

Doctrine of Dispensations

12-6-2020

Part III Review

1. Last week we completed Part II of the *Doctrine of Dispensations*. When time expired last week we had just completed a study of The Church Age. When time expired, I was teaching the Tribulation-the first of the three eschatological ages.

2. Let's again review several real-time circa dates mentioned last week:

Flood – 5000 B.C.

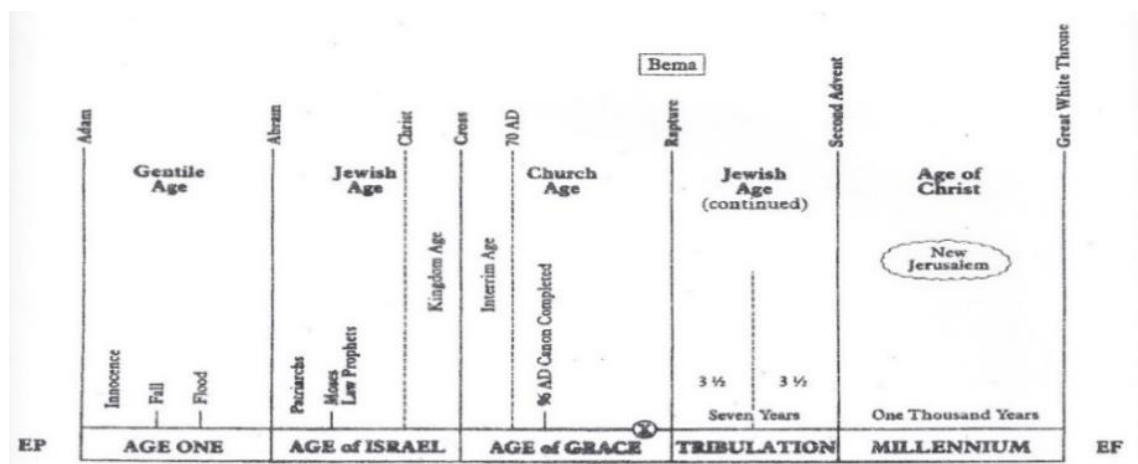
Abram – 2000 B.C.

Moses – 1450 B.C.

Christ – 4 B.C.

Cross – 32 A.D.

3. Before we return to the study of the Tribulation, I want to give opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.

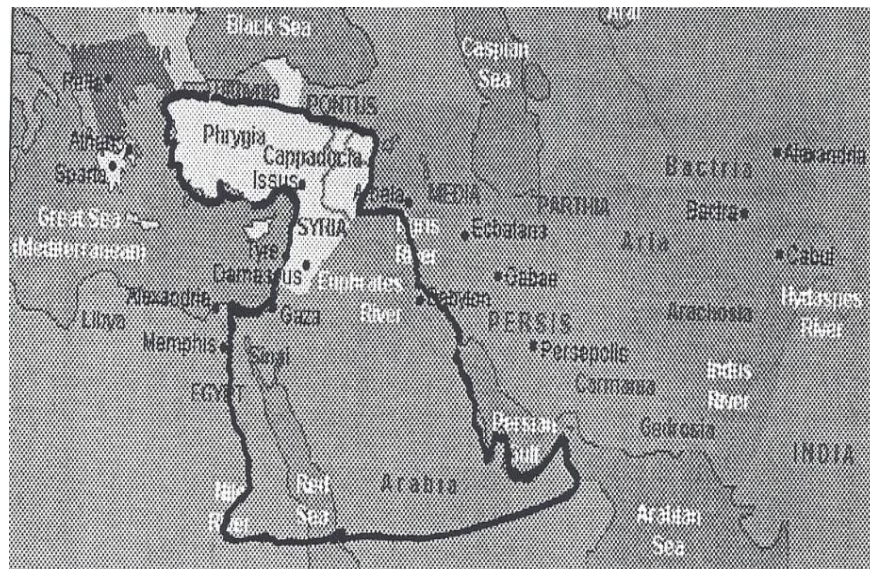


4. I want to also review some of that learned and then begin new material on page three.

5. The four unconditional covenants:

Abrahamic Gen 12:1-3; Gal 3:7-9; 29; Rom 4:11

Palestinian Covenant - Gen 15:18-21; Eze 20:33-35 and 42-44

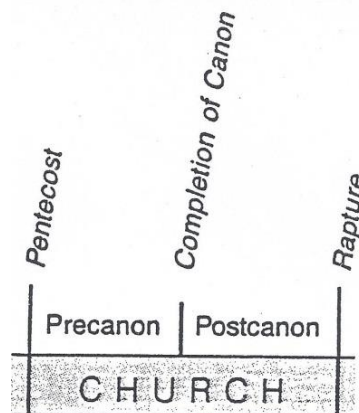


Davidic Covenant - 2Sa 7:10; Eze 37:24-26

New Covenant - Jer 31:31-34

Part III The Church Age

1. The Age of the Church is taught by most pastor-teachers each and every Sunday in varying degrees. We can divide the age into two segments.



2. As an example, we have studied over a forty-year period most of the Epistles to the Church.

3. Given this fact, I think it best at this point to simply summarize several basic truths discovered about the Age of the Church.

4. Most of these truths have been earlier discovered and taught. Accordingly, let's move on to a study of the Tribulation as the first of two eschatological ages.

Part IV The Tribulation

Introduction

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Mat 24:21-22

1. Just how short shall the "Tribulation" be and when will it occur? It will take place seven years after the Rapture of the Church and continue seven years, divided into two periods of three and one-half years.

2. The prophecy should not have come as a shock to the disciples as the Old Testament contained many references to this future time of great trauma. The Scriptures speak of a "time of Jacob's distress" and is compared to a "woman in child birth." Eze 20:34-38; Jer 30:4-7; 34-37; 22:19-22

3. In a vision Daniel was told of a seventy-week period (literally seventy sevens) that God would give the Jews "to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness ... and to anoint the most holy place."

KJV-With Comment in Italics

Dan 9:24 "Seventy 'sevens' (*490 years*) are decreed for your people (*Israel*) and your holy city (*Jerusalem*) to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy (*Christ at His Second Advent*).

3.1 Now we are ready for new material.

Dan 9:25 "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (*1st of Nisan 445 B.C.*) until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, (*the 1st Palm Sunday*) there will be seven 'sevens,' (*49 years*) and sixty-two 'sevens' (*434 years thus 483 years*). It (*the city of Jerusalem*) will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

Dan 9:26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' (*the 434 years that follow the 49 years it took to rebuild the city*) the Anointed One (Christ) will be cut off (*the crucifixion*) and will have nothing. The people of the ruler (*the Romans in A.D. 70*) who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed (*the Church Age*).

Dan 9:27 He (*the Satan indwelt AntiChrist*) will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven' (*the Tribulation*). In the middle of the 'seven' (*three and one-half years into the Tribulation*) he (*the AntiChrist*) will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him (*the demise of the Satan indwelt AntiChrist*). "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Mat 24:21-22 (**supra pg. three**)

Background

1. The seven years are often described as: 42 months, 1260 days or a time, and times and a half-time.

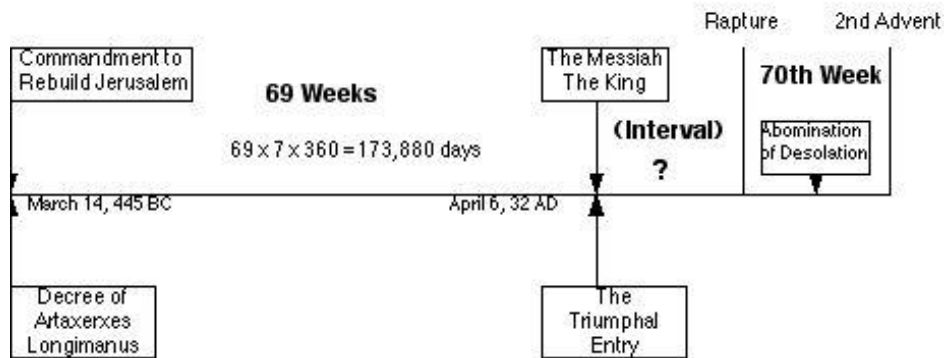
2. The events occurring in the Tribulation will be the subject of this doctrine. Welcome to events future.

3. The prophecy should not have come as a shock to the disciples; the Old Testament contained many references to this future time.

3.1 Jer 30:4-7 speaks of a "time of Jacob's distress" and compares it to a "woman in child birth."

Eze 20:34-38 speaks of the Tribulation as a time when Israel shall "pass under the rod." The Tribulation is also represented as God's melting pot, where Israel will be refined according to Eze 22:19-22.

The Seventy Weeks of Daniel



Are You Ready?

1. We should not be overly concerned about the timing of the events of eschatology. When that day and hour may take place, we cannot tell. What does matter however, will we be ready to meet Him whenever He comes?

1.1 In this the Church Age we are to pray for the Rapture and accept the fact that no man knows the hour or the day of that blessed event. Remember Paul's exhortation: "Comfort ye one another with these words." And what were those words?

1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

1Th 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

2. As we earlier studied, Matthew provided far more details than did his fellow gospel writer Mark. Paul also in less detail explained events and imminence of the coming Tribulation.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1Co 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

1Co 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

1Co 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1Co 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Grace Before Judgement

1. Throughout the Tribulation the gospel will be proclaimed as never before in history. The world will be evangelized by three groups:

- By the 144,000 Jewish evangelists who are saved following the Rapture of the Church

Rev 7:4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed a 144,000 of all the tribes of the children of Israel ...

- By the two witnesses, Moses and Elijah

Rev 11:3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

Rev 11:5 If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die.

Rev 11:6 These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

- By angels

Rev 14:6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth -- to every nation, tribe, language and people.

Rev 14:7 He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

- A Large Bird

Rev 8:13 And I beheld, and heard an eagle [**Aetos** - a flesh-eating bird] flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels [**Angelos**], which are yet to sound!

The Unholy Trinity

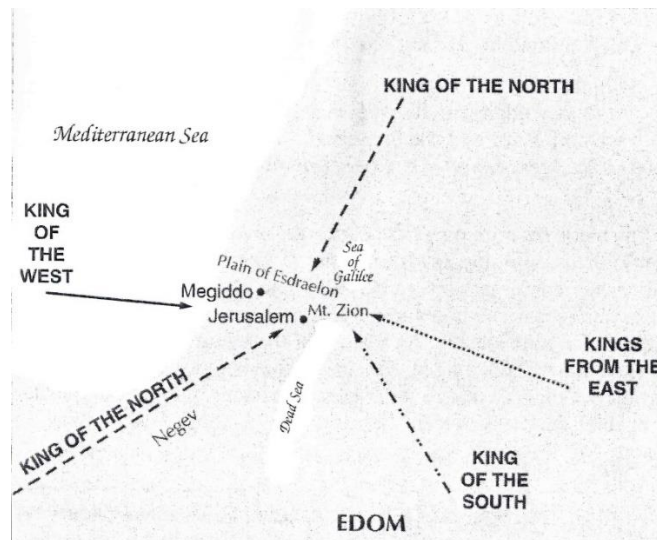
1. There are many passages that describe the maneuvers of the various kings of the Tribulation; this passage explains the evil force that motivates them.

2. The "three unclean spirits" are demons to whom Satan delegates the responsibility of indwelling world rulers and their advisers in order to influence them to execute his will.

Rev 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Rev 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

3. The three Kings of the North, West, South and East will one day arrive in the valley of death to destroy first Israel and then defeat Jesus Christ when He returns at His Second Advent. Gabriel had earlier brought a warning to Daniel.



Dan 10:13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

Dan 10:14 Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."

4. During the Church Age, Satan's power on earth is so restrained by the ministry of God the Holy Spirit that men often forget the power and existence of demons. However, during the Tribulation Satan will be free to wreak havoc without restraint.

4.1 The first member of this nefarious trio is the dragon, or Satan himself. In the Tribulation as in the Garden of Eden, Satan will direct worship away from God and toward himself. His obsession has ever been to be like the Most-High and to be worshipped as God.

Isa 14:13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

4.1.1 While God has permitted Satan to become the “ruler of this world;” this has never satisfied his insatiable power lust to be like the Most-High.

Joh 12:31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

Joh 12:32 But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."

4.1.2 When the devil took Christ whom he knew to be God to a high mountain and showed Him the kingdoms of the world, he said, “All things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me.”

Mat 4:8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

Mat 4:9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

4.1.3 The culmination of Satan’s attempts to be worshiped as God is revealed by the power he gives the “man of lawlessness.” It is written that the king of the West, as Satan’s man, “takes his seat in the temple of god, displaying himself as being god.”

4.1.4 The seed of rebellion planted in the Garden will bear bitter fruit, for in the Tribulation both Satan and “the beast” are worshiped instead of God. The 13th chapter of the Book of the Revelation describe both the Antichrist and the False Prophet.

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