

Parson to Person

1 Corinthians 15

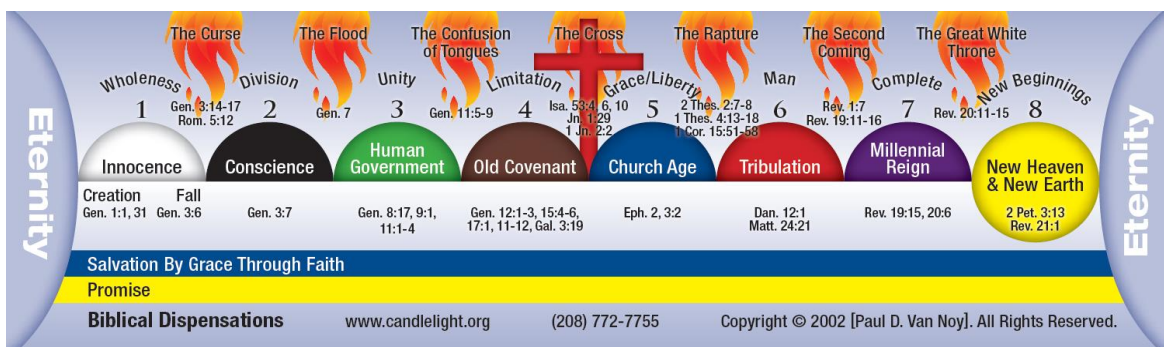
(The Resurrection) – Part 8

As mentioned earlier, over the next few weeks we will briefly look at the following:

- Dispensational Theology and Why It is Important to Biblical Understanding
- The Church as Distinct from Israel and the Redeemed from Other Dispensations
- Purpose of the Tribulation
- The Rapture—What is it?
- Purpose of the Rapture
- Timing of the Rapture
- The Second Coming of Jesus
- The Millennial Kingdom—A Literal Physical Reign of Christ
- And whatever otherwise I want to share... LOL

Today I want to start the journey with the first two points:

Dispensational Theology



Biblical Dispensationalism is a study of the Scriptures through the lens of God's administrative work. In each of the above color-coded and numbered eras, God deals with men using dissimilar methods. For example, in the Old Covenant, God was primarily using Israel as His chosen people to make Himself known to the whole

world. He made a Covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that would forever remain. During the Old Covenant, God introduced the Law of Moses as a tutor for the Jewish people. It was designed to point God's people to the then coming Messiah. However, God knew that the Law would be insufficient to provide salvation and that men would be incapable of keeping it—therefore it condemned men and women to death.

When Jesus came to this earth (during the last days of the Old Covenant Dispensation), He fulfilled the law and died as the one and only sacrificial lamb Who could take away the sins of the whole world. Moreover, He inaugurated the New Covenant (a covenant promised to the Jews) and allowed for believing Gentiles to be “grafted into the root and fatness” of that covenant—thus enjoying its blessings.

After Jesus' physical resurrection from the dead, a short transitional period led up to and into the present dispensation—the Church Age wherein all people apart from the Law or any human performance may be saved by grace, through faith, in the finished work of Jesus, the Christ.

Those who miss the administrative change from the Old Covenant to the now Church Age tend to integrate the Jewish Law of Moses and blur the clearly delineated lines of separation. This is illustrated by the heretical teachings that require performance-based salvation. It also leads to interpretive problems with people groups such as the proper identification of Old Testament “saints,” Church Age “saints,” and Tribulation “saints.” Moreover, this error has caused many eschatological interpretive problems. A careful understanding of the Biblical Dispensations will remove many false interpretations of the Scripture and save the Bible student untold confusion.

Some Distinctions Between Israel and the Church

As mentioned above, God chose Israel to make Himself known to her, and through her, for the benefit of the whole world. God made a covenant with Israel (unlike any other nation and people) and intends to keep all His promises. God has also made provisions for the Church, and yet, keeps a clear distinction between Israel (as a nation and people) and the Church. In Christ all believers are made one. However, this fact has not negated God's covenant with Israel as a distinct land and group of people.

Similarities:

1. Both are chosen people.
2. Both have been given exceedingly great and precious promises.
3. Both are called God's "elect."
4. Both are called "saints."
5. Both are called to be a "peculiar people."
6. Both are hated and persecuted—some to the point of death.
7. Both are distinguished from the rest of world.

Differences:

1. The Law was not given to the Gentiles. (Ephesians 2:11–12)
2. The Jews were promised supernatural blessings and disciplinary cursing. (Deuteronomy 28–30)
3. The Church does not suffer the Old Covenant curses. (Galatians 3:13)
4. Israel is promised a national identity and geographically identifiable land on the earth. (Genesis 15)
5. The Church is promised a home in heaven. (John 14:1–4)

6. Israel will be ruled by Christ upon the earth. (Ezekiel 40–48, Revelation 20)
7. The Church will rule with Christ on the earth. (2 Timothy 2:12, Revelation 20)
8. Unbelieving Jews will be on the earth during the Tribulation. (Daniel 7, 9)
9. The Church will not be on earth during the Tribulation. (Revelation 6:14–17, 1 Thessalonians 5:9)
10. The Jews will be overcome by the antichrist during the Tribulation. (Daniel 7:21)
11. Against the Church, Hell will never prevail. (Matthew 16:18)
12. The Church recognizes Jesus' first incarnational earthly ministry as Messiah. (Ephesians 1:13)
13. Many Jews did not recognize Jesus' first incarnational earthly ministry. (John 1:11)
14. The Church will arrive with Christ (from heaven) at the Second Coming. (Jude 14, Revelation 19:14)
15. The living Jews at the time of the Second Coming will trust Jesus for salvation. Many for the first time. (Ezekiel 37–39, Zechariah 12–14, Romans 11)

Israel has a Future and Hope

“Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying: ‘Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own ways and deeds; to Me their way was like the uncleanness of a woman in her customary impurity. Therefore, I poured out My fury on them for the blood they had shed on the land, and for their idols with which they had defiled it. So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds. When they came to the nations, wherever they went, they profaned

My holy name—when they said of them, “These are the people of the LORD, and yet they have gone out of His land.” But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went. ‘Therefore say to the house of Israel, “Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name’s sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations. Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations. Not for your sake do I do this,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!’ “Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt. The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. So they will say, “This land that was desolate has become like the garden of

Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.” Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken it, and I will do it. “Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘I will also let the house of Israel inquire of Me to do this for them: I will increase their men like a flock. Like a flock offered as holy sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem on its feast days, so shall the ruined cities be filled with flocks of men. Then they shall know that I am the LORD’ ” ’ ” (Ezekiel 36:16–38).

“...my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (vs. 58).

I love you all,
Pastor Paul