

## “Rightly Dividing the Scriptures”

### I. Introduction

#### A. Three things to look for in Bible study

1. One main interpretation
2. Many applications
3. Prophetic

### II. A look at the Bible

A. Deut. 29:29 “...those things which are revealed belong to us...”

B. Ps. 119:130 The Bible gives light.

Luke 24:45; II Tim.2:7 The Lord gives understanding of the Scriptures.

C. Acts 8:27-31; I Cor. 2:9-11 The Holy Spirit must lead us.

D. II Tim.2:15 Key to understanding...“rightly dividing...” means “to cut straight” or “make a straight path”.

“We are to rightly divide by recognizing certain divisions in the Word and instructions to God’s people in one dispensation may not carry over to His people in another dispensation” John La Vier

E. Dispensation-“oikonomia”- Eph.1:10;3:2 a particular order or arrangement of God (i.e. plan or purpose) which He established for a given group of people at a particular time.

### III. More questions than answers?

A. Who was Abram’s priest? Who was Moses’ priest? Who is your priest?

B. Why did Israel’s law demand blood sacrifices but today we don’t do them?

C. Why did the Law demand a tithe but Paul said in II Cor.9:7 to give as a man “has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion?”

D. Why did John the Baptist, Jesus, and the 12 Apostle’s preach, “repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand” to no one but Jews Matt.3:2; 4:17; 10:7 and yet Paul preached to Jew and Gentile, “whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”? Rom. 10:13

- E. Why were Israelites not even allowed to touch the mountain when Moses went up to speak with God Ex. 19:12 but Heb 4:16 tells us to “come boldly to the throne of grace”?
- F. Why did Jesus give opposite instructions to His disciples in Matt. 10:9, 10 and in Luke 22:35-36?
- G. Why were there times in the O.T. when few miracles were recorded and then times of Elijah, Elisha, and the Apostles in Acts when many miracles were recorded, and now we see few miracles again?
- H. Why did all in the upper room speak in tongues on the day of Pentecost and yet Paul says that tongues will cease in I Cor.13:8?
- I. Why did Paul leave a friend sick at Miletus in II Tim.4:20 when in Acts 5:15 it seems even Peter’s shadow passing over the sick would heal them?
- J. Why is Peter mentioned 56 times in the 1<sup>st</sup> 12 chapters of Acts but only once thereafter and Paul is mentioned 126 times after chapter 13 in Acts?
- K. Why in Acts 2:44 did believer’s have “all things in common”, but it wasn’t that way in the O.T. and it’s not that way now?

IV. Jesus rightly divided the Word.

- A. Luke 4:16-21; Isa.61:1,2a All that was fulfilled that day was prophecy of His 1<sup>st</sup> coming.

V. Two plans of God

- A. Israel –“a physical people with physical promises tied to the land.”

1. Gen.12:1-3 – God uses one particular nation to bring Jesus into the world.
2. Ro. 11:25; Acts 28:25-28 Israel is set aside because of her rejection of her Messiah.

- B. Church – “a spiritual people with spiritual promises tied to the Heavens”

1. God is not dealing with one nation today, but with individuals who compose the body of Christ.
2. I Thess.4:13-18 The age of Grace will end at the rapture of the church.

VI. God deals with Israel again.

- A. Ro.11:26,27; Acts 15:16,17 – God will bring Israel to brokenness,

repentance, and salvation during the 7 year tribulation period.

VII. Four things to identify in Bible study.

- A. To whom or about whom is God speaking?
- B. What is God speaking (in context)?
- C. When is God speaking?
- D. For what purpose is God speaking?

# "Dispensations of History"

1. Innocence	Gen 1:28	Creation - Fall
2. Conscience	Gen 3:7	Fall - Flood
3. Human Government	Gen 8:15,16	Out of Ark - Call of Abraham
4. Promise	Gen 12:1	Call of Abraham - Deliverance Egypt
5. Law	Ex 19:1	Egypt to Cross
6. Grace	Acts 2:1	Cross to 2nd Com
7. Kingdom	Rev. 20:4	1000 yr Reign

## "The Dispensations"

<u>Name</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>	<u>Judgements</u>
Innocency	Gen. 1:3-3:6	Keep Garden Do NOT Eat Fill, Subdue Earth Fellowship / God	Curses Physical and Spiritual Death
Conscience	Gen 3:7-8:14	Do Good	Flood
Civil Government	Gen. 8:15-11:9	Fill Earth Capital Punishment	Scattering by confusion of languages
Patriarchal Rule (Promise)	Gen 11:10 - Ex. 18:27	Stay in promised land Believe and Obey God	Egyptian bondage Wilderness Wanderings
Mosaic Law	Ex. 19:1 - John 14:30	Keep Law Walk with God	Captivities
Grace	Acts 2:1 - Rev. 19:21	Believe on Christ Walk with Christ	Death Loss of Reward
Millennium (Kingdom)	Rev 20:1-15	Believe and Obey Christ and His Government	Death Great White Throne.