

The Dispensation of Promise is the Fourth of the Dispensations of God - The 7 Keys

Chart 22

Named 'Promise' because of the unique covenant God made with Abraham and his Descendants through Sarah and the building a Kingdom Nation, The Nation of Israel

Animal sacrifice until Christ Jesus' sacrifice

The Redemptive Covenant - Stage 1 the Old Covenant

The Redemptive Covenant - Stage 2 the New Covenant

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1. Universal Truths: God reveals in His Word many more new truths which previously had not been recorded in previous dispensations. Nevertheless, they are still universal, but He chose now to reveal them in the current dispensation. The Ten Commandments, for example, are universal; and many variations of application for holiness, righteousness, and justice are revealed in Scripture. Universal principles were and are to be obeyed; and if not, a violation of God's commands has occurred. Universal principles are scattered all throughout Scripture and which carry responsibility for mankind to obey - especially for believers who know God personally. The Book of Proverbs has many universal rules and principles to live by for holiness, righteousness and justice in mankind's deportment in life. Also God's character and eternal plans are revealed in a progressive fashion in dispensations such as the incarnation, the characteristics of the Holy Spirit, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Trinity. Universal truths are learned through an eternal nature which relates to the plans for mankind, both the saved and the lost.
2. The Rules which changed in this Dispensation:
 - a. God now is working through a beloved family which He chose to build a Kingdom Nation, Genesis 17:6,16 and to bring the prophesied Redeemer into the world, Genesis 3:15, Galatians 3:7-9, 15,16.
 - b. Being given the custodianship of the promised Redeemer, Abraham was given a covenant, which extended to his descendants, to be His special people, Genesis 17:7; and God made this covenant in this dispensation with him and Sarah, his wife. God said He imputed righteousness to Abraham because of his faith, Romans 4:3; and He would give him many descendants and a Nation through which the relationship of other Nations would be blessed or cursed.
 - c. This dispensation is called the Dispensation of Promise because of the covenant of promise in which God instituted the Nation of Israel to be stewards to the world for His spiritual working out of salvation, Galatians 3:8, Genesis 12:3; 18:18; 22:18.
 - d. The Rules which are unique in this Dispensation:
 - A. Nation developed through one family to work His Stewardship to the world, Genesis 12:1-3:
 - a. Make him a great nation, V 1,2
 - b. God would bless him, V 2
 - c. Make Abraham's name great, V 2
 - d. Abraham would be a blessing, V 2, 3
 - e. God would bless them who bless him, V 2, 3
 - f. God would curse them who curse him, V 2, 3
 - g. All the families of the earth would be blessed through Abraham, V 3, 26:4
 - h. God would give the land of Canaan, from the Euphrates River to Egypt, Genesis 13:14-17, 15:18, 17:8, 28:13
 - B. Israel was given the land of Canaan for its inheritance - possession progressive from the time given. This came to them as a promise in the Abrahamic Covenant (blessing, seed, nation, kings, and land), Genesis 13:14-17; 17:8; 26:2-4; 28:12-15. The climax of the possession will come in the Dispensation of the kingdom or 1000 year millennial rule of Messiah, Isaiah 10:21,22; 19:25; 43:1; 65:8,9; Jeremiah 30:22; 32:38; Ezekiel 34:24,30,31; Micah 7:19,20; Zechariah 13:9; Malachi 3:16-18.
 - C. Israel was given a seal of the covenant, the seal of circumcision for a sign or reminder of the full covenant given to Abraham. It was to be performed on individual males; and any who refused would not be included in the Nation, Genesis 17:9-14, Romans 4:11, Acts 7:8.
 - D. There are progressive rules or laws given to the Nation as it developed. God added a written law upon request which He knew the people could not keep.
 - E. Scripture shows a progressive development as the Kingdom Nation formed; it was to be carrying out the stewardship of the eternal relationship between the God of creation and mankind. God first called and made a covenant with the father of the Nation, Abraham and then worked the development of the Kingdom through his descendants and concluded with the twelve descendants of Jacob who made up the tribes of the Nation of Israel. God dealt directly with the patriarchs then moved forward working through Moses, the prophets, the priesthood of Aaron (Levites), the Judges, and the Kings. Then the Messiah came to earth, the eternal prophet, priest, and king with the Implementation of the New Covenant. Messiah will set up the earthly Kingdom when He comes back to earth, fulfilling the prophetic truth of the Davidic Kingship with Him ruling, (The King of Kings, and Lord of Lords). When Jesus Christ rules the final two dispensations will occur, the earthly Kingdom and the Eternal Kingdom of God, (The Dispensation of the Kingdom and the Dispensation of the Fullness of Time) which will become one when God creates the New Earth and Heaven. (Note: Today's dispensation, the Dispensation of Grace is an overlay preventing the completion or the finishing of the above plans; some people call it a parentheses dispensation on today because it is inserted between the Dispensation of Promise and the last two dispensations).
 - F. The Law - called the Mosaic Law had three parts to it - moral, worship practices and laws for their kingdom.
 - G. In the Dispensation of Promise, the believers were to practise the Old Covenant sacrifices until the New Covenant was implemented, Israel as a Nation was to be responsible to present the New Covenant to the world, Matthew 28: 16-20. The historical record reveals Israel's failure in performing their stewardship by rejecting God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, (Isaiah 1:2-4, chapter 5 note verse 13, Malachi 1:6 - 9 - the Father, Acts 13:26;30, 38-41 - the Son, and Acts 7;1-50, Acts 7:51-60, 13:46, 18:4-6, 28:23-29 - the Holy Spirit. With their rejection, God is judging the Nation completing with the Tribulation period or Jacob's Trouble refining a remnant of true believers, this is also called the 70th week of Daniel, Daniel 9:24-27, Mathew 24, Daniel 12, Jacob's Trouble, Genesis 2:10-19, Jeremiah 30:4-7, Joel 2:28-32, Isaiah 10:21,22; 65:8, Micah 7:20, book of Revelation.)
3. The Rules or Laws which were carried over from the last dispensation are those relating to nature, the universe and God. God remains active in the affairs of mankind showing His Love wanting none to perish. Also, mankind remains sinful and needs salvation; and God is still imputing righteousness exercising His mercy and His grace. Faith must still be exercised by mankind as individuals in belief and trust in God.
4. The Ordained Stewardship Institution:

The stewardship for the Dispensation of Promise, -having a multiple number of promised covenants, was through a promise to one family who developed the Kingdom, Nation of Israel, a Nation which was to bless the world with its stewardship relationship to the Creator and a promise given to it that the incarnation of God the Son, the Savior would come, who would provide the only sacrifice capable of fulfilling the requirement of the Redemptive Covenant for mankind. Israel was to be a Nation of Stewards who were to present the Savior to the world and make disciples. Their people were to live to bring glory and worship to the Eternal God. However, the history of that nation as recorded in Scripture is one of failure, but God will someday complete His working as He promised to the Nation of Israel in the Millennial Reign of the Messiah, when the Lord Jesus is on the throne of David.
5. The Sin of the Dispensation bringing the dispensation to its end:

The leaders and the people of Israel as a Nation failed in performing their stewardship, sinning by their rejection of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in living and being a blessing to the world, Isaiah 1:2-4, chapter 5 note verse 13, Malachi 1:6 - the Father, John 19, Acts 13:26;30, 38-41 - the Son, and Acts 7;1-50, Acts 7:51-60, 13:46, 18:4-6, 28:23-29 - the Holy Spirit, 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16.
6. The Transition from the Dispensation of Promise to the next dispensation: The transition began with 'the Times of the Gentiles' at the captivity of the Northern Tribes of Israel and will continue until the end of the Tribulation period because Israel as a Nation will continue to refuse to repent, Luke 21:20-24. The Mystery Dispensation of today is a continuation of 'the Times of the Gentiles' which overlays the prophetic tribulation period or the 7-year tribulation, which will be the punitive judgment on two dispensations, Israel's spiritual stewardship was supposed to be the stewardship operation today, but because the Nation's refusal in Acts 7 to repent and receive the Lord Jesus the Messiah; their stewardship was given to a new organism made up of equality for both Jews and Gentiles. (Note: This Transition should not be confused with the transition from Acts 7 to Act 28 transition bringing in the mystery organism of today, the Dispensation of Grace. The Acts 7-28 transition was also a mystery.)
7. The Punitive Judgment of the Dispensation: The punitive judgment on the Nation will be the Tribulation or Jacob's Trouble refining the true Jewish believers out of the Nation of Israel and resulting in the salvation of many Gentiles through the refined Jewish remnant during the 70th week of Daniel, Daniel 9:24-27, Mathew 24, Daniel 12, Jacobs Trouble, Genesis 2:10-19, Jeremiah 30:4-7, Joel 2:28-32, Isaiah 10:21,22; 65:8, Micah 7:20, book of Revelation.

Dispensation of the Kingdom
Dispensation of Grace