

## INTRODUCTION

- \* Interpreting the Bible literally is extremely important! Rightly dividing the Word of truth is a key to being approved by God.
- \* As we have seen, interpreting the Bible literally leads us into a system of interpretation referred to as Dispensationalism which has as one of its core distinctives: A clear distinction between the church and the nation of Israel.
- \* Two weeks ago, 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.
- \* Last week, we saw how Biblical history has classically been broken out into seven dispensations. During each of these periods of time, God has provided additionally revelation to man and, as a result, has held man responsible to be a proper steward of this new responsibility. Additionally last week, we saw how Biblical history can also be delineated from the perspective of Israel in larger divisions of time - Mankind (pre-Israel), Israel, the Church and Kingdom.
- \* We considered the first three of the classic dispensations (Innocence, Conscience and Government) last week.
- \* Today, the goal is to examine the NEXT TWO of the classic dispensations - those covering the initial historical period of the nation of Israel.

## INSTRUCTION

### 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 Innocence (Genesis 1 - 3)
- B. The Stewardship of Conscience (Genesis 4 - 8:19)
- C. The Stewardship of Government (Genesis 8:20 - 11:32)

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

1. THE INITIAL EVENT (Genesis 12:1-9):
2. THE RESPONSIBILITY/TEST (Genesis 12:1,7; 35:1-15):
3. THE FAILURE (Genesis 12:10-20; 20:1-18; 26:1-35; 28:10-15; 46:1-5):
4. THE FINAL EVENT (Exodus 1:7-14):

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

1. THE INITIAL EVENT (Exodus 19:1-8):
2. THE RESPONSIBILITY/TEST (Exodus 19:5; 20:10-17):
3. THE FAILURE (Deuteronomy 4:24-29; John 19:15; Matthew 23:37-39):
4. THE FINAL EVENT (Luke 21:5-24):

### The Implications of a Dispensational Approach

#### I. Literal Interpretation

#### II. Progressive Revelation

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

- \* Exodus 6:7; 7:5; 29:45-46; Psalm 83:18; Ezekiel 38:23; Daniel 4:17

#### IV. Distinction between Israel and the Church

- \* A PHYSICAL PERSON & NATION ... Abram/Abraham & Israel
- \* A PERPETUAL PROMISE
  - To Israel (Jeremiah 31:37-40)
  - To David (Jeremiah 33:14-26; Psalm 89:20-37)

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

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

## **INTROSPECTION**

- \* DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD IS ABLE TO DO EXCEEDING ABUNDANTLY ABOVE ALL THAT WE COULD EVER ASK OR THINK? ... EVEN TO THE POINT OF HAVING A 90 YEAR OLD WOMAN GIVE BIRTH TO A SON ... AND RAISE HIM?!
  
- \* DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES?
  
- \* WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL? IS IT CONSISTENT WITH GOD'S?
  
- \* WHO, OR WHAT, ULTIMATELY IS THE AUTHORITY FOR DETERMINING TRUTH?
  
- \* WHO ARE YOU "SERVING"? (CONSIDER MATTHEW 6:24 AND ROMANS 6:16!)
  
- \* 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 the Biblical recognition of the origins of Israel affect our political viewpoints?
  
- \* Thinking about how God "cleaned-up" the sacrificial practices through the giving of the Law, do you believe that it is possible that there are many practices in the "church" that need to be "cleaned-up"? What about at Family Bible Church? What about in your own personal beliefs and opinions?