

Summary of the Dispensations and Covenants

January 12, 2006

Dispensations						Covenants		
Dispensation	Begin	End	Responsibility	Failures	Judgment	Corresponding Covenant Conditional (C) or Not (UC)	To Whom	Continues Today?
1. Innocence	Creation Gen. 1:26-27	Fall Gen. 3:6	Multiply, have dominion, eat vegetation, etc. Not eat of tree of knowledge of good and evil	Ate of the tree Gen. 3:6	Curse on Serpent, Woman, Man, ground; spiritual and physical death Gen. 3:14-19	Edenic (C) Gen. 1:26-30, 2:16-17	Whole Race	No
2. Conscience	Fall Gen. 3:7	Flood Gen. 8:19	Live according as God commanded (ruling of the Spirit, Gen. 6:3)	Wickedness Gen. 6:5	Flood Gen. 7:17-24	Adamic (UC) Gen. 3:14-19	Whole Race	Yes
3. Human Government	Flood Gen. 8:20	Call of Abraham Gen. 11:9	Multiply, have dominion, eat meat, capital punishment, etc.	Drunkenness, rebellion Gen. 9:21-22	Tower of Babel Gen. 11:7-9	Noahic (UC) No more flood; rainbow Gen. 8:20-9:17	Whole Race	Yes
4. Promise	Call of Abraham Gen. 11:10, 12:1-4	Giving of Mosaic Law Ex. 19:2	Believe in the promises of God	Murmuring Ex. 14:11-12 Sins of all sorts Gen. 37:26-27	Bondage in Egypt Ex. 3:7	Abrahamic (UC) Gen. 12:1-3, 13:14-17, 15:1-18 a) seed/nation b) land - Gen. 12:7 c) world blessing	Jew	Yes
5. Law	Giving and Accepting of Mosaic Law Ex. 19:3, 8	Death of Christ Acts 2	Obey the law	Judges, Kings, disobey the law, etc.	Babylonian and Assyrian Captivities	Mosaic (C) Ex. 19:1-8, 20:1-31:18, Deut. 28	Jew	No
6. Grace <u>You are here</u>	Death of Christ, Start of Church Acts 2	Rapture, Tribulation 1 Thess 4:13, 5:9, Rev. 19	Believe in Jesus Christ for salvation (Acts 16:31) and obey Christ's commandments (John 13:34, 14:15, 14:21, 15:10-12; Acts 1:2).	Unbelief, apostasy, etc. Rom. 10:16, 1 John 2:19 1 Tim 4:1-3	Tribulation Rev. 6-19 Judgments of Israel and Nations Ez. 20:35-38, Matt. 25:31-46	New Covenant (UC) for Church - Luke 22:20 New Covenant based on work of Christ	Jew Gentile	Present Age
7. Kingdom	Second Coming Lasts 1000 years Rev. 20:1-6 Matt. 24:30ff	Great White Throne Judgment Rev. 20:15	Obey the King – Jesus Christ, ruling from Jerusalem	Rebellion Rev. 20:7-9, Zech. 14:16-14 Sinners still present Is. 65:20	Destruction of rebels, old Earth and Heaven Rev. 20:9, 2 Pet. 3:7, 10-12 Second Death in Lake of Fire Rev. 20:10-14	Davidic (UC) Seed - 2 Sam. 7:5-19 Palestinian (UC) Land – Deut. 30:1-10, Ez. 34:25-29, Amos 9:14-15 New Covenant (UC) for Israel (Salvation for nation) Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:7-12	Jew Jew Jew	Yet Future
Eternal State	New Heaven and Earth Rev. 21:1ff	NEVER!	Serve God - Rev. 22:3 Reign with God Dan. 7:18, 27	None. No more sin, etc. – Rev. 21:4				

The above table explains the Dispensational approach to the Bible. As shown, there are Biblical covenants associated with the various dispensations. Covenant theology has different covenants called the “theological covenants.” There are three of them with very slim Biblical support: Covenant of Redemption (Titus 1:2, Heb. 13:20 – everlasting covenant), Covenant of Works, Covenant of Grace.