**Walk Through the Bible**

**Lesson Number One**

**Ages and Dispensations**

Sometimes I try to throw too much food on the plate when I am teaching the Bible. And sometimes I take for granted that the student may not know as much as I think. For that reason, I am going to slow down and go slowly so I can show you what God has done throughout the ages.

Before I begin teaching in Genesis, it is imperative that we see things that transpired before the creation of the earth which we behold in the early chapters of Genesis.

It is impossible for me to use the word, “time”, when I talk about “ages and dispensations.” Time did not exist when many things took place and even now, time is non-consequential in Heaven and in the spirit realm.

I am starting our walk through the Bible by laying out different ages and dispensations. The Bible shows us that there have been several different dispensations and in those, God told man how he could walk in fellowship with God. In each and every one of those dispensations, man failed. It is also interesting to note, that in all ages, faith in God is what has always justified a man. Apparently, in years past, “Dispensationalists” incorporated some false doctrine in their teachings on Dispensationalism. We should be careful not to throw out good teaching because someone added some false doctrine. We are going to throw out all false doctrine and study the ages and dispensations and I will give many scriptures to back up the teaching.

1. Where did God Come From?
	1. I have been asked this question many times
	2. God has ALWAYS existed.
		1. In three distinctions, yet as ONE GOD.
			1. The Father
			2. The Son
			3. The Holy Spirit

**Psalm 90:2 (KJV)**
2  Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou *art* God.

**Psalm 93:2 (KJV)**
2  Thy throne *is* established of old: thou *art* from everlasting.

**Micah 5:2 (KJV)**
2  But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; **whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting**.

**John 1:1-3 (KJV)**
1  In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2  The same was in the beginning with God.
3  All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Prov. 8:22-31; Heb. 9:14; Rev. 1:4-8, 4:8, 22:5, 13

* 1. The Bible does say, “God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran.”

**Habakkuk 3:3 (KJV)**
3  God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.

* + 1. This refers to God leading the children of Israel out of Egypt through Teman and Mount Paran. Teman and Paran took in the whole of the south of Judah, including Sinai.
		2. It is not saying that God originated from Teman.
1. What Did God Do Before Adam and Eve?
	1. The Bible is silent on this issue.

**Deuteronomy 29:29 (KJV)**
29  The secret *things belong* unto the LORD our God: but those *things which are* revealed *belong* unto us and to our children for ever, that *we* may do all the words of this law.

1. **There are 14 ages and 7 dispensations of men.**
	1. Some scholars may teach more
	2. Some scholars may teach less
		1. Some Bible teachers may combine some and others may split the ones I list into different parts.
2. List of Ages (Dispensations)
	1. The Eternal Past
	2. The Pre-Adamite World
	3. Chaotic Earth
	4. Re-Creation of the Earth
	5. The Age of Innocence 1
	6. The Age of Conscience 2
	7. The Age of Human Government 3
	8. The Age of Promise 4
	9. The Age of the Law 5
	10. The Age of Grace (Church Age) 6
		1. We are currently in this age.
	11. The Tribulation (Last 7 yrs of Age of Grace)
	12. The Millennium 7
	13. Renovation of the Earth
	14. Eternal Future
3. Why is it Important to Understand Ages and Dispensations?
	1. It helps us understand God’s plan for mankind.
	2. So that we will understand how the Word of God, the Bible, pertains to us.
		1. The Old Testament is full of “types and shadows”.
		2. Many times, what happened physically in the Old Testament, particularly in the Age of the Law happens to us, in the Age of Grace, spiritually.
		3. And because ALL of God’s Word is important for us to know.

**2 Timothy 3:16 (KJV)**
16  All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

1. **The Eternal Past**
	1. God planned the Ages. Heb. 1:3, 11:3; Eph. 2:7, 3:5
	2. God planned the Kingdom.

**Matthew 25:34 (KJV)**
34  Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

**1 Corinthians 15 (NLT)**

24After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power. 25For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. 26And the last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27For the Scriptures say, “God has put all things under his authority.” (Of course, when it says “all things are under his authority,” that does not include God himself, who gave Christ his authority.) 28Then, when all things are under his authority, the Son will put himself under God’s authority, so that God, who gave his Son authority over all things, will be utterly supreme over everything everywhere.

God created the material universe and the earth.

**Genesis 1:1 (KJV)**
1  In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

* 1. **“**Created” – Hebrew “bara” – translated to create or to make fat. To create something out of nothing.
	2. God creates EVERYTHING PERFECTLY.
		1. There ARE things God cannot do.
			1. Lie
			2. Sin
			3. Create anything that is not perfect

**James 1:17 (KJV)**
17  Every **good gift and every perfect gift** is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

* 1. Some scientists believe that the universe started out less than the size of one atom.
	2. The universe continues to rapidly expand.
	3. Jesus, the creator, **NEVER said to stop!**
	4. God created the earth to be populated.

**Isaiah 45:18 (KJV)**
18  For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I *am* the LORD; and *there is* none else.

1. God created the Angels.

**Job 38:4-7 (NLT)**

“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?
    Tell me, if you know so much.
5Who determined its dimensions
    and stretched out the surveying line?
6What supports its foundations,
    and who laid its cornerstone
7as the morning stars sang together
    and all the angels shouted for joy?

* 1. Lucifer was the ruler of this planet.

**The creation of the angels brings to an end, The Eternal Past.**

**Isaiah 45:18 (KJV)**
18  For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I *am* the LORD; and *there is* none else.

* + 1. In Genesis 1:2 we have a very different image of the earth.

**Genesis 1:2 (KJV)**
2  And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

* + - 1. The earth had no form.
				1. **Was** – Heb. haya – to come to pass. “it came to pass that the earth was without form,,,
				2. **Without form** – Heb. tohu – a waste, wilderness, and empty place, confusion, vanity.
				3. **Void** – Heb. bohu – an undistinguishable ruin, emptiness, void, a vacuum. This shows us the earth was such a horrible place in Gen. 1:2 that one would not recognize it from the way it was originally created.
				4. **Darkness** - Heb. hoshek – darkness, obscurity, misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, wickedness.

Not only was there physical darkness but spiritual darkness as well.

When Lucifer was cast into the earth, after trying to be “like God”, this is what the result of that rebellion was.

Other angels fell with Lucifer.

We will discuss this in more detail when we talk about the “Pre-Adamite Age.”

* + - * 1. **The Deep** – Heb. tehom - an *abyss* (as a *surging* mass of water), especially the *deep* (the *main* sea or the subterranean *water-supply*) :- deep (place), depth.

**Genesis 1:2 (New Living Translation)**

The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the **deep waters**. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the **waters**.

**Holman Christian Standard Version**

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

**New International Version**

When the earth was as yet unformed and desolate, with the surface of the ocean depths shrouded in darkness, and while the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters,

**God’s Word Translation**

The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep water. The Spirit of God was hovering over the water.

**King James 2000 Bible**

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters

**American Standard Version**

And the earth was waste and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep: and the Spirit of God moved upon

the face of the waters.

* + - * 1. Moved – Heb. rahap (rhaw-khaf) – move, flutter or shake.

Probably earthquakes.

* + - * 1. Waters – Heb. mayim – We are given the idea of “wasting water”, “urine”. A horrible, disease ridden, terrible flood.
	1. We see the earth as an undistinguishable place, not desirable to anyone. No life, only death, sorrow, wickedness, etc. Its mass is surging in the flood.
	2. All the dead’s spirits remain and become demons when our Lord re-creates the earth and places man on earth.
		1. Demons desperately seek a human host but when they cannot get into a human, they will enter into animals. Luke 8:26-39, the Gadarene demonics. Demons cast out of one of the men and entered the swine.
		2. There was no hell at this time to confine the spirits of wicked men and animals who rose up with Lucifer to rebel against God.
	3. Why was the Earth destroyed?

1. Creation of the earth -- made perfect the first time ([Gen. 1:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+1%3A1); [Job 38:4-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+38%3A4-7); [Isa. 45:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+45%3A18); [Heb. 11:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A3)).

2. Creation of the world *(kosmos* (GSN-[<G2889>](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?strongs=G2889)), social order) that then was ([2Pet. 3:5-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+3%3A5-7); [Isa. 14:12-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+14%3A12-14); [45:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+45%3A18); [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)).

**2 Peter 3:5-7 (KJV)**
5  For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:
6  Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:
7  But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

3. Lucifer's reign over "the world that then was" ([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); [Col. 1:15-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+1%3A15-18)). The length of his rule is unknown.

4. Other thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers placed over other parts of the universe ([Col. 1:15-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+1%3A15-18); [Eph. 1:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+1%3A21); [3:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+3%3A10); [1Pet. 3:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+3%3A22)).

5. The kingdom of God universal -- God is the Supreme Moral Governor of the universe, and everything in harmony with Him ([Job 38](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+38); [Dan. 4:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A17),[25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A25),[32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A32),[35](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A35)). The length of rule before Lucifer's rebellion is unknown.

6. Lucifer, earth's original ruler, thinks he can get other angelic beings to cooperate to dethrone God so that he can become the exalted supreme ruler of the universe ([Isa. 14:12-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+14%3A12-14); [Ezek. 28:11-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+28%3A11-17); [1Tim. 3:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+3%3A6)).

7. Lucifer carries out his plans, falls through pride, and slanders the Almighty, causing his own subjects and over one third of God's angels ([Rev. 12:7-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+12%3A7-12)) to rebel against Him. The earth enters its first sinful career ([Isa. 14:12-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+14%3A12-14); [Ezek. 28:11-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+28%3A11-17); [1Tim. 3:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+3%3A6)). Length of the uprising is unknown.

8. Lucifer openly breaks relations with God and His government, leading his rebels from the appointed place of mobilization on earth into heaven in his attempt to dethrone God. He is met by Michael and the faithful angels and is defeated, being cast as lightning back to the earth ([Isa. 14:12-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+14%3A12-14); [Ezek. 28:11-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+28%3A11-17); [Lk. 10:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+10%3A18)).

9. God destroys Lucifer's kingdom on earth completely, and curses the earth by destroying every bird, animal, fish, city, inhabitant, and all vegetation. He then uses a great flood to make the earth an empty waste ([Gen. 1:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+1%3A2); [Ps. 104:5-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+104%3A5-9); [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. 3:5-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+3%3A5-7)). Length of the pre-Adamite flood on earth is unknown.