

INTRODUCTION

- * Interpreting the Bible literally is extremely important! Rightly dividing the Word of truth is a key to being approved by God.
- * Interpreting the Bible literally leads us into a system of interpretation referred to as "Dispensationalism."
- * Over the past two weeks we have considered the distinctives, definition and Scriptural evidence of Dispensationalism.
- * We saw that using a literal approach to interpreting the Scriptures leads us to the recognition of the importance of the nation of Israel in God's plan. This truth is a major distinctive of Dispensationalism and places it in sharp contrast to the other major system of interpretation: Covenant Theology.
- * Within the framework of biblical history, we can see as well a larger division of time: Mankind (Pre-Israel), Israel, Church, Kingdom.
- * Today, the goal is to examine the first three of the classic dispensations.

INSTRUCTION

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| I. DISPENSATIONAL DISTINCTIVES | A. A Literal Interpretation
B. Progressive Revelation | C. The Purpose of God is Doxological
D. A Clear Distinction Between Israel and the Church |
| II. DISPENSATIONAL DEFINITIONS | A. The Basic Definition: A System of the Regulations of Government
B. The Biblical Definition: A Stewardship of the Revelation of God | |

III. DISPENSATIONAL DELINEATION

- A. The Stewardship of I _____ (Genesis 1 - 3)**
1. THE INITIAL EVENT (Genesis 1-2):
 2. THE RESPONSIBILITY/TEST (Genesis 2:15-17):
 3. THE FAILURE (Genesis 3:1-6):
 4. THE FINAL EVENT (Genesis 3:17-24):
- B. The Stewardship of C _____ (Genesis 4 - 8:19)**
1. THE INITIAL EVENT (Genesis 4:4-5):
 2. THE RESPONSIBILITY/TEST (Genesis 4:6-7):
 3. THE FAILURE (Genesis 6:5-6):
 4. THE FINAL EVENT (Genesis 6:11-8:19):
- C. The Stewardship of G _____ (Genesis 8:20 - 11:32)**
1. THE INITIAL EVENT (Genesis 8:20-9:17):
 2. THE RESPONSIBILITY/TEST (Genesis 9:4-7):
 3. THE FAILURE (Genesis 11:1-4):
 4. THE FINAL EVENT (Genesis 11:5-9):

The Implications of a Dispensational Approach

I. Literal Interpretation

II. Progressive Revelation

III. Glory of God (as opposed to Salvation of Man)

IV. Distinction between Israel and the Church ... not there yet!

D. The Stewardship of Promise (Genesis 12 - Exodus 18)

E. The Stewardship of Law (Exodus 19 - Matthew 27)

F. The Stewardship of Church (John 20:1 - Revelation 10:11)

G. The Stewardship of Kingdom (Revelation 20:1-10)

INTROSPECTION

- * DO YOU BELIEVE IN A LITERAL SIX (24 HOUR) DAY CREATION AND A WORLDWIDE FLOOD?
... OR, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE JUST GOOD STORIES?
... OR, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THEY MEAN SOMETHING TOTAL DIFFERENT?
- * HOW ARE YOU RESPONDING TO THE TRUTH THAT GOD HAS REVEALED TO YOU?
- * DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD'S STANDARDS OF FAITH AND OBEDIENCE HAVE CHANGED, OR DO YOU BELIEVE: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8)?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO "CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK" ... AND, THEREFORE, ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * How does accepting a literal interpretation of the Bible affect your worldview?
- * How will, or could, applying a literal interpretation of the Bible change your (and the church's) interaction with the world?
- * What do you see in our culture that is clearly in opposition to a literal interpretation of Biblical history?