

Approximately 40 minutes



# **God's Plan Through the Ages: Dispensations, Destiny, and the Days Ahead**

## **Opening Prayer**

**Father God,**

**We come before You in the name of Jesus Christ, thanking You that You are the God of history. You are the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. Nothing has ever taken You by surprise. Every moment of human history has unfolded according to Your perfect wisdom and Your perfect love.**

**Lord God, as we study Your plan through the ages, open our eyes to understand Your Word. Give us**

**discernment to recognize the times we live in. Give us urgency to live faithfully. And above all, draw our hearts closer to Jesus Christ, our Savior, our King, and our coming Lord.**

**We ask this in Jesus' name,  
Amen.**

## **Introduction: God Is the Author of History**

The Bible is not a random collection of stories. It is not a disconnected series of events. It is the unfolding of one unified plan....the redemption of humanity through Jesus Christ.

From Genesis to Revelation, God reveals His purposes step by step.

**Ecclesiastes 3:11** NIV says: **11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.**

God has placed eternity inside every human soul. And throughout history, He has worked through different periods of time, often called dispensations. A dispensation is simply a period of time in which God works with humanity in a specific way, revealing His will and showing people their need to trust and obey Him. These dispensations do not represent different ways of salvation. Salvation has always been by **grace through faith**. But they do represent different ways God reveals His will and tests humanity's obedience.

As we walk through these dispensations today, we will see three things clearly:

- Man's consistent failure
- God's consistent faithfulness
- Christ as the center of it all

And we will discover exactly where we are today on God's prophetic clock.

## 1. The Dispensation of Innocence ... Paradise Lost

Genesis chapters 1-3

**Genesis 1:31** NIV says: <sup>31</sup> **God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.**

Imagine that moment.

- No sin.
- No death.
- No suffering.
- No fear.

Adam and Eve lived in perfect fellowship with God. They walked with Him. They knew Him personally. There was no separation.

God gave them one command in **Genesis 2:17 (NIV) <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.**"

This was a simple test of trust.

But Satan entered the picture. He questioned God's Word. He introduced doubt.

Genesis chapter 3 records the fall.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Sin entered the world. Death entered the human race.

**Romans 5:12** NIV says: **<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this**

**way death came to all people, because all sinned—**

The lesson is clear: 🖐️ Even in a perfect environment, man cannot remain righteous apart from God.

The problem was never the environment. 🖐️ The problem was the **human heart**.

## **2. The Dispensation of Conscience ... Corruption of Humanity**

Genesis chapters 4-8

After the fall, mankind now had a conscience. They knew good and evil.

**Genesis 4:7 NIV says: “If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”**

But humanity did not rule over sin.

👉 Sin ruled over humanity.

Violence spread. Corruption increased.

**Genesis 6:5** NIV says: ***5 The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.***

This was not partial corruption. This was total corruption.

God sent the Flood as judgment.

But even after the Flood, the human heart remained sinful.

👉 The lesson: Conscience alone cannot save mankind.

- Education cannot save man.
- Government cannot save man.
- Morality cannot save man.

👉 Only **Christ** can save man.

### 3. The Dispensation of Human Government ..... Authority Without Submission

Genesis chapters 9-11

After the Flood, God established human government.

**Genesis 9:6** NIV says: <sup>6</sup> **“Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.**

Government was meant to restrain evil.

But instead of submitting to God, humanity united in rebellion.

At **Babel**, mankind attempted to build a tower to heaven.

**Genesis 11:4** NIV: <sup>4</sup> **Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves;**

**otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”**

This was not about construction. This was about **pride**.

👉 Humanity wanted independence from God.

So God confused their languages and scattered them.

👉 The lesson: Human authority without submission to God leads to rebellion.

#### **4. The Dispensation of Promise .... God Chooses a People**

Genesis chapter 12 - Exodus chapter 19

God called one man .... Abraham.

**Genesis 12:2-3** NIV: <sup>2</sup> ***“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”***

This promise pointed forward to **Jesus Christ**.

**Galatians 3:16** tells us the ultimate offspring of Abraham is Christ. NIV<sup>16</sup> ***The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ.***

But Abraham’s descendants eventually went into slavery in Egypt.

**Why?**

Because God was preparing them.

God always prepares before He delivers.

## 5. The Dispensation of Law .... The Mirror of Sin

Exodus chapter 20 - Acts chapter 2... That is a lot of the Bible....

God gave Israel the Law through Moses.

The Law revealed God's holiness.

But it also revealed man's sinfulness.

**Romans 3:20** NIV says: **20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.**

The Law was never meant to save. It was meant to show the need for a Savior.

Israel failed repeatedly.

They rejected the prophets.

And ultimately, they rejected their Messiah.

They crucified Jesus Christ.

But what looked like defeat was actually God's greatest victory.

👉 Through the cross, salvation became available to the world.

## 6. The Dispensation of Grace .... The Church Age

Acts 2 to **Present**

👉 This is the age we are living in right now.

**Ephesians 2:8** NIV says: ***8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—***

Salvation is not earned.

👉 It is received.

Jesus died for our sins. He rose again. And now salvation is available to **all who believe.**

The Holy Spirit now lives **inside believers.**

But Scripture warns this age will end in widespread apostasy.

Revelation chapter 3 describes the Laodicean church ..... lukewarm, self-sufficient, and spiritually blind.

This describes much of the modern church world today.

Outward religion.  
Inward emptiness.

But Jesus is still calling.

**Revelation 3:20 NIV: “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock...”**

He is still saving.

But this age will not last forever.

## The Next Event: The Rapture of the Church

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NIV: <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.**

This is the **blessed hope** of the Church.

Jesus will remove His Church before the Tribulation.

This is not the Second Coming. This is Christ coming for His Church.

The Tribulation follows.

## The Tribulation and Rise of Antichrist:

**Daniel 9:27** describes a seven-year Tribulation period. NIV<sup>27</sup> **He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.**

2 Thessalonians chapter 2 describes the Antichrist rising to power.

This will be the darkest period in human history.

👉 But it ends with the return of Jesus Christ.

## **The Second Coming of Christ:**

Revelation chapter 19 describes Jesus returning in glory.

He is called:

- Faithful and True
- King of Kings
- Lord of Lords

He will defeat evil and establish His kingdom.

## **The Millennial Kingdom:**

Revelation chapter 20 describes Christ reigning for 1,000 years.

Peace will cover the earth.

Justice will reign.

Christ will rule visibly.

## The Final Judgment and Eternal State:

Revelation chapter 21 describes the New Heaven and New Earth.

***Revelation 21:4*** NIV says: ***4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’***

- No more death.
- No more suffering.
- No more pain.

Only **eternal life** with **God**.

## So Where Are We Now?

We are living in the final moments of the Church Age.

Everything is moving toward Christ’s return.

**Luke 12:40** NIV says: **40 You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.**

## **Salvation Invitation:**

If you have never trusted Jesus Christ, today is the day....right where you are...

**2 Corinthians 6:2 NIV:**

**“.....now is the day of salvation.....”**

Jesus died for you.

He rose again.

He offers forgiveness and eternal life.

Salvation is received by faith.

 You can receive Christ right now.

Before we close today, I want to speak to anyone who may not yet know Jesus Christ personally.

The entire plan of God through the ages points to one central truth: **Jesus Christ came to save you.**

The Bible says in ***Romans 3:23 NIV,***  
***“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”***

That includes every one of us. Sin separates us from God. But God did not leave us without **hope.**

***Romans 5:8*** NIV says,  
***“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”***

Jesus went to the cross. He took your sin upon Himself. He died in your place. And three days later, He rose from the grave. He is alive today, and He offers forgiveness, new life, and eternal salvation to anyone who will trust in Him.

Jesus said in **John 3:3** NIV,  
***“...Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”***

To be born again means to receive new spiritual life. It means turning from your sin and placing your trust completely in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

The Bible says in **Romans 10:9 (NIV)**,  
***“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”***

If you would like to receive Jesus Christ today, you can do that right now. Salvation is not about a church ritual. It is about surrendering your heart to Jesus.

You can pray this prayer from your heart:

**“Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I believe You died for my sins and rose again. I ask You to forgive me. I turn from my sin and place my trust in You alone. Come into my life. Be my Lord and my Savior. Make me new. From this day forward, I will follow You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”**

If you prayed that prayer and meant it from your **heart**, the Bible says you are forgiven. You are born again. You are now a child of God.

***John 1:12*** NIV says,

***“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”***

Welcome to the family of God.

**Closing Prayer:**

**Father God,**

**Thank You for revealing Your plan through the ages. Thank You for sending Jesus Christ to save us. Help us live ready, faithful, and watchful. Draw hearts to salvation today.**

**In Jesus' name,**

**Amen.**



Matthew 28:19-20