



III. THE DISPENSATION OF PRIDE

A. The Contents of the Dispensation

1. The bookmark events
 - a. The beginning: the creation
 - b. The end: the fall of Satan and the six-day creation
2. The passage covered (Genesis 1:1-2)

B. The Conditions of the Dispensation

1. God created the heaven and the earth (Genesis 1:1). Consider the various worlds (Hebrews 1:2; 2 Peter 3:6; 2 Peter 2:5; Galatians 1:4; Hebrews 2:5).
2. The earth was inhabited by beings who were not men (see 1 Corinthians 15:45, 47 and Genesis 1:28).
3. Lucifer served as the anointed cherub (Ezekiel 28:14). He was perfect in his creation (Ezekiel 28:15; compare with John 8:44; 1 John 3:8).

C. The Crisis of the Dispensation

1. The Devil was lifted up with pride (1 Timothy 3:6).
2. Iniquity was found in him (Ezekiel 28:15).
3. He said within his heart...(Isaiah 14:13-14)
 - a. I will ascend into heaven (Isaiah 14:13).
 - b. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God (Isaiah 14:13). Note: Satan's claim to a throne was to one that was beneath the clouds and would explain his claim to power over the earth (Luke 4:5-6; John 12:31; 2 Corinthians 4:4).
 - c. I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation (Isaiah 14:13).
 - d. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds (Isaiah 14:14).
 - e. I will be like the most High (Isaiah 14:14).
4. The Devil persuaded some angels to follow (Matthew 25:41).

D. The Condemnation of the Dispensation

1. An earth without form (Genesis 1:2; compared with Isaiah 45:18)
2. An earth void of inhabitants (Genesis 1:2; compared with Isaiah 45:18; see also Genesis 1:28 "replenish")
3. Darkness (Genesis 1:2); this may seem insignificant until one considers that God is light (1 John 1:5) and just as He will later have no need of the sun for light, historically He would have had no need of the sun. The presence of darkness is suggestive of judgment (consider Jeremiah 4:23).
4. Water (Genesis 1:2; 2 Peter 3:4-7); Note: This might explain why God would feel the need to promise never to judge the earth again with a flood (Genesis 9:8-17).
5. The Devil fell from his responsibilities as the anointed cherub.
6. Hell was created for the Devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41).



IV. THE DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE (Genesis 2:4-9)

A. The Contents of the Dispensation

1. The bookmark events
 - a. The beginning: the creation of man
 - b. The end: the fall of man
2. The passage covered (Genesis 1:2-31; Genesis 2:1-25; Genesis 3:1-24)
3. The time period spanned
 - a. Especially as it pertains to Adam and Eve, any estimations as to duration are only estimations or guesses.
 - b. We know that Adam was 130 years of age when Seth was born (Genesis 5:3).
 - c. Just after this dispensation, we learn that Adam and Eve had only two sons (Cain and Abel).
 - (1) These sons grew up.
 - (2) They established careers (Genesis 4:2).
 - a) Cain—a tiller of the ground
 - b) Abel—a keeper of sheep
 - (3) They mourned the death of Abel.
 - d. Note: We can use the births of Cain, Abel, and Seth to set an approximate maximum amount of 100 years for this age.
 - (1) Eve bore Cain, Abel, and Seth AFTER she and Adam were removed from the garden.
 - (2) Enough time passed for Cain and Abel to grow up and for Cain to murder Abel.
 - (3) Seth's birth seems to have followed this event and we know that Adam was 130 years old when Seth was born.

B. The Conditions of the Dispensation

1. A perfect world (Genesis 1:31)
2. An unfallen creation (Romans 8:19-23)
3. An innocent nature (Genesis 2:25)
4. A perfect environment (Genesis 2:8-10)
5. A godly purpose (Genesis 2:15)
6. Minimal opportunities for sin (Genesis 2:16-17)
7. Unlimited fellowship with God (Genesis 3:8)

C. The Commission of the Dispensation (Genesis 1:28)

1. Be fruitful.
2. Multiply.
3. Replenish the earth.
4. Subdue the earth.
5. Have dominion.



- D. The **Covenant** of the Dispensation (Genesis 2:16-17)
1. Liberty: “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat” (Genesis 2:16).
 2. Limitations: “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it” (Genesis 2:17).
 3. Judgment: “for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:17).
- E. The **Crisis** of the Dispensation (Genesis 3:1-8)
1. The test: God allowed the serpent (Satan) to tempt Eve concerning the tree (Genesis 3:1).
 2. The plan
 - a. The serpent questioned God’s word (Genesis 3:1).
 - b. The serpent contradicted God’s word (Genesis 3:4).
 - c. The serpent accused God’s word (Genesis 3:5).
 3. The fall
 - a. Eve added to the word (Genesis 3:3).
 - b. Adam and Eve took of the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:6).
 - (1) Eve saw that the tree was good for food.
 - (2) Eve saw that it was pleasant to the eyes.
 - (3) Eve saw that it was a tree to be desired to make one wise.
 4. The consequences
 - a. They lost their innocence (Genesis 3:7).
 - b. They lost their fellowship (Genesis 3:8).
 - c. Their spirit died immediately (see Romans 7:9).
- F. The **Condemnation** of the Dispensation (Genesis 3:14-24)
1. The serpent was cursed (Genesis 3:14-15).
 2. The woman was judged (Genesis 3:16).
 3. The ground was cursed (Genesis 3:17-18).
 4. The man was judged (Genesis 3:19-24).
- G. The **Compassion** of the Dispensation
1. God clothed man with coats of skins (Genesis 3:21).
 2. God promised a coming Redeemer (Genesis 3:15).
- H. The **Change** of the Dispensation
1. Man now had a fallen, sinful nature.
 2. Man now lived in a sin-cursed world.
 3. Man was removed from the garden in Eden.
 4. Man would now die and return to dust.