

	Covenant Theology	Dispensational Theology
<b>Bible</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God's Purpose—Salvation of Man</li> <li>• Shows God's plan of grace all through history</li> <li>• Man-centered—How he is saved</li> <li>• To be understood through covenants of works and grace</li> <li>• Interpret O.T. by N.T. (Theological Interpretation)</li> <li>• Interpret prophesy figuratively</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God's Purpose—His Glory</li> <li>• Shows purpose of history is to glorify God, grace is a part of that</li> <li>• God-centered—How God is glorified</li> <li>• To be interpreted literally (literal, grammatical interpretation)</li> </ul>
<b>Covenants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works: between God and Adam</li> <li>• Grace: Between God and elect sinner through Christ</li> <li>• Redemption: made in eternity past to become the basis of covenant between God and man. It is an agreement between the Father and Son</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noetic Covenant between God and Noah &amp; seed</li> <li>• Abrahamic, Israeli, and Davidic Covenants between God and Israel as a nation or her leaders</li> <li>• New Covenant between God and the Church</li> </ul>
<b>Salvation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.</li> <li>• The people of God before Christ constituted a Church and that Church has been one and the same under all dispensations: same promise, same Savior, same condition, same salvation.</li> <li>• Not mere faith in God, but faith in promised Redeemer—faith in the Son of God as the Savior of the world.</li> <li>• Children born of covenant parents are "covenant children" and regarded as members of covenant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faith and trust in finished work of Christ</li> <li>• Basis of salvation in every age: Death of Christ</li> <li>• Requirement of salvation in every age: Faith</li> <li>• Object of faith in every age: God (man's understanding of God before and after the incarnation is different)</li> <li>• The content of faith changes in the various dispensations because of progressive revelation</li> </ul>
<b>Israel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God has turned his back on Israel and is finished with her</li> <li>• The promises made to Israel are now effective for the Church</li> <li>• The Church is the "New Israel"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God has two distinct purposes: one for Israel and one for the Church</li> <li>• The Church and Israel are separate and distinct groups</li> <li>• God will continue to deal with Israel when "the fullness of the gentiles has come in" (Rom 11:25)</li> </ul>
<b>The Church</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beginning with Abraham (some say Adam) the church has always existed</li> <li>• The Church in the N.T. is the "New Israel"</li> <li>• O.T. promises made to nation Israel are now promises to the Church</li> <li>• The Church will usher in the Kingdom through reformation and revival</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Church was unknown in O.T. times</li> <li>• The Church began at Pentecost and is made up of born-again believers only</li> <li>• All members are indwelt by the Holy Spirit</li> <li>• Jew and Gentile are equally brothers and sisters in the Church</li> <li>• The church is not Israel</li> <li>• The Church Age will end with general apostasy and a falling away from the faith</li> </ul>
<b>Sacraments or Ordinances</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sacraments are a means of grace: "outward ordinances whereby the inward grace of God is ordinarily conveyed to man; <i>whereby the faith that brings salvation is conveyed to them who before had it not.</i>" - John Wesley</li> <li>• Believe in Baptismal Regeneration: baptism for the forgiveness of sins</li> <li>• Believe that parents under the covenant have children who are members of covenant</li> <li>• Baptize infants (covenant children) usually by sprinkling</li> <li>• Believe the Lord's Supper confers forgiveness and perpetual saving benefits of the life of Christ</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two ordinances: Baptism and Lord's supper</li> <li>• Ordinances are symbolic and a means of testimony for the Church Age.</li> <li>• Baptism is by immersion and only after the person has placed faith in Christ</li> <li>• Infants, lacking the capacity to repent and turn to Christ, are not baptized</li> <li>• The Lord's Supper is performed in remembrance of Christ's death and resurrection</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpret prophecy figuratively</li> <li>• Church fulfills O.T. prophecy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literal interpretation of Bible, including prophecy</li> <li>• O.T. prophecies to be fulfilled literally; the church is not fulfilling them</li> </ul>

<p><b>Future Things</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpret prophecy figuratively</li> <li>• Church fulfills O.T. prophecy</li> <li>• Church fulfills prophecies concerning Israel</li> <li>• The Kingdom is now and ongoing (Davidic Kingdom with Christ reigning from heaven)</li> <li>• The Church is the kingdom</li> <li>• <b>TRIBULATION:</b> already past, the Kingdom is now</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literal interpretation of Bible, including prophecy</li> <li>• O.T. prophecies to be fulfilled literally: the church is not fulfilling them now</li> <li>• Prophecies concerning Israel will be fulfilled by national and ethnic Israel, not the Church</li> <li>• Rapture of believers precedes Tribulation</li> <li>• Christ to reign on earth for literal 1000 year; Church to share in that kingdom</li> <li>• Israel is restored and regenerated for the Millennium</li> <li>• God has an eternal spiritual kingdom, will have an earthly millennial kingdom, and reigns in our hearts when we are saved</li> <li>• <b>TRIBULATION:</b> Daniel's 70th week can not have occurred and is still future. The 7-year Tribulation period will complete the 70 weeks of years Daniel was promised had been ordained for the restoration of Israel and the holy city (Jerusalem) and the completion of inequity (Deut. 4:30-31, Dan 9:24)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dispensations</b></p>	<p>Traditionally, Covenant theologians claim the Covenant of Grace was revealed in two dispensations. The first was the Mosaic dispensation, sometimes called the "Old Covenant", and the second is the Christian dispensation, usually called the "New Covenant". They claim that the Covenant of Grace exists throughout these dispensations. Each dispensation or covenant named in the Bible is simply another stage of the progressive revelation of the nature of the covenant of Grace throughout history.</p>	<p>A dispensation is a period of time in which God deals with man in a certain way. The purpose is to demonstrate His glory. Each includes a responsibility and judgment; showing man's failure and God's grace. Each dispensation shows man's opportunities to build and increase; man is tested under all kinds of conditions and fails each time, yet God gives more grace</p> <p>Dispensations found in Scripture:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dispensation of Innocence: Responsibility: Man free to follow God in paradise, but not allowed to eat fruit of the Tree of Life (Man and woman ate) Judgment: Loss of innocence, loss of freedom from sin, loss of relationship with God, loss of spiritual life</li> <li>2. Dispensation of Conscience: Responsibility: Follow conscience and do not sin (entire world turned from God to evil) Judgment: worldwide flood</li> <li>3. Dispensation of Civil Government: Responsibility: Man given ultimate authority: capital punishment. Civil government to maintain obedience to God (mankind banded together against God, first system of false religion) Judgment: confusion of languages, man scattered</li> <li>4. Dispensation of Israel under Promise: Responsibility: God called Israel out of the nations to be an example, receive the Truth about God and preserve it, and to live by faith, occupy land given (Israel flees to Egypt) Judgment: slavery until Moses</li> <li>5. Dispensation of Israel under Law: Responsibility: Law given to show man is incapable of living up to God's standards by human effort, Israel agrees to obey the Law; look for Messiah (Israel turns from God to idols, rejects Messiah) Judgment: Israel temporarily set aside, scattered, Tribulation to complete judgment</li> <li>6. Dispensation of Grace: Responsibility: Whole world blessed through Abraham's seed (Christ). Trust in Christ and share good news (apostasy, false teachers, deception ends Church Age) Judgment: Tribulation after Rapture of believers</li> <li>7. Dispensation of the Millennium: Responsibility-trust in and obey Christ who rules on earth for 1000 years. Satan is bound, and conditions ideal: Christ rules with a rod of iron. Only saved enter Kingdom. (when Satan</li> </ol>

		<p>Christ rules with a rod of iron. Only saved enter Kingdom. (when Satan released-rebellion) Judgment: Rebellion crushed, Time ends, all mortal believers translated directly into immortality, all unbelievers from all dispensations will be raised to stand before the Great White Throne for judgment and eternal condemnation</p>
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