





# God's Plan

*THROUGH THE AGES*



# GOD'S KINGDOM OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

GEN 1-2

GENESIS 3 – REVELATION 20

REV 21-22





# SATAN'S WAR AGAINST GOD

[Isa 14:12-15](#) | [Eze 28:11-17](#) | [Mat 4:8-9](#) | [John 16:11](#) | [2Cor 4:4](#) | [Eph 6:11-12](#) | [Rev 12:3-9](#)



# God's Plan

*THROUGH THE AGES*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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carried out in phases (“dispensations”)



# OVERVIEW OF DISPENSATIONALISM

The background of the slide is a dark, textured surface with a film strip aesthetic. The film strip has several frames visible, each containing a different image. From left to right, the frames show: a dark, indistinct shape; an upward-pointing arrow; a thumbs-up gesture; and a person sitting on the ground. The film strip is slightly out of focus, creating a sense of depth and movement.



God's plan: *Carried out in successive stages*

Universal agreement: *Everyone understands...*

Agreement among dispensationalists...

Differences among dispensationalists...

Broad disagreement within Christendom...

*Outworking of God's program*

“Hermeneutics”

*the art and science of biblical interpretation*

“Hermeneutic”

*a set of principles used to interpret the Scriptures*

*A biblical hermeneutic*

## *A literal, grammatical, historical hermeneutic*

Reveals the God-centeredness of history

Reveals a distinction between Israel and the church

Reveals a distinction between the Kingdom of God and the church

When consistently applied, leads to “dispensationalism”

## *A biblical hermeneutic*



*“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*

*“Dispensational theology”*

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

*John Walvoord*

*"Dispensation"*

*“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*

*“Dispensationalism”*



Ephesians 1:10: οἰκονομία

translated as “dispensation” (KJV, NKJV)

translated as “administration” (NAS)

*“Dispensation” in NT usage*

# Luke 16:1-3

Verb: o

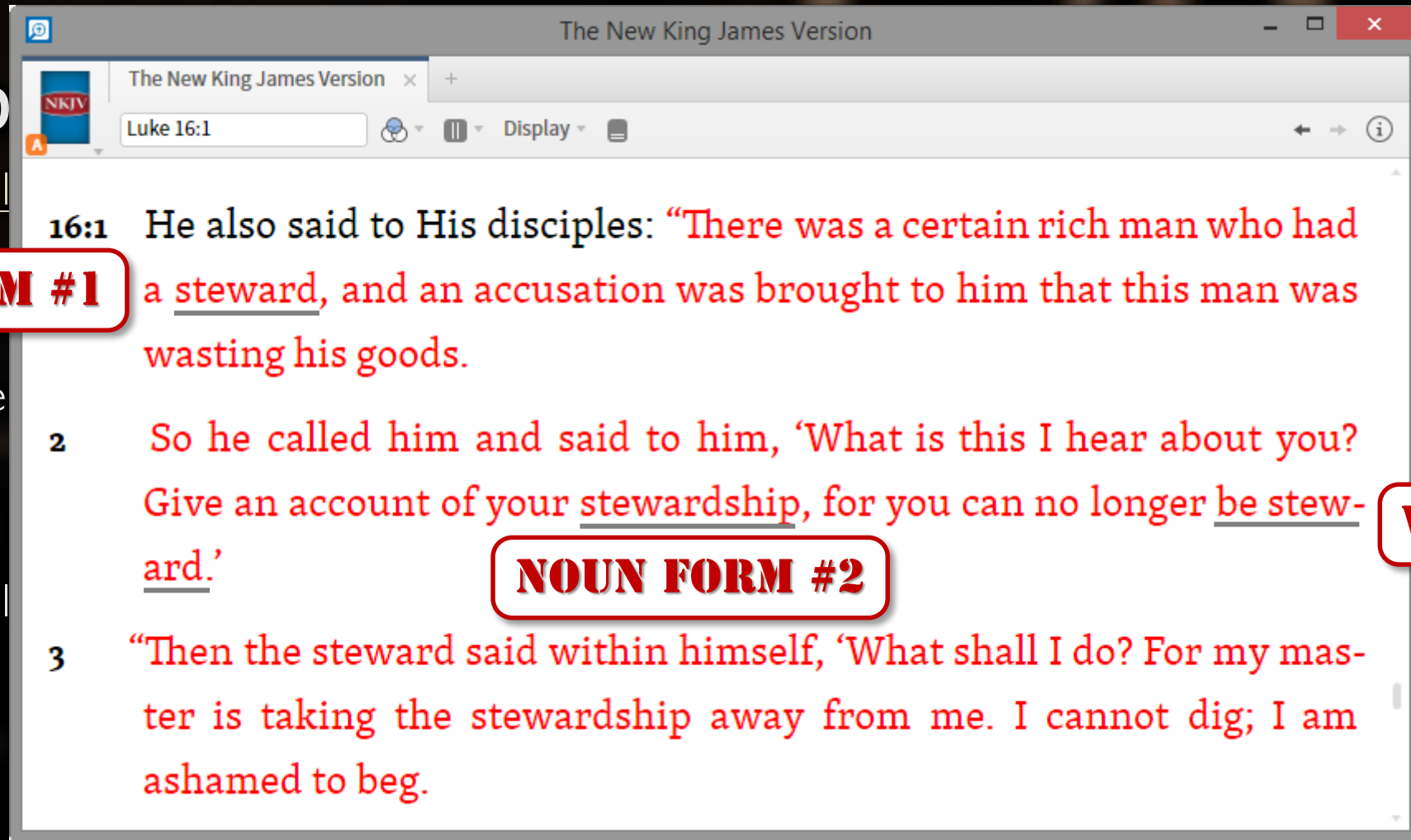
(1x - Luke 16:1)

**NOUN FORM #1**

(10x - Luke 16:1-3)

Noun:

(9x - Luke 16:1-3)



The New King James Version

Luke 16:1

16:1 He also said to His disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods.

2 So he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.'

3 "Then the steward said within himself, 'What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg.

(Pet. 4:10)

**VERB FORM**

**NOUN FORM #2**

*"Dispensation" in NT usage*

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

God gives new revelation defining man's responsibilities

God holds man accountable for faithfulness

God fulfills his promises of blessing and / or judgment

God may change the arrangement when there is failure

*Features of a dispensation*



A consistently literal, grammatical, historical hermeneutic

The distinction between Israel and the church

God's glory as the foundational purpose of history

*Non-negotiables of dispensationalism*

The imminency of the Rapture

The relative timing of the...

Rapture

Tribulation

2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

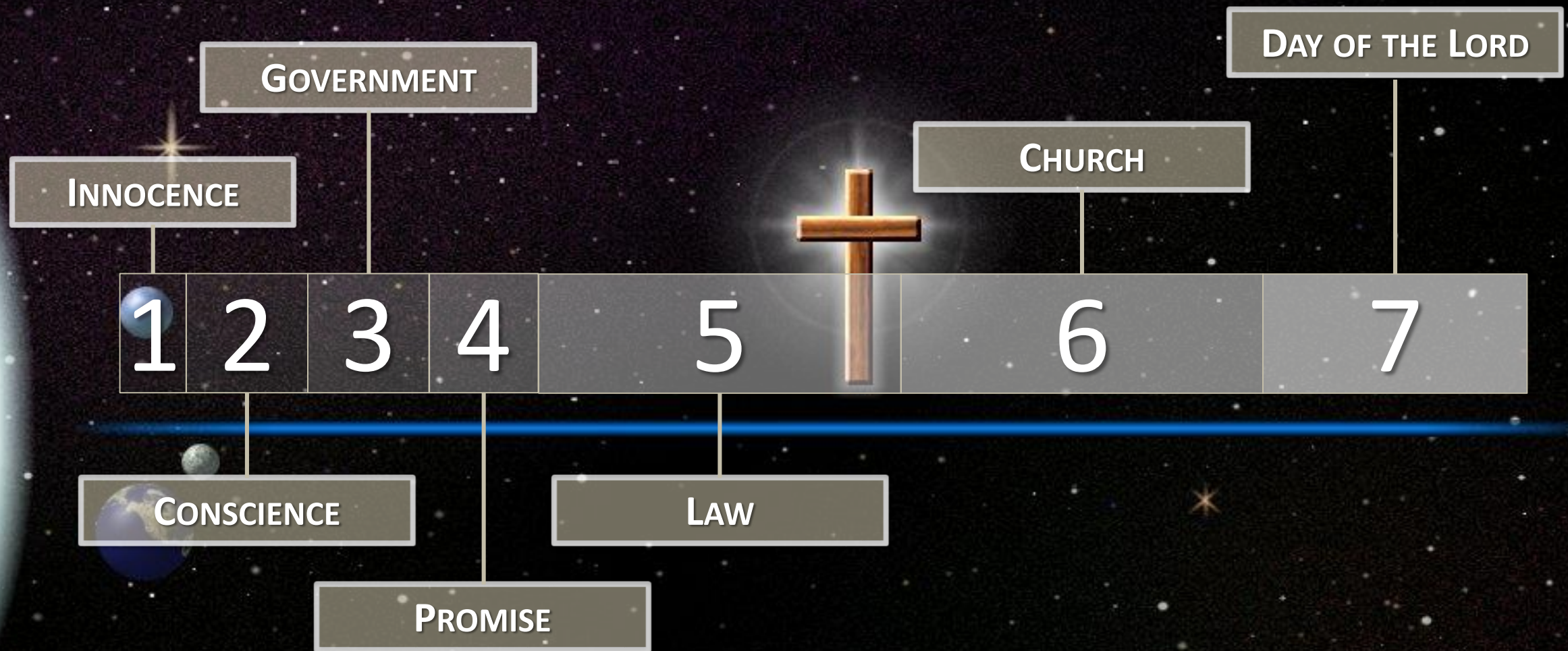
Millennium

Final judgment

Related, though different future roles for Israel and the church

*End-times distinctives (of pre-trib, pre-mill)*





*The dispensations*



