

DISPENSATIONS

Colossians 1:25-26

God Controls History

I Definition:

1. A Period of History expressed in terms of **Divine Revelation**
2. Divine **outline** of Human History
3. Divine **viewpoint** of Human History
4. Divine **interpretation** of Human History
5. God's **system of governing segments** of Human History, where each segment is known as a **DISPENSATION**.
6. **Salvation** is the same in every **DISPENSATION**

Colossians 1:25-26

25 **Of *this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching of the word of God***

26 ***that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,***

II There are basically Four Dispensations of segments of human history

1. Period of the **Gentiles**

From Adam to Abraham

2. Period of the **Jews**

From Abraham to the Cross

3. The **Church** *The Mystery*

**From the day of Pentecost to
the Rapture of the Church**

4. The **Millennium**

**From the Physical return of JESUS CHRIST
to earth
to the End of the Millennium**

III Necessity of Understanding Dispensations

A. Accurate Understanding of dispensations is dependent on three essentials.

1. Literal, grammatical, historical consistent Interpretation of the Word of God

2 Timothy 2:15

15 **Be diligent in your study, to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. Or rightly dividing the Word of God.**

1 John 2:28

28 **Now, little children,** new believers or believers who have not grown spiritually **abide in Him,** by Faith in the Holy Spirit **so that when He appears,** after the Rapture, at the Judgment Seat of Christ **we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.**

I have spoken many times of when we first see JESUS CHRIST Face to Face—go up and hug Him for all He means to you! But I am afraid that multitudes of believers will do just the opposite—they will shrink away from Him;

Oh, they will recognize Him as their Savior but they will shrink away from Him in shame they did not make Him the center of their lives, the very reason for their living; They simply did not have time to go to the Local-Church and worship Him with other believers. They did not have time to tell many others of JESUS CHRIST; They did not have time to pray, except maybe thanks for

food, and **“Help!”** and they were certainly too busy to walk by FAITH in the Holy Spirit and, therefore, they **will be ashamed.**

People make no doubt about this—right after The Rapture you will stand before JESUS CHRIST at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:10

10 **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**

First note the word **must.**

No way of missing this—this is going to happen.

Then: **must all.**

That is **every** believer—everyone of us—not with your parents or husband/wife or preacher;

We must **each** stand before Him **before the judgement seat of Christ.**

OK, there are some Pastor-Teachers who translate this **the bema seat of Christ.**

Often, they do this to take away the sting of the concept of THE JUDGEMENT SEAT of CHRIST.

So, don't be deceived by 'bema seat'

The Greek *bema* refers to any elevated seat of a magistrate or judge and yes it refers to the seat that JESUS CHRIST sits upon as He *judges* believers... **judges you!**

And people do not like to think of JESUS CHRIST as a judge or especially, “Their” judge...

They do not mind Him judging unbelievers at the Second Advent or at the Great White Throne but certainly not them!

We are saved, do not need to be judged.

Well this judging has nothing to do with Eternal Salvation nor does this have anything to do with the judgments for sins in our lives... all sins have been judged at the Cross.

But He will judge your life as a believer on earth;

Did you do all you did in the power of the Holy Spirit —“good works” or in the flesh—“bad works” —?

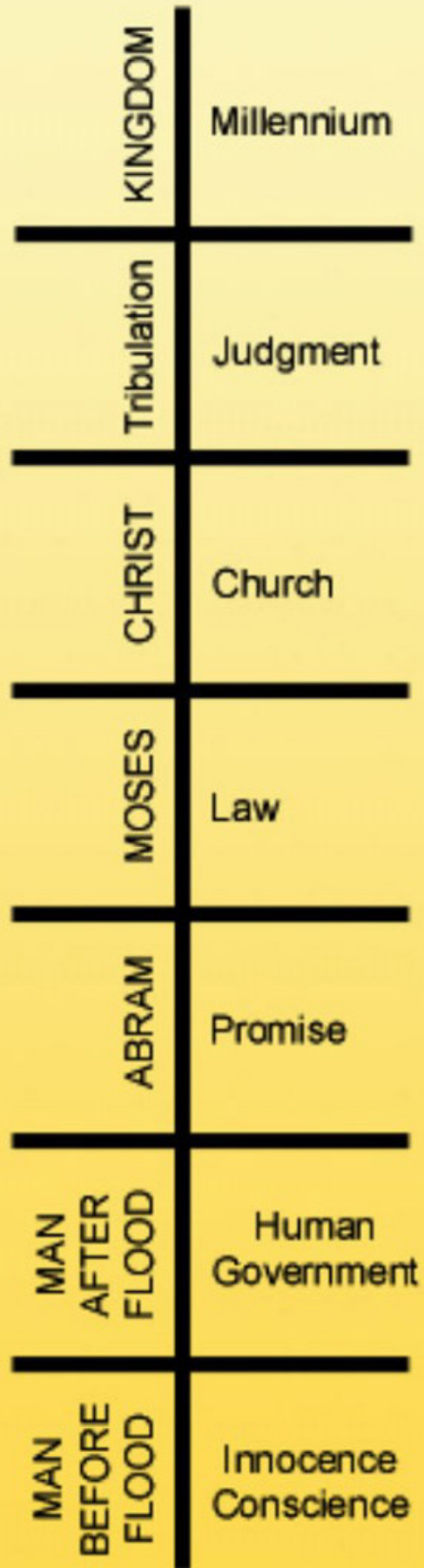
1. Literal, grammatical, historical consistent interpretation of the Word of God.
2. Israel & the Church are distinct dispensations. The Church does not replace Israel.

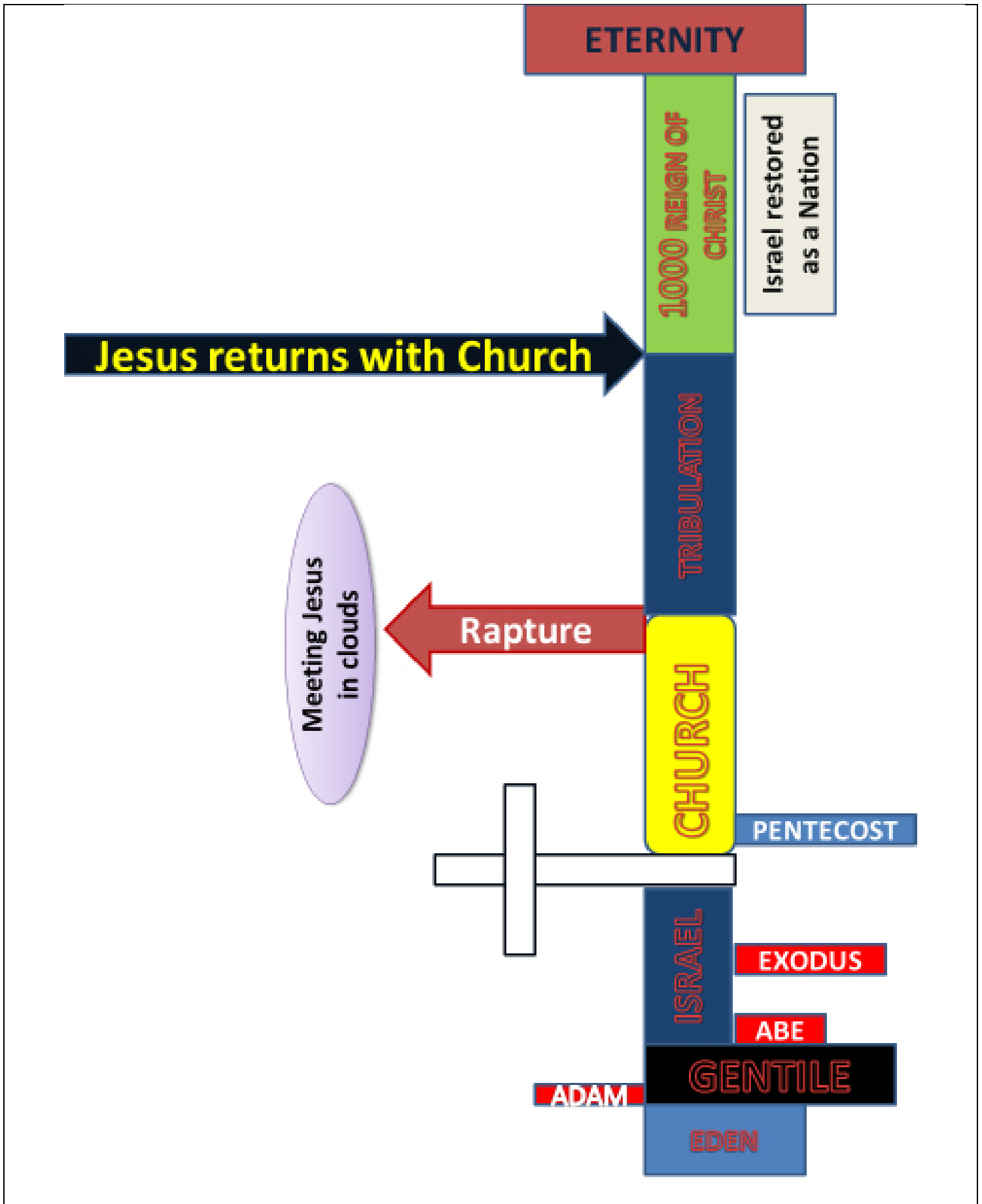
3. “The ultimate purpose of history is the glory of God through the demonstration that He alone is the Sovereign God.”

IV Difference between Dispensation of Israel and the Church.

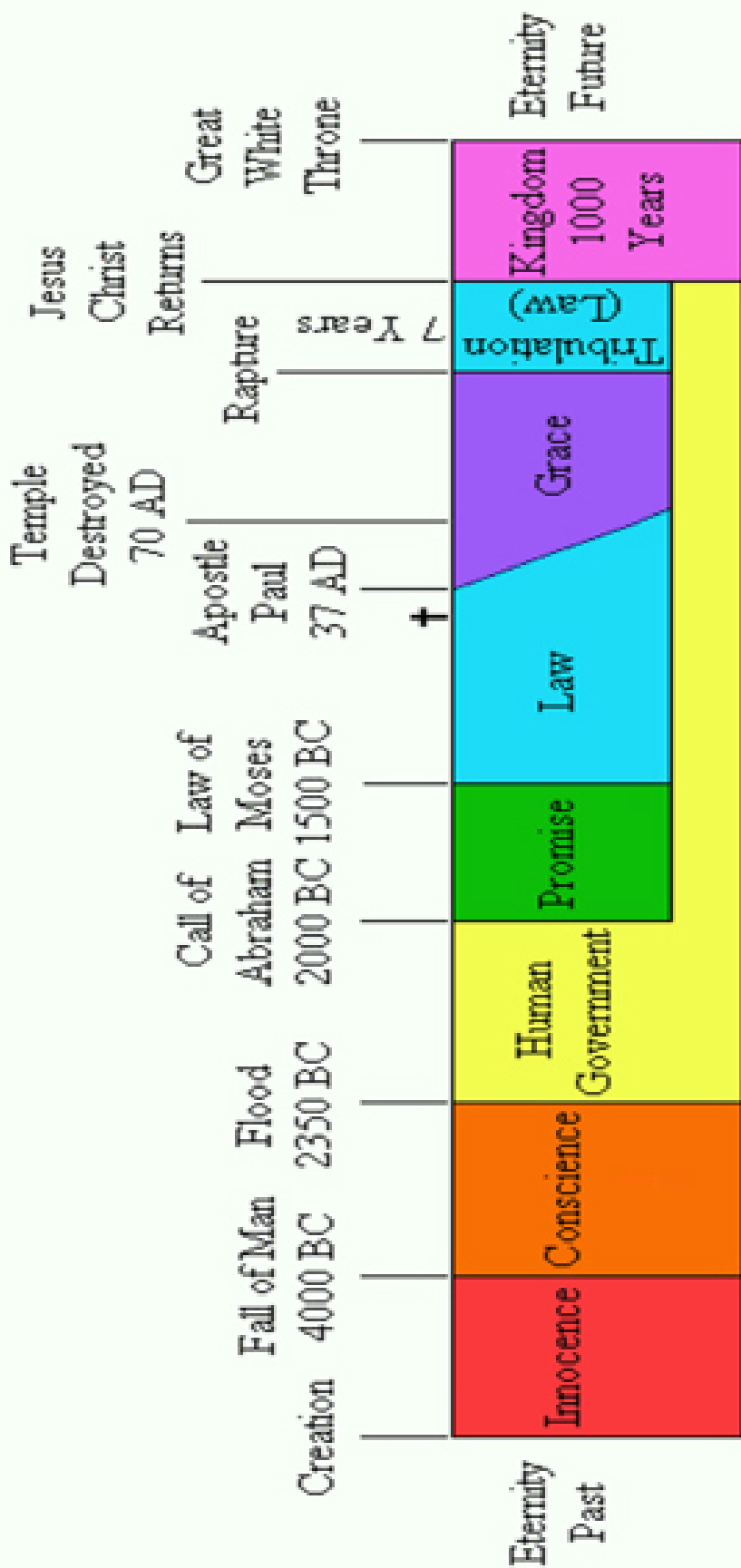
Now let us look at some Dispensational charts

Major Dispensations

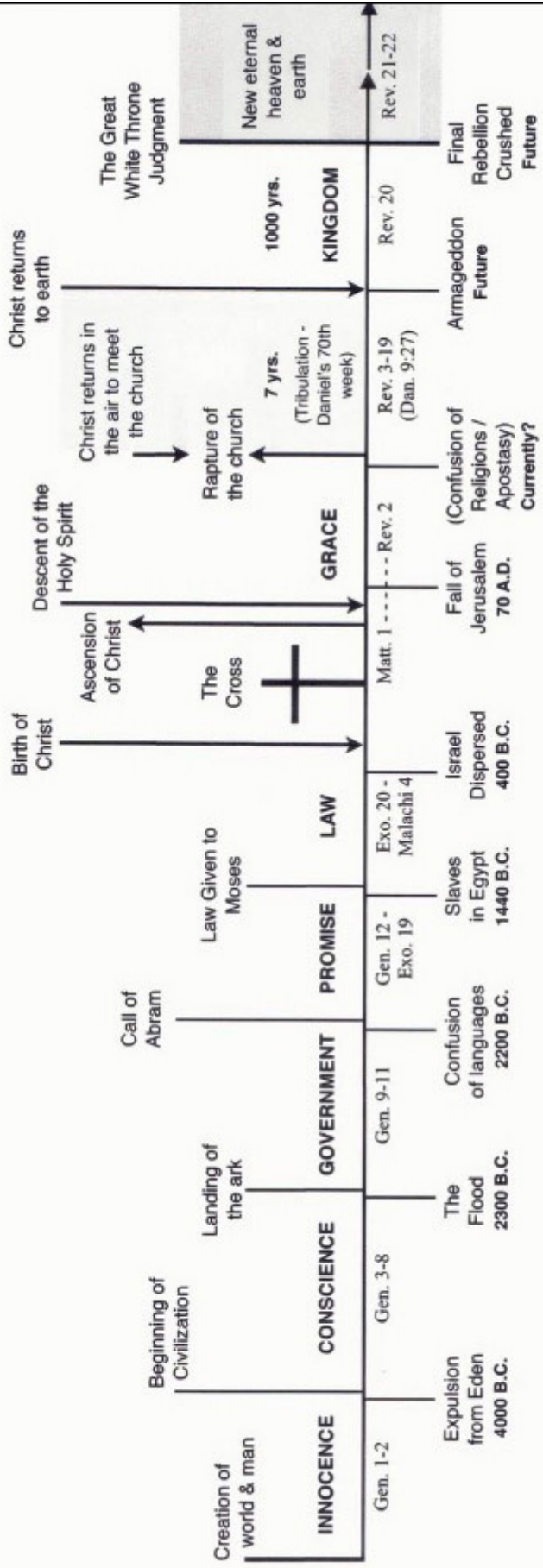




Dispensations of the Bible



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NOTE: Chart is not drawn to chronological scale.

PROGRESS OF EARTH HISTORY

PROGRESSIVE REMOVAL OF THE CURSE ON THE EARTH

INNO-CENCE	CONSC-IENCE	HUMAN GOVERNMENT	PROMISE	LAW	GRACE	KINGDOM	ETERNAL STATE
PERFECT ENVIRONMENT	LIFE GETS WORSE	EASIER AND BETTER	AS HISTORY PROGRESSES	EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE	EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE (Isa 2:3; 11:9; Jer 31:34; Ezek 44:23)	EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE (Isa 2:3; 11:9; Jer 31:34; Ezek 44:23)	FULL EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE (Isa 65:17)
PRETERMISSION (PASSING BY OR OVERLOOKING) OF SIN (ACTS 17:30; ROM 3:25) FINISHED WORK OF SALVATION (JOHN 19:30)							
GRADUAL LIFTING OF THE CURSE ON THE GROUND							
NO CURSE ON THE EARTH	CURSE EASED AFTER THE FLOOD	REMOVAL OF THE CURSE PROMISED	CURSE REMOVED HAD THE JEWS ACCEPTED JESUS AS THEIR KING	CURSE CONTINUES WITH A PROMISE OF ITS REMOVAL	CURSE REMOVED	CURSE REMOVED	NO CURSE ON THE NEW EARTH
(Gen 3:17-19)	(Gen 5:29)	(Zech 14:11)	(Zech 14:11)	(Rom 8:18-25)	(Isa 2:4; 11:6-9; Zech 14:11; Acts 3:21)	(Isa 2:4; 11:6-9; Zech 14:11; Acts 3:21)	(Rev 22:3)
Adam and Eve Are Perfect and Innocent	Very Few Godly People (Gen 3-8:19); Just Eight in the Ark (Heb 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20)	A Few Godly People: Job and His Friends, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Amram, Jochebed	Lots of Godly People: Moses, Aaron, Caleb, Joshua, Samuel, David, Solomon, Prophets, 7000 (1 Kings 19:18; Rom 11:4)	Many Godly People: Many Believers Attend Churches around the World Every Sunday	Most Godly People: Surviving Tribulational Saints and Resurrected Saints—the Church, Tribulational Martyrs and Old Testament Saints (Dan 12:2; Rev 20:4)	Most Godly People: Surviving Tribulational Saints and Resurrected Saints—the Church, Tribulational Martyrs and Old Testament Saints (Dan 12:2; Rev 20:4)	All Immortal Godly People (Rev 21:7-8, 27; 22:3-4)
LIMITED MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (GEN 6:3; EXOD 31:3; JUDD 14:6; PSA 51:11)							
S i n f u l H u m a n B o d i e s							
Fall	Flood	Babel	Law	Sinful Human Bodies	Sinful Human Bodies	Sinful and Resurrection Bodies	Only Resurrection Bodies
In Adam All Die Physically and Spiritually (1 Cor 15:22); After the Birth of Enoch, "men began to call upon the name of the LORD" (Gen 4:26). But soon "the wickedness of man was great on the earth" (6:5) and "all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth" (6:12). Few Walked with God: Abel (4:4); Enoch (5:21-24), Lamech (5:28), and Noah (6:8-9; 1 Peter 3:20).	In Noah All Live Physically. Right after the Flood God Promised: "I will never again curse the ground on account of man" (Gen 8:21). The Great Commission Would Have Made Little Sense in the Antediluvian Civilization: It Implies Many Will Respond. Noah Preached for 120 Years but No One Responded (Gen 6:3; 2 Peter 2:5).	In Abraham All Are Blessed (Gen 12:3; Gal 3:6-9).	In Moses All Receive Deliverance and an Inheritance (Exod 6:2-8); In David All Receive a Righteous Ruler (2 Sam 7:12-16). No Wars (Isa 2:4), No Predators (11:6-9); and No Deserts (35:1-2) Are Promised. The Earth Will Be Restored (Acts 3:21). Millennial Kingdom Would Have Begun around 33 AD if the Jews Had Accepted Jesus as their Messiah. In Rejecting Him, the Kingdom Was Postponed for Another 2000 Years.	In Christ All Are Made Alive Physically and Spiritually (1 Cor 15:22, 45). In the Holy Spirit All Receive Power (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8). Many People Will Be Saved in the Difficult Seven Year Tribulation Period: 144,000 Jews, their Many Converts, and Martyrs (Rev 6:9-11; 7:2-8, 9-17; 11:3-13; 12:17; 13:7-8; 14:1-7, 12-13). Many Severe Judgments and a Great Reduction of Earth's Evil Population as in the Days of Noah.	In Christ All Are Made Alive Physically and Spiritually (1 Cor 15:22, 45). In the Holy Spirit All Receive Power (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8). Many People Will Be Saved in the Difficult Seven Year Tribulation Period: 144,000 Jews, their Many Converts, and Martyrs (Rev 6:9-11; 7:2-8, 9-17; 11:3-13; 12:17; 13:7-8; 14:1-7, 12-13). Many Severe Judgments and a Great Reduction of Earth's Evil Population as in the Days of Noah.	All Are Blessed by the Righteous Reign of the Messiah. Life is Good but Never Becomes Perfect as in Eden or the Eternal State.	Successive Covenants Promise Greater Blessings, Culminating in the Everlasting New Covenant (Isa 61:8). Ministry of the Holy Spirit Increases Progressively in Each Age, Culminating in Everlasting Indwelling (John 14:16).