

EPHESIANS CH 3.

AGAIN AS STATED IN OUR LAST STUDY, TWO THINGS NEED TO BE MADE CLEAR TO US 1, THE DISPENSATIONS IN THE SCRIPTURES AND THE MYSTERIES NAMED IN THE SCRIPTURES. AGAIN THE MEANING OF THE DISPENSATIONS. IT IS A WELL DE-
-FIND PERIOD IN WHICH GOD DEALS WITH MAN IN A SPECIAL WAY.

LAST WEEK WE LOOKED 1 THE DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE 2 THE DISPENSATION OF CONSCIENCE 3 THE DISPENSATION OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT (ROMAN 13 VI)

IN ALL OF THESE DISPENSATIONS WE SEE HUMAN FAILURE AND GRACE IS THE ONLY HOPE MAN HAS AS WE SEE FURTHER DISPENSATIONS. 4 THE DISPENSATION OF PROMISE BEGINNING IN GENESIS 11 V10 EXTENDING THROUGH EXODUS 19 V2

IN IT THE HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY TO TRUST IN THE PROMISES OF GOD REVEALED TO ABRAHAM. THE CONTENT INCLUDING THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM AND HIS SEE THE NATION OF ISRAEL THAT THEY WOULD BE A SEPARATE AND HOLY NATION WHO WERE TO BE A CHANNEL AND FULFILMENT OF GOD'S PROMISE AND PURPOSE

GENESIS 12 V5 V6 1.23 CH 13 V16 CH 15 V5 CH 17 V6 CH 18 V21 CH 28 V13.14 JOSHUA 1 V5 2-4 RESULTING OF ENTIRE BLESSING TO ALL

THE EARTH. SO THIS COVENANT SO NAMED IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT COVENANTS OF THE BIBLE AND INCLUDES THAT ISRAEL THE PROVISEN THAT ISRAEL BE A NATION FOREVER AND HAVE A TITLE TO THE LAND GOD GAVE THEM FOREVER (GIVEN A SPECIAL SIGN OF CIRCUMCISION (GENESIS 17 V5 13-14)

THIS DISPENSATION OR COVENANT WAS BOTH GRACIOUS IN PRINCIPLE AND ALSO WAS UNCONDITIONAL AS IT DID NOT DEPEND ON HUMAN FAITHFULNESS BUT UPON THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD ONLY, ONLY PARTIALLY FULFILLED IN ABRAHAM'S LIFETIME (I.E THE BLESSINGS AND PROMISES OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT BUT WILL CONTINUE IN THEIR FULFILMENT TO THE END OF HUMAN HISTORY. THIS COVENANT WAS DECLARED TO BE AN EVERLASTING COVENANT (GENESIS 17 V7 V13 V19. 1 CHRONICLES 16 V5 16-17. PS 105 V10)

ALAS AS IN ALL DISPENSATIONS WE SEE HUMAN FAILURE

5TH DISPENSATION IS THE DISPENSATION OF THE LAW. THIS BEGINS IN EXODUS 19 V3 AND EXTENDS THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE PERIOD UP TO THE DAY OF PENTECOST IN ACTS CH 2. THE MOSAIC LAW WAS GIVEN TO ISRAEL ALONE, THE GENTILES WERE NOT JUDGED BY ITS STANDARDS

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THE LAW CONTAINED A DETAILED SYSTEM OF WORKS INCLUDING 3 MAJOR DIVISIONS 1. THE COMMANDMENTS (THE EXPRESS WILL OF GOD (EX 20 VS 1-26) 2. THE JUDGEMENTS (THE SOCIAL AND CIVIL LIFE OF ISRAEL (EX 21 VS 1-24 VII. 3. THE ORDINANCES (THE RELIGIOUS LIFE OF ISRAEL (EX 24 VI 2 - CH 31. VI 8) BLESSING WAS CONDITIONED ON OBEDIENCE

BUT ALAS UNDER THE LAW THERE WAS CONTINUED FAILURE SEE LATER IN THE BOOK OF JUDGES - BUT CONTINUED AFTER THE DEATH OF SOLOMON AND THE DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL INTO TWO KINGDOMS. THE NEW TESTAMENT CONTINUES THE RECORD OF FAILURE CULMINATING IN THE REJECTION AND CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST, WHO ONLY IN HIS LIFE PERFECTLY KEPT THE LAW. THE GIVING OF THIS LAW WAS TO BRING TO LIGHT HE WAS A SINNER (ROMANS 3 VS 20 GALATIANS 2. VI 6) IT COULD NOT SANCTIFY OR PERFECT (HEBREWS 7. VS 18-19) WAS LIMITED IN ITS FORCE AND DURATION (GALATIANS 3 VI 9) IT COULD NOT REGENERATE I.E GIVE DIVINE LIFE (GALATIANS 3 VS 21. 22) AND COULD ONLY BRING SIN OUT INTO THE OPEN (ROMANS 7 VS 5 - 9) CH 8 VS 3 1 CORINTHIANS 15. V 56) SO THE LAW MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR GOD TO DEMONSTRATE THAT EVERYONE WAS GUILTY AND EVERY MOUTH STOPPED (ROMANS 3 VI 2) AND MADE THE NEED OF A SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST EVIDENT (ROMANS 7 VS 7-25. GALATIANS 3 VS 21-27)

THE SIXTH DISPENSATION OF GRACE BEGINS AT THE CROSS (DYING THIEF) AND ACTS 2 AND CONTINUES THROUGHOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT CULMINATING AND ENDING WITH THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH. (SEE 2 COR 8 VS 9 IS BASIS OF GRACE) SO THIS MEANS SALVATION IS BY FAITH OR BELIVING IN CHRIST ALONE WHICH IN A SENSE, BUT IS NOW MORE EVIDENT (ROMANS 1 VI 6 - 3 VS 22-28 - 4 VI 6 - 5. VS 15-19. THE HIGH STANDARDS OF GRACE ELEVATE THIS DISPENSATION ABOVE ALL PREVIOUS RULES OF LIFE (JOHN 13. VS 34-35 ROMANS 12. VS 1-2. PHIL 2⁵ COLOSSIANS 1 VS 10-14 - 3 VS 1 - 1 THGS 5 VS 23)

UNDER GRACE HOWEVER, FAILURE ALSO WAS EVIDENT AS GRACE DID NOT BRING NEITHER WORLDWIDE ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIST, NOR A PERFECT OR TRIUMPHANT CHURCH. SCRIPTURE IN FACT PREDICTED THAT THERE WOULD BE APOSTASY WITHIN THE PROFESSING CHURCH (1 TIMOTHY 4 VS 1-3 - 2 TIMOTHY 3 VS 1-13 2 PETER CH 2-3 - JUDE) ONLY TRUE BELIEVERS WILL BE RAPTURED BUT MORE PROFESSORS WILL BE LEFT BEHIND (SEE 2 COR 13 VS 5)

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THESE PROFESSORS WILL BE JUDGED IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE RAPTURE AND CHRIST COMING BACK WITH HIS CHURCH TO SET UP HIS KINGDOM. AS TO WHETHER THEY HAVE BELIEVED THE 144,000 WITNESSES GOD RAISES UP TO PREACH (THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM, WHICH WILL BE PROCLAIMED IN THE 7 YEAR TIME OF THE TRIBULATION. (SEE REVELATION 7 vs 4 - 8.

SO IN THIS PRESENT AGE I.E. THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE WAS ESPECIALLY MADE EVIDENT IN THE COMING OF CHRIST (JOHN 1 vs 17) IN THE SALVATION OF THE BELIEVER, AND OUR STANDING BEFORE GOD (ROMANS 3 vs 24 - CH 5 vs 1-2) ROMANS 5 vs 15-21. GALATIANS 1 vs 1 - 2 vs 21 EPHESIANS 2 vs 4-10)

AND IN THE NATURE OF GRACE AS A RULE OF LIFE (GALATIANS 3 vs 1 - 5 vs 26)

THIS DISPENSATION OF GRACE ENDS WITH THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH WHICH WILL BE FOLLOWED BY JUDGMENT ON THE PROFESSING CHURCH (REV 17 vs 16)

LASTLY THE DISPENSATION OF THE KINGDOM. THIS LAST DISPENSATION BEGINS WITH THE 2ND ADVENT OF CHRIST (MATT CH 24 - REVELATION 19) AND IS PRECEDED OF TIME, INCLUDING THE GREAT TRIBULATION WHICH IS ALSO A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. SEE ALL THESE SCRIPTURES WHICH APPLY TO THIS FUTURE KINGDOM WHETHER IN THE OLD OR NEW TESTAMENTS

PSALM 72. ISAIAH 2 vs 1-5. CH 9 vs 6-7, 11. JEREMIAH 33 vs 14-17 DANIEL 2 vs 44-45. CH 7 vs 9-14, 18, 27. HOSEA 3 vs 4-5 ZECHARIAH 14 vs 9

LUKE 1 vs 31-33. REVELATION CHS 19-20. IN THE KINGDOM THE HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE TO OBEY THE KING WHO WILL RULE WITH A ROD OF IRON (ISAIAH 11 vs 3-5. REV 19 vs 15) THE KINGDOM WILL BE THEOCRATIC

I.E. A RULE OF GOD. THERE WILL BE A RENEWED SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM AND PRIESTHOOD (ISAIAH 66 vs 21-23. EZEKIAL CHS 40-48). AN UNUSUAL FEATURE OF THIS PERIOD IS THAT SATAN WILL BE BOUND AND HIS DEMONS RENDERED INACTIVE (REV. 20 vs 1-3, 7) THE KINGDOM HOWEVER WILL ALSO BE A PERIOD OF FAILURE (ISAIAH 65 vs 20 ZECHARIAH 14 vs 16-19) AND THERE WILL BE REBELLION AT ITS CLOSE (REV 20 vs 7-9)

THE DIVINE JUDGEMENT WHICH FOLLOWS INCLUDES DESTRUCTION OF THE REBEL BY FIRE (REV 20 vs 9) AND DESTRUCTION OF THE OLD EARTH AND HEAVEN BY FIRE (2. PETER 3 vs 7, 10-12) FOLLOWED BY THE ETERNAL STATE (REV 21-22)

SO IN THESE DISPENSATIONS GOD HAS DEMONSTRATED EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS

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OF DEALING WITH MAN, IN EVERY DISPENSATION MAN FAILS AND ONLY GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT. SO THROUGHOUT ETERNITY NO ONE CAN RAISE A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER GOD COULD HAVE GIVEN MAN ANOTHER CHANCE TO ATTAIN SALVATION OR HOLINESS BY HIS OWN ABILITY. A KNOWLEDGE OF THE DISPENSATIONS IS, ACCORDINGLY, THE KEY TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S PURPOSE IN HISTORY. AND THE UNFOLDING OF THE SCRIPTURES WHICH RECORDS GOD'S DEALINGS WITH MAN, AND HIS DIVINE REVELATION CONCERNING HIMSELF.