

Ephesians Series

Lesson #029

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

The Glory of God
Ephesians 1:9–10

Eph. 1:7, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness [*aphesis*] of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Eph. 1:8, “which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,”

Eph. 1:9, “by making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,”

γνωρίζω *gnorizo*

**aor act part masc
sing nom**

**to make known, to
reveal**

**“by making known to
us”**

μυστήριον

musterion

neut sing acc

**mystery, secret,
previously
unrevealed
knowledge**

Eph. 3:1, “For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—

Eph. 3:2, “if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

Eph. 3:3, “how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,”

Eph. 3:5, “which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it [but] has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

Eph. 3:6, “that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,”

Eph. 1:10, “that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.”

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οἰκονομία *oikonomia*

fem sing acc

stewardship,

management,

administration, plan

Eph. 1:10, “that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.”

οἰκονομία *oikonomia*

**fem sing acc stewardship,
management,
administration, plan**

“managing or administering the affairs of a household. A steward is someone in charge of administering the affairs of the house.”

What the Bible Teaches About

Dispensations



What is a dispensation?

Latin: *dispensatio*, “to deal out, to weigh out, to dispense, or to distribute.”

**οἰκονόμος *oikonomos* and οἰκονομία *oikonomia*,
management, office from which we get the
word “economy,” meaning to manage,
regulate, administer, to plan.**

**A combination of οἶκος, *oikos* (house) νόμος
noms (law), house law, house rule.**

**“Economy: the management of the resources of a
community, country, etc.; the disposition or regulation
of the parts or functions of any organic whole; an
organized system; the management of household
affairs.” (Random House *Webster’s Electronic
Dictionary and Thesaurus*, College Edition 1992)
Thus it means managing or administering the affairs
of a household. This is not a time word.**

Dispensations are connected with the mysteries of God, that is, with specific revelation from God (1 Corinthians 4:1; Ephesians 3:2; Colossians 1:25).

Eph. 3:2, “if indeed you have heard of the dispensation [*oikonomia*–administration, management, plan] of the grace of God which was given to me for you,”

- 1. The action of administering or ordering something; dealing out or distributing something.**
- 2. The act of administering or dispensing with some requirement.**

***Dispensation:* A distinct and identifiable administration in the development of God's plan and purposes for human history (Eph. 3:2; Col. 1:25–26).**

GENTILES

ISRAEL

Perfect Environment

Conscience

Human Government

Patriarchs

Mosaic Law

Messianic Age

Church Age

Tribulation

Millennial Kingdom

Creation Covenant

Gen. 1:28-30;
Hosea 6:7

Adamic Covenant

Gen. 3:14-19

Noahic Covenant

Gen. 9:1-17

Abrahamic Covenant

Gen. 12:1-3

Mosaic Covenant

Ex. 20-40

Logos

New Covenant Postponed

Armageddon; Kingdom established; New Covenant begins

Responsibility

Fulfill the covenant

Gen. 1:26-28;
2:16-17

Animal sacrifice

Gen. 3:21

Fill the earth

Gen. 9:7

Stay distinct people

Gen. 7:14

Obey the Law

Ex. 19:3-8

Accept Messiah

Faith alone in Christ alone

Obey Christ

Failure

Ate fruit

Gen. 3:1-6

Evil and wickedness

Gen. 6:5-6

Built Babel

Gen. 11:1-4

Assimilated

Gen. 34

Disobeyed

2 Chron. 36:14

Reject Messiah

Most reject Christ

Gog & Magog revolt

Divine Judgment

Sp. death

Gen. 3:7-19

Flood

Gen. 6-9

Confusion of languages

Gen. 11:5-9

Egyptian bondage

Ex. 1:8-14

Diaspora

Deut. 28:63-66

Cross 5th cycle

Tribulation

Satan released; Lake of Fire

RAPTURE

GWT

BIBLICAL DISPENSATIONS

Dispensationalism is a theological system, which understands that God sovereignly governs the history of the human race through a sequence of divinely directed administrations marked by distinctive periods of time as He works out His plan to destroy sin and evil.”

From God's viewpoint a dispensation is an administration.

From man's viewpoint a dispensation is a responsibility.

From the viewpoint of progressive revelation, a dispensation is a stage in it.

Three Essential Elements of Dispensationalism:

- 1. A consistent literal, historical, grammatical interpretation of the Bible.**
- 2. A distinction between God's plan for Israel and God's plan for the church.**
- 3. The overall purpose of God's plan for His creation is His glory.**

“the natural or usual construction and implication of a writing or expression; following the ordinary and apparent sense of words; not allegorical or metaphorical” (Webster’s *New International Dictionary*).

THE GOLDEN RULE OF INTERPRETATION

When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths indicate clearly otherwise.

Thus,

Israel means ethnic Israel, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Church means the church beginning at Pentecost, AD 33, ending at the Rapture.

**Israel does not mean the spiritual church.
Church does not mean spiritual Israel.**

Rom. 9:3, “For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,

Rom. 9:4, “who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises;”

Rom. 11:25, “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Rom. 11:26, “And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

**‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion,
And He will turn away ungodliness from
Jacob;**

**Rom. 11:27, “ ‘For this is My covenant with them,
When I take away their sins.’ ”**

1 Cor. 10:31, “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

John 1:14, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 2:11, “This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.”

Eph. 1:17, “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

Eph. 1:18, “the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,”

**Eph. 3:21, “to Him be glory in the church
by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever
and ever. Amen.”**