

The background of the slide is a dramatic, golden-hued landscape. In the foreground, there are dark, silhouetted hills and a large crowd of people. In the middle ground, a large, dark cross stands on a hill. In the background, there are more hills and a bright, glowing figure of Jesus with arms outstretched, set against a bright, golden light. The overall atmosphere is one of awe and grandeur.

# Things That Differ and Don't Differ in Dispensationalism

Pastor Jacob Heaton in Denver, Colorado

# OUTLINE:

- 1- Important considerations
- 2- The things that differ
- 3- The things that don't

## Important considerations:

- Troubling accusations



Jerry Johnson



Kenneth Gentry



# The Ninety-Five Theses Against Dispensationalism

9. Despite the dispensationalists' proclamation that they have a high view of God's Word in their "coherent and consistent interpretation" (John Walvoord), in fact they have fragmented the Bible into numerous dispensational parts with two redemptive programs—one for Israel and one for the Church—and have doubled new covenants, returns of Christ, physical resurrections, and final judgments, thereby destroying the unity and coherence of Scripture.



Rev. Robert C. Harbach  
Graduate of  
Protestant Reformed Seminary

Article:

Dispensationalism: An Ancient Error

“The slogan of Dispensationalism is, ‘All Scripture is for us, but it is not all to us, or about us.’ Explaining, they say, ‘Some parts of Scripture have particularly the Church in view. Other parts belong to the Jews. Therefore, certain sections of the Bible have nothing to do with this present age, but belong to the past and abrogated old dispensation, while other sections concern the future great tribulation, a period which occurs after the Church has departed the earthly scene. Still other portions apply only to the earthly millennial kingdom of Christ.”

“This hacking method of interpreting Scripture chops the Bible into such small fragments that the Christian is robbed of much of the promises of God. The inspired "rightly dividing the Word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15) does not mean we are to dissect the Bible into pieces, making it a sort of crazy-quilt. Rather it means "to hew a straight line through the Word of truth." But the line Dispensationalism makes through Scripture is disjointed, slip-knotted, sheep-shanked, strained and broken with many gaps intervening along its shabby, ludicrous length.”



# John MacArthur



\*Taken from a transcription documented at [middletownbiblechurch.org](http://middletownbiblechurch.org)

Question: What is dispensationalism? And what is your position, from Scripture, on the subject?

I don't want to say any more than that about dispensationalism. I don't believe there are two different kinds of salvation. I don't believe there are two different covenants. I don't believe there is a difference between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven. I don't believe the Sermon of the Mount is for some future age. I don't believe that you can hack up New Testament books--some for the Jews and some for the Church. I think that the only thing the Bible really holds up in that kind of system is that there is a future for Israel, and that's an exegetical issue.

## Important considerations:

- Troubling accusations
- Guidelines

## Important considerations:

- Guidelines: (clarifications)
  - “Dispensations manage the plan of God but the covenants drive it.” - Dennis Rokser
  - We aren’t chopping everything up. We are making observations that follow the author’s intent and putting them in the proper place. (cf. 2 Timothy 2:15)

## Important considerations:

- Guidelines
  - Hermeneutic:
    - Literal
    - Historical
    - Grammatical

## Literal:

- Purpose (Author's)
- Structure (Author's)
- Themes
- Message

## Historical:

- Authorship
- Date
- Audience
- Place of writing
- Occasion

## Grammatical:

- Book – chapter – verse (verse-by-verse)
- Word study (the concentric method)
- Syntax

## Important considerations:

- Troubling accusations
- Guidelines
- Crucial questions

## Important considerations:

- Crucial questions
  - Who invented dispensations?
  - What is a dispensation?



**“There is no more primary problem in the whole matter of dispensationalism than that of definition.”**

***-Charles Ryrie***

# Charles Ryrie

Innocence	Conscience					
		Human Government				
			Promise			
				Law	Grace	Kingdom

## Elliot Johnson

Setting (Gen 1-11)	Plot-Conflict (Gen 12-Jude)			Resolution (Revelation)
	Promise	Law	Grace	Kingdom

Pierre Poiret (1600's)	6 Dispensations
John Nelson Darby (1800's)	7 Dispensations
Cyrus Ingersoll Scofield(early 1900's)	7 Dispensations
Charles Ryrie (mid to late 1900's)	7 Dispensations
Daniel Goepfrich (2000's)	9 Dispensations
Christopher Cone (2000's)	12 Dispensations

## Important considerations:

« Recognition of the dispensations is of utmost value in comprehending the divine program of the ages as long as it is clearly understood that:

- 1) Throughout all the Scriptures there is only one basis of salvation, that is, by grace through faith;
- 2) Strict limits cannot be placed on the terminations of all the dispensations because there is some overlapping; and
- 3) The divinely given stewardship may continue after the time of special testing has ended. »

- Scofield Study Bible 2002 edition

## Important considerations:

- Crucial questions
  - Who invented dispensations?
  - What is a dispensation?
  - What are the stewardship responsibilities?
  - Who is responsible for the stewardship?
  - Is the stewardship deliverable: developmental, additional, or nullifying?

# OUTLINE:

- 1- Important considerations
- 2- The things that differ
- 3- The things that don't

## Things That Differ:

- 1) Dominion
- 2) Moral Responsibility
- 3) Human Government
- 4) Promise
- 5) Law
- 6) Church
- 7) Kingdom

- Responsibilities?
- Responsible?
- Developmental? Additional? Nullifying?



## Things That Differ:

### 1) Dominion

- Genesis 1:28 (responsibility)
- Adam and Eve (responsible)
- Additional

- Responsibilities?
- Responsible?
- Developmental? Additional? Nullifying?

## Things That Differ:

### 2) Moral Responsibility

- Genesis 3:22
- Addition

- Responsibilities?
- Responsible?
- Developmental? Additional? Nullifying?

## Things That Differ:

### 3) Human Government

- Genesis 9:5-6 (responsibility)
- Genesis 6:5 (reason)
- Genesis 9:1 (responsible)
- Developmental (Moral Responsibility)

- Responsibilities?
- Responsible?
- Developmental? Additional? Nullifying?

## Things That Differ:

### 4) Promise

- Genesis 12:1-3 (responsibilities)
- God (see Gen. 12:2a, 3a) (responsible)
- Additional

- Responsibilities?
- Responsible?
- Developmental? Additional? Nullifying?

## Things That Differ:

### 5) Law

- Ex., Lev., Num., Deut. (responsibility)
- Israel (responsible)
- Developmental (Moral Responsibility; Human Government)

- Responsibilities?
- Responsible?
- Developmental? Additional? Nullifying?

## Things That Differ:

### 6) Church

- Acts 2:1; Eph. 4:11-16 (responsibility)
- The Church (responsible)
- Additional (mystery)
- Developmental (MR, HG, Law)
- Nullifying (Law)

## Things That Differ:

### 7) Kingdom

- Revelation 20:4-6 (responsibility)
- Saints (responsible)
- Culmination (it is everything “Dominion” was supposed to be)
- Nullifying

- Responsibilities?
- Responsible?
- Developmental? Additional? Nullifying?

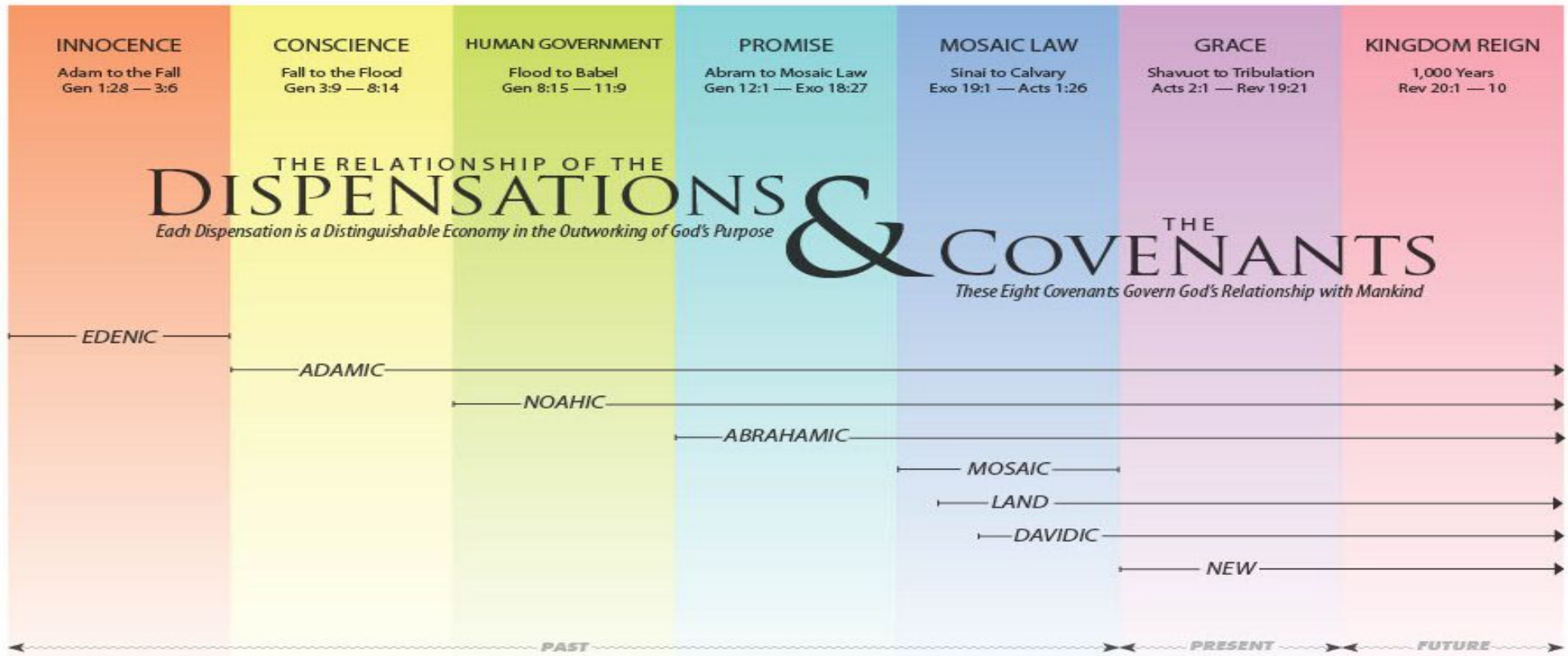
# OUTLINE:

- 1- Important considerations
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- 3- The things that don't



## Things That Don't:

- The covenantal flow of history



**DISPENSATIONALISM IS DISTINGUISHED BY:**

1. A literal interpretation of the Bible.
2. A consistent distinction between Israel and the Church, and a recognition of God's everlasting Abrahamic covenant with the Jewish people.
3. The "Glory of God" is the theme of history.

## Things That Don't:

- The covenantal flow of history
- The incremental focusing of the covenants



The Messianic Kingdom

NC

DC

LC

Abrahamic Covenant

## Things That Don't:

- The covenantal flow of history
- The incremental focusing of the covenants
- The Trans-dispensational truths

## Things That Don't:

- **The Trans-dispensational truths:**
  1. Creator-creature distinction
  2. Grace before judgment
  3. Kingdom program (cf. Mt. 13:51-52)
  4. Restraining of evil
  5. Sufficiency and supremacy of revelation
  6. One way of salvation
  7. Human failure

## Things That Don't:

- The covenantal flow of history
- The incremental focusing of the covenants
- The Trans-dispensational truths
- The Divine Institutions

## Things That Don't:

### - The Divine Institutions:

1. Responsible labor
2. Marriage
3. Family
4. Human government
5. National diversity



## Closing thoughts:

- 2 Timothy 2:1-2
- 2 Timothy 2:14-16