

Christ, the Center of God's Doctrine of Salvation through the Ages.

2009 Conference

**Bible Reading Conf.
Kuala, Lampur**

1 Timothy 6:1 1-12

“...Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen.”

Dispensations - Biblical Ages

- This age, nor the age to come (Mt. 12:32)
- This present evil age (Gal. 1:4)
- The age to come (Eph. 2:7, He. 6:5)
- End of the ages (Heb. 9:26)
- Ends of the ages (1 Cor. 10:11)
- Age of the ages (Eph. 3:1)

Dispensations & Scripture

- ▶ **Ephesians 1: mentions 1 Dispensation.** Ephesians 1:10-“That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ...”
- ▶ **John(gospel): 1 mentions 2 Dispensations.** John 1:17 - “For the law was given by Moses but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”
- ▶ **Galatians 3: mentions 3 Dispensations.** (1) DISPENSATION OF PROMISE “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made...(v. 16) (2) DISPENSATION OF LAW “...The law, which came four hundred and thirty years after...(v. 17) (3)DISPENSATION OF GRACE “Before faith came, we were kept under the law...(v. 23) ...but after faith is come we are no longer under...(v. 25).
- ▶ **Matthew 10: mentions 3 Dispensations.** Matthew 10:1-15 Dispensation of law; 10:16-23 Millennium; 10:24-42 Dispensation of Grace.

“Dispensation” or “Age”

—Harry A. Ironside

“A dispensation, then, is a period of time in which God is dealing with man in some way in which He has not dealt with Him before.”

—Charles C. Ryrie

“A dispensation is a distinguishable economy in the outworking of God’s purpose. If one were describing a dispensation, he would include other things such as the ideas of distinctive revelation, testing, failure, and judgement.”

Erich Sauer

Former President of Wiedenstein
Bible College, Germany

▶ **“He who accomplishes all things according to His own free will, has also determined the design of ages. Therefore, he is not only Creator of the ages but also ‘the King of the ages.’ Each age or epoch is marked by definite special principles of God, and each age brings to view the Son in new greatness and beauty, for in the Son all ages revolve.”**

Christ & Biblical Ages

- **King of the Ages** (1 Tim. 1:17)
- **Creator of the Ages** (Heb. 1:2)
- **Beginning of the Ages** (2 Tim. 1:9, Ti. 1:2)

Dispensations & Triumph of Salvation in Christ

Dispensation	Major Event	Fulfilled by Christ	Triumph in Christ
Innocency	Temptation by Satan	Temptation 40 Days	Defeat of Satan
Conscience	Failure to bring blood sacrifice	Cross-perfect blood sacrifice	No more sacrifice for sins
Human Government	Tower of Babel Capital Punishment	The Innocent One punished for the guilty	Perfect Judge
Promise	Promised seed; Jewish nation	One Body - Jew & Gentile	In Christ - no Jew or Gentile
Law	Mosaic Law given and broken	Christ kept the law	No more law
Grace	Unbelief and lack of love for Christ	Christ - Example of faith	No faith, see face to face
Millennium	Revolt against Christ; AntiChrist	Christ - example of obedience	Christ reigns in Righteousness

Matt. 13 Wheat and Tares

- ▶ **Parable** (Matt. 13:24-28) “Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.”
- ▶ **Interpretation** -(Matt. 13:37-39) “He answered and said unto them, He that sows the good seed is the **Son of man**; The field is the **world**; the good seed are the **children of the kingdom**; but the tares are the **children of the wicked one**; The enemy that sowed them is the **devil**; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.”

Kingdom Parables: Discerning Differences

- ▶ **The Kingdom is not the Church**, otherwise:
- ▶ 1. Tares and Wheat are both in the church, and church discipline should not be practiced until the rapture?
- ▶ 2. v. 38 “Field is the world”, if the field is the church, then this passage teaches the validity of state churches.

Kingdom and Church?

Dr. James Boice
from Comm. on 1 John

“It must be acknowledged that the ***church on earth will always contain tares as well as wheat and that Christians must exercise utmost care in how they deal with them.*** The great temptation, particularly for those who are most serious about the church and its doctrine, is to root up the tares. But those who incline to this must remember that in Christ’s parable (Matt. 13:24-30) it was precisely this course that was forbidden to the householder’s servants...The time for separation was to be at the time of the final harvest when the wheat should be gathered into barns and the tares burned. The implication of Christ’s parable is that some Christians are so much like non-Christians that it is impossible to tell the difference. ***In Christ’s judgment the protection and nurture of all his followers within the church, regardless of outward appearance or degree of sanctification, are of such value that He would rather tolerate an impure church than forfeit them.*** (Italics mine) (James Montgomery Boice, *Epistles of John*, (Grand Rapids, MI : Zondervan, 1994), p. 87)

Hebrews 9:26

“...but now once in the end(consummation) of the world (ages) hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”

James M. Flanigan

“Once in the consummation of the ages, He appeared, His coming was a climactic moment of fulfillment. It was the moment toward which all purpose and prophecy had been moving. It was not so much an end as a consummation. The Savior’s coming to put away sin was the very climax of human history. —J. M. Flanigan, *Hebrews*, Ritchie, p. 192

James Flanigan

“...Past ages and ages future meet here at the cross. All the ages past looked forward to Calvary. All the future will look back to it. The ages meet at Golgotha. Calvary was the meeting place of two eternities.”

—J. M. Flanigan, *Hebrews*, Ritchie, 1991, p. 192

Ephesians 3:21

—**King James Version** - “...throughout all ages, world without end. Amen”

—**J.N. Darby** - “...to all generations of the age of ages. Amen.”

—**Alexander Maclaren** - “...to all generations of an eternity of ages. Amen”

—**W. Robertson Nicoll** - “The phrase age of ages may have the force of a superlative, the ‘age par excellence,’ the age besides which there is none other to be named.”

Alexander Maclaren

“An eternity of ages will be needful for the redeemed to show forth His praise and to blaze out like the sun in the radiation of His glory. We shall not die until we have exhausted God. And comprehended all His nature in our thoughts, and reflect all His beauty in our character; and have attained all the bliss we can think.”

—Exposition on Holy Scripture, *Ephesians*, Baker, 1991

Christ: Centerpiece of Heaven

Rev. 4:3- “Round about the throne”

Rev. 4:5- “Out of the throne”

Rev. 4:6- “Before the throne”

Rev. 4:6- “The midst of the throne”

Rev. 4:6- “Round about the throne”

Rev. 5:11- “Round about the throne”