Eli's sons, the people's priests
  - 3B. Fertility worship at the Tabernacle **(1 Sam 3:12ff)**
  - 4B. Loss of the ark and the departure of God's glory **(1 Sam 4:1ff)**

**2A. Two kinds of kings**

- 1B. Saul, the people's King - *"Like the kings of the nations"*
  - 1C. Saul's rise to power **(1 Sam 8-12)**
  - 2C. Saul's sins and fall
    - 1D. Failure #1: *Loses his kingdom* **(1 Sam 13 - sacrificed)**
    - 2D. Failure #2: *Loses his life* **(1 Sam 15 - Agag spared)**
  
- 2B. David, God's King - *"A man after God's own heart"* **(1 Sam 13:14)**
  - 1C. David's rise to power **(1 Sam 16ff)**
  - 2C. The Davidic Covenant **(2 Sam 7)**
    - 1D. The nation of Israel
    - 2D. David's descendant
    - 3D. Unconditional fulfillment **(cf. Jeremiah 31:31ff)**
  - 3C. David's sin and decline **(2 Sam 11ff)**

**3A. Two phases of life: Solomon, the wise and foolish king - *"his wives turned away his heart"***

- 1B. Worshiper of the true God
  - 1C. The builder of God's house
  - 2C. The glory of the Lord returns
  - 3C. The Davidic Covenant is confirmed *(with modifications)* **(1 Kings 9:1-9)**
  
- 2B. Worshiper of false gods **(1 Kings 11)**

*God's Plan through the Ages in the***DISPENSATION OF LAW**

#5: Moses — Pentecost (Exodus 19 — Acts 1)

*The Era of the Divided Kingdom (1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings)***1A. Division of the kingdom**

1B. Rehoboam's foolish decision

2B. Israel's angry reaction

**2A. Major Failures in the North**1B. **10th century:** Jeroboam (931-909 B.C.)..... 1 Kings 11-14, 2 Chron. 9-13*Institutes worship of Egyptian gods*2B. **9th century:** Ahab and Jezebel (874-852 B.C.). . . . . 1 Kings 16-22, 2 Chron. 18

Builds a temple to Baal in the capital, makes Baal worship the official religion in Israel with 850 prophets, killing most of God's prophets

3B. **8th century:** Jeroboam II (793-752 B.C.). . . . . 2 Kings 14

Reigned the longest of any northern king, but failed to repent in spite of the Lord's mercy and faithfulness to His promises

4B. **Commentary (14 times):** *"He did evil in the eyes of the Lord. During his entire reign he did not turn from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit."***3A. Major Victories in the South**1B. **10th century:** Asa (911-870 B.C.)..... 1 Kings 15, 2 Chron. 14-16

His heart was dedicated to the Lord - expelled the male shrine prostitutes and destroyed the idols

2B. **9th century:** Jehoshaphat (873-848 B.C.). . . . . 1 Kings 22, 2 Chron. 17-20

Walked in the ways of his fathers David and Asa, worshiping God and getting rid of pagan worship

3B. **8th century:** Hezekiah (716-687 B.C.). . . . . 2 Kings 18-20, 2 Chron. 29-32

Walked in the ways of his father David, and destroyed Moses' bronze snake because of idolatry

4B. **7th century:** Josiah (641-610 B.C.)..... 2 Kings 22-23, 2 Chron. 34-35

Became king at 8 years old, and walked in the ways of David

**4A. Major Failures in the South**1B. **10th century:** Rehoboam (931-914 B.C.)..... 1 Kings 11-14, 2 Chron. 9-12

Allows idol worship and shrine prostitution (male and female) throughout the land

- 2B. **9th century: Queen Athaliah (841-835 B.C.).** . . . . . 2 Kings 11, 2 Chron. 22-23  
 Daughter of Ahab and Jezebel who seized the throne after her son's death and attempts to totally wipe out the royal seed of David — and succeeds except for Joash
- 3B. **8th century: Azariah (Uzziah) (792-740 B.C.).** . . . . . 2 Kings 15, 2 Chron. 26  
 Even though greatly blessed by God, his success led to pride and then to his downfall
- 4B. **7th century: Manasseh (697-642 B.C.).** . . . . . 2 Kings 21, 2 Chron. 33  
 The most wicked king, who re-instituted Baal worship, built pagan altars in the temple, sacrificed his son, practiced sorcery

#### 5A. The Role of the Pre-Exilic Prophets

- 1B. Forth-tellers: proclaiming God's message to awaken the present generation to the imminent judgment / blessings in God's program
- 2B. Fore-tellers: proclaiming God's message to prepare future generations for the coming judgment / blessing in God's program

#### 6A. The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31)

- 1B. The background to the New Covenant
- 1C. Historically: Israel, on its own, will never meet its obligations to the Treaty of the Great King
- 2C. Prophetically: God's plan ultimately includes provision for Israel's future relationship to Him in terms of this treaty
- 2B. The provisions of the New Covenant
- 1C. The relationship restored between God and His people, with the Law in their hearts
- 2C. The entire nation will know God and He will forgive their sins
- 3B. The Nature of the New Covenant
- 1C. God will ultimately prevail
- 2C. Israel will ultimately return
- 3C. As a result all the promises will ultimately be fulfilled
- 4C. Therefore: This covenant is ultimately unilateral and unconditional
- 4B. Our participation in the New Covenant
- 1C. Inaugurated (**Matt 26:26-29**)
- 2C. Remembered & anticipated: (**1 Cor 11:23-34**)

*God's Plan through the Ages in the***DISPENSATION OF LAW**

#5: Moses — Pentecost (Exodus 19:1 — Acts 1:26)

*The Era of the Exile and Return (1, 2 Chronicles)***1A. Satan's Relentless Attacks and Apparent Victory: The Babylonian captivity**

- 1B. A series of attacks by the Babylonians, Arameans, Moabites and Ammonites to destroy Judah – initiated by the Lord because of the sins of Manasseh (2 Kings 24:2-4)
- 2B. A series of 3 major deportations (605, 597, 586 B.C.) – God handed them all over to Nebuchadnezzar (2 Chron. 36:17)
- 3B. The total destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple (586 B.C.) – the glory of the Lord departs, never to return (2 Kings 25:9; 2 Chron. 36:19)

**2A. God's provision: 70 years of Protection, Preservation and Purification**

- 1B. The protection and preservation of a witness to the Lord's faithfulness - especially Daniel and Ezekiel
- 2B. The protection, preservation and purification of a remnant that will return to the Promised Land
- 3B. The humbling of the king-god of Babylon by the God- King of Israel (Daniel 4)
- 4B. The conquest of the Babylonian Empire by the Medo- Persian Empire (539 BC)
- 5B. The decree by Cyrus authorizing the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the Temple (538)(Ezra 1:1-4)

**3A. The Role of the Exilic and Post-Exilic Prophets**

- 1B. They were "forth-tellers" — proclaiming the message of God to . . .
  - 1C. Israel that the time of His judgment has come
  - 2C. The nations that all the world is responsible before him
- 2B. They were "fore-tellers" — proclaiming the message of God to . . .
  - 1C. Israel, encouraging her with the hope of future restoration
  - 2C. The nations, warning them about the certainty of future judgment
- 3B. Both roles were God's gracious provision in keeping with His faithfulness to His promises

**4A. Satan's Apparent Victory: Summary and Overview**

- 1B. The people break every major promise concerning tithes, marriage and the Sabbath
- 2B. Israel is still under Gentile domination and mistreatment - the Promised Deliverer has not yet come
- 3B. The Jews are as discouraged, cynical and rebellious as ever
- 4B. There is no descendant of David on the throne - God appears to have abandoned His people
- 5B. God's glory hasn't returned to the rebuilt temple

*God's Plan through the Ages in the***DISPENSATION OF LAW**

#5: Moses — Pentecost (Exodus 19:1 — Acts 1:26)

*The Era of "Silence"***1A. Nation of Israel****2A. Greek Empire**

- 1B. Invasion (334 BC) and defeat (331 BC) of the Persian Empire by the Greco-Macedonian army under Alexander the Great
- 2B. Expansion of the empire as far east as India - with Greek becoming the international trade language
- 3B. Alexander's death (323 B.C.) at an early age and internal struggles that divide the empire
- 4B. Desecration of the Temple by Antiochus Epiphanes (169 B.C.)
- 5B. The Maccabean revolt (166 B.C.), the cleansing of the Temple and restoration of worship (164 B.C.)

**3A. Roman Empire**

- 1B. Rome conquers...
  - 1C. Macedonia (northern Greece) (148 B.C.)
  - 2C. Achaia (southern Greece) (146 B.C.)
  - 3C. Carthage (146 B.C.) giving them Africa
- 2B. Pompey conquers Jerusalem (63 B.C.) and Judea is annexed to Syria
- 3B. Julius Caesar continues conquest of much of Europe (50's B.C.)
- 4B. Caesar Augustus defeats Antony and Cleopatra (31 B.C.)
- 5B. Herod appointed as Governor of Judea (37 B.C.)

*God's Plan through the Ages in the***DISPENSATION OF LAW**

#5: Moses — Pentecost (Exodus 19:1 — Acts 1:26)

*The Era of Christ (Matthew 1:1 — Acts 1:26)***1A. Fulfillment of God's promises begins: *The coming of the Messiah*****2A. OT Prophets: *Repent! The Day of the Lord is coming!*****3A. Christ: *Repent! The Kingdom of God is at hand!***

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**| Dispensational Transition #5 Begins |**

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**4A. Satan's Relentless Attacks / The Father's Faithful Provision**

- 1B. Jesus' Life
- 2B. Jesus' Character
- 3B. Jesus' Message
- 4B. Jesus' Authority

**5A. Satan's Apparent Victories**

- 1B. Jesus' Rejection
- 2B. Jesus' Betrayal
- 3B. Jesus' Denial
- 4B. Jesus' Crucifixion"

**6A. Fulfillment of God's Promises / Provision for ultimate victory**

- 1B. "Another Comforter"
- 2B. The New Covenant
- 3B. The Resurrection
- 4B. Jesus' 40-day ministry

God's Plan through the Ages in the

# THE DISPENSATION OF THE CHURCH

#6: Pentecost — The Rapture (Acts 2 — Revelation 3)

*The Era of the Church in the 1st Century (Acts 2:1 — Jude)*

## 1A. The coming of the Holy Spirit

## 2A. Peter's offer of the kingdom

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| Dispensational Transition #5 Complete |

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## 3A. Attacks from Outside the Church

### 1B. Attacks by the Jews

1C. Organized and systematic persecution - led by Saul of Tarsus

2C. Sporadic and reactionary persecution - led or incited by Jews wherever the Gospel was preached

### 2B. Attacks by the Romans

1C. Initial attempts at containment of this "Jewish sect"

2C. Later, sporadic, yet intense persecution — first by Nero (54-68 A.D.) and then by following Emperors

## 4A. Attacks from Within the Church

1B. Judaizing / Legalism - Clinging / Returning to the Law

2B. Antinomianism - Rejecting all law

3B. Syncretism - Compromising the truth

4B. Heresy - Distorting the truth

5B. Apostasy - Rejecting the truth

## 5A. The Apostles in God's Program

### 1B. The Nature of their ministry

1C. To call Israel to repentance and re-offer the Kingdom

2C. To facilitate the (dispensational) transition in God's program

3C. To evangelize and disciple



- 4C. To exhort and teach
- 5C. To encourage and edify
- 6C. To purify and protect in the present
- 7C. To prepare for the future

2B. Results of their ministry

- 1C. Signs and wonders accompanied the proclamation of the Gospel - bringing healing, deliverance and validation of their ministry and message
- 2C. Countless thousands were saved as people everywhere (Jew and Gentile) heard the Good News - Jews and Gentiles brought together into "one new man"
- 3C. Their disciples continued the work
- 4C. Christianity spread into Europe, Asia and Africa

3B. The cost of their ministry: Everything

- 1C. Imprisonment
- 2C. Exile
- 3C. Execution

**6A. Destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in A.D. 70**

*God's Plan through the Ages in the*  
**DISPENSATION OF THE CHURCH**

#6: Pentecost — The Rapture (Acts 2 — Revelation 3)

*The Era of the Church through the Reformation*

**1A. Christianity under the Roman Empire**

1B. Christianity persecuted (to 311 A.D.)

*Syncretism unlikely*

2B. Christianity tolerated (Edict by Emperor Galerius - 311 A.D.)

*Syncretism unnecessary*

3B. Christianity favored (Edict by Emperor Constantine - 313 A.D.)

*Syncretism unrestrained*

4B. Christianity forced (Edict by Theodosius I - 380 A.D.)

*Syncretism unavoidable*

**2A. The Dark Ages (6<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> centuries)**

1B. Dogma and Tradition: *Man increasingly becomes ignorant of God*

2B. Authority and Power: *Man increasingly becomes enslaved by the church*

3B. The Church-State: *The consolidation of wicked governments and false religion*

**3A. The Rise and Threat of Islam (A.D. 610)**

1B. Shi'ites

2B. Sunnis

**4A. The Renaissance (14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> centuries)**

1B. Man becomes increasingly independent from God as humanism develops

2B. The Church is characterized by struggles for relevance

**5A. Movement Towards Reformation**

1B. Peter Waldo (12<sup>th</sup> century, France)

1C. Rejected ecclesiastical authority and the intermediary role of the clergy

2C. Traveled and openly preached the Bible in the vernacular

- 2B. William of Ockham (13th century, Germany)
  - 1C. Claimed Christ was the only head of the Church, rejecting papal authority
  - 2C. Stressed that God is known by faith alone - not by reason or illumination
  
- 3B. John Wyclif (14th century, England)
  - 1C. Opposed the doctrines of transubstantiation and a clerical priesthood
  - 2C. Initiated a translation of the Vulgate Bible into English
  
- 4B. Jan Hus (14th, 15th century, Bohemia)
  - 1C. Emphasized piety and purity of life (influenced by Wyclif)
  - 2C. Accepted ecclesiastical authority, but rejected mediation, condemning corruption
  
- 5B. Jerome Savonarola (15th century, Italy)
  - 1C. Retained Catholic theology, but initiated much-needed social reforms in Florence
  - 2C. Denounced corruption in the papacy, declaring the pope wasn't Christian - and was executed

#### **6A. The Reformation**

- 1B. Martin Luther (October 31, 1517)
  - 1C. Sale of Indulgences
  - 2C. Salvation by grace through faith
- 2B. Zwingli - Switzerland
- 3B. Calvin - France
- 4B. Knox - Scotland
- 5B. Three main issues
  - 1C. Salvation - by faith
  - 2C. Priesthood - of the believer
  - 3C. The Bible - as the final authority

#### **7A. The Counter-Reformation (Catholic Reformation)**

- 1B. Practical steps taken
  - 1C. Reform of the papacy
  - 2C. Founding of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits)
  - 3C. Re-institution of the Inquisition
  - 4C. "Index of forbidden books"
  - 5C. "Wars of religion" to forcibly retake Europe from Protestantism

- 2B. Theological decisions made: *The Council of Trent (1545 - 1563 A.D.)*
  - 1C. Justification is by faith **and** subsequent works
  - 2C. The "Real Presence" in the Eucharist
  - 3C. The Seven Sacraments
  - 4C. Celibacy of holy orders
  - 5C. Existence of Purgatory
  - 6C. Equal authority of Scripture and Tradition
  - 7C. Canonicity of the Apocrypha
  - 8C. Sale of Indulgences (although abuses condemned)
  - 9C. Church dogma is fully binding - with curses upon dissenters

*God's Plan through the Ages in the*  
**DISPENSATION OF THE CHURCH**

#6: Pentecost — The Rapture (Acts 2 — Revelation 3)

*The Era of the Church through the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*

**1A. Apostasy through Intellectualism**

- 1B. Rationalism: Reason is the key to discovering truth
- 2B. Empiricism: The senses are the key to discovering truth
- 3B. Deism: The fundamental concepts of rationalism and empiricism, while retaining concept of a Creator
- 4B. Logical Consequences
  - 1C. Philosophy and science replace the Scriptures as the only reliable source of truth
  - 2C. Man replaces God as the ultimate authority
  - 3C. Man is essentially good and capable of establishing a golden age on the earth

**2A. Revival through Preaching the Word**

- 1B. In England: John and Charles Wesley, George Whitefield
- 2B. In America: Whitefield and Edwards

**3A. Apostasy through Theological Speculation**

- 1B. Kant
  - 1C. Man's knowledge of spiritual truth is intuitive or experiential
  - 2C. The Bible as God's objective revelation is not true
- 2B. Hegel
  - 1C. The historicity of Christianity's claims are not important - its essence and greatness resides in its ideas
  - 2C. The Bible as an historically reliable document is not true
- 3B. Schleirmacher
  - 1C. The essence of Christianity is a directly experienced encounter with God
  - 2C. The Bible is merely a human record of these kinds of experiences
- 4B. Logical results
  - 1C. The Bible is a largely a human record of man's religious development
  - 2C. The Bible may contain the Word of God, but must be analyzed to determine what parts really are
  - 3C. A human document of limited historical value because it contains errors, legends and contradictions

- 4C. The Bible as a reliable source of truth is unlikely since these accounts of history, miracles, supernatural revelation may or may not be accurate

#### **4A. Apostasy through Social Theory: *Karl Marx***

- 1B. Writings: Communist Manifesto (1848), Das Kapital (1867)
- 2B. Theories:
  - 1C. History can be explained in terms of the economic realities of class conflict - including
  - 2C. Therefore religion, being a human invention, is just a tool of the elite to keep the masses in servitude
- 3B. Logical results: The extremes of this will be seen in the 20th century

#### **5A. Apostasy through Scientific Speculation: *Charles Darwin***

- 1B. The Two Fundamental Issues
  - 1C. The veracity of the Bible: The Genesis account of the Creation must be patently false - destroying the concept of an inspired, inerrant and infallible Bible
  - 2C. The plan of redemption: It strikes at the heart of the deepest theological issues - destroying the concepts of man's sinful nature and the need for a Redeemer
- 2B. Logical results: *The Two Primary Reactions*
  - 1C. Humanistic despair
    - 1D. The Bible account of Creation isn't true, therefore the Bible isn't true
    - 2D. I can't believe anything the Bible says concerning Christianity
    - 3D. Life has no inherent meaning
  - 2C. Humanistic optimism
    - 1D. The Biblical account of Creation isn't true, therefore the Bible isn't completely true
    - 2D. I can believe what I choose concerning what the Bible says about Christianity
    - 3D. Life has whatever meaning I choose to give it

#### **6A. Pastors, Evangelists, Missionaries, Hymn writers**

- 1B. C.H. Spurgeon, R.A. Torrey, D.L. Moody, Charles Finney
- 2B. Hudson Taylor, William Carey, David Livingstone, Adoniram Judson
- 3B. Isaac Watts, Fanny Crosby, Charlotte Elliott

*God's Plan through the Ages in the*  
**DISPENSATION OF THE CHURCH**

#6: Pentecost — The Rapture (Acts 2 — Revelation 3)

*The Era of the Church to the Present*

**1A. Apostasy through Liberalism**

- 1B. Protestantism embraces 19<sup>th</sup> century thought
  - 1C. Unity is embraced as the goal of true religion
  - 2C. Christianity's uniqueness is rejected
  - 3C. Tolerance and open-mindedness are embraced as the standard for fellowship
  - 4C. Theological distinctives and denominational differences are rejected
  - 5C. Rationalism, empiricism are embraced as the sources of truth and the scientific method as the standard for recognizing and acquiring truth
  - 6C. Supernatural revelation from God is rejected
  - 7C. Skepticism is embraced concerning ultimate knowledge and objective, absolute truth
  - 8C. Theological dogmatism is rejected
  - 9C. The immanence of God is embraced to describe the relationship between the Creator and the Creation
  - 10C. God's transcendence is rejected
  - 11C. Religious experience is embraced as the authority in the life of the Church and the individual
  - 12C. The authority of the Bible is rejected
  - 13C. The inherent goodness of man is embraced to describe man's condition
  - 14C. That man is sinful by nature is rejected
  - 15C. The social gospel is embraced as the message and mission of the Church in the world
  - 16C. The redemptive Gospel of Jesus Christ is rejected
  
- 2B. Practical results
  - 1C. The Bible is not God's objective, inerrant, infallible, inspired revelation to man
  - 2C. The miraculous is not a reality of man's experience
  - 3C. Jesus Christ was not deity
  - 4C. Christianity is not the only true religion
  - 5C. Salvation is not unique to Christianity
  - 6C. Moral absolutes and objective truth do not exist

**2A. Major developments of the last 50-60 years**

\_\_\_\_\_ | **Dispensational Transition #6 Begins (Rapture of the Church)** | \_\_\_\_\_



*God's Plan through the Ages in the*  
**DISPENSATION OF *THE DAY OF THE LORD***

#6: Pentecost — The Rapture (Acts 2 — Revelation 3)

*The Era of the Tribulation*

**1A. Antichrist confirms treaty with Israel**

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| **Dispensational Transition #6 Complete** |

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**2A. Satan's Purposes in the Tribulation**

- 1B. The total obliteration of all witness to the one true God
- 2B. The final annihilation of the nation of Israel
- 3B. The exclusive worship by man and complete submission of man to his will
- 4B. The permanent establishment of his kingdom on the earth

**3A. God's Purposes in the Tribulation**

- 1B. Fulfillment of His Covenant Promises – related to both blessing and judgment
- 2B. Judgment upon Israel for her rebellion (justice) to bring her to repentance (grace)
- 3B. Judgment upon the nations for their rebellion to bring many to repentance
- 4B. The crushing of Satan's kingdom
- 5B. Preparation for the establishment of His kingdom on the earth

**4A. The judgments**

**5A. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming**

**6A. The binding of Satan**

# THE DAY OF THE LORD

## *The Era of Christ's Millennial Reign*

### The Fulfillment of God's Covenant Promises

- 1A. Christ will rule and reign in righteousness over the whole earth from the Throne of David in the Millennial Temple in Jerusalem
- 2A. The Bride of Christ will return with Him to rule and reign in the Kingdom
- 3A. David will be raised and restored as a ruler over Israel (Ezek 34:23-24; 37:24-25)
- 4A. OT and martyred Tribulation Saints will be resurrected and have responsibilities as given according to the parable of the Ten Virgins in Matt 24.
- 5A. Israel will experience restoration and the full blessings of the Abrahamic, Davidic, and New Covenants, and function as a "kingdom priests"
- 6A. The nations will experience restoration and the full blessings of the Abrahamic and New Covenants
- 7A. The creation will be restored from the curse of the Fall and the effects of post-Fall judgments upon man and the creation will be reversed
- 8A. Satan will be loosed after the 1000 years and will lead the nations in a final rebellion, before being ultimately and finally defeated.
- 9A. The Great White Throne Judgment where unbelievers of all ages will be declared guilty

# ETERNITY FUTURE

*God's Plan through the Ages is consummated*

- 1A. New Heavens and Earth as the first is destroyed by fire
  
- 2A. The New Jerusalem
  
- 3A. The Tree of Life and the River of Life

GOD'S KINGDOM OF RIGHTEOUSNESS  
IS ESTABLISHED FOREVER.

AMEN. EVEN SO COME, LORD JESUS!

# GOD'S PLAN THROUGH THE AGES

In eternity past, the triune God determined to establish a kingdom of righteousness in which his glory, his holiness, his justice, as well as his grace, mercy and love would be on display throughout all eternity. So, he created the physical universe as the realm of his kingdom, with this earth being the focal point. Then he created the angels and mankind to be his subjects in the kingdom.

The highest angel, who is now known as Satan, "the adversary," in pride determined to set himself above God and swept a third of the angelic host along in his rebellion. Then he turned his attention to Adam and Eve, who were to be God's regents over the earthly realm of his kingdom. He successfully enticed them to fall into sin and when they disobeyed God, they brought spiritual and physical death upon themselves and all their descendants, while plunging the entire creation into chaos. As a result, Satan became the temporary ruler of this world.

Genesis chapter three through Revelation chapter twenty is a historical and prophetic record of God's gracious and loving plan to bring redemption to mankind and restoration to the creation. The Scriptures also reveal that Satan has desperately tried to prevent God from establishing His kingdom upon the earth.

As part of his plan, God raised up a new nation to be his people, the nation of Israel, through which the Redeemer would come—His son, the Lord Jesus Christ, God-in-the-flesh. The opportunity for man to be restored in his relationship with God came through Christ's death on the cross as he became the substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of mankind, and his resurrection would guarantee eternal life to all who turn to him in faith.

During the present phase of God's plan, Christ is building His church, which is made up of all believers in Him. One of the primary tasks of the church is to take the gospel, the good news of this offer of salvation, to all the world. Then, at the end of this age, Christ will catch up all believers in Him (born-again Christians), both living and dead to meet him in the air, to be with him forever. This is known as the rapture of the church and is the next event on God's prophetic calendar.

The rapture will be followed by a seven-year period of time, when Satan will make another attempt to establish his own kingdom on the earth, using a man whom he will empower, known as the antichrist. During this seven-year period of tribulation God will pour out his wrath upon the earth as judgment against mankind for their rebellion against him.

But God will once again turn his attention to the nation of Israel, to bring her to repentance and to use the nation to call the world to repentance as He prepares to establish his kingdom on the earth. Many Jews and Gentiles will come to salvation during those seven years, but when Christ returns to the earth at the end of that time, those who have refused to turn to Him will be taken away to judgment.

Immediately after the Lord's return, Satan will be bound for 1000 years, during which time Christ will establish his kingdom, ruling from the throne of David in the rebuilt temple of God in Jerusalem.

At the end of Christ's millennial reign, Satan will be set free briefly and he will incite a final rebellion of the nations against God, which will be crushed instantly as God rains fire down upon them. Satan will then be cast into the lake of fire as the unbelievers from all the ages are brought before a great white throne to be judged. After all unbelievers are judged guilty by God, they, too, will also be cast into the lake of fire for eternity.

After the final judgment, God will destroy the present heavens and earth, replacing them with a new creation, with a new Jerusalem, in which he will establish his eternal kingdom of righteousness, where his people will enjoy him forever.