**Truth Sowers**

**Ages & Dispensations Three**

The study of Ages & Dispensations helps us understand how God has dealt with men throughout the ages. The Bible, God’s WORD, shows us who God is and what His nature is.

**John 1:1-3 (NLT)**

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He existed in the beginning with God. 3God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.

**The Word is Jesus Christ!** He has always existed right along with God our Father and the Holy Spirit, our comforter. He is our creator.

Satan is our adversary.

**1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)**

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

**John 10:10 (KJV)**
10  The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly (beyond measure).

**Hebrews 4:12**

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

1. The Word of God is ALIVE and POWERFUL
2. Sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword
3. Is the ONLY thing that can cut between SOUL & SPIRIT
4. Exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.
	1. Nothing is hidden from God

**Isaiah 55:11**

It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

1. God sends out His Word
2. The Word ALWAYS produces fruit
	1. It absolutely cannot fail.
	2. We doubt God’s Word
3. The Word accomplishes the WILL OF GOD
	1. We can KNOW God’s will
	2. God is revealed through the Word of God (Jesus)

**Hosea 4:6a (ESV)**

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

**2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)**

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

Seven Dispensations of Men

1. **The Dispensation of Innocence**

Start –

**Genesis 2:15 (KJV)**
15  And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

End –

**Genesis 3:21 (KJV)**
21  Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Length of Time – Unknown. Judging from Satan’s dealings today, he tried to cause the fall of man immediately. It may have lasted less than a week, for we have no record of God resting after His first Sabbath. Man had not yet visited and eaten of the tree of life when the fall came (Gen. 3:22-24). The dispensation ended before man had offspring (Gen. 2:21-25; 4:1).

Favorable beginning – (Gen. 1:26-30; 2:8-24). Everything was perfect, sinless and under man’s dominion, with just one command to obey (Gen. 2:17).

Test – Not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:16, 17; 3:6).

Purpose of God – To see if man would remain innocent and true to his trust under perfect conditions (Gen. 2:16, 17). God wanted to test man before he had offspring, so that if he sinned, the entire race could be dealt with through the same means of grace which offers redemption to all who desire it and promises eternal separation from God for all who fail to seek reconciliation (Rom. 5:12-21).

The means of God in accomplishing His purpose. The tree of knowledge of good and evil, and the temptations of Satan were the means used in testing man to see if he would remain true (Gen2:16, 17; 3:1-6; Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Tim 2:11-15).

Failure – The fall (Gen. 3:1-24; Rom. 3:23; 5:12-21; 1 Tim. 2:11-15

The Seven Steps in Man's Fall:

(1) Doubting God's Word ([Gen. 3:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A1))

(2) Adding to and misquoting God's Word ([Gen. 3:2-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A2-3))

(3) Contradicting God's Word ([Gen. 3:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A4); cp. [Ezek. 18:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+18%3A4),[20-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+18%3A20-24); [Rom. 6:16-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+6%3A16-23); [8:1-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+8%3A1-13); [1Cor. 3:16-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+3%3A16-17); [6:9-11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+6%3A9-11); [Gal. 5:19-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+5%3A19-21); [6:7-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+6%3A7-8); [2Tim. 2:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+2%3A12); [Jas. 2:9-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+2%3A9-10))

(4) Misinterpretation of God's Word ([Gen. 3:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A5))

(5) The temptation to transgress God's Word ([Gen. 3:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A6); [2Cor. 11:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+11%3A3); [1Tim. 2:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+2%3A14))

(6) Transgression of God's Word ([Gen. 3:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A6))

(7) The results of transgressing God's Word ([Gen. 3:6-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A6-19); [Rom. 5:12-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+5%3A12-21); [Jas. 1:13-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+1%3A13-15))

What Man Lost in the Fall:

(1) Spiritual, physical, and eternal life ([Isa. 59:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+59%3A2); [Rom. 5:12-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+5%3A12-21); [Eph. 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+2))

(2) Communion with God ([Isa. 59:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+59%3A2))

(3) Fellowship with animals ([Gen. 9:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A2))

(4) His full dominion over all things ([Ps. 8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+8))

(5) Freedom from Satan ([Jn. 14:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+14%3A30); [2Cor. 4:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+4%3A4); [Eph. 6:10-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+6%3A10-18); [Rev. 12:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+12%3A9))

(6) Perfect God-consciousness ([Gen. 2:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+2%3A25); [3:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A7))

(7) Full power to do good ([Gen. 6:5-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A5-7); [Rom. 7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+7))

(8) Perfect self-control ([Eph. 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+2); [Gal. 5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+5))

(9) The right to tree of life ([Gen. 3:22-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A22-24))

(10) His garden home ([Gen. 2:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+2%3A15); [3:22-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A22-24))

(11) God's glory ([Rom. 3:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+3%3A23))

(12) Righteousness and true holiness ([Eph. 4:22-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4%3A22-24))

(13) Perfect health ([Gen. 3:16-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A16-19); [Mt. 8:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+8%3A17); [1Pet. 2:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+2%3A24))

(14) All benefits of perfect union with God ([Rev. 21:1-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+21%3A1-7); [22:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+22%3A1-3))

8. Judgment for sin ([Gen. 3:14-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A14-19),[23-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A23-24)). Because of his sin, man reaped sickness, pain, sorrow, misery, condemnation, death, loss of soul, fellowship and union with Satan and demons, an inferior position, power to do and be evil, a life of self-gratification, unclean lusts and habits, unbelief, separation from God, hardships, sufferings, hell, eternal damnation, and other curses too numerous to mention. He became depraved ([Rom. 1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1)), darkened ([Eph. 4:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4%3A18)), blind in mind ([2Cor. 4:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+4%3A4)), defiled in conscience ([Heb. 10:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+10%3A22)), obstinate and rebellious ([Isa. 28:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+28%3A14); [Rom. 8:1-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+8%3A1-13)), lustful ([Eph. 2:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+2%3A1-3)), evil continually ([Gen. 6:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A5)), full of abominations ([Jer. 17:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+17%3A9); [Mk. 7:19-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+7%3A19-21); [Rom. 1:18-32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1%3A18-32); [1Cor. 6:9-11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+6%3A9-11); [Gal. 5:19-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+5%3A19-21); [Col. 3:5-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+3%3A5-10)) and lost -- making all his offspring, with all their faculties, sinful by nature ([Rom. 5:12-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+5%3A12-21); [Eph. 2:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+2%3A1-3)) and children of the devil by choice and practice ([Jn. 8:44](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+8%3A44); [2Cor. 4:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+4%3A4); [Eph. 2:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+2%3A1-3); [1Jn. 3:8-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+3%3A8-10)).

Six Great Curses on Creation:

(1) Upon the serpent ([Gen. 3:14-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A14-15))

(2) Upon Satan ([Gen. 3:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A15); [Rom. 16:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+16%3A20))

(3) Upon woman ([Gen. 3:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A16))

(4) Upon man ([Gen. 3:17-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A17-19); [Rom. 5:12-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+5%3A12-21))

(5) Upon earth ([Gen. 3:17-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A17-19))

(6) Upon all creation ([Gen. 3:14-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A14-19); [Isa. 65:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+65%3A25); [Rom. 8:19-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+8%3A19-23))

9. God's provision of redemption. God promised a Redeemer who would come and restore man's dominion ([Gen. 3:15-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A15-21); cp. [Isa. 53](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+53); [Mt. 1:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+1%3A21); [26:28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+26%3A28); [Eph. 1:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+1%3A7)).

1. **Dispensation of Conscience**

Start –

**Genesis 3:22-23 (KJV)**
22  And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:
23  Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

End –

**Genesis 8:13-14 (KJV)**
13  And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first *month*, the first *day* of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry.
14  And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried.

1. Name. So-called because man was tested to see if he would obey his own conscience regarding right and wrong ([Gen. 6:1-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A1-7); [Rom. 2:12-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+2%3A12-16)). There were no written laws. The Ten Commandments weren't given to Adam in the previous dispensation (see note on [Gen. 26:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+26%3A5)). His only law was not to eat the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; after being driven out of the garden he didn't even have that law ([Rom. 5:12-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+5%3A12-14)). See [Conscience](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00209170#Conscience). This dispensation could be called the Age of Freedom, for man was free to do as he pleased until it became necessary for God to interfere.

2. Length -- 1,656 years, from Adam's fall to the 600th year of Noah ([Gen. 5:1-29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+5%3A1-29); [7:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+7%3A6),[11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+7%3A11)).

3. Favorable beginning -- a new beginning altogether, with inhabitants having a knowledge of God and a new covenant with Him ([Gen. 3:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A14) -- [Gen. 4:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+4%3A26)).

4. Test -- obedience to the dictates of conscience as to right and wrong ([Gen. 3:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A22); [4:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+4%3A7),[15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+4%3A15); [6:1-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A1-7)).

5. The purpose of God. His purpose now, since man knew good and evil, was to guide him in the proper exercise of his conscience to do the right and refuse the wrong; to teach fallen man that only by obedience to God could he be restored to his original dominion and get rid of the curse; and to test man under freedom of conscience without restraint or compulsion to see if he would voluntarily choose right from wrong and serve God instead of Satan. If voluntary righteousness was rejected, God would add laws and punishments to enforce obedience for man's own good. He wanted man to see that in his fallen state he could not choose the best good himself, was powerless to cope with the fallen angels and demons with whom he had now entered into voluntary union through sin, and who sought his eternal damnation. God wanted man to be brought to helplessness in himself so that he would turn to Him for help, grace, and power against sin, Satan, fallen angels, demons, sickness, and suffering in the struggle to overcome the curse. He wanted man to know He was the only true friend and helper, and that only through Him was there a way out of sin and the curse, and an opportunity for restoration to original dominion.

6. The means of God in accomplishing His purpose. Conscience, freedom of will, and the devil's malice were the means that God used to bring man to a place of utter dependence upon Him for help and redemption from the curse. The conscience demonstrated how exceedingly sinful man would become if he chose evil instead of good; the full freedom of action demonstrated how far man would go in his rebellion against God before it would be necessary for Him to interfere for the good of His own eternal plan; and the malice of satanic forces demonstrated the contrast between the two masters whom man might serve while on probation. Freedom of will and conscience was what man chose in the fall, so God permitted him to go to the full limit of wickedness that he might learn the folly of his own choice, and so that all coming generations might profit.

7. Failure -- sixfold ([Gen. 4:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+4%3A1) -- [Gen. 8:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+8%3A7)):

(1) Failure of Adam ([Gen. 6:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A3), notes)

(2) Failure of Cain ([Gen. 4:1-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+4%3A1-16), notes)

(3) Failure of Cain's descendants ([Gen. 4:17-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+4%3A17-24), notes)

(4) Failure of Seth's descendants ([Gen. 4:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+4%3A25) -- [Gen. 5:32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+5%3A32), notes)

(5) Failure of the daughters of men who sinned with fallen angels seeking to do away with pure Adamite stock through whom the seed of the woman was to come ([Gen. 6:1-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A1-7),[11-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A11-13), notes)

(6) Failure of all people in general ([Gen. 4:1-26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+4%3A1-26); [6:1-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A1-7); [7:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+7%3A1); [Mt. 24:37-39](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+24%3A37-39); [Lk. 17:26-27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+17%3A26-27); [1Pet. 3:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+3%3A20); [2Pet. 2:4-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+2%3A4-5)). See [Twelve Conditions of Noah's and Lot's Days](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00182983#Twelve Conditions of Noah's and Lot's Days).

8. Judgment for sin -- the flood of Noah ([Gen. 6:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A8) -- [Gen. 8:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+8%3A14); [Mt. 24:37-39](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+24%3A37-39); [1Pet. 3:18-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+3%3A18-21)).

9. God's provision of redemption -- His grace and mercy in giving man another chance to continue in God's eternal plan ([Gen. 6:8-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A8-22); [7:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+7%3A1); [1Pet. 3:18-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+3%3A18-21)), and preserving clean animals for sacrifice so as to have faith in the coming Redeemer ([Gen. 7:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+7%3A2); [8:20-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+8%3A20-22)). People in those days were saved by grace through faith in the coming Redeemer, as we are now saved by grace through faith in the Redeemer who has already come ([Gen. 6:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A8); [Heb. 11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11); [Eph. 2:8-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+2%3A8-9)).

1. **Dispensation of Human Government**

([Gen. 8:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+8%3A15)-19 -- [Gen. 11:27-32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+11%3A32))

**Start –**

**Genesis 8:15-19 (KJV)**
15  And God spake unto Noah, saying,
16  Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee.
17  Bring forth with thee every living thing that *is* with thee, of all flesh, *both* of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth.
18  And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him:
19  Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, *and* whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark.

**End –**

**Genesis 11:27-32**

**A man named ABRAM comes on the scene.**

Present or Postdiluvian Age ([Gen. 8:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+8%3A15) -- [Rev. 19:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A10) Satan cast into the lake of fire eternally):

1. Name. So-called because human laws and government were instituted to regulate man's life after a long age of freedom of conscience. God gave Noah certain laws to govern the race by, and man was held responsible for self-government.

The First Civil Laws Since Adam:

(1) Be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the earth ([Gen. 9:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A1),[7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A7))

(2) Rule over animals ([Gen. 9:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A2))

(3) Allowed animal food, instead of grains, herbs, and vegetables only ([Gen. 9:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A3))

(4) Eat no blood of animals ([Gen. 9:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A4))

(5) Do not murder ([Gen. 9:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A6))

(6) Execute persons who murder ([Gen. 9:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A6))

(7) Keep My covenant eternally ([Gen. 9:8-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A8-17))

**Some of these laws have formed the basis of human laws in all ages since.** Because it is necessary to punish criminals, individuals, and nations ([Rom. 13:1-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+13%3A1-6); [1Pet. 2:13-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+2%3A13-14)), law enforcement is needed, and even war when nations become criminal ([Isa. 11:4-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+11%3A4-9); [65:20-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+65%3A20-25); [Dan. 2:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+2%3A21); [4:17-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A17-25); [5:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A21); [7:1-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A1-25); [8:20-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+8%3A20-25); [9:24-27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+9%3A24-27); [11:2-45](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+11%3A2-45); [Zech. 14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+14); [Rev. 19:11-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A11-21)). Human governments are part of God's moral government and are needed to preserve human society on earth. Without law enforcement no government can endure. The purpose of moral and civil government is man's highest good. Civil and family governments are necessary in securing this end. It is the duty of all to help establish, maintain, support, and take part in human government for the preservation of society.

2. Length -- from Noah's flood to the call of Abraham when he was 75 years old -- in all, **427 years** ([Gen. 11:10-32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+11%3A10-32); [12:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A5)).

3. Favorable beginning. Man was rich in experience and wisdom, had true worship, new laws, a new covenant, promises of blessing, dominion of the earth, and responsibility to rule himself forever ([Gen. 8:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+8%3A15) -- [Gen. 9:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A17) RAINBOW).

4. Test -- to obey the laws of human government, rule faithfully, punish criminals, consecrate to God and worship Him ([Gen. 8:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+8%3A20) -- [Gen. 9:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A17))

5. The purpose of God -- to test man under a new standard of conduct. He had failed to live right without laws and the threat of punishment; now he was forced to obey the right and reject the wrong ([Gen. 9:1-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A1-7)).

6. The means of God in accomplishing His purpose. Various laws were given and government was established by God, with man now being responsible to rule for the good of all.

7. Failure -- fourfold ([Gen. 9:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A18) -- [Gen. 11:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+11%3A9)):

(1) Failure of Noah ([Gen. 9:20-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A20-24))

(2) Failure of Ham ([Gen. 9:22-27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A22-27))

(3) Failure of the daughters of men in the second episode with fallen angels ([Gen. 9:1-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A1-6); [11:1-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+11%3A1-9); [6:1-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A1-4), notes)

(4) Failure of people in general. Instead of scattering abroad on the earth, they wanted to be one people to defy God ([Gen. 11:1-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+11%3A1-9)). Pride, self-gratification, and hero-worship became prevalent in this age. See [Nimrod](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00004672#Nimrod), and [Mystery Babylon](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00224247#Mystery Babylon), pt. 7.

8. Judgment for sin. God confused the language of human beings to scatter them over all the surface of the earth ([Gen. 11:1-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+11%3A1-9)). About 340 years after the flood, He divided the earth into continents and islands as it is today, to separate people more effectively ([Gen. 10:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+10%3A25); [1Chr. 1:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ch+1%3A19)). This explains how different races came to be in different parts of the earth.

9. God's provision of redemption -- faith in the coming Redeemer and the gospel, and sacrifices typifying these truths ([Gen. 8:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+8%3A20); [12:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A8); [Gal. 3:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A8); [Heb. 4:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+4%3A2)).

1. **Dispensation of Promise** ([Gen. 12:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A1) -- [Ex. 12:37](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+12%3A37))

The Present or Postdiluvian Age ([Gen. 8:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+8%3A15) -- [Rev. 19:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A10)):

1. Name. So-called because of the promises and covenants made with Abraham and his seed. God began predicting and emphasizing the coming of the seed of the woman through a particular branch of the race. **There had been a few predictions before** ([Gen. 3:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A15); [4:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+4%3A25); [9:24-27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A24-27)), **but now Abraham's seed was designated as the special line through whom Christ should come.** In this age many promises and predictions were made to this end ([Gen. 12:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A1-3); [17:7-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+17%3A7-8),[19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+17%3A19); [18:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+18%3A18); [21:12-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+21%3A12-13); [22:17-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+22%3A17-18); [26:3-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+26%3A3-4); [28:3-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+28%3A3-4),[13-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+28%3A13-15); [35:11-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+35%3A11-12); [49:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+49%3A10)).

2. Length -- from Abraham's call at 75 years of age to the exodus from Egypt -- 430 years ([Ex. 12:40](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+12%3A40); [Gal. 3:14-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A14-17)). See [The Sojourn of Abraham's Seed](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00005445#The Sojourn of Abraham's Seed).

3. Favorable beginning. God now began to deal with Abraham's branch of the race in the fulfillment of His plan. Not only did He promise that the Messiah should come through them, but that the promised land would be given to them eternally as a base for world missionary and governmental operations ([Gen. 12:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A1-3),[7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A7); [13:14-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+13%3A14-18); [15:18-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+15%3A18-21); [17:7-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+17%3A7-19)), and that the revelation of God should come through them ([Gen. 12:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A1-3); [15:13-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+15%3A13-21); [17:1-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+17%3A1-21); [Rom. 3:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+3%3A1-2); [4:1-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+4%3A1-25); [9:4-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+9%3A4-5); [Gal. 3:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A8); [Heb. 11:8-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A8-19)).

4. Test **(RESPONSIBILITY)** -- to have faith in God, obey Him, remain separated from all other nations, and evangelize the world ([Gen. 12:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A1-3); [15:4-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+15%3A4-6); [17:1-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+17%3A1-21); [26:3-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+26%3A3-4); [28:13-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+28%3A13-15)).

5. The purpose of God -- to choose one man through whom the Messiah should come, to use him and his seed as His representatives on the earth, and to give them Canaan as a base of operation eternally. **The second episode of the sons of God among human beings had already begun and giants were being born. They were beginning to possess the very land God had in mind for His own headquarters on earth (**[**Gen. 12:6**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A6)**).** It being His plan to use Israel to destroy these giants and preserve a pure line for the Messiah, God allowed Abraham's offspring to become a great and mighty nation in Egypt. It was His further purpose to illustrate the difference between serving Him and other gods, and to make Israel an example to all people physically, mentally, morally, spiritually, and financially -- as a nation enjoying the blessings of the true God -- so that others would be won to Him. Never was God's purpose expressed more fully and clearly to any people; and never before did a nation have in their power such means of blessing all nations and bringing a universal peace, prosperity, and eternal salvation ([Gen. 12:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A1-3); [15:4-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+15%3A4-6); [17:1-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+17%3A1-21); [26:3-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+26%3A3-4); [28:13-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+28%3A13-15); [Gal. 3:8-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A8-14); [Dt. 7:6-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+7%3A6-9)).

6. The means of God in accomplishing His purpose -- the call of God, the covenants and promises, and the personal dealings of God ([Gen. 12:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A1-3); [17:1-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+17%3A1-21); [Rom. 3:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+3%3A1-2); [9:4-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+9%3A4-5)).

7. Failure -- fivefold ([Gen. 12:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A1) -- [Ex. 12:40](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+12%3A40)):

(1) Failure of Abraham ([Gen. 11:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+11%3A31) -- [Gen. 12:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A6); [12:10-20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A10-20); [16:1-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+16%3A1-16); [17:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+17%3A18); [20:1-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+20%3A1-18))

(2) Failure of Isaac ([Gen. 26:6-35](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+26%3A6-35); [27:1-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+27%3A1-4))

(3) Failure of Jacob ([Gen. 25:27-34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+25%3A27-34); [27:1-33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+27%3A1-33); [31:1-42](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+31%3A1-42); [33:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+33%3A14); [37:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+37%3A3))

(4) Failure of the sons of Jacob ([Gen. 37:4-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+37%3A4-6); [38:1-30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+38%3A1-30))

(5) Failure of Israel after the death of Jacob and sons ([Ex. 2:11-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+2%3A11-14); [5:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+5%3A21))

8. Judgment for sin ([Ex. 1:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+1%3A7) -- [Ex. 6:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+6%3A30)) -- bondage in Egypt: the beginning of oppression by Gentiles which would eventually be carried on by eight world kingdoms. See [Eight Mountain Kingdoms and Israel](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00224190#Eight Mountain Kingdoms and Israel) and [The Times of the Gentiles](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00156349#The Times of the Gentiles). The judgment upon Egypt was the ten plagues. See [Fifty-four Acts of God in the Ten Plagues](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00012879#Fifty-four Acts of God in the Ten Plagues).

9. God's provision of redemption. Israel had the gospel ([Gal. 3:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A8); [Heb. 4:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+4%3A2)) and the typical program of sacrifices which, in shadow, taught them of redemption through the Messiah ([Ex. 12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+12); [25:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+25%3A1) -- [Ex. 40:38](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+40%3A38); [Lev. 1:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lev+1%3A1) -- [Lev. 10:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lev+10%3A20); [23:1-44](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lev+23%3A1-44)).

**5. Dispensation of Law** ([Ex. 12:38](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+12%3A38) -- [Mt. 2:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+2%3A23))

The Present or Postdiluvian Age ([Gen. 8:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+8%3A15) -- [Rev. 19:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A10)):

**Start – The Hebrews Leave Egypt**

**Exodus 12:36-38 (KJV)**
36  And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them *such things as they required*. And they spoiled the Egyptians.
37  And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot *that were* men, beside children.
38  And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, *even* very much cattle.

**End – Jesus is Born**

**Matthew 2:23 (KJV)**
23  And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

1. Name. So-called because of the law given to Moses, which became part of the rule of faith and practice during the period between Moses and Christ. Men of this dispensation had the gospel also ([Gal. 3:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A8); [Heb. 4:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+4%3A2)).

2. Length -- from the exodus from Egypt to the preaching of the kingdom of heaven by John the Baptist, or from Moses to Christ -- **1,718 years or more** ([Mt. 11:12-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+11%3A12-13); [Lk. 16:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+16%3A16)) as follows:

(1) From the exodus to the entrance into Canaan, 41 years:

(A) Over a year at Sinai ([Num. 10:11-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+10%3A11-12))

(B) Forty years of wandering in wilderness ([Num. 14:33-34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+14%3A33-34); [32:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+32%3A13); [Dt. 2:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+2%3A7); [8:2-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+8%3A2-4); [29:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+29%3A5); [Josh. 5:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+5%3A6); [Acts 7:23-42](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+7%3A23-42); [13:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+13%3A18); [Heb. 3:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+3%3A9),[17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+3%3A17))

(2) From the entrance into Canaan to the reign of Saul, over 520 years:

(The number of years)

(A) Joshua in Canaan ([Josh. 14:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+14%3A7); [24:29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+24%3A29)) ....................... 30

(B) Elders who outlived Joshua ([Judg. 2:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+2%3A7) -- [Judg. 3:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+3%3A7)) ................ ?

(C) First servitude ([Judg. 3:7-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+3%3A7-8)) .............................. 8

(D) Othniel, first judge ([Judg. 3:9-11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+3%3A9-11)) ........................ 40

(E) Second servitude ([Judg. 3:12-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+3%3A12-14)) ........................... 18

(F) Ehud, second judge ([Judg. 3:15-20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+3%3A15-20)) ......................... 80

(G) Third servitude ([Judg. 3:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+3%3A31)) ............................... ?

(H) Shamgar, third judge ([Judg. 3:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+3%3A31)) .......................... ?

(I) Fourth servitude ([Judg. 4:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+4%3A1-3)) ............................. 20

(J) Deborah and Barak, fourth and fifth

judges ([Judg. 4:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+4%3A4) -- [Judg. 5:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+5%3A31)) ................................. 40

(K) Fifth servitude ([Judg. 6:1-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+6%3A1-10)) ............................. 7

(L) Gideon, sixth judge ([Judg. 6:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+6%3A11) -- [Judg. 8:32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+8%3A32)) ..................... 40

(M) Abimelech, seventh judge ([Judg. 8:33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+8%3A33) -- [Judg. 9:57](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+9%3A57)) ................ 3

(N) Tola, eighth judge ([Judg. 10:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+10%3A1-2)) .......................... 23

(O) Jair, ninth judge ([Judg. 10:3-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+10%3A3-5)) ........................... 22

(P) Sixth servitude ([Judg. 10:6-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+10%3A6-18)) ............................ 18

(Q) Jephthah, tenth judge ([Judg. 11:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+11%3A1) -- [Judg. 12:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+12%3A7)) ................... 6

(R) Ibzan, eleventh judge ([Judg. 12:8-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+12%3A8-10)) ...................... 7

(S) Elon, twelfth judge ([Judg. 12:11-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+12%3A11-12)) ....................... 10

(T) Abdon, thirteenth judge ([Judg. 12:13-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+12%3A13-15)) ................... 8

(U) Seventh servitude ([Judg. 13:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+13%3A1)) ............................. 40

(V) Samson, fourteenth judge ([Judg. 13:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+13%3A2) -- [Judg. 16:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+16%3A31)) ............... 20

(W) Civil war ([Judg. 17:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+17%3A1) -- [Judg. 21:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+21%3A25)) .............................. ?

(X) Eli, fifteenth judge ([1Sam. 4:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+4%3A1),[15-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+4%3A15-18)) ................... 40

(Y) Samuel, sixteenth judge ([1Sam. 4:15-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+4%3A15-18); [7:2-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+7%3A2-15); [8:1-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+8%3A1-5)) ................................... 40

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TOTAL: 520

The 450 years "until Samuel the prophet" of [Acts 13:19-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+13%3A19-21) began perhaps with the first servitude of (C), and continued through the time of Eli as the fifteenth judge -- the one just before Samuel (X and Y). Periods for which dates are not mentioned in Scripture were evidently not taken into consideration in [Acts 13:19-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+13%3A19-21) and are unspecified in the above list. For this reason we say the period in (2) was over 520 years, and the whole length of the dispensation of Law was 1,718 years or more.

(3) From Saul to the Babylonian captivity, over 513 years:

Reign of: (The number of years)

(A) Saul ([Acts 13:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+13%3A21)) ......................................... 40

(B) David ([2Sam. 5:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+5%3A4)) ........................................ 40

(C) Solomon ([1Ki. 11:42](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ki+11%3A42)) ..................................... 40

(D) Rehoboam, after the kingdom

was divided ([1Ki. 14:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ki+14%3A21)) ............................... 17

Rulers of Judah:

(E) Abijam ([1Ki. 15:1,2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ki+15%3A1-2)) ....................................... 3

(F) Asa ([1Ki. 15:9,10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ki+15%3A9-10)) ......................................... 41

(G) Jehoshaphat ([1Ki. 22:41-42](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ki+22%3A41-42)) .............................. 25

(H) Jehoram ([2Ki. 8:16-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+8%3A16-17)) ................................... 8

(I) Ahaziah ([2Ki. 8:25-26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+8%3A25-26)) ................................... 1

(J) Athaliah ([2Ki. 11:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+11%3A3)) ..................................... 6

(K) Joash ([2Ki. 12:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+12%3A1)) ........................................ 40

(L) Amaziah ([2Ki. 14:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+14%3A1-2)) .................................... 29

(M) Azariah or Uzziah ([2Ki. 15:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+15%3A1-2)) .......................... 52

(N) Jotham ([2Ki. 15:32-33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+15%3A32-33)) ................................... 16

(O) Ahaz ([2Ki. 16:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+16%3A1-2)) ....................................... 16

(P) Hezekiah -- six years before and twenty-three years after

the ten-tribe captivity ([2Ki. 18:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+18%3A1-2)) .................. 29

(Q) Manasseh ([2Ki. 21:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+21%3A1)) ..................................... 55

(R) Amon ([2Ki. 21:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+21%3A19)) ........................................ 2

(S) Josiah ([2Ki. 22:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+22%3A1)) ....................................... 31

(T) Jehoahaz, only three months ([2Ki. 23:31-33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+23%3A31-33)) .............. -

(U) Jehoiakim ([2Ki. 23:36](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+23%3A36)) ................................... 11

(V) Jehoiachin, only three months ([2Ki. 24:6-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+24%3A6-16)) ............. -

(W) Zedekiah ([2Ki. 24:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+24%3A18)) .................................... 11

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TOTAL: 513

The 480-year period ending with the fourth year of Solomon's reign (spoken of in [1Ki. 6:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ki+6%3A1)) began with the entrance of Israel into Canaan and excluded the 111 years of servitude and three years of confusion under Abimelech. It was the whole period of Israel's security as a nation -- free from servitude and civil strife -- up to that time in Solomon's reign.

(4) From the beginning of the Babylonian captivity through the restoration to Nehemiah's day in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes, 164 years:

(Number of years)

(A) Babylonian captivity ([Jer. 25:11-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+25%3A11-12); [29:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+29%3A10)) ................ 70

Reign of kings of Medo-Persia:

(B) Darius the Mede ([Dan. 5:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A31); [8:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+8%3A3),[20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+8%3A20); [9:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+9%3A1-2)) ................. 2

(C) Cyrus the Persian ([Ezra 1:1-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ezr+1%3A1-4); [3:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ezr+3%3A8);

[Isa. 44:28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+44%3A28) -- [Isa. 45:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+45%3A1)) ........................................ 9

(D) Cambyses, son of Cyrus ([Ezra 5:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ezr+5%3A1) -- [Ezra 6:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ezr+6%3A22)) .................... 7

(E) Darius I of profane history ([Ezra 5:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ezr+5%3A1) -- [Ezra 6:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ezr+6%3A22)) ............... 35

(F) Xerxes, the fourth king of [Dan. 11:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+11%3A1-3) ..................... 21

(G) Artaxerxes ([Neh. 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ne+2)) ........................................ 20

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TOTAL: 164

(The reigning years of the Medo-Persian kings above are those given in the Encyclopedia Britannica.)

(5) From the time of restoration from Babylon to the preaching of the kingdom by John the Baptist was 480 years which, added to totals of other periods above, make the 1,718 years or more in this dispensation. We arrive at the figure 480 years from a study of [Dan. 9:24-26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+9%3A24-26) which speaks of 7 weeks and 62 weeks (a total of 69 "sevens"), which would be 483 years to take place from the commandment to restore Jerusalem to the crucifixion. Since John announced the kingdom about three years before the crucifixion, we subtract those three years to find the approximate length of this dispensation. See [The Seventy Weeks](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00158389#The Seventy Weeks).

NOTE: Although the official length of the dispensation of law was until John ([Mt. 11:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+11%3A13); [Lk. 16:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+16%3A16)), there was a period of transition afterward during which time Israel officially rejected Christ, the nation was abandoned ([Mt. 23:39](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+23%3A39)), judgment took place at the cross when the law was abolished ([Col. 2:14-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+2%3A14-17)), and Israel was destroyed as a nation in A.D. 70 with survivors scattered among the nations ([Lk. 21:20-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+21%3A20-24)).

3. Favorable beginning. Not since the fall of man had any people experienced a more favorable beginning than Israel at the beginning of the dispensation of law. They saw the power of God in signs and wonders in Egypt and the wilderness. He made personal appearances to them ([Ex. 24:9-11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+24%3A9-11); [Josh. 5:13-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+5%3A13-15)) and spoke with an audible voice ([Dt. 5:22-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+5%3A22-24)). There were visible manifestations of His presence day and night ([Ex. 14:19-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+14%3A19-21)). God took sickness from Israel ([Ex. 15:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+15%3A26); [23:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+23%3A25); [Ps. 105:37](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+105%3A37); [107:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+107%3A20)); gave them the riches of Egypt ([Ex. 12:35](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+12%3A35); [Ps. 105:37](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+105%3A37)); gave them revelations and a complete code of laws; made covenants with them; and gave them the gospel ([Gal. 3:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A8); [Heb. 4:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+4%3A2)).

4. Test -- to obey the law of Moses in every detail ([Ex. 19:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+19%3A8); [24:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+24%3A3),[7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+24%3A7)).

5. The purpose of God -- to test Israel to see if they would obey Him; to begin a commonwealth of nations headed by Israel and governed by men of His own choice; to establish a visible system of worship that would picture the coming redemptive truths in every detail; to bring about the complete destruction of the giant races by the sword of Israel so as to bring the Messiah into the world through pure Adamite stock (as predicted in [Gen. 3:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A15)); to give Israel His complete revelation for the whole human race which, according to His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, would make them a blessing to all nations.

The entire Old Testament was written in this dispensation. God's purpose in giving the law was that the whole world might become guilty before Him and every mouth be stopped ([Rom. 3:19-20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+3%3A19-20); [4:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+4%3A15); [5:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+5%3A13); [7:5-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+7%3A5-14); [Gal. 4:21-31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+4%3A21-31); [5:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+5%3A1)). The law was a shadow of good things to come and was added because of transgression until the Seed should come ([Mt. 11:11-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+11%3A11-13); [Lk. 16:16-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+16%3A16-17); [Gal. 3:12-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A12-25); [Col. 2:14-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+2%3A14-17); [Heb. 8:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A5); [9:1-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+9%3A1-10); [10:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+10%3A1)). See [Eighty-five Old Covenant and New Covenant Contrasts](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00201054#Eighty-five Old Covenant and New Covenant Contrasts) for proof that the law is now abolished. See [Law of Commandments Abolished](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00204279#Law of Commandments Abolished).

6. The means of God in accomplishing His purpose. The giving of the law, the completion of the organization of Israel to destroy the races of giants, the settling of Israel in the promised land to use them there as an outstanding nation showing forth the benefits of serving the true God -- these were the means of God to accomplish His purpose.

7. Failure -- sevenfold:

(1) Failure in the wilderness. See [Ten Murmurings against Moses](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00031043#Ten Murmurings against Moses).

(2) Failure under Joshua ([Josh. 7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+7) -- [Josh 9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+9)).

(3) Failure under judges ([Judg. 1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+1) -- [Judg. 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+2)). See Length, point 2 above.

(4) Failure under kings. Nearly every king of Israel and Judah failed after the division of the kingdom, and the people went into such apostasy that the nation was brought into captivities ([2Ki. 17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+17),[25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+25)). See note, [1Ki. 11:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ki+11%3A6).

(5) Failure in captivity ([Ezek. 2:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+2%3A3) -- [Ezek. 3:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+3%3A9); [Jer. 1:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+1%3A1) -- [22:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+22%3A30)).

(6) Failure in restoration from captivity ([Ezra 10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ezr+10); [Neh. 13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ne+13); [Hag. 1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Hag+1); [Mal. 1:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mal+1%3A1) -- [Mal. 4:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mal+4%3A6)).

(7) Failure in rejecting their own Messiah and the gospel ([Mt. 5:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+5%3A20); [6:1-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+6%3A1-18); [11:20-27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+11%3A20-27); [12:22-30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+12%3A22-30); [15:1-20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+15%3A1-20); [16:1-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+16%3A1-12),[23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+16%3A23); [Mt. 26:57](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+26%3A57) -- [Mt. 27:66](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+27%3A66); [Jn. 5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+5); [Acts 2:11-38](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+2%3A11-38); [3:1-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+3%3A1-5); [6:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+6%3A8) -- [8:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+8%3A3); [9:1-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+9%3A1-9); [12:1-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+12%3A1-19); [13:41-52](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+13%3A41-52); [Mt. 22:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+22%3A1) -- [Mt. 28:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+28%3A20)).

8. Judgment for Sin -- twofold:

(1) Judgment of the sins of Israel and of the whole world in the cross of Christ ([Jn. 12:27-33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+12%3A27-33); [19:16-30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+19%3A16-30); [Acts 2:36](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+2%3A36); [Php. 2:5-11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+2%3A5-11); [Col. 2:14-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+2%3A14-17); [1Pet. 2:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+2%3A24)).

(2) Judgment on Israel as a nation. The kingdom of God was taken from them ([Mt. 21:33-46](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+21%3A33-46)), the nation was rejected to be desolate until the second coming of Christ ([Mt. 23:37-39](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+23%3A37-39)), and it was completely destroyed in A.D. 70, with survivors being scattered among the other nations ([Lk. 21:20-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+21%3A20-24); [Dt. 28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+28); [Lev. 26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lev+26)).

9. God's provision of redemption. At the cross God provided the true source of redemption ([1Cor. 1:18-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+1%3A18-24); [Col. 1:12-20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+1%3A12-20); [2:14-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+2%3A14-17); [1Pet. 2:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+2%3A24)). Up to this time people offered sacrifices of animals as a picture of the true sacrifice at Calvary ([Heb. 8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8) -- [Heb. 10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+10)). God sent His Son to take the place of all human beings in death, so that they might be fully redeemed, reconciled, and restored to the original dominion ([Ps. 8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+8); [Gal. 3:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A13); [Eph. 2:11-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+2%3A11-18); [Heb. 2:9-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+2%3A9-18); [1Pet. 1:18-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+1%3A18-23)).

1. **The Dispensation of Grace** ([Mt. 3:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+3%3A1) -- [Rev. 19:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A10))

Present or Postdiluvian Age ([Gen. 8:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+8%3A15) -- [Rev. 19:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A10))

1. Name. So-called because of the fullness of grace brought by Jesus Christ ([Jn. 1:16-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A16-17)). Human beings had grace in all previous ages, but not in fullness. The same was true of laws. People had laws in all periods before Moses, but the fullness of law came by Jesus Christ. See [The Truth about Grace](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00207550#The Truth about Grace)

2. Length -- **from the preaching of the kingdom of heaven by John (**[**Mt. 11:11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+11%3A11)**;** [**Lk. 16:16**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+16%3A16)**) to the second coming of Jesus Christ.** Considering that we reckon our time in A.D. from the birth of Christ, and that He was about thirty years of age (in A.D. 30) when John the Baptist announced the kingdom and when Law ended and Grace began ([Lk. 1:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+1%3A26); [3:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+3%3A23)), then we know that we will have already come 1,970 years in this dispensation by A.D. 2000. How many more years Grace will continue is not known because we don't know when the second coming (which is to terminate this dispensation) will take place. Students of prophecy believe it will be soon. Grace cannot end until ten kingdoms are formed inside the old Roman Empire territory ([Dan. 7:7-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A7-8),[19-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A19-24)), until the Antichrist has been here seven years after the rapture of the church ([Dan. 9:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+9%3A27); [2Th. 2:7-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Th+2%3A7-8)), and until all the events of [Rev. 4:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+4%3A1) -- [Rev. 19:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A10) have been fulfilled in these last seven years ([Rev. 4:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+4%3A1), note). Then, and then only, can Christ come ([Rev. 19:11-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A11-21)) and the Millennium begin ([Rev. 20:1-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+20%3A1-10)).

A review of the Seven Dispensations of Man up to this point will show that we will have come 6,201 years or more from Adam by A.D. 2000 as follows:

(years)

(1) Innocence .......................................... ?

(2) Conscience ......................................... 1,656

(3) Human Government ................................... 427

(4) Promise ............................................ 430

(5) Law ................................................ 1,718

(6) Grace .............................................. 1,970

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TOTAL: 6,201

This disproves the theory that there are to be only 7,000 years in the seven dispensations of man -- 4,000 from Adam to Christ, 2,000 from Christ to the Millennium, and 1,000 for the Millennium. Since we will have had 6,201 years or more from Adam to A.D. 2000, that puts us at least 201 years ahead into the seventh period of 1,000 years, which is contrary to the theory.

3. Favorable beginning. Satan was defeated on the cross and made powerless to overcome any believer who would put on the whole armor of God ([Eph. 6:10-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+6%3A10-18)) and resist him ([Eph. 4:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4%3A27); [Jas. 4:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+4%3A7); [1Pet. 5:7-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+5%3A7-9)). In this matter, no difference was made between Jew or Gentile, male or female ([Acts 2:16-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+2%3A16-21); [1Cor. 12:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+12%3A13); [Gal. 3:28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A28); [Col. 3:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+3%3A11)). Furthermore, the dispensation of Grace began with ministries of power -- that of Christ, John the Baptist, the apostles, and other men endued to perform miracles, as recorded in the Gospels and Acts. It began with complete grace ([Jn. 1:16-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A16-17)), promises of the fullness of the Spirit ([Jn. 7:37-39](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+7%3A37-39)), and a full commission to represent God and do the works of Christ ([Mk. 16:15-20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+16%3A15-20); [Jn. 14:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+14%3A12)). There is now no limitation to the believer regarding what he wants from God according to the promises. Everyone is privileged to receive according to his faith ([Mt. 8:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+8%3A13); [9:29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+9%3A29); [17:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+17%3A20); [21:21-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+21%3A21-22); [Mk. 11:22-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+11%3A22-24); [Jn. 14:12-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+14%3A12-15); [15:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+15%3A7),[16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+15%3A16); [Heb. 11:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A6); [1Jn. 3:21-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+3%3A21-22); [5:13-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+5%3A13-14)).

4. Test **(RESPONSIBILITY)** -- obedience to the faith of the gospel in all its teachings ([Mk. 16:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+16%3A16); [Jn. 3:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+3%3A16); [Rom. 1:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1%3A5),[16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1%3A16); [16:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+16%3A26); [Heb. 11:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A6); [Jas. 1:5-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+1%3A5-8)).

5. The purpose of God -- to save all who would believe, to call out a people for His name, and to build the church ([Jn. 3:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+3%3A16); [Acts 15:13-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+15%3A13-18); [1Cor. 1:18-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+1%3A18-24); [12:12-31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+12%3A12-31); [Eph. 2:14-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+2%3A14-22); [4:7-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4%3A7-16); [5:25-32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+5%3A25-32); [1Tim. 2:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+2%3A4); [2Pet. 3:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+3%3A9); [Rev. 22:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+22%3A17)).

6. The means of God in accomplishing His purpose. **Preaching the gospel is His means to call out a people for the church** ([Mt. 28:19-20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+28%3A19-20); [Mk. 16:15-20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+16%3A15-20); [Rom. 1:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1%3A16); [1Cor. 1:18-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+1%3A18-24); [2Cor. 4:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+4%3A4)). For this work He uses called and gifted men ([Rom. 12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+12); [1Cor. 12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+12); [Eph. 4:7-11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4%3A7-11)). He also uses angels ([Heb. 1:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+1%3A14)) and ordinary saved men to propagate the gospel as directed by the Holy Spirit ([Jn. 14:16-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+14%3A16-17),[26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+14%3A26); [15:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+15%3A26); [16:7-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+16%3A7-15); [Acts 1:4-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+1%3A4-8); [2:38-39](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+2%3A38-39); [5:32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+5%3A32)).

7. Failure -- threefold:

(1) The failure of Israel is seen in their rejection of John, Jesus, and the apostles; in the crucifixion of their Messiah; and in war on the early church. The gospel first went to Israel ([Mt. 10:5-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+10%3A5-6)) but they would not obey. So, it was taken from them and given to the Gentiles ([Mt. 21:33-46](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+21%3A33-46)).

(2) The early church began to fail God in the very beginning ([Acts 5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+5) -- [Acts 6:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+6%3A15)). All the epistles reveal divisions, strifes, heresies, unclean living, false leaders, and other evidences of backsliding and fallacy ([1Cor. 1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+1),[3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+3),[5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+5),[11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+11); [Gal. 3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3); [Eph. 4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4); [Col. 3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+3); [2Pet. 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+2); [Jude 1:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jude+1%3A3); [Rev. 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+2) -- [Rev. 3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+3)).

(3) The post-apostolic church continued in failure -- not evangelizing the world, living clean lives, preaching the full truth, or being one as Christ had prayed ([Jn. 17:21-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+17%3A21-23)). The church entered the dark ages when popes and bishops lorded it over civil rulers and murdered millions who would not conform to organized religion. A reformation finally took place and Christianity has now been revived (in part) as in the New Testament, but the church as a whole is still slow to recognize its full rights and privileges in the gospel.

8. Judgment for sin. For their rejection of John ([Mt. 3:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+3%3A7); [21:23-27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+21%3A23-27)), Jesus ([Mt. 11:11-27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+11%3A11-27); [Mat. 12:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+12%3A23)), and the early disciples ([Acts 4:1-31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+4%3A1-31); [6:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+6%3A8) -- [Acts 7:59](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+7%3A59); [8:1-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+8%3A1-4); [9:1-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+9%3A1-8); [12:1-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+12%3A1-5); [16:19-38](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+16%3A19-38); [Acts 17:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+17%3A1) -- [Acts 8:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+8%3A18); [Acts 22:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+22%3A1) -- [Acts 28:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+28%3A31)), Israel was destroyed as a nation in A.D. 70 and scattered among the other nations ([Mt. 24:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+24%3A1-3); [Lk. 21:20-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+21%3A20-24)). They will not be restored until the second coming of Christ ([Rom. 11:25-29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+11%3A25-29)). This dispensation will end with great apostasy ([Mt. 24:4-41](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+24%3A4-41); [1Tim. 4:1-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+4%3A1-16); [2Tim. 3:1-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+3%3A1-13); [4:1-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+4%3A1-4); [2Th. 2:1-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Th+2%3A1-12); [2Pet. 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+2); [Jude 1:3-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jude+1%3A3-18)). The question in [Lk. 18:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+18%3A8) isL "when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" Judgment will include the greatest tribulation ever known on earth ([Mt. 24:15-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+24%3A15-24); [Rev. 6:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+6%3A1) -- [Rev. 19:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A10); [Dan. 12:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+12%3A1)). Because men will not receive the truth, God will send strong delusions to damn such rebels ([2Th. 2:8-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Th+2%3A8-12); [Rev. 13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+13); [16:13-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+16%3A13-16); [19:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A20)).

9. God's provision of redemption. The provision for this period and every other one is the death of Christ on the cross ([1Cor. 1:18-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+1%3A18-24); [Col. 1:12-20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+1%3A12-20); [2:14-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+2%3A14-17); [1Pet. 2:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+2%3A24)). People in previous dispensations looked forward to it by faith to receive its benefits. People now look back in faith to receive its benefits ([Rom. 3:24-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+3%3A24-25); [Eph. 2:8-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+2%3A8-9); [Heb. 11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11)). God sent His Son to take the place of all persons in death, so that all who believe might be fully redeemed, reconciled, and restored to original dominion ([Ps. 8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+8); [Gal. 3:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A13); [Eph. 2:11-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+2%3A11-18); [Heb. 2:9-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+2%3A9-18); [1Pet. 1:18-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+1%3A18-23)).

**7. Dispensation of Divine Government or Millennium** ([Rev. 19:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A11) -- Rev. 0:15)

The Age to Come ([Mt. 12:32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+12%3A32); [Eph. 1:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+1%3A21)):

1. Name. So-called because divine government will take over all human governments. The first 1,000 years of theocracy or God's rule on earth is also called the Millennium, meaning 1,000 years ([Rev. 20:1-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+20%3A1-10)). See [Twenty-one Universal Things in the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00098826#Twenty-one Universal Things in the Millennium); [Tenfold Prophecy of the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00101100#Tenfold Prophecy of the Millennium); [Fourteen Characteristics of the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00102889#Fourteen Characteristics of the Millennium); [Fifty Facts about the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00225010#Fifty Facts about the Millennium) and Events of the Millennium in [New Testament Prophecies](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00227921#New Testament Prophecies).

2. Length -- from the second coming of Christ, the battle of Armageddon, the judgment of the nations, and the binding of Satan ([Mt. 24:29-31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+24%3A29-31); [25:31-46](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+25%3A31-46); [Rev. 19:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A11) -- [Rev. 20:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+20%3A3)) to the loosing of Satan, the second resurrection, the great white throne judgment, the renovation of the heaven and earth, and the beginning of the new heavens and new earth -- 1,000 years ([Rev. 20:1-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+20%3A1-15); [21:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+21%3A1); [2Pet. 3:10-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+3%3A10-13)).

3. Favorable beginning. For the first time since Adam submitted to Lucifer, man will be free and have perfect conditions in every respect as before the fall -- except that he will still be subject to death for committing any sin that carries the death penalty. **Natural and depraved instincts, tendencies, and lusts will yet be a part of man's nature, but his opportunities for overcoming them will be greater because there will be no satanic power or influence, no sickness, disease, pain, or other physical disorder. Christ and resurrected saints will be reigning over the coming generations from the beginning of the Millennium and forever.** See [Fifty Facts about the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00225010#Fifty Facts about the Millennium); [Eight Facts about the Eternal Kingdom](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00111576#Eight Facts about the Eternal Kingdom); and [Israel's Millennial Land](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00059046#Israel's Millennial Land); [Fifteenfold Millennial Worship](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00126096#Fifteenfold Millennial Worship); [Ten Material Blessings in the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00129527#Ten Material Blessings in the Millennium); [Millennial Health](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00137232#Millennial Health); [Great Millennial and Eternal Changes](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00138244#Great Millennial and Eternal Changes); [Death Will Continue Through the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00138288#Death Will Continue Through the Millennium); [Sinners Enter the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00138298#Sinners Enter the Millennium); [Millennial Riches](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00138424#Millennial Riches); [Twenty Blessings of the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00091359#Twenty Blessings of the Millennium); [Twenty-one Universal Things in the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00098826#Twenty-one Universal Things in the Millennium); [Tenfold Prophecy of the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00101100#Tenfold Prophecy of the Millennium); [Fourteen Characteristics of the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00102889#Fourteen Characteristics of the Millennium); [Fifty Facts about the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00225010#Fifty Facts about the Millennium).

4. Test **(RESPONSIBILITY)**-- to obey Christ, resurrected saints, civil and religious laws of the kingdom, and conform to the will of God ([Ps. 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+2); [Isa. 2:2-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+2%3A2-4); [Zech. 14:11-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+14%3A11-21); [Rev. 5:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+5%3A10); [11:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+11%3A15); [20:1-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+20%3A1-10)).

5. The purpose of God -- to put down rebellion on earth; fulfill the everlasting covenants of the past; vindicate and avenge Christ and the saints; exalt resurrected saints of all ages to a kingly and priestly position; judge the nations in righteousness and restore the earth to its rightful owners; restore Israel as the head of all nations; and to put all enemies under the feet of Christ so as to bring back the perfect conditions that existed before the fall of Lucifer and Adam -- this is the purpose of God in the dispensation of divine government or the millennium. See [Fifty Facts about the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00225010#Fifty Facts about the Millennium); [Eight Facts about the Eternal Kingdom](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00111576#Eight Facts about the Eternal Kingdom); and [Israel's Millennial Land](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00059046#Israel's Millennial Land); [Fifteenfold Millennial Worship](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00126096#Fifteenfold Millennial Worship); [Ten Material Blessings in the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00129527#Ten Material Blessings in the Millennium); [Millennial Health](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00137232#Millennial Health); [Death Will Continue Through the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00138288#Death Will Continue Through the Millennium); [Sinners Enter the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00138298#Sinners Enter the Millennium); [Twenty Blessings of the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00091359#Twenty Blessings of the Millennium); [Twenty-one Universal Things in the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00098826#Twenty-one Universal Things in the Millennium); [Tenfold Prophecy of the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00101100#Tenfold Prophecy of the Millennium); [Fourteen Characteristics of the Millennium](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00102889#Fourteen Characteristics of the Millennium). See the purpose of God in the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ in [Great Millennial and Eternal Changes](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00138244#Great Millennial and Eternal Changes) and [Millennial Riches](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00138424#Millennial Riches); [Premillennial Coming](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=45&sec=00174177#Premillennial Coming).

6. The means of God in accomplishing His purpose. He will send Jesus Christ, faithful angels, and resurrected saints from heaven to put down rebellion on earth; He will complete His testing period for man; and remove the curse ([Mt. 24:29-31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+24%3A29-31); [25:31-46](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+25%3A31-46); [1Cor. 15:24-28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+15%3A24-28); [2Th. 1:7-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Th+1%3A7-10); [Rev. 19:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A11) -- [Rev. 20:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+20%3A10); [22:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+22%3A3)).

7. Failure. **As in all six previous dispensations, there will be some who will not choose God and righteousness. At the end of the Millennium multitudes will follow the devil who will be loosed from the bottomless pit in order to give people a final opportunity to rebel openly and try to overthrow God's government** ([Rev. 20:7-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+20%3A7-10)).

8. Judgment for sin. Fire will come down from heaven and devour the rebels who have lived through the 1,000 years (or a part of it, if they are born within the period) and who choose Satan rather than God ([Rev. 20:7-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+20%3A7-10)). Thus, God will bring to an end the rebellion in His universal kingdom which began with Lucifer, unfaithful angels, demons, and pre-Adamites in the antechaotic age, and which broke out anew with Adam in the antediluvian age. All human rebels will be resurrected to face judgment and be confined to eternal hell with all other rebels ([Isa. 66:22-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+66%3A22-24); [Mt. 25:41](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+25%3A41),[46](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+25%3A46); [Rev. 14:9-11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+14%3A9-11); [19:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A20); [20:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+20%3A10); [21:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+21%3A15); [22:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+22%3A8)), and righteous angels and men will serve God and help Him administer the affairs of the universes forever. See [Gen. 8:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+8%3A22); [9:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A12),[16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A16); [Dan. 2:44-45](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+2%3A44-45); [7:13-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A13-14),[18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A18),[27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A27); [Rev. 1:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A5); [5:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+5%3A10); [22:4-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+22%3A4-5).

9. God's provision of redemption. His provision of salvation through Christ is eternal for those who accept and conform to it during their probation on earth. The resurrected saints who are to reign as kings and priests with Christ for 1,000 years will have been saved from all sin and possibility of rebellion by this time. The natural people who remain true to God in the last rebellion on earth will be saved to enter the eternal kingdom -- to multiply and replenish the earth eternally, as God originally did when man was created. See [Gen. 1:26-28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+1%3A26-28); [8:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+8%3A22); [9:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A12),[16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+9%3A16); [17:1-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+17%3A1-8); [2Sam. 7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+7); [Isa. 9:6-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+9%3A6-7); [Dan. 2:44-45](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+2%3A44-45); [7:13-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A13-14),[18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A18),[27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A27); [Ezek. 43:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+43%3A7); [Lk. 1:32-33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+1%3A32-33); [Rev. 11:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+11%3A15); [22:4-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+22%3A4-5). The full benefits of redemption will then be realized and enjoyed eternally ([Rom. 8:21-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+8%3A21-24); [Rev. 5:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+5%3A10); [22:1-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+22%3A1-5)).

By this time, the earth will have gone through three perfect states and two sinful careers:

(1) Original perfection ([Gen. 1:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+1%3A1); [Ps. 19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+19))

(2) First sinful career and judgment -- of Lucifer and pre-Adamites ([Gen. 1:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+1%3A2); [Isa. 14:12-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+14%3A12-14); [Jer. 4:23-26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+4%3A23-26); [Ezek. 28:11-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+28%3A11-17); [2Pet. 3:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+3%3A6))

(3) Second perfect state ([Gen. 1:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+1%3A3) -- [Gen. 2:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+2%3A25))

(4) Second sinful career and judgment -- of Adamites ([Gen. 3:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A1) -- [Rev. 20:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+20%3A15))

(5) Third perfect state -- when renovated by fire ([2Pet. 3:10-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+3%3A10-13); [Rev. 20:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+20%3A7) -- [Rev. 22:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+22%3A5); [Isa. 65:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+65%3A17); [66:22-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+66%3A22-24))