

EARTH AND HEAVEN

II Timothy 2:15 - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- A. The Bible is God's _____ plete revelation from Him to man. _____ is missing. There are 66 books, written by some _____ authors over a period of _____ years. Each book fits together as a puzzle - becoming one. It is amazing that the dispensations fit in place with the _____ way the books have been collected and their order (Genesis - Matthew - Revelation).
- B. The Bible, since the printing press, has traditionally been divided into _____ main segments (_____ - made).

Most say:

1. The Old Testament begins with Genesis and ends with _____.
 2. The New Testament begins with _____ and ends with Revelation.
 3. However, God has made divisions Himself in His Word and He wants, or _____, us to study and recognize _____ divisions.
 - a. Example: Law and Grace are different dispensations. As we see God's divisions, we come to a point of decision. Will we believe and trust in man-made divisions or _____?
 - b. Since most believe Genesis-Malachi is God's Old Testament, they believe the O.T. dealt mainly with Israel. They assume God's _____ dealings with us began with Matthew, thus _____ the New Testament.

*We will see this teaching is in most Bible Colleges and Seminaries, but it does not agree with the testimony of God's _____ itself.
- C. Again, 99% of Christendom believes the space between Malachi and Matthew is the dispensational dividing line that _____ placed in His Word.
1. *Because of this thinking, Genesis-Malachi has to deal with "Time Past". Matthew then _____ God's program for us today - "Time Present".
 2. But the space between Malachi and Matthew is not there as a dividing line, or a separation to tell us something has come to a close with the end of Malachi and something _____/different started with Matthew _____.
 3. Question? Why is this space (400 years) there between Malachi and Matthew?
*Have you ever wondered _____?

Answer:

- a. This blank period of time stands for the prophesied period of _____ in God's program dealing with Israel.
- b. Instead of saying the O.T. (old) is _____ and God is dealing in a _____ way (N.T.), the truth is that the space between Malachi & Matthew links Malachi to Matthew! Malachi's and Matthew's gospels are one and the _____ - not separate. That is confirmed by the fact that Malachi and Matthew were still under the Law.

c. This period of silence tells us that the Gospels (Matthew-John), which follow, do not bring in something so new. Both are _____ under Law. The thing that ends is the silence, but God continues His program and dealings with Israel (Kingdom is at hand).

D. Notice the context; it is dealing with Israel's history. Israel had been in continued and persistent _____ bellion, idolatry, _____ tasy, and _____ -God's Word and ways. They had no, or little, spirituality.

1. God is holy, just, and _____ sponsible to carry out the penalties of His Law. He sent judgment upon the Israelites by sending them into _____ tivity to the Assyrians, then the Chaldeans, and out of the land.
2. The prophets from Isaiah to Malachi told the Jewish people that their _____ tivity was only the beginning. There also would be following chastisements to fall upon them.
3. It was foretold by God's prophets that the _____ round of chastisements would be in five installments (Lev. 26). The _____ one being the (day of the Lord) Tribulation, where God completely purges His nation and His _____ will be saved.
4. Before this final judgment, there would be other judgments upon Israel. One would be an extended period of time when God would be _____ and say nothing to His nation. There would be no Word from God. This meant there would be no _____ speaking for God to them.

Amos 8:11-12 - Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: Amos 8:12 And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

*This silent period _____ upon Israel following Malachi the prophet. Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi were the _____ prophets through whom God spoke to Israel before God went silent.

E. [a famine...of hearing the words of the LORD:]

1. For _____ years this silence was not broken by God,...until Luke 3:2 - Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.
2. John the Baptist began to function as God's prophet to _____.
Matthew 3:1-3 - In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, Matt. 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Matt. 3:3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
3. So this silence between Malachi and Matthew stands for the silence of God to Israel, which was prophesied by Amos. This was maintained for 400 years _____ John the Baptist.

*This space is not a _____ line from Old Testament to New Testament covenant.

F. From the time God called out Abram in Genesis _____, making His covenant with Abram and his _____, to the time of Paul - God's program dealt with Israel.

1. At that moment also, the Gentiles were put into a position of alienation from God as He drew closer to Israel and _____ clusively to Israel. Israel became God's _____ nation.

**Remember: Genesis 3, 6, 10-11

2. Ephesians 2:11-12 - Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; Eph. 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

a. We (Gentiles) had no covenants, no God, no _____ during the O.T. (Gen. 12-), Four Gospels, and early Acts (Acts 1-8). This is why Paul says in:

Romans 15:8 - Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* unto the fathers:

&

Galatians 4:4 - But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

b. During Genesis-Acts 8, it shows God working in "Time Past" in dealing with _____.

G. Today's Dispensation of Grace program was not ushered in _____ God temporarily set Israel aside. When Acts 7 happened, God _____ with _____ (Acts 9) a _____ different Dispensation called the Mystery of Christ. God had a secret that had been _____, the Body of Christ.

1. To be a new program, God raised up a new Apostle to take the lead - Saul/Paul. With Paul, the Gentiles were no longer the _____.

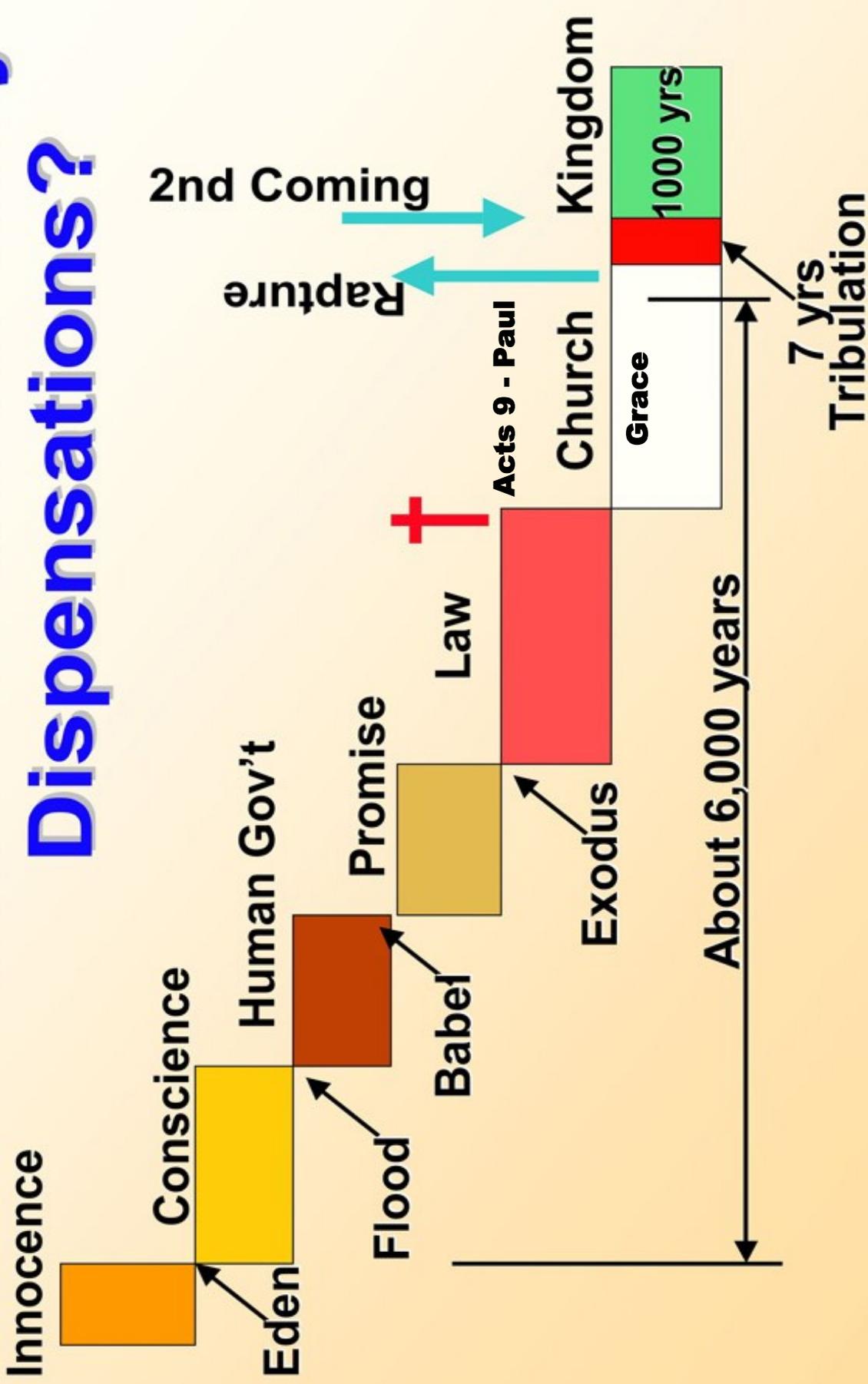
Galatians 3:28a - [There is neither Jew nor Greek,]

2. So with this great dispensational change, it is _____ that we rightly divide.

**This means when we handle the Bible, we recognize God's divisions because they are _____ divisions.

*Notice the following charts:

What do we mean by Dispensations?



SEVEN ADMINISTRATIONS

YOU ARE HERE



PAST

PRESENT

FUTURE

What GOD Did

What GOD Is Doing

What GOD Will Do

Genesis

Romans

Hebrews

-

-

-

Mid-Acts

Philemon

Revelation

"Time Past"

With The
Nation of Israel

"But Now"

With The
BODY OF CHRIST

"Ages To Come"

With The
Nation of Israel

*This is important to know, to help _____ the _____ of God's Word. All of the Bible is for our learning and admonition, but it is Paul's epistles that are _____ clusively to us and about us today. Paul's epistles are where we find our _____, instructions, promises, and _____ hope.

H. Question? When and where did the O.T. begin?

Answer:

1. In God's _____ - Genesis 12, in _____:

Exodus 19:5-6 - Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine: Exo. 19:6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

*Technically, the actual inauguration of the O.T. (old covenant) took place when there was provided a _____ and shedding of _____.

Exodus 24:6-8 - And Moses took half of the blood, and put *it* in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Exo. 24:7 And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient. Exo. 24:8 And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.

2. Question? When was the O.T. Covenant-Law terminated?

Answer:

Colossians 2:14 - Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Romans 6:14 - For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

*The abolishing of the O.T. (Covenant Law) took place the day Christ _____.

3. Question? When did the New Testament begin?

Answer:

a. *Scripturally*, the N.T. did not begin in Matthew 1:1, but only when there was the _____ death-sacrifice and blood - Christ's.

Luke 22:19-20 - And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake *it*, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Luke 22:20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

b. The beginning of the N.T. (Covenant) was _____ by the prophets.

Jeremiah 31:31, 33 - Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Jer. 31:33 But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

c.

A covenant that lasted _____ years, made with the Nation of Israel. It lasted from O.T Moses to the cross.

A new covenant that is part of Israel's future _____ years - made with Israel only. N.T

4. Question? If the O.T. and N.T. were made with Israel, then this could not possibly be the major division in God's Word for _____.

a. So where do believers today _____ in? Where is God's _____ division?
Answer: Israel's _____ (Gen. 12-Acts 8); _____ Body (Acts 9-Philemon)

b. Today, the _____ important division in the Bible is the one between Prophecy and the great Mystery program proclaimed by _____.

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

*God has always had a purpose concerning the earth, quite _____ from His purpose for heaven.

(2) Note: Ephesians 1:9-10 - Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: Eph. 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

Colossians 1:16-17 - For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: Col. 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

(3) The _____ - Christ will reign with Israel in the earthly Kingdom. This is the ful _____ ment of Israel's prophecy program.

Luke 1:68-70 - Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, Luke 1:69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; Luke 1:70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

Acts 2:30; 3:21,24 - Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; Acts 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. Acts 3:24 Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

(4) The _____ - The Body of Christ has a heavenly calling or hope.

*Interestingly, there is not _____ word about us found in Israel's prophecy program. Our going to heaven is God's secret- _____ program of the Mystery.

**God kept us, the Mystery Body of Christ, secret until He was ready to bring the Body into being - beginning with Paul.

Romans 16:25 - Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

I Corinthians 2:7 - But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

Ephesians 3:5, 9 - Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; Eph. 3:9 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Colossians 1:26 - Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

- (5) There is a _____ difference between prophecy, that was spoken by the mouth of all God's holy prophets since the world began, and that which was kept _____ since the world began.

THE 27 BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

BOOK	AUTHOR	THEME	DATE WRITTEN*	CHAPTERS
Matthew	Matthew	Christ as the King	c. A.D. 37-40	28
Mark	Mark	Christ as the Servant	c. A.D. 37-40	16
Luke	Luke	Christ as the Man	c. A.D. 37-40	24
John	John	Christ as JEHOVAH God	c. A.D. 37-40	21
Acts	Luke	Transition from Jews to Gentiles and Transition from Peter to Paul	c. A.D. 52-60	28
Romans	Paul	Basic Grace Doctrine	c. A.D. 55-58	16
1 Corinthians	Paul	Christian Conduct	c. A.D. 57-58	16
2 Corinthians	Paul	Paul's Apostleship	c. A.D. 57-58	13
Galatians	Paul	Legalism & Denominationalism	c. A.D. 52-53	6
Ephesians	Paul	The Church, the Body of Christ	c. A.D. 61-63	6
Philippians	Paul	Christian Experience	c. A.D. 61-63	4
Colossians	Paul	Christ as Head of the Body	c. A.D. 61-63	4
1 Thessalonians	Paul	Rapture of the Church, the Body of Christ	c. A.D. 53-54	5
2 Thessalonians	Paul	Day of the LORD, Second Coming of Christ	c. A.D. 53-54	3
1 Timothy	Paul	Church Order	c. A.D. 62-64	6
2 Timothy	Paul	Holding the Truth (Paul's Farewell letter)	c. A.D. 67-68	4
Titus	Paul	Church Order	c. A.D. 63-65	3
Philemon	Paul	Love Exemplified	c. A.D. 64-65	1
Hebrews	Unknown	Christ's Priesthood & the New Covenant	c. A.D. 58-60	13
James	James	Practical Judaistic living	c. A.D. 45-50	5
1 Peter	Peter	Suffering & Glory	c. A.D. 52-58	5
2 Peter	Peter	Last Days (Peter's Farewell Letter)	c. A.D. 67-68	3
1 John	John	Fellowship	c. A.D. 52-58	5
2 John	John	Christ's Commandment	c. A.D. 52-58	1
3 John	John	Walking in Truth	c. A.D. 52-58	1
Jude	Jude	False Teachers	c. A.D. 52-58	1
Revelation	John	Consummation	c. A.D. 52-58	22

***NOTE: All dates given are approximate.**