

I. Dispensations

A. Definition

1. Meaning of Greek word OIKONOMIA: "to manage, regulate, administer, and plan; to divide, apportion, administer, or manage the affairs of an inhabited house."
  - a. We get our word "economy" from this word
  - b. The word in its various forms appears 20 times in the NT
  - c. OIKONOMIA appears 9 times (in Luke 16:2,3,4; I Cor. 9:17; Eph. 1:10, 3:2,9; Col. 1:25; I Tim. 1:4)
2. Other definitions:
  - a. "A dispensation is a period of time during which man is tested in respect of obedience to some specific revelation of the will of God." (Schofield Reference Bible)
  - b. "A distinguishable *economy* in the outworking of God's purpose." (Ryrie)
  - c. "Dispensationalism views the world as a household run by God. In this household-world God is *dispensing* or *administering* its affairs according to His own will and in various stages of revelation in the process of time. These various stages mark off the distinguishable different economies in the outworking of His total purpose, and these economies are the dispensations." (Ryrie)
  - d. "A dispensation, an economy...is that particular order or condition of things prevailing in one special age which does not necessarily prevail in another." (Ironsides)

B. Characteristics of a Dispensation (Ryrie)

1. A change in God's governmental relationship with man
2. A resultant change in man's responsibility
3. Corresponding revelation necessary to effect the change

C. *Sine Qua Non* (indispensable and essential action, condition, or ingredient) of Dispensationalism (Ryrie)

1. "A dispensationalist keeps Israel and the Church distinct [and separate]".
2. "This distinction...is born out of a system of interpretation...usually called *literal interpretation*."
3. A dispensationalist says the underlying purpose of God in the world is *the glory of God*.

D. Dispensations and Covenants: A covenant is an agreement between God and man. It may issue in a dispensation (as the Noachic Covenant in the dispensation of Civil Government), but is to be distinguished from a dispensation. A dispensation may or may not include a covenant.

E. What are the Dispensations? (Typical List)

1. The Dispensation of *Innocency* (or Freedom)
  - a. *Key Person*: Adam
  - b. *Responsibilities*: maintain the garden and not eat fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2)
  - c. *Failure*: He failed and judgments were pronounced
  - d. God graciously intervened, promised the Seed of the Woman (prophecy about Christ's coming) (Gen. 3:15)
  - e. *Scripture*: Genesis 1-3
2. The Dispensation of *Conscience* (or Self-Determination)
  - a. *Key Person*: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Cain
  - b. *Responsibilities*: to respond to God through the promptings of conscience and blood sacrifice (Gen. 4:3,4)

- c. *Failure*: world became wicked (Gen. 3:5)
- d. *Judgment*: The Flood
- e. *Scripture*: Genesis 4:1--8:14
- 3. The Dispensation of *Civil Government*
  - a. *Key Person*: Noah
  - b. *Responsibilities*: God gave man the right to take the life of another man (capital punishment administered by the government) (Gen. 9:4-6)
  - c. *Failure*: The Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-4)
  - d. *Judgment*: God scattered the nations (Gen. 11:5-9)
  - e. *Scripture*: Genesis 8:15--11:9
- 4. The Dispensation of *Promise* (or Patriarchal Rule)
  - a. *Key People*: the Patriarchs, especially Abraham
  - b. *Responsibility*: to believe and serve God (Gen. 17:1)
  - c. *Failure*: Children of Israel in Egypt (Gen. 50:26)
  - d. *Judgment*: Egypt was judged for mistreatment of God's people (Exo. 7-11)
  - e. *Scripture*: Genesis 11:10--Exodus 18:27
- 5. The Dispensation of *Mosaic Law*
  - a. *Key Person*: Moses
  - b. *Responsibilities*: to keep the law (Josh. 23:6) (But this was not for salvation. Salvation has always been by grace through faith. Rom. 4:1-5; Eph. 2:8,9.)
  - c. *Failure*: God's people were disobedient. (See Det. 28:15-68.)
  - d. *Judgment*: God's people came under foreign domination (Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks, Romans--continuing to the present day.) These are what the Bible describes as the "times of the Gentiles." (Luke 21:24)
- 6. The Dispensation of *Grace*
  - a. *Key Person*: Paul
  - b. *Responsibilities*: to accept the gift of righteousness and salvation which God freely offers to all (John 3:16)
  - c. *Failure*: The world will get worse and worse, not better and better (II Tim. 3:1-5).
  - d. *Judgment*: The Tribulation (Matt. 24:21)
  - e. *Scripture*: Acts 2:1--Revelation 19:21
- 7. The Dispensation of the *Millennium*
  - a. *Key Person*: Christ
  - b. *Responsibilities*: Obedience to the King and His laws
  - c. *Failure*: Revolt, led by Satan, at the close of the Millennium (Rev. 20:7-9)
  - d. *Judgment*: God will destroy all His enemies (Rev. 20:9-15)
  - e. *Scripture*: Revelation 20

## II. Prophecy

- A. Definition: Comes from the Greek word PROPHETEIA, which means, literally, "a speaking before (hand)"
  - 1. Modern connotations of the word suggest a "crystal ball," "fortune-telling" type of prognosticating the future.
  - 2. The Old Testament words translated "prophet" indicate that:
    - a. A prophet was someone appointed to speak for God (Exo. 4:16; 7:1 -- Aaron was Moses' spokesman or "prophet," as Moses was God's spokesman or prophet [Deut. 34:10]).
    - b. A prophet was someone who "looks into," "sees" (literal meaning of two Hebrew words translated "prophet"), and proclaims what he has seen, often--but not always--concerning future events.

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- (1) See I Pet. 1:10-12 and Rev. 1:2.
- (2) The basic meaning, however, seems to be “speaking on behalf of God, “forth-telling” the Word of God, part of which includes prophecies about future events.
- c. So, a prophet may see and foretell future events, by revelation from God, but the word is also used in a more general sense, as “forth-telling” the Word of God, that is, equivalent to “preaching” or “proclaiming” the Word.
- B. Tests of a Prophet (Deut. 13:1-5; 18:20-22)
  1. A true prophet must speak in the name of the Lord (Deut. 18:20-22).
  2. A true prophet may produce a sign or a wonder (Deut. 13:1,2).
  3. A prediction given by a true prophet may be visibly fulfilled. But if it does not come true, or happens otherwise than was predicted, the prophecy is false (Deut. 18:22).
  4. Agreement with previous revelations (Deut. 13:1-5).
- C. Challenges to Biblical prophecy
  1. Celsus (2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D.) denied that the prophets had fully predicted the future. Particularly, he believed Daniel could not have “predicted” the rise of Alexander the Great (Dan. 7:6; 8:5-8,21-22; 11:3). Ever since, liberal theologians have denied that Scripture predicts the future. They believe that the “prophecies” were written after the events they “predict.”
  2. As in Peter’s day, some today question the prophecies about Christ’s second coming simply because it has not yet occurred. (See II Pet. 3:3-4.)
- D. Why study prophecy?
  1. Scripture commands it (Isa. 34:16).
  2. A blessing is promised to those who study it (Rev. 1:3a).
  3. A right knowledge of prophecy will influence the way we live (Rev. 1:3b).
  4. The time is near. Christ’s coming is imminent (Rev. 1:3b; Mark 13:35-37).

### III. Fulfilled Prophecy

- A. Why study fulfilled prophecy?
  1. Gives assurance of the Bible’s trustworthiness.
  2. Sets the pattern for interpreting *unfulfilled* prophecy.
- B. General prophecies

	PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
1.	<b>Rebuilding of Jericho</b> <i>Joshua 6:26: At that time Joshua pronounced this solemn oath: "Cursed before the LORD is the man who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho: "At the cost of his firstborn son will he lay its foundations; at the cost of his youngest will he set up its gates."</i>	<b>Fulfilled</b> <i>I Kings 16:34: In Ahab's time, Hiel of Bethel rebuilt Jericho. He laid its foundations at the cost of his firstborn son Abiram, and he set up its gates at the cost of his youngest son Segub, in accordance with the word of the LORD spoken by Joshua son of Nun.</i>  <b>Archeological Note:</b> The ruins of Jericho show that it was inhabited continuously from pre-Abrahamic times to about 1400 BC, time of Ahab, the ruins of which are very small. In this stratum a large house was uncovered, which may have been the house of Hiel (16:34). A jar with the remains of a child was found in the masonry of a gate, and two such jars in the walls of a house.” (Henry H. Halley, <i>Halley’s Bible Handbook</i> , p. 197.)
2.	<b>Death of Jeroboam</b>	<b>Fulfilled</b>

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	<p><i>I Kings 14:10,11: Because of this, I am going to bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam. I will cut off from Jeroboam every last male in Israel-slave or free. I will burn up the house of Jeroboam as one burns dung, until it is all gone. Dogs will eat those belonging to Jeroboam who die in the city, and the birds of the air will feed on those who die in the country. The LORD has spoken!</i></p> <p><b>Death of his Firstborn</b></p> <p><i>I Kings 14:12: As for you, go back home. When you set foot in your city, the boy will die.</i></p>	<p><i>I Kings 15:29-30: As soon as [Nadab] began to reign, he killed Jeroboam's whole family. He did not leave Jeroboam anyone that breathed, but destroyed them all, according to the word of the LORD given through his servant Ahijah the Shilonite—because of the sins Jeroboam had committed and had caused Israel to commit, and because he provoked the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger.</i></p> <p><b>Fulfilled</b></p> <p><i>I Kings 14:17: Then Jeroboam's wife got up and left and went to Tirzah. As soon as she stepped over the threshold of the house, the boy died.</i></p>
3.	<p><b>King Baasha's Death</b></p> <p><i>I Kings 16:1-4: Then the word of the LORD came to Jehu son of Hanani against Baasha: "I lifted you up from the dust and made you leader of my people Israel, but you walked in the ways of Jeroboam and caused my people Israel to sin and to provoke me to anger by their sins. So I am about to consume Baasha and his house, and I will make your house like that of Jeroboam son of Nebat. Dogs will eat those belonging to Baasha who die in the city, and the birds of the air will feed on those who die in the country."</i></p>	<p><b>Fulfilled</b></p> <p><i>I Kings 16:11-13: As soon as he [Zimri] began to reign and was seated on the throne, he killed off Baasha's whole family. He did not spare a single male, whether relative or friend.</i></p> <p><i>So Zimri destroyed the whole family of Baasha, in accordance with the word of the LORD spoken against Baasha through the prophet Jehu—because of all the sins Baasha and his son Elah had committed and had caused Israel to commit, so that they provoked the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger by their worthless idols.</i></p>
4.	<p><b>Elijah's Prophecy</b></p> <p><i>I Kings 17:1: Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."</i></p>	<p><b>Fulfilled</b></p> <p><i>I Kings 18:1: After a long time, in the third year, the word of the LORD came to Elijah: "Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land."</i></p>
6.	<p><b>Jezebel's Death</b></p> <p><i>I Kings 21:23: "And also concerning Jezebel the LORD says: 'Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.'</i></p>	<p><b>Fulfilled</b></p> <p><i>II Kings 9:30-37 Then Jehu went to Jezreel. When Jezebel heard about it, she painted her eyes, arranged her hair and looked out of a window. As Jehu entered the gate, she asked, "Have you come in peace, Zimri, you murderer of your master?" He looked up at the window and called out, "Who is on my side? Who?" Two or three eunuchs looked down at him. "Throw her down!" Jehu said. So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered the wall and the horses as they trampled her underfoot. Jehu went in and ate and drank. "Take care of that cursed woman," he said, "and bury her, for she was a king's daughter." <u>But when they went out to bury her, they found nothing except her skull, her feet and her hands.</u> They went back and told Jehu, who said, "This is the word of the LORD that he spoke through his servant Elijah the Tishbite: On the plot of</i></p>

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		<i>ground at Jezreel dogs will devour Jezebel's flesh. Jezebel's body will be like refuse on the ground in the plot at Jezreel, so that no-one will be able to say, 'This is Jezebel.'</i> "
7.	<b>Ahab's Sons' Deaths</b> <i>I Kings 21:21: I am going to bring disaster on you. I will consume your descendants and cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel-slave or free.</i>	<b>Fulfilled</b> <i>II Kings 10:11: So Jehu killed everyone in Jezreel who remained of the house of Ahab, as well as all his chief men, his close friends and his priests, leaving him no survivor.</i>
8.	<b>Ahaziah's Death</b> <i>II Kings 1:16: [Elijah] told the king, "This is what the LORD says: Is it because there is no God in Israel for you to consult that you have sent messengers to consult Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? Because you have done this, you will never leave the bed you are lying on. You will certainly die!"</i>	<b>Fulfilled</b> <i>II Kings 1:17: So he died, according to the word of the LORD that Elijah had spoken. Because Ahaziah had no son, Joram succeeded him as king in the second year of Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah.</i>
9.	<b>Defeat of the Assyrians</b> <i>II Kings 19:32-33: "Therefore this is what the LORD says concerning the king of Assyria: "He will not enter this city or shoot an arrow here. He will not come before it with shield or build a siege ramp against it. By the way that he came he will return; he will not enter this city, declares the LORD.</i>	<b>Fulfilled</b> <i>II Kings 19:35: That night the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning-there were all the dead bodies!</i>  <b>Archeological Note:</b> An inscription by Sennacherib describes his campaign against Judah and Jerusalem, naming Hezekiah (saying, "himself I shut up like a caged bird in Jerusalem"), but makes no mention of the destruction of Jerusalem, which did not occur.
10.	<b>Josiah's Birth</b> <i>I Kings 13:1-2: By the word of the LORD a man of God came from Judah to Bethel, as Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make an offering. He cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD: "O altar, altar! This is what the LORD says: 'A son named Josiah will be born to the house of David. On you he will sacrifice the priests of the high places who now make offerings here, and human bones will be burned on you.'"</i>	<b>Fulfilled</b> <i>II Kings 22:1: Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for thirty-one years. His mother's name was Jedidah daughter of Adaiah; she was from Bozkath.</i>
11.	<b>First Destruction of Jerusalem</b> <i>Isaiah 3:8: Jerusalem staggers, Judah is falling; their words and deeds are against the LORD, defying his glorious presence. Isaiah 64:10: Your sacred cities have become a desert; even Zion is a desert, Jerusalem a desolation. Jeremiah 9:11: "I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins, a haunt of jackals; and I will lay waste the towns of Judah so that no-one can live there."</i>	<b>Fulfilled</b> <i>Jeremiah 39:1-2: In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his whole army and laid siege to it. And on the ninth day of the fourth month of Zedekiah's eleventh year, the city wall was broken through. Lamentations 1:1: How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations! She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave.</i>
12.	<b>Babylonian Exile</b>	<b>Fulfilled</b>

	<p><i>II Kings 20:17: The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your fathers have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the LORD.</i></p> <p><b>Length of Exile</b>  <i>Jeremiah 25:12: "But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt," declares the LORD, "and will make it desolate for ever. Jeremiah 29:10: This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfil my gracious promise to bring you back to this place.</i></p>	<p><i>II Kings 24:10-14: At that time the officers of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon advanced on Jerusalem and laid siege to it, and Nebuchadnezzar himself came up to the city while his officers were besieging it. Jehoiachin king of Judah, his mother, his attendants, his nobles and his officials all surrendered to him. In the eighth year of the reign of the king of Babylon, he took Jehoiachin prisoner. As the LORD had declared, Nebuchadnezzar removed all the treasures from the temple of the LORD and from the royal palace, and took away all the gold articles that Solomon king of Israel had made for the temple of the LORD. He carried into exile all Jerusalem: all the officers and fighting men, and all the craftsmen and artisans-a total of ten thousand. Only the poorest people of the land were left.</i></p> <p><b>Fulfilled</b>  <i>II Chronicles 36:21: The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfilment of the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah.</i></p>
13.	<p><b>Destruction of Babylon</b>  <i>Psalm 137:8: O Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction, happy is he who repays you for what you have done to us— Isaiah 13:17-22: See, I will stir up against them the Medes, who do not care for silver and have no delight in gold. Their bows will strike down the young men; they will have no mercy on infants nor will they look with compassion on children. Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonians' pride, will be overthrown by God like Sodom and Gomorrah. She will never be inhabited or lived in through all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there, no shepherd will rest his flocks there. But desert creatures will lie there, jackals will fill her houses; there the owls will dwell, and there the wild goats will leap about. Hyenas will howl in her strongholds, jackals in her luxurious palaces. Her time is at hand, and her days will not be prolonged.</i>  <i>Jeremiah 51:24-26, 37-43: 24: "Before your eyes I will repay Babylon and all who live in Babylonia for all the wrong they have done in Zion," declares the LORD. "I am against you, O destroying mountain, you who destroy the whole earth," declares the LORD. "I will stretch out my hand against you, roll you off the cliffs, and make you a</i></p>	<p><b>Archaeological Note:</b> "For centuries it has been a desolate heap of mounds, a place for the beasts of the desert..."</p> <p><i>NOTE: "In 1985 Saddam Hussein started rebuilding the city on top of the old ruins, using millions on part restoration, part new construction, to the dismay of archaeologists, with his name inscribed on many of the bricks, in imitation of Nebuchadnezzar. One frequent inscription reads: "This was built by Saddam Hussein, son of Nebuchadnezzar, to glorify Iraq". This recalls the ziggurat at Ur, where each individual brick was stamped with "Ur-Nammu, king of Ur, who built the temple of Nanna". These bricks became sought after as collectors' items after the downfall of Saddam, and the ruins are no longer being restored to their original state. He also installed a huge portrait of himself and Nebuchadnezzar at the entrance to the ruins. He also shored up Processional Way, a big boulevard of ancient stones, and the Lion of Babylon, a black rock sculpture about 2,500 years old.</i></p> <p><i>"When the Gulf War I ended, he wanted to build a modern palace, also over some old ruins, it was made in the pyramidal style of a Sumerian ziggurat. He named it Saddam Hill. In 2003, he was ready to begin the construction of a cable car line over Babylon when the invasion began and halted the project.</i></p> <p><i>"Of interesting note, an article published in the New York Times in July 2006 states that UN officials and the Iraqi administration have plans for restoring Babylon, making it a gem of a new Iraq as a cultural center complete with shopping malls, hotels, and maybe even a theme park.</i></p>

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	<p><i>burnt-out mountain. No rock will be taken from you for a corner-stone, nor any stone for a foundation, for you will be desolate for ever," declares the LORD. ...Babylon will be a heap of ruins, a haunt of jackals, an object of horror and scorn, a place where no one lives. Her people all roar like young lions, they growl like lion cubs. But while they are aroused, I will set out a feast for them and make them drunk, so that they shout with laughter- then sleep for ever and not awake," declares the LORD. "I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter, like rams and goats. "How Sheshach will be captured, the boast of the whole earth seized! What a horror Babylon will be among the nations! The sea will rise over Babylon; its roaring waves will cover her. Her towns will be desolate, a dry and desert land, a land where no one lives, through which no man travels.</i></p> <p><b>God has clearly said that Babylon will not be rebuilt, even though Saddam Hussein vainly tried. If God's Word is true, future efforts will also prove futile. See article at right.</b></p>	<p><i>"US forces were criticized for building a helipad on ancient Babylonian ruins following the 2003 invasion of Iraq, under the command of General James T. Conway of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. The vibrations from helicopter landings led a nearby Babylonian structure to collapse.</i></p> <p><i>"US forces have occupied the site for some time and have caused damage to the archaeological record. In a report of the British Museum's Near East department, Dr. John Curtis describes how parts of the archaeological site were leveled to create a landing area for helicopters, and parking lots for heavy vehicles. Curtis wrote that the occupation forces 'caused substantial damage to the Ishtar Gate, one of the most famous monuments from antiquity [...] US military vehicles crushed 2,600-year-old brick pavements, archaeological fragments were scattered across the site, more than 12 trenches were driven into ancient deposits and military earth-moving projects contaminated the site for future generations of scientists [...] Add to all that the damage caused to nine of the molded brick figures of dragons in the Ishtar Gate by people trying to remove the bricks from the wall.'</i></p> <p><i>"The head of the Iraqi State Board for Heritage and Antiquities, Donny George, said that the "mess will take decades to sort out". Colonel Coleman issued an apology for the damage done by military personnel under his command in April 2006, and claimed that they were trying to protect the site from looters." (Wikipedia online encyclopedia, <a href="http://www.wikipedia.org">www.wikipedia.org</a>.)</i></p>
14.	<p><b>Destruction of Tyre</b>  <i>Ezekiel 26:14: 14 I will make you a bare rock, and you will become a place to spread fishing nets. You will never be rebuilt, for I the LORD have spoken, declares the Sovereign LORD.</i></p>	<p>Today "its harbors are strewn with ruins and are little more than 'a place to spread fishnets.'" (G. Frederick Owen, "Archaeological Supplement" to the Thompson Chain Reference Bible.)</p>
15.	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Destruction of Jerusalem</b>  <i>Jeremiah 26:18: "Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah. He told all the people of Judah, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: "'Zion will be ploughed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.'</i>  <i>Micah 3:12: Therefore because of you, Zion will be ploughed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.</i>  <i>Luke 21:20-24: Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.</i></p>	<p>According to the Jewish historian Josephus everything was destroyed except 3 towers and the west wall. The rest of the walls and city were destroyed to their foundations, so that "there was left nothing to make those that came hither believe it had ever been inhabited." This took place under the Roman Emperor Titus in 70 AD.</p>
16.	<p><b>Destruction of Capernaum</b>  <i>Matthew 11:23: 23 (also, Luke 10:15): And</i></p>	<p>"Today its scattered heaps of black basalt building stones extend for a mile along the</p>

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	<p><i>you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day.</i></p>	<p>shore of the sea.” (Owen)</p>
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### C. Prophecies Concerning Christ

	PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
1.	<p><b>Humanity</b>  <i>Genesis 3:15: And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.</i></p>	<p><b>Fulfilled</b>  <i>Galatians 4:4: But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law...</i></p>
2.	<p><b>Ancestry</b>  <i>Genesis 18:18: 18 <u>Abraham</u> will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.</i></p> <p><i>Genesis 17:19: Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him <u>Isaac</u>. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.</i>  <i>Numbers 24:17: I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of <u>Jacob</u>; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the sons of Sheth.</i>  <i>Genesis 49:10: The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.</i>  <i>Isaiah 9:7: 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on <u>David's</u> throne and over his kingdom...</i></p>	<p><b>Fulfilled</b>  <i>Acts 3:25 And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to <u>Abraham</u>, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.'</i>  <i>Matthew 1:2: Abraham was the father of <u>Isaac</u>, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers...</i></p> <p><i>Luke 3:34: ...the son of <u>Jacob</u>, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor...</i></p> <p><i>Luke 3:33: ...the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of <u>Judah</u>...</i></p> <p><i>Matthew 1:1: A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of <u>David</u>, the son of Abraham...</i></p>
3.	<p><b>Incarnation and Deity</b>  <i>Isaiah 9:6: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.</i></p>	<p><b>Fulfilled</b>  <i>John 1:14: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.</i></p>
4.	<p><b>Virgin Birth</b>  <i>Isaiah 7:14: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.</i></p>	<p><b>Fulfilled</b>  <i>Matthew 1:18: This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.</i></p>
5.	<p><b>Place of Birth</b>  <i>Micah 5:2: But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who</i></p>	<p><b>Fulfilled</b>  <i>Matthew 2:1: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to</i></p>



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	<i>will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.</i>	<i>Jerusalem...</i>
6.	<b>Time of Birth</b> <i>Daniel 9:25: Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens', and sixty-two 'sevens'. It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.</i>	<b>Fulfilled</b> <i>Luke 2:1,2: In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)</i>
7.	<b>Herod's Wrath</b> <i>Jeremiah 31:15: This is what the LORD says: "A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because her children are no more."</i>	<b>Fulfilled</b> <i>Matthew 2:16: When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.</i>
8.	<b>Escape to Egypt</b> <i>Hosea 11:1: When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.</i>	<b>Fulfilled</b> <i>Matthew 2:14: So [Joseph] got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt...</i>
9.	<b>Human Growth</b> <i>Isaiah 11:2: The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD...</i>	<b>Fulfilled</b> <i>Luke 2:52: And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.</i>
10.	<b>Inaugural Address</b> <i>Isaiah 11:2: The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn...</i>	<b>Fulfilled</b> <i>Luke 4:16-19: [Jesus] went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."</i>
11.	<b>Galilean Ministry</b> <i>Isaiah 9:1-2: Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan- The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.</i>	<b>Fulfilled</b> <i>Jeremiah 39:1-2: In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his whole army and laid siege to it. And on the ninth day of the fourth month of Zedekiah's eleventh year, the city wall was broken through. Lamentations 1:1: How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations! She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave.</i>
12.	<b>Prophetic Ministry</b>	<b>Fulfilled</b>

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	<i>Deuteronomy 18:15: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him.</i>	<i>John 6:14: After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."</i>
13.	<b>Priestly Ministry</b> <i>Psalm 110:4: The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest for ever, in the order of Melchizedek."</i>	<b>Fulfilled</b> <i>Hebrews 6:20: ...where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest for ever, in the order of Melchizedek.</i>
14.	<b>Rejection</b> <i>Psalm 118:22: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone...</i>	<b>Fulfilled</b> <i>John 1:11: He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.</i>
15.	<b>Triumphal Entry</b> <i>Zechariah 9:9: Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.</i>	<b>Fulfilled</b> <i>John 12:13-14: They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written...</i>
16.	<b>Betrayal</b> <i>Psalm 41:9: Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.</i> <b>Sold</b> <i>Zechariah 11:12-13: I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"-the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD to the potter.</i>	<b>Fulfilled</b> <i>Mark 10:14-15: Then one of the Twelve-the one called Judas Iscariot-went to the chief priests and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.</i>
17.	<b>Trial</b> <i>Psalm 27:12: Do not hand me over to the desire of my foes, for <u>false witnesses</u> rise up against me, breathing out violence.</i> <i>Isaiah 53:7: He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is <u>silent</u>, so he did not open his mouth.</i>	<b>Fulfilled</b> <i>Matthew 26:59-63 The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. But they did not find any, though many <u>false witnesses</u> came forward. Finally two came forward and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained <u>silent</u>. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."</i>
18.	<b>Suffering and Death</b> <i>Isaiah 50:6: I offered my back to those who <u>beat</u> me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and <u>spitting</u>.</i> <i>Isaiah 52:13-14: See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as there were many who</i>	<b>Fulfilled</b> <i>Mark 14:65: Then some began to <u>spit</u> at him; they blindfolded him, <u>struck</u> him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and <u>beat</u> him.</i> <i>Matthew 26:67-68: Then they spat in his face and <u>struck</u> him with their fists. Others <u>slapped</u> him and said, "Prophecy to us,</i>

<p>were appalled at him--his appearance was so <u>disfigured</u> beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness...</p> <p>Psalm 69:4: Those who <u>hate</u> me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head; many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me. I am forced to restore what I did not steal.</p> <p>Psalm 22:6-8: But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. All who see me <u>mock</u> me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."</p> <p>Psalm 22:16-18: Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have <u>pierced</u> my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They <u>divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing</u>.</p> <p>Zechariah 12:10: "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have <u>pierced</u>, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.</p> <p>Psalm 69:21: They put <u>gall</u> in my food and gave me <u>vinegar</u> for my thirst.</p> <p>Isaiah 53:12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the <u>transgressors</u>. For he bore the sin of many, and made <u>intercession</u> for the transgressors.</p> <p>Isaiah 53:4-5 Surely he <u>took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows</u>, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was <u>pierced</u> for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.</p> <p>Zechariah 12:10: 10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have <u>pierced</u>, and they will mourn for him as one</p>	<p>Christ. Who <u>hit</u> you?"</p> <p>John 15:23-25: He who <u>hates</u> me <u>hates</u> my Father as well. If I had not done among them what no-one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have <u>hated</u> both me and my Father. But this is to fulfil what is written in their Law: 'They <u>hated</u> me without reason.'</p> <p>Matthew 27:27-31 Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers round him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spat on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had <u>mocked</u> him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.</p> <p>John 20:27: After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.</p> <p>Mt 27:35: And they <u>crucified</u> him, and <u>parted his garments, casting lots</u>; that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet...</p> <p>John 19:34: Instead, one of the soldiers <u>pierced</u> Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.</p> <p>Matthew 27:34: They gave him <u>vinegar</u> to drink mingled with <u>gall</u>; and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.</p> <p>Matthew 27:38 Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.</p> <p>Luke 23:34: Then said Jesus, <u>Father, forgive them</u>; for they know not what they do.</p> <p>Matthew 8:16-17 When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and <u>healed</u> all the sick. This was to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet...</p> <p>John 19:34: ...One of the soldiers <u>pierced</u></p>
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	<p><i>mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.</i></p> <p><i>Exodus 12:46 "It [the Passover lamb] must be eaten inside one house; take none of the meat outside the house. <u>Do not break any of the bones.</u></i></p> <p><i>Numbers 9:12 They must not leave any of it till morning or <u>break any of its bones.</u> When they celebrate the Passover, they must follow all the regulations.</i></p> <p><i>Ps 34:20 he protects all his bones, <u>not one of them will be broken.</u></i></p>	<p><i>Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.</i></p> <p><i>John 19:33: 33 But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, <u>they did not break his legs.</u></i></p>
19.	<p><b>Burial</b></p> <p><i>Isaiah 53:9: He was assigned a grave with the wicked, <u>and with the rich in his death,</u> though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.</i></p>	<p><b>Fulfilled</b></p> <p><i>Matthew 27:57-60: As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and <u>placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock.</u> He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.</i></p>
20.	<p><b>Resurrection</b></p> <p><i>Psalms 16:10: ...because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.</i></p>	<p><b>Fulfilled</b></p> <p><i>Matthew 28:6: [Jesus] is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.</i></p>
21.	<p><b>Ascension</b></p> <p><i>Psalms 68:18: When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train; you received gifts from men, even from the rebellious-that you, O LORD God, might dwell there.</i></p>	<p><b>Fulfilled</b></p> <p><i>Luke 24:50-51: When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.</i></p> <p><i>Acts 1:9: 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.</i></p>

IV. The Interpretation of Prophecy

A. Methods of Interpretation

1. Allegorical Method (“Spiritualizing”) – “the method of interpreting a literary text that regards the literal sense as the vehicle for a secondary, more spiritual and more profound sense.” (Bernard Ramm, *Protestant Biblical Interpretation*, p. 21)
  - a. Evidences for this method
    - (1) Galatians 4:21-31 (“...*These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother...*”) However, this is an *interpretation* of an allegory, and the only example in the New Testament.
    - (2) New Testament us of types. Again, though, this is a scriptural *interpretation* of types, and should not lead us to find types that may not be there.
2. Literal Method (Grammatical-Historical Method) – The “method that gives to each word the same exact basic meaning it would have in normal, ordinary, customary usage, whether employed in writing, speaking, or thinking.” (J. Dwight Pentecost, *Things to Come*, p. 9)
  - a. Evidences for this method
    - (1) The Old Testament is used only in a literal sense in the New Testament (with the one possible exception being the Galatians 4:21-31 passage).
    - (2) Prophecies of Christ’s first coming were fulfilled literally.
    - (3) “No prophecy which has been completely fulfilled has been fulfilled any way but literally.” (Pentecost, pp. 10-11)
  - b. Advantages of this method
    - (1) “It has had the greatest success in opening up the Word of God. Exegesis (explanation of a text of scripture) did not start in earnest till the church was a millennium and a half old. With the literalism of Luther and Calvin the light of Scripture literally flamed up.” (Ramm, pp. 62-63)
    - (2) Gives us a basic authority by which interpretations may be tested
  - c. Objections to this method
    - (1) The use of figurative language in the Bible argues against it. However, figures of speech are used as a means of revealing literal truth. (Pentecost, p. 14)
    - (2) The Bible is a spiritual book and must be interpreted spiritually. However, the truths of the Bible are communicated in literal terms. God used terms of this realm in which we live.
    - (3) Use of types in the Old Testament argues against it. However, *interpretation* of types is not the same as “manufacturing” them.

B. General Considerations (Pentecost, pp. 34-44)

1. Interpretation of *words* – “All sound exegesis must of necessity...begin with an interpretation of the words themselves.”
2. Interpretation of the *context* – Studying the foregoing and following content of a Scripture passage.
3. *Historical* interpretation – Weighing “the immediate historical setting and

- influence.”
4. *Grammatical* interpretation – “the interpretation of the grammar of the language in which the passage was originally given.”
  5. *Figurative language* – “If the literal meaning of any word or expression makes good sense in its connections, it is literal. But if the literal meaning does not make good sense, it is figurative.” (Clinton Lockhart, *Principles of Interpretation*, p. 49)
- C. Rules for the Interpretation of Prophecy (Pentecost, pp. 59-64)
1. Interpret *literally*
  2. Interpret according to the *harmony* of prophecy
  3. Observe the *perspective* of prophecy
  4. Observe the *time relationships*
  5. Interpret prophecy *Christologically*
  6. Interpret *historically*
  7. Interpret *grammatically*
  8. Interpret according to the *law of double reference*
  9. Interpret *consistently*

## V. Prophecy Overview

## NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH (Revelation 21)

“Great White Throne” Judgment  
(Revelation 20:11)

Judgment on Angels (Jude 6)	Satan Loosed - Gog and Magog (Revelation 20:7-10)		Judgment on Israel and the Gentiles (Matt.24-25)
1000 Years	VII. DISPENSATION OF THE MILLENIUM (Revelation 20) Second AdventSatan Bound		
Great Tribulation  7 Years	Daniel's 70 <sup>th</sup> Week He [the Antichrist] will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven' [week]. In the middle of the 'seven' [week] he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. (Daniel 9:27)		Time of Jacob's Trouble (Jeremiah 20:7)
"Parenthesis" "Mystery" Romans 11:25)  II Cor. 6:1-2 Rom. 10:13	Rapture of the Church (I Thess. 4:16-17) + Prophetic Time Clock Resumes Ticking "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Mark 13:32) VI. DISPENSATION OF GRACE (Acts, chapter 2 through Revelation, chapter 19) War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. (Daniel 9:26) The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.		Present Age, Church Age, "Times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:2)  Jerusalem's Destruction
70 AD			
Pentecost (Acts 2) 32 AD	After the sixty-two 'sevens' [weeks], the Anointed One [Messiah] will be cut off [killed] (Daniel 9:26) Triumphal Entry (Matt. 21) - Prophetic Time Clock Stopped at end of 69 <sup>th</sup> Week		DEATH & RESURRECTION OF CHRIST
490 Years	From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens', and sixty-two 'sevens'. (Daniel 9:25)  Artaxerxes' Decree (Nehemiah 2:1-8)		PROPHETIC TIME CLOCK IN DANIEL 9:24-27  COVENANTS V. New Covenant (Jer.31:31-34, Luke 22:20)
Prophecy about Length of Exile (II Chron.36:21)	V. DISPENSATION OF MOSAIC LAW (Exodus 19 through Acts 1) GIVING OF THE LAW - Exodus 19-20:17 Israel in the Wilderness - Exodus 12:31-18:27		IV. Davidic Covenant (II Sam. 7:12) III. PALESTINIAN COVENANT (II Samuel 7:12)
Galatians 3:15-29 distinguishes Dispensations IV and V.	IV. DISPENSATION OF PROMISE (Genesis 11:1 - Exodus 18)		II. ABRAHAMIC COVENANT (Genesis 12:1-3)
III. DISPENSATION OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT (Genesis 8:5 through 11:9) Command to Come Out of the Ark - Genesis 8:15-17			
Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. (Gen.6:8)	Flood - Genesis 7:11-8:14 II. DISPENSATION OF CONSCIENCE (Genesis 3:7 through 8:14) "Eyes Opened" - Genesis 3:7		
Promise of the Seed of the Woman (Gen.3:15)	Fall of Man - Genesis 3:1-6 Creation of Man I. DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE (Genesis 1:26 through 2:25)		In the 7 days of Creation, God also created TIME

## ETERNITY PAST

For a graphical reproduction of this chart:  
[www.alturasbaptistchurch.org/files/ProphecyOverview.pdf](http://www.alturasbaptistchurch.org/files/ProphecyOverview.pdf)

VI. Prophecies Concerning the Present Age

A. Differences Between This Age and Preceding Ages:

1. Christ has come (Galatians 4:4)
2. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer (I Corinthians 2:12)
3. Announcement of an accomplished salvation through Christ (Acts 17:30-31)
4. Revelation is complete (Revelation 22:18-19)
5. Ours is described as an "evil age" (Galatians 1:4)
6. It is under the dominion of Satan (John 14:30; Matthew 4:8-9)
7. Israel has been temporarily set aside (Romans, chapters 9 through 11)

B. God's Divine Purpose for the Present Age: "to take out of [the Gentiles] a people for His name" (Acts 15:14) in order to "show the exceeding riches of His grace toward us through Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:7)

C. The Character of the Present Age:

1. "Mystery" (Colossians 1:24-27)
2. *A Parenthesis* (Psalm 118:22—"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone...")
3. "Times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24)
4. "Present Age" (Romans 12:2; Galatians 1:4)
5. Church Age (Ephesians 3:10—"His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.")

D. The Course of the Present Age (Matthew, chapter 13; Revelation, chapters 2 & 3)

Pentecost	Period	Parables of Matthew 13	Churches of Revelation 2-3	Meaning of <---City Name	Approximate Dates	Characteristics
↑	1	Sower	Ephesus	Desired	Pentecost - 100 AD	Time of Sowing, Organization, & Evangelism
	2	Wheat & Tares	Smyrna	Myrrh	Nero - 300 AD	Persecution, Enemy Revealed
The Present	3	Mustard Seed	Pergamos	Thoroughly Married	300 - 800 AD	Worldly Alliance, Great External Growth
Age	4	Leaven	Thyatira	Continual Sacrifice	800 - 1517 AD	Papal Domination, Doctrinal Corruption
	5	Hid Treasure	Sardis	Those Escaping	Reformation	Revival, Rise of the State Churches, Decay
	6	Pearl	Philadelphia	Brotherly Love	The Last Days	True Church ↑ Both will witness
2 <sup>nd</sup> Advent ↓	7	Dragnet	Laodicea	People Rulng	The Last Days	Apostate Church ↓ The Rapture

(Adapted from J. Dwight Pentecost, *Things to Come*, p. 153)

E. The Close of the Present Age:

1. Doctrine of Imminency (Mark 13:32-33)
2. Doctrine of the Rapture (I Thessalonians 4:16-17)
3. Differing Views on the Rapture (Pre-, Mid-, and Post-Tribulation, no Rapture)
4. What follows the Rapture for the Church (Romans 14:10, II Corinthians 5:10—"For we [Christians] must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.")



## VII. Prophecies That Concern the Rapture

- A. Definition: The word “rapture” is taken from the Latin Vulgate translation of I Thessalonians 4:17 (translated “caught up” in most English translations)
  1. The Latin word is *rapere*, which means “to seize.”
  2. This meaning is now rare, but originally when the term “rapture” was used, referring to this event, it had this meaning: “lifted (as by supernatural force);” “the act of being transported (from one place to another).”
  3. This is a perfect translation of the Greek word *harpagesomai*: the same word and meaning is found in Philippians 2:6, Acts 8:39; Matthew 13:19; II Corinthians 12:2,4; Revelation 12:4 (though not referring to the rapture of the church).
  4. For the same idea see Acts 1:9, where it says that Jesus was “taken up into heaven” (Greek word *spairo*, meaning “to take up,” “lift up”).
- B. Other Scripture references to the Rapture
  1. Matthew 24:40-41 and Luke 17:34-36, “One shall be *taken*, and the other left...” (Greek word here is *paralambano*, “to take alongside”) –probably a reference to the Rapture.
  2. Comparison with the events of the Flood would seem to decide the correct interpretation (Genesis 7:11-24, Matthew 24:39, Luke 17:26).
    - a. Jesus said, “As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man” (Luke 17:26).
    - b. As Noah and his family were lifted up in the ark out of the destruction of the Flood, so shall Christians be “lifted up” to escape the judgments of the Tribulation.
  3. The example of Enoch being “translated” without experiencing death supports by Old Testament analogy the Rapture position (Hebrews 11:5 has the Greek word *metatithemi*, rendered here “translated,” meaning, “transferring from one place to another,” an idea synonymous with the Rapture.
  4. The experience of Elijah going taken up to heaven in a whirlwind (II Kings 2:11) gives prophetic evidence, by analogy, for the doctrine of the Rapture.
  5. Revelation 3:10 and 4:1 can be seen as depicting the Rapture.
- C. The subjects of the Rapture
  1. Two Theories
    - a. Partial Rapture
      - (1) Some interpreters gather from such passages as Luke 21:36, Philippians 3:20, Titus 2:13, II Timothy 4:8, and Hebrews 9:38 that only those who watch wait, look for, and love the appearing of Jesus will be raptured (leaving some Christians, who are lacking in devotion, here).
      - (2) This theory runs counter to Paul’s teaching in I Corinthians 15:51-52 that “we shall be changed,” and that the church is not to be found in the Tribulation (Revelation, chapter 4 on to the end of the book). It also breaks the unity of the church and misunderstands the nature of the Tribulation period as a time of God’s wrath and judgment, compared by analogy in Scripture to the Flood. This theory is contradicted by such statements in Scripture as Romans 5:9.
    - b. Complete Rapture: This is the clear teaching of I Thessalonians 4:17 and other Scripture cited above, where no distinction is made between those two groups of believers.
- D. What will happen to those raptured?

1. They will be judged as to rewards, or loss of rewards, at the Judgment Seat of Christ (II Corinthians 5:10).
  2. This will immediately follow the Rapture, because in the Scriptures judgment always follows resurrection, and because in such Scriptures as Luke 14:14 reward is associated with the resurrection.
  3. They will be, according to I Thessalonians 4:17, "forever with the Lord."
  4. According to chapter 4 and following in the book of Revelation, they will be in heaven with Christ, observing the terrible events of the Tribulation.
- E. When will the rapture take place in relation to the Tribulation? (Views)
1. After the Tribulation (*Post-Tribulation View*): This runs counter to the Biblical teaching regarding the imminence of Christ's return (Matthew 24:36,42; 25:13; Mark 13:32, and other scriptures).
  2. In the middle of the Tribulation (*Mid-Tribulation View*)
    - a. This view is based mainly on a misinterpretation of the division of Daniel's seventieth week in Daniel 9:27.
    - b. It is also forced to deny the doctrine of imminence, and also misunderstands the nature of the Tribulation period. It tends to confuse the distinctions between the church and Israel in God's program. The Tribulation period will result in the repentance and restoration of Israel into prominence in God's program.
  3. Before the Tribulation (*Pre-Tribulation View*): This is the only view which accords with the doctrine of imminence and with the nature of the Tribulation period. (Nowhere in Revelation, chapter 4 onwards [most of which is prophetic of details of the Tribulation] is the church mentioned, except in Revelation 22:16, where Jesus is merely summarizing the reason and addressees of this revelation.