



Steps in Faith 301

Break *through*

Resources

Are You Ready For The Next Step?

Steps in Faith 301 is the next step in a growing walk with God. Here is what you will experience in this next step on your spiritual journey:

Studies

There are four lessons in Steps 301. You will learn about growing in your relationship with God and how the Bible fits together so you can make sense of it as you walk with God. You will end your studies by learning how to do God's will for your life and how the Word of God guides you to making wise decisions.

You may want to do these studies as part of your personal time with God

Hiding God's Word in My Heart

Each lesson has a relevant passage to add to your arsenal for spiritual battle—and forget about memorizing! Apply the “Forget Memorizing” assignment to the passage for each study, and you will be better prepared for spiritual battle.

Iron Sharpening Iron

You will have a mentor who will walk this part of your journey with you. After you do your studies, you and your mentor will meet together to answer your questions, provide encouragement and accountability in your Steps in Faith. Ask your discipler your questions when you meet together weekly. Complete the “Iron Sharpening Iron” page at the end of each lesson as part of your encouragement in your walk with the Lord Jesus Christ, your service to Him and sharing Him with others.

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My Discipling Partner's Contact Information



Study One

Just Keep Growing!

Hiding God's Word in My Heart: 2 Peter 3:18

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

What Would You Say?

The teacher observed a little boy drawing a picture, and asked him, "What are you drawing?" The little boy said, "A picture of God." The teacher asked, "Well, I thought nobody knew what God looked like?" The boy said, "They will when I get through."

If you were asked to describe God, what would you say?

What Is God Like?

To answer this question we would have to acknowledge that it would be foolish for anyone to say that he completely understands God. Fortunately for us, God is a personal, relational God who desires that we know Him. As a result, He has revealed Himself to us through His Word, the Bible. In this study we will learn more about what God is like.

Underline the promises God makes in the following passages.

Jeremiah 29:11-13. *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

Romans 1:19-25

- True or False? According to Romans 1:19, God puts an awareness of Himself within every person?

☐ True ☐ False

- According to Romans 1:20, how else does God reveal Himself to every person?

Read Psalm 19:1-3. How does this passage confirm or explain Romans 1:20?

- According to Romans 1:20, what does God-consciousness and creation tell us about God?

“his eternal _____” God’s power

“and _____” God’s existence

- What does this God-given awareness mean to us?

“so that they are _____.”

Awareness of God: Inside & Out

God has placed an awareness of Himself in you and outside of you.

This awareness is placed in you innately and is revealed to you by the amazing creation. God could not be the Creator if He was created. *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”* (Psalm 19:1)

- How does Romans 1:21-25 explain where idols come from? (note v.23)

You, Me, & Idolatry

It is in our nature to explain away the awareness of the one true God in our hearts and seek to fill the void with other things. It may be religious or secular. It may be wholesome or unwholesome. Anything that a person seeks to fill the void in his or her life other than knowing God is that person's idol. Think about it. You may have your very own idols.

Who or what can be a potential idol in a person's life?

Compare the following passages of Scripture and what they teach about the nature of God.

- Genesis 1:1—2 “In the beginning _____ created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep, and the _____ of God moved upon the waters.”
- Colossians 1:16—17 “For by him [Jesus Christ] were all things _____, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones and dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were _____ by him and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

- Genesis 1:26-27

“And God said, Let _____ make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

- Deuteronomy 6:4

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* _____ LORD.”

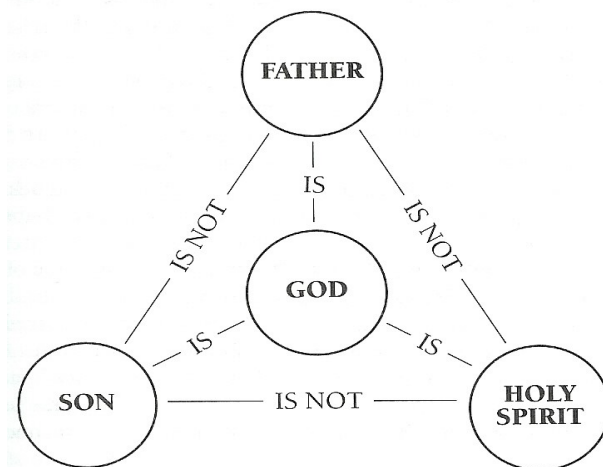
- Matthew 28:19

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”

- 2 Corinthians 13:14

“The grace of the Lord _____ Christ, and the love of _____, and the communion of the _____, *be* with you all. Amen.”

So, what do these passages teach about the nature of God?



Charles Ryrie, *Basic Theology*

God is a Trinity

The doctrine of the Trinity means that God is one God in three persons—Father, Son, & Holy Spirit. Each person of the godhead performs a unique role, yet each is one is God. This biblical teaching must be accepted by faith, however this analogy may help you understand.

An egg has a yoke, a white, and a shell. Each part is unique, yet each part is as much an egg as the other two parts.

So each member of the Trinity is unique, yet each is as much God as the other two.

**Read the following passages and answer the following question:
What does God’s Word tell me about Himself and me?**

- Psalm 139:1-4
- Revelation 4:11
- Genesis 1:26-27
- Genesis 2:7

Read John 4:23-24. What does this tell you about God?

God “the Father _____ such to worship Him.”

“God is a _____.”

“They that worship him must worship him must worship him in spirit and in _____.”

Are you ready to grow in Scripture Studies?

We're going to work on the skill of studying through a single passage of Scripture. So, open your Bible to 2 Peter 1:1-8 and ask God to teach you through His Word.

- 2 Peter 1:1-2

How are God's grace and peace multiplied in a person's life?

- 2 Peter 1:3

What has God given us "according [to] his divine power?"

How do we access all that we need "for life and godliness?"

"...through the _____ of him that hath called us to glory and virtue."

- 2 Peter 1:4

What has God "given unto us" to make all this possible?

What is the result?

- 2 Peter 1:5-7

Mark the qualities that God is most developing in your life.

- ☐ Virtue—Excellent moral character
- ☐ Knowledge—Wisdom gained by experiencing God's truth
- ☐ Temperance—A life controlled by yielding to the Holy Spirit
- ☐ Patience—Endurance or "staying power"
- ☐ Godliness—A God-centered life lived for God's glory & truth
- ☐ Brotherly kindness—Loving people
- ☐ Charity—Loving God and others asking nothing in return

- 2 Peter 1:8

What promise does God give to people who add these to their life?

Circle the common word in these two passages.

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

How does this apply to you?

What Would You Say?

The teacher observed a little boy drawing a picture, and asked him, “What are you drawing?” The little boy said, “A picture of God.” The teacher asked, “Well, I thought nobody knew what God looked like?” The boy said, “They will when I get through.”

So, with what you have learned , what would you say?

You may want to review the lesson on knowing God in Steps in Faith 101. This is the most important weapon in your spiritual warfare.

Iron Sharpening Iron

“As iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.” Proverbs 27:17

My Time With God: (circle one) 1-2 days 3-4 days 5-6 days

My Time With God’s People:

☐ Sunday School/Small Group ☐ Morning Service
☐ Evening Service ☐ Mid-week Ministry ☐ Other _____

My Service to Others:

(This can be a formal or informal ministry. Be specific about time and ministry.)

Let me tell you about it! _____

My Sharing With Others:

1. Person(s) I am praying to share my faith with.

2. How I am doing on learning to tell my story?

3. Here is what I am doing in efforts to share my faith.

My Personal Growth:

Hiding God’s Word in My Heart: (Quote the Scripture memory assignment.)

Sermon Notes & Application ☐ Yes ☐ No

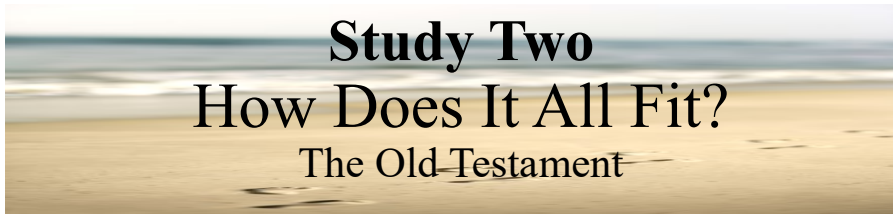
Significant Scriptures, statements, or principles I have learned.

My Questions:

My Next Step:

(Discipler’s signature & date)

(Next discipling meeting time, date, & place)



Study Two

How Does It All Fit?

The Old Testament

Hiding God's Word in My Heart: Proverbs 3:5, 6

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;
lean not unto thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

A Biblical Parable—Old Testament Style

Phil met a client, Jason, for lunch to go over Jason's audit report. As they ate, the conversation went from business to kids to sports and somehow landed on the Bible.

"I have one that I read on occasion," said Jason "but I don't really see how it all fits together. Take your audit reports. They have a clear, progressive order that all fits together in a way I understand. The Bible is just so...random."

"I see what you mean," said Phil. "In fact, I used to think the same thing until a friend showed me how the Bible makes sense. If you want to, you and your wife can come over to our house, and I'll show you what my friend showed me. Just let me know. But I'll warn you, it will take two meetings—one for each testament. We can start with the Old Testament, and if you are glutton for punishment, you can come again for the New Testament."

With that, the men pulled out the audit report and finished their work and their lunch. Later in the afternoon Phil got an email from Jason.

"Hey, Phil, is that invitation to study the Bible still open? I talked to Margie, and she's open to it if you and Rebecca are. Let me know.—Jason." After a series of exchanged emails, the appointment was set.

When the evening came, Jason and Margie pulled up to Phil and Rebecca's house with a nervous anticipation of what the evening might bring. They unloaded the car, settled the kids, and sat down at the kitchen table with dessert. Phil pulled a chart with hand-written notes all over it out of his Bible and handed a chart like it to Jason.

"Well, here it is — the whole Bible explained in one page. The Old Testament on the front and the New Testament on the back."

"Let me explain what each symbol on the chart means.

This oval represents a dispensation.



The bursts represent the beginning and ending events of a dispensation.

Key Biblical events are represented with a diamond.



People

We will meet some key people in each time period that will be in the name plate indicator.

The books of the Bible will be aligned with where they fit with the key Biblical events.



Covenant

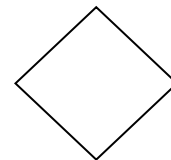
The rectangle will identify some key covenants. There are a few others, but these will help you understand the Bible.



Finally, each dispensation will identify a key concept and a key truth.

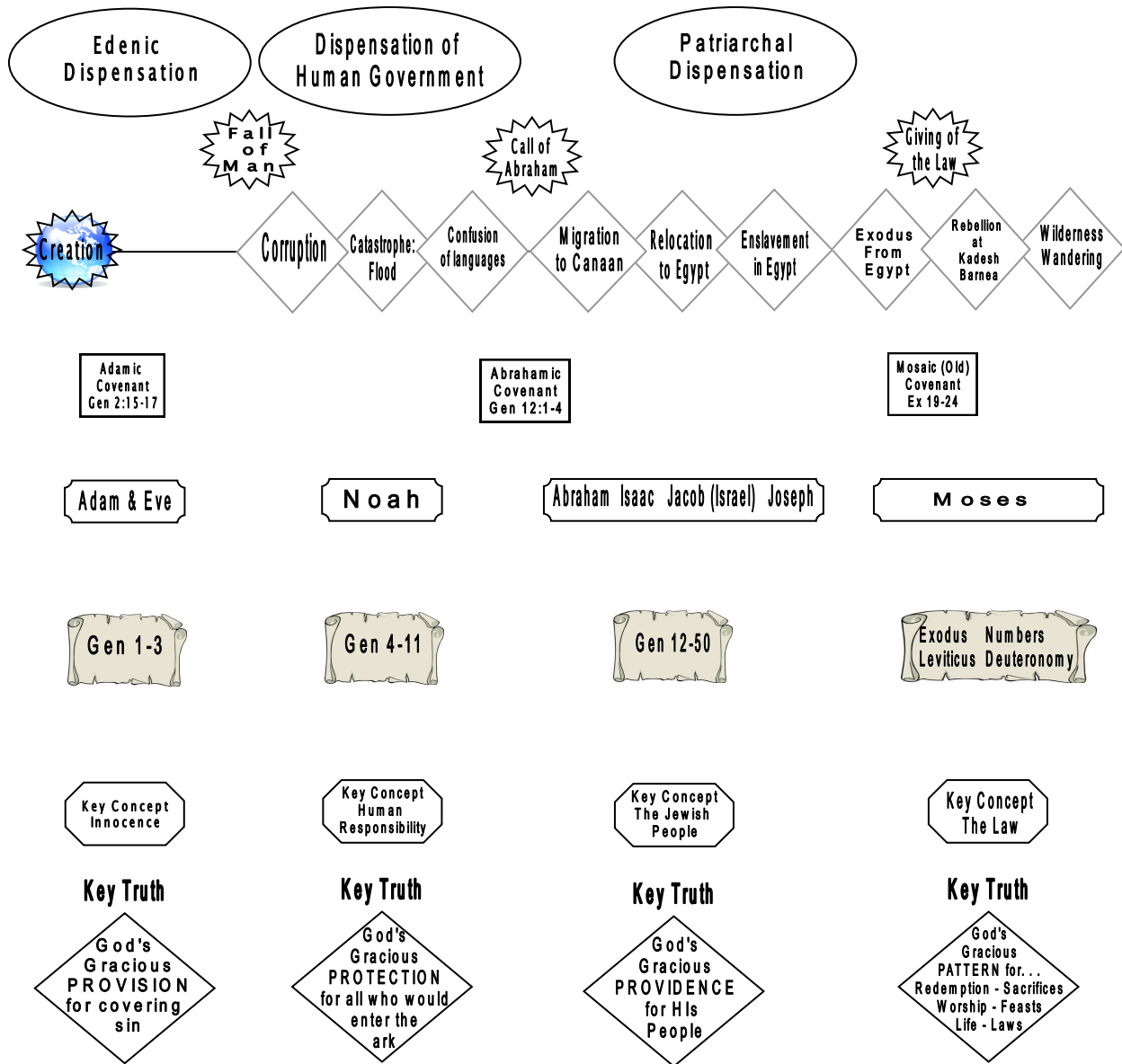
Key Truth

Are you ready to go? It will begin to make sense the more we study."



And with that, the couples were on their

The Old Testament: How Does It Work?



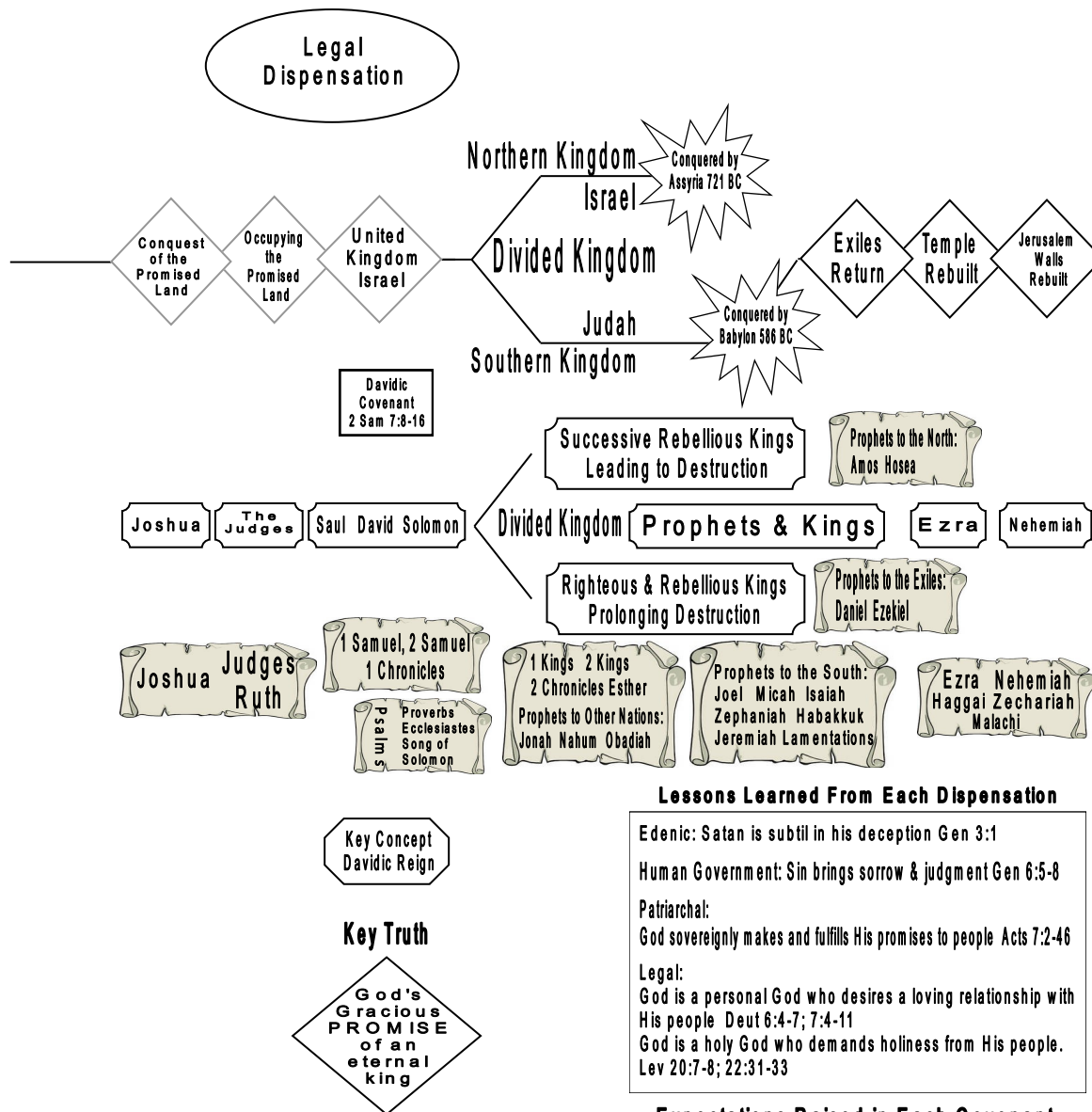
Hebrews 1:1-2 God is SPEAKING!

Foundation Stone #1: Revelation

The Bible is a revelation of how God has progressively worked through time in the past, how He is working in the present, and how He will work in the future.

Foundation Stone #2: Dispensations

God deals with different people at different times in different ways.



Foundation Stone #3: Covenants

Through history God has made promises to different people at different times that express His commitment to doing His will in their lives and establish a basis on which to build their relationship

Jason and Margie looked at each other with raised eyebrows. “Phil, if you can make the Bible make sense to me like your audit report, it will be a miracle,” Jason responded.

“I don’t have all the answers, but I’ll try to share what I have learned. We just have to make a deal.”

“This isn’t like multi-level marketing is it?” Margie jumped in.

“Oh no. The deal is if you check this out with the Bible and ask questions, I’ll try to give you honest answers. Fair enough?”

“Fair enough—as long as you’re not asking us to sell Bible charts or something.” Margie laughed as she answered, and Phil began looking at the chart. He asked Jason and Margie to follow along as he read the three foundation stones to understand the Bible.

Foundation Stone #1: Revelation
The Bible is a revelation of how God has progressively worked through time in the past, how He is working in the present, and how He will work in the future.

Foundation Stone #2: Dispensations
God deals with different people at different times in different ways.

Foundation Stone #3: Covenants
Through history God has made promises to different people at different times that express His commitment to doing His will in their lives and establish a basis on which to build their relationship

Phil continued, “There are a lot of things that happened in history that God didn’t include in the Bible because the Bible is about God revealing Himself to people. So God included what furthered His purposes. Let’s look up Hebrews 1:1-2. How does it relate to these foundation stones?”

“This is an important point to remember: God **is** speaking!”



“Alright, let’s start where the Bible starts— “In the beginning.”
Let’s turn to Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:31. Rebecca will read the verses. Then answer the following questions:

Who created the universe? Gen 1:1

What was it like? Gen 1:31



Now, Jason, read Genesis 2:1-10 aloud and tell us in your own words what happened.”

**Edenic
Dispensation**

“Next, God made a covenant with Adam. Read it in Genesis 2:15-17. Margie, how would you describe the terms of this covenant?”

Adam & Eve

How did Adam and Eve respond in Genesis 3:1-8?

☐ Obedience

☐ Disobedience

“This event marked the end of the Edenic dispensation.
You will notice it is identified as the Fall of Man.



Why would the key concept be innocence?

In your own words, Jason, how would you describe God’s response in Genesis 3:9-24?”



From creation to the condemnation of the fall, how would you describe God’s working?

☐ Yes ☐ No God communicated His will to people.

☐ Yes ☐ No God punished disobedience.

☐ Yes ☐ No God showed mercy to Adam and Eve.

☐ Yes ☐ No God provided a means for reconciling the relationship between Himself and mankind.

Key Truth



Dispensation of
Human Government

“On the chart you will notice that the fall of man opened up a new dispensation—human government. It begins in Genesis 4 with the historical account of two of Adam and Eve’s sons—Cain and Abel.

Gen 4-11

Key Concept
Human
Responsibility

Read the account in Genesis 4:1-16. Then read Genesis 9:1-6 as God challenges Noah after the Flood. Based on the record, why would the key concept on the chart be human responsibility?”

Match the reference with the human responsibility. Gen. 4:1-7 Gen. 4:8-16

_____ Man is responsible for his worship of God.

_____ Man is responsible for his relationship to man.

“Things kept getting worse. Jason, would you read Genesis 6:5-13?” Jason was happy to oblige and read the passage. Phil followed up with two questions.

What was the world like?

What did God decide to do?

Noah

Corruption
Catastrophe:
Flood

Phil continued. “Now, Margie, read 6:14-22 and answer this question. How did God show Noah and the world grace?”

Based on Genesis 7:1-5, 12-15, how would you describe the flood?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local or regional flooding | <input type="checkbox"/> Universal and global |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy localized thunderstorms | <input type="checkbox"/> Massive global rains |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swollen tributaries and waterways | <input type="checkbox"/> Subterranean gushers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long periods of time | <input type="checkbox"/> 40 days |

Becky joined in on the conversation.

“This world-wide flood has scientific implications. Let’s think what they might be.”

“I read an article recently by Dr. Andrew Snelling on *Geological Evidences for the Genesis Flood*. When we’re done, I’ll go online and get a copy of it for you. Here are a few web-sites you can research for more information.”

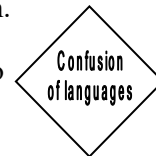
- The Institute for Creation Research www.icr.org
- Answers in Genesis www.answersingenesis.org
- CreationWiki: The Encyclopedia of Creation Science
www.creationwiki.org

Phil turned his attention to the Key Truth. “Why would this be the key truth for this dispensation?”

Key Truth



“Oh, by the way, there is one more key event in this dispensation. It was the confusion of languages at the tower of Babel in Genesis 11. After the people of the earth spread out according to their language group the stage was set for God to move into the next dispensation.” With that, Phil continued on to the next dispensation.



**Patriarchal
Dispensation**

“With a world full of people God did something new. He chose one man who became the head of one people group who would be the instrument through which God communicated Himself and His truth to the world. The man’s name—Abraham (or Abram).

Gen 12-50

The people—the Jewish people. Because of God’s relationship with Israel, most of the Old Testament is about the life and history of the Jewish people, and the New Testament has its foundation in the Old Testament. Listen to God’s testimony about His relationship with Israel in Deut. 7:6-8.”

**Key Concept
The Jewish
People**

⁶For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

⁷The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:

⁸But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers.

**Call of
Abraham**

“Let me explain how it all began by turning to Genesis 12:1-4. This passage contains both the call of Abraham and God’s covenant with Abraham.”

Describe God’s call for Abraham in Genesis 12:1.

Describe God’s covenant with Abraham. Genesis 12:2-4

**Abrahamic
Covenant
Gen 12:1-4**

“God began the Jewish people with Abraham the people grew through the lives of successive sons to whom God confirmed the Abrahamic Covenant. These men are called the Patriarchs. The Patriarchal Dispensation is a story of how God, in spite of the flaws of His people, took care to accomplish His purposes as the Patriarchs responded to Him in faith.”

Abraham Isaac Jacob (Israel) Joseph

Key Truth

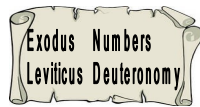
God's
Gracious
PROVIDENCE
for His
People

Margie asked, “To read all those chapters in Genesis is a lot of reading. I don’t know if I could read all of it. Is there an easier way to find out what happened?”

“I think you can get an overview of it in the New Testament book of Acts,” Becky said as she leafed through her Bible. “Here it is. Acts 7:2-19 Let’s read it and underline and count each time a Patriarch’s name is used or the term patriarch.” When she finished reading the Scripture, Rebecca asked, “What are the totals?”



_____ Abraham _____ Isaac _____ Jacob _____ Joseph _____ Patriarch



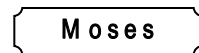
“Look at your chart, again.” Phil said as he continued on. “Now we move into a new dispensation. Where did we leave God’s people in our story?”



“When God’s people were most desperate God prepared Moses for a special task at just the right time, so God appeared to Moses to tell him what He was going to do. Read Exodus 3:9-10. How would you describe...

The Conditions of the Delivered in 3:9?

The Call of the Deliverer in 3:10?”



“Hey, isn’t this that whole burning bush, ten plagues, Red Sea thing they play sometimes in that old *The Ten Commandments* movie?” Jason asked.

Phil laughed, “I wouldn’t get my doctrine from the movies, but it’s the same thing. Actually, that leads to something very important. For the first time God wrote down His law. This was the beginning of the next dispensation—the Legal Dispensation.”



Mosaic (Old)
Covenant
Ex 19-24

“The covenant agreement was made at the beginning of the covenant in Exodus 19:1-8. Read it and summarize it in your words.”

Key Concept
The Law

“This is a key concept because, until Jesus came, this was the basis on which God related to people and the way in which people related to God.”

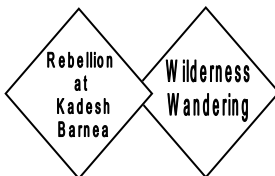
Key Truth



Phil continued, “When God gave Israel the Law he made clear how to be forgiven from sin and reconciled to Himself, how to worship Him, and how to live to please Him.

“So, what happened next, Phil?” Margie wondered.

“Remember that God promised Abraham to give him a land—the promised land? God delivered Israel from Egypt to take them into the Promised Land (think



of the modern day country of Israel though the land God promised was much larger.) When Israel arrived at Kadesh Barnea, they rebelled against God and would not go into the land. So, God judged that generation and had Israel wander in the wilderness for 40 years until the next generation came along. Moses led the people all these years until his death.

Phil went to the chart again. “Let me give you an overview of the rest of the Old Testament.” Pointing at each feature as he talked, Phil explained further.



And then Joshua..

“The next leader after Moses was Joshua. He led Israel to conquer the land God had promised them. This is what the book of Joshua records.



Joshua

And then Judges

After Joshua died, Israel lived in their land under the leadership of Judges.”
“Next, the book of Judges records the life of Israel as the people went in a cycle of ...



- rebellion, then God would send an enemy in
- retribution, then God would give
- restoration and deliverance under the leadership of a judge, and the people would live in
- renewal of their relationship with God until their hearts turned from God, and the cycle started over again.



The love story of Ruth takes place in this time frame.

And then came kings...

“Israel wanted a king like the nations around them, so God gave them three who ruled over a united kingdom.”



“These are the historical books that record the events. During this time David was the most prolific writer of Psalms or songs. Solomon wrote the other books.”

Saul David Solomon



The Davidic Covenant

“There is one more covenant God made at this time with David. Let’s turn to 2 Samuel 7:8-16. What does God say about...

Davidic Covenant
2 Sam 7:8-16

David? 8-11

Solomon? 12-15

Key Concept
Davidic Reign

Saul? 15

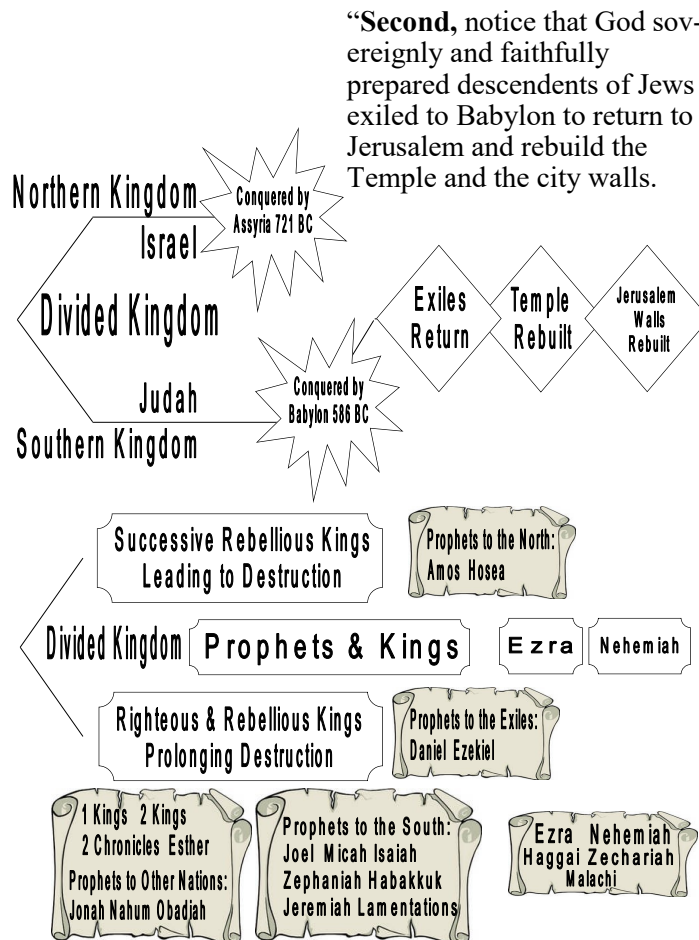
A future king? 16

Key Truth



Rebecca, who had gotten up from the table a few minutes before, sat back down. “I checked on the kids. They’ll be OK for a few minutes, but I think they are getting restless.”
 “Our kids, restless?” Jason quipped. They all laughed and Phil continued.
 “We’re almost done.”

“**First**, notice that the kingdom divided between the Northern and Southern kingdoms after Solomon’s death. Israel’s rebellion led to destruction. Judah had periods of revival under godly kings, but her rebellion eventually led to her defeat as well.”



“**Second**, notice that God sovereignly and faithfully prepared descendants of Jews exiled to Babylon to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple and the city walls.

Third, notice that during these years many of the prophetic books that make up significant portions of the Old Testament were written, and the Old Testament concludes with the last prophet Malachi.

“Before we finish tonight, let me point out lessons learned from each dispensation.”

Lessons Learned From Each Dispensation

Edenic: Satan is subtil in his deception Gen 3:1
Human Government: Sin brings sorrow & judgment Gen 6:5-8
Patriarchal:
God sovereignly makes and fulfills His promises to people Acts 7:2-46
Legal:
God is a personal God who desires a loving relationship with His people Deut 6:4-7; 7:4-11
God is a holy God who demands holiness from His people. Lev 20:7-8; 22:31-33

“Do you have any questions?”

“As the Old Testament closes and prepares the world for the New Testament, there are some expectations raised by the Covenants.”

Expectations Raised in Each Covenant

Adamic Covenant:
A Perfect, Permanent Victor over Satan Gen 3:15
Abrahamic Covenant:
A Universal Impact in the Earth Gen 12:3
Davidic Covenant:
A Perfect, Eternal, Universal King of Davidic Descent 2 Sam 7:13, 16
Mosaic Covenant:
A Perfect, Permanent Sacrifice for Sin Ex 29:38-39, 42-46; Lev 16:29-34
A New, Permanent Covenant of the Heart Jer 31:31-34

“Do you have any questions?”

“Well, Jason, that’s the Old Testament. Do you and Margie want to get together and do the New Testament?” Jason and Margie looked at each other and nodded.

“We’ll do it,” Jason said. “We’ve come this far, let’s go for it.”

“Alright, let’s do it next week. Rebecca, does the same time work for us?”

“It’s a date.” Rebecca concluded. Phil finished with one more instruction. Before next week look over your chart. Look up the references and bring your questions back next week.

Iron Sharpening Iron

“As iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.” Proverbs 27:17

My Time With God: (circle one) 1-2 days 3-4 days 5-6 days

My Time With God’s People:

☐ Sunday School/Small Group ☐ Morning Service
☐ Evening Service ☐ Mid-week Ministry ☐ Other _____

My Service to Others:

(This can be a formal or informal ministry. Be specific about time and ministry.)

Let me tell you about it! _____

My Sharing With Others:

1. Person(s) I am praying to share my faith with.

2. How I am doing on learning to tell my story?

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My Personal Growth:

Hiding God’s Word in My Heart: (Quote the Scripture memory assignment.)

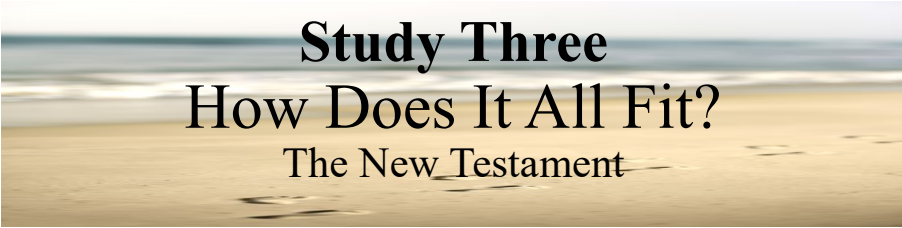
Sermon Notes & Application ☐ Yes ☐ No

Significant Scriptures, statements, or principles I have learned.

My Questions:

My Next Step:

(Discipler’s signature & date) (Next discipling meeting time, date, & place)



Study Three

How Does It All Fit?

The New Testament

Hiding God's Word in My Heart: Proverbs 3:7

Be not wise in thine own eyes: Fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

A Biblical Parable—New Testament Style

Jason and Margie pulled up to Phil and Rebecca's house anticipating what they would learn. With last minute instruction for the kids as they got everyone out of the car, they went in the house, got everyone settled, and sat down at the table with charts and Bibles in hand.

"How has your study of the Old Testament gone this week?" Phil asked.

"It is starting to make sense." Margie answered. "What used to be just loose puzzle pieces to me are now taking order, but we had one question."

Jason entered the discussion, "We looked ahead to the New Testament and were wondering what happened between the Testaments?"

"Great question, because that will help you understand the world in which the New Testament was written."

Between the Testaments

A lot happened in the 400 years between Malachi and Matthew. Historically there were Greek dynasties that promoted Greek culture and shaped the world of the New Testament, Egyptian dynasties, and eventually the Romans came. The Jews lost freedom, fought for freedom, and, when the Romans came, the Jews had an appearance of freedom—as long as Rome approved of it!

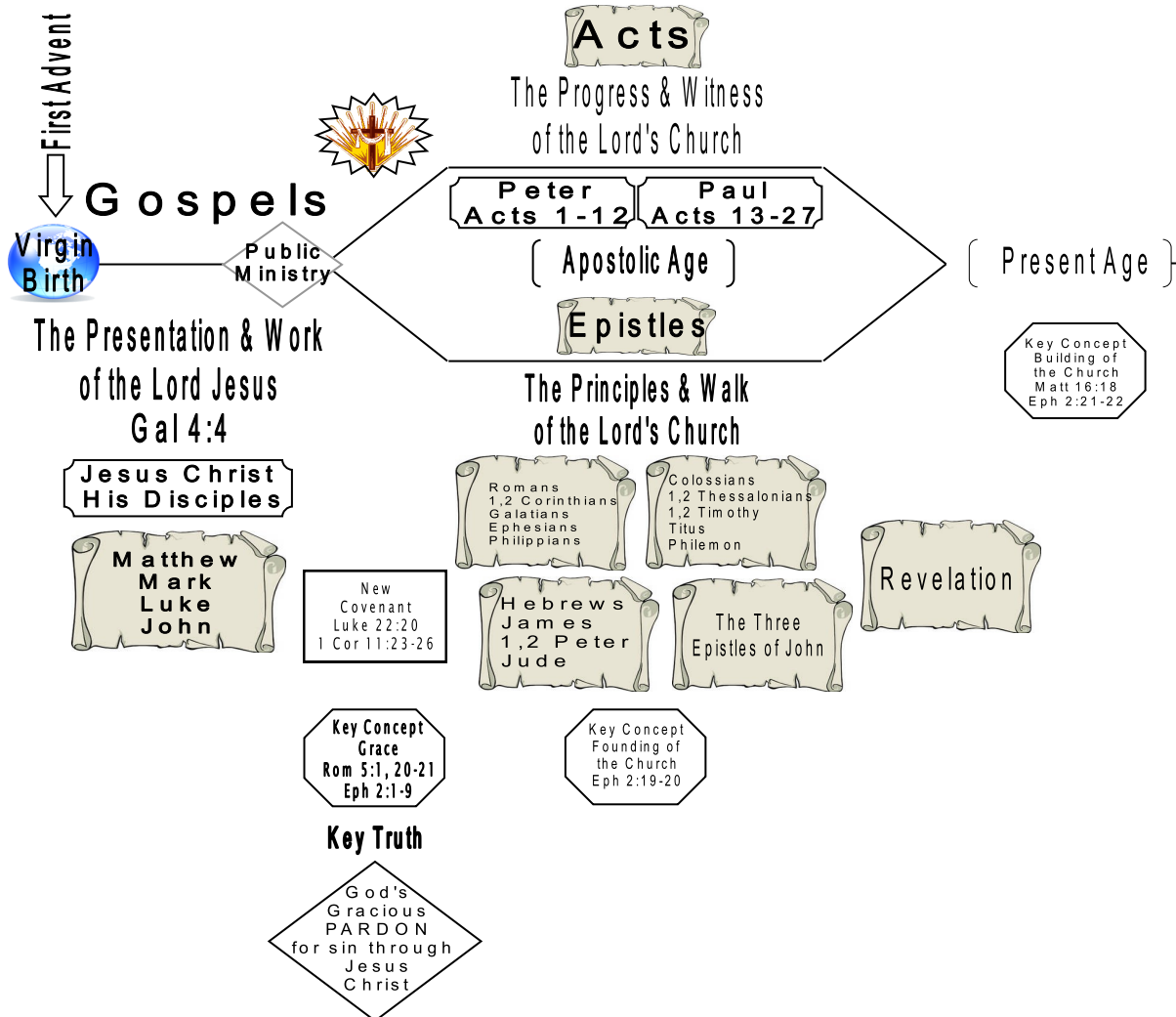
Religiously, because of their zeal for God's law, the Old Testament was meticulously preserved. Some zealously added to the Scriptures (Pharisees & Scribes) with their own traditions placing these on the same level as the Scriptures. The world in which Jesus came in his first advent was shaped by a form of Judaism and human traditions, Greek and Roman culture.

Read Galatians 4:4 and tell me why this is significant?

The New Testament: How Do

Legal
Dispensation

Dispensation
of the Church



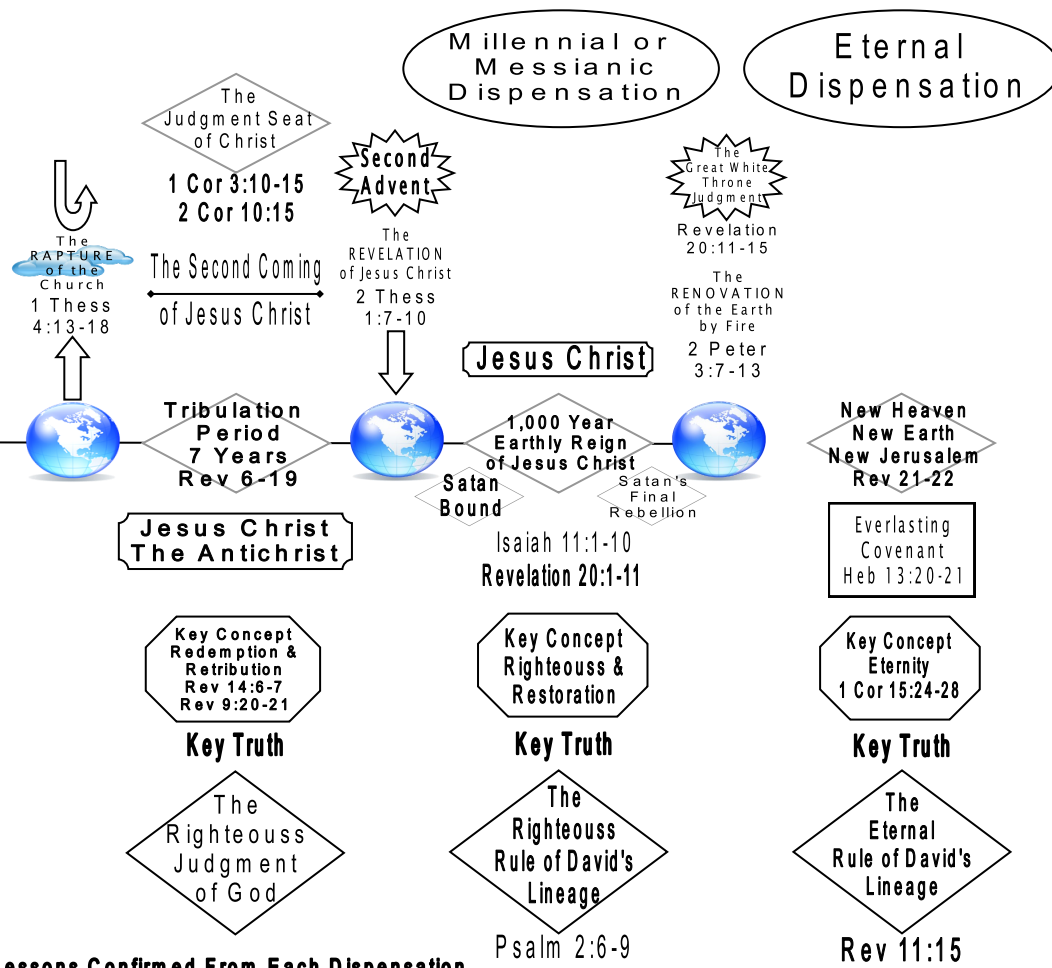
Hebrews 1:1-2 God is SPEAKING!

Foundation Stone #1: Revelation

The Bible is a revelation of how God has progressively worked through time in the past, how He is working in the present, and how He will work in the future.

Foundation Stone #2: Dispensations

God deals with different people at different times in different ways.



Lessons Confirmed From Each Dispensation

Edenic: Satan is subtil in his deception John 8:44, 2 Cor 11:14
Human Government: Sin brings sorrow & judgment James 1:12-15
Patriarchal:
 God sovereignly makes and fulfills His promises to people Eph 1:11
Legal:
 God is a personal God who desires a loving relationship with His people Matt 22:36-38, Rev 21:3
 God is a holy God who demands holiness from His people. 1 Peter 1:13-19

Foundation Stone #3: Covenants

Through history God has made promises to different people at different times that express His commitment to doing His will in their lives and establish a basis on which to build their relationship

Covenantal Prophecy Fulfilled in Jesus Christ

Adamic Covenant:
 A Perfect, Permanent Victor over Satan 1 John 3:8
Abrahamic Covenant:
 A Universal Impact in the Earth Gen John 3:16-18
Davidic Covenant:
 A Perfect, Eternal, Universal King of Davidic Descent Matt 2:1-6, Luke 1:30-33
Mosaic Covenant:
 A Perfect, Permanent Sacrifice for Sin Heb 9:11-15, 10:1-12
 A New, Permanent Covenant of the Heart Heb 10:14-18

“The New Testament begins with the Gospel accounts. These are four perspectives divinely, yet uniquely written to present the Lord Jesus Christ and His work in the world.”



Gospels

What does John 20:30-31 tell us about gospels' message?

Virgin Birth

Public Ministry

The Presentation & Work of the Lord Jesus

What does Matt. 20:28 tell us about Jesus' mission?

“The accounts are never in conflict, though one may include a detail another doesn't of the same event. One may include teaching or events others do not include. In the end, God has provided independent yet harmonious witness of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Jesus Christ
His Disciples

Phil went on, “While you meet many people in the Gospels, the main characters are Jesus and his disciples.”

Why did Jesus call the disciples? Mark 3:14 and Matthew 28:18-20

“At the end of His 3 1/2 year public ministry, Jesus was crucified and resurrected. Margie, would you look up John 3:16-18 and tell why Jesus died?”



“While she is doing that, Jason and I will look up Romans 1:1-4 to show why Jesus was resurrected,” Rebecca volunteered.

“Through His death and resurrection, Jesus instituted a New Covenant to replace the Old (Mosaic) Covenant. Jesus introduced it at the last supper he had with his disciples before His crucifixion. Look up the references on the chart and answer these questions... and be ready to explain your answer.”

New
Covenant
Luke 22:20
1 Cor 11:23-26

What is the basis of this covenant?

Is remembering the Lord's supper...

- ☐ salvific (means of or way of earning eternal salvation) or
- ☐ symbolic (a picture of what Jesus did to provide eternal salvation)?

“Look at the chart again. We’re going to look up and read aloud the references for the key concept of grace, then I want you to explain in your own words the key truth: God’s Gracious PARDON for sin through Jesus Christ.”

Key Concept
Grace
Rom 5:1, 20-21
Eph 2:1-9

Key Truth

God's
Gracious
PARDON
for sin through
Jesus
Christ

After each person shared the response, Phil moved forward. “The cross and the resurrection ended the legal dispensation and inaugurated a new dispensation—the Dispensation of the Church (or sometimes it is called the Ecclesiastical Dispensation).

The focus of God’s work in the world had been through Israel, now all the world—Jewish and non-Jewish (Gentile) people—are united with God in a relationship with through Jesus Christ and one another in a relationship through the local church.” Phil, again, explained as he pointed at the chart.

Dispensation
of the Church

“The book of Acts is a history book of the progress and witness of the Lord’s church. What is Christ's vision for His Church?”

Mark 16:15 & Acts 1:8

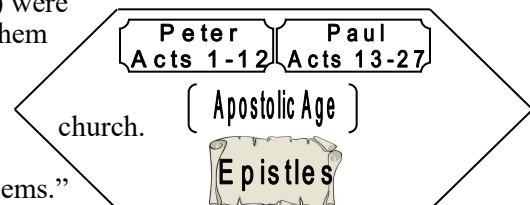
Acts

The Progress & Witness
of the Lord's Church

As history unfolded, the epistles (letters) were written to people and churches to help them to live out the truth of the gospel.

Notice the theme of the epistles: The principles and walk of the Lord’s

This includes doctrinal teaching and life application as well as dealing with problems.”



“You mean people have problems—even in church?” Jason knew human nature too well to let that go.

The Principles & Walk
of the Lord's Church

Then Jason followed up with a question. “What does this ‘Apostolic Age’ mean, Phil?”

“I’m glad you pointed that out. This time in the life of the church is unlike any other time in the church’s history. It is a time of transitioning from Jesus to the writing of the Bible until now. So, things were different then. Without a completed Bible God confirmed what was truly from him with miraculous signs by the apostles. What does Mark 16:17-20 say?



How does Eph 2:19-20 relate to the key concept of the Apostolic Age?

Margie questioned, “What is our confirmation for what is true today?”

“Great question, because this can be confusing. Let’s go to one passage and work it through together—2 Peter 1:15-21.”

Read 1:15-18 and compare it to the event Peter experienced in Matt. 17:1-8.

Peter expressed that this event was ...

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> his personal experience. | <input type="checkbox"/> what he or somebody else made up. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> what he had heard. | <input type="checkbox"/> an eyewitness account of a supernatural phenomenon. |

What is the subject of 1:19-21?

What is Peter’s testimony of the Scriptures in 1:19?

What would Peter’s answer to Margie’s question be?

“This is a perfect tie-in to the present age,” Phil said as he pointed to the chart. What does the Bible say Jesus is doing in the world today?”

(Present Age)

- Matt. 16:18?
- Ephesians 2:21-22?



“What makes the Bible relevant and exciting is not just the historical interest or information, but it is the fact that God is communicating His will through His Word. So let me ask you, what does this key concept mean for you personally in your life right now?”

Back to the Future

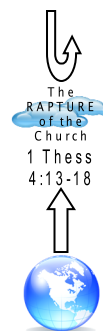
“In our study we have looked at what God has done in the past, considered what God is doing in the present, and now we’re going back in time to find out what God is going to do in the future as we look at prophecy.”

The Second Coming
of Jesus Christ

The Second Coming of Christ has two phases. It begins with the Rapture of the Church and ends with the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

The Rapture of the Church 1 Thess. 4:13-18 In your own words...

- What’s problem? 4:13
- What’s the promise? 4:14—15
- What’s the prophecy? 4:16—17
- What’s the practical application? 4:18



The Tribulation & The Judgment Seat of Christ

What's Happening on Earth? The Tribulation

**Tribulation
Period
7 Years**

“After the Rapture of the Church the Antichrist—the Satanic empowered world leader who will eventually rule the world and persecute Israel and believers in Jesus Christ—will sign a false peace treaty with Israel (Dan. 9:27). This will begin the 7-year Tribulation in which the earth will experience cataclysmic disaster, violence, and judgment.”

**Jesus Christ
The Antichrist**

**Key Concept
Redemption &
Retribution
Rev 14:6-7
Rev 9:20-21**

Look up the passages on the key concept block. Based on these passages, how would you explain God's...

- Redemption?

Key Truth

**The
Righteous
Judgment
of God**

- Righteous Retribution?

What's Happening in Heaven? The Judgment Seat of Christ 1

Cor. 3:10-15

- Who will be judged? 3:10-12

**The
Judgment Seat
of Christ**

**1 Cor 3:10-15
2 Cor 10:15**

- Can a born-again believer lose his or her eternal salvation? 3:15
- What can a born-again believer lose or gain? 3:14-15
- What is the basis of this judgment? 3:12-15 (a key word is repeated)
- What is the difference between wood, hay, and stubble and gold, silver, and precious stones? 3:12-15
- What does this mean?

Rebecca looked at Phil and said, “Phil, I think a logical question is, ‘How does it all end?’”
 “Great question. It all with ends with the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Jesus will come to the earth and end the Tribulation with one great final judgment.”

Read 2 Thess. 1:7-10 and Revelation 19:11-21. How would you describe this judgment?

Why is this called “the second advent”? Zech. 14:1-4

Second Advent

The
REVELATION
of Jesus Christ
2 Thess
1:7-10



Margie was looking at the chart, “Phil, I notice the second advent is a marker for the next dispensation. What changes after Jesus comes to the earth again?”

“This will begin a glorious time called the Millennial or Messianic Kingdom. Until this point the Lord’s Kingdom is a spiritual kingdom ruling in the hearts of men. When Jesus comes to the earth He will establish a physical kingdom ruling on the earth.”

Millennial or
Messianic
Dispensation

What will happen? Revelation 20:1-11

To Jesus?

To Satan?

Jesus Christ

1,000 Year
Earthly Reign
of Jesus Christ

Satan
Bound

Satan's
Final
Rebellion

What will it be like? Isaiah 11:1-10

The Lord’s Rule? 11:1-5, 10

The Lord’s Creation? 11:6-9

Key Concept
Righteous &
Restoration

Why is it called the Millennial or Messianic Dispensation?

Key Truth “There is one more passage to look up that describes the reign of the Lord Jesus. We will read Psalm 2:6-9. Then tell me what is important about this Psalm?”



Psalm 2:6-9

Rebecca joined in again. “Phil, explain how this dispensation ends.”

“Ok. We already read about Satan’s rebellion and judgment at the end of the Millennial Reign.”

“And how, in a perfect world people still refuse to yield their lives to Jesus Christ.”

“How do you explain that, Rebecca?” Margie queried.

“It just shows the wicked heart of man.”

“As I was saying,” Phil and Rebecca rolled their eyes at each other in jest, “The dispensation ends the renovation of the earth by fire and with one final pronouncement at the Great White Throne Judgment. Let’s learn about it.”



Revelation 20:11-15

The
RENOVATION
of the Earth
by Fire
2 Peter
3:7-13



- First, notice that this is not a judgment of believers but of unbelievers. What indicates this?
- Second, notice that in verse 12-13, 15 there are books mentioned.
What is the purpose of the book of life?

What is the purpose of the other books?
- Does God reveal this judgment as literal and eternal or figurative or temporary?

¹¹And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

¹⁴And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

¹⁵And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

“And finally, let’s journey into eternity. Jason, what is the key concept?”

“Let me guess without looking on the chart—eternity?”

“Honey, you make me proud.” Margie said dripping with sarcasm.

“Let’s read about it in 1 Corinthians 15:24-28.” Phil followed with a question.

What is the last enemy destroyed?

Eternal
Dispensation

Key Concept
Eternity
1 Cor 15:24-28

“You will notice that God will make a New Heaven and a New Jerusalem to go with the New Earth He renovated.

New Heaven
New Earth
New Jerusalem
Rev 21-22

In Hebrews 13:20-21 an Everlasting Covenant is described. According to the passage, who enjoys the blessing of it?

Everlasting
Covenant
Heb 13:20-21

Look up and read aloud Revelation 11:15. With what you know of the Davidic Covenant, how does this relate to the key truth?

Key Truth

The
Eternal
Rule of David's
Lineage

Rev 11:15

“I do like to hear you go on, Phil, but I think the kids are reaching the ‘end of their rope.’” By Rebecca’s tone, you could tell it was getting late for the kids and the moms.

“Great, because we’re almost done,” Phil said as he took one last look at his chart. “Do you remember what we learned from each dispensation in the Old Testament and the expectation raised by each covenant? Check out how God’s plan for all these years fits together as only God could do.”

Lessons Confirmed From Each Dispensation

Edenic: Satan is subtil in his deception John 8:44, 2 Cor 11:14

Human Government: Sin brings sorrow & judgment James 1:12-15

Patriarchal:

God sovereignly makes and fulfills His promises to people Eph 1:11

Legal:

God is a personal God who desires a loving relationship with His people Matt 22:36-38, Rev 21:3

God is a holy God who demands holiness from His people.

1 Peter 1:13-19

“Do you have any questions?”

Covenantal Prophecy Fulfilled in Jesus Christ

Adamic Covenant:

A Perfect, Permanent Victor over Satan 1 John 3:8

Abrahamic Covenant:

A Universal Impact in the Earth Gen 3:16-18

Davidic Covenant:

A Perfect, Eternal, Universal King of Davidic Descent
Matt 2:1-6, Luke 1:30-33

Mosaic Covenant:

A Perfect, Permanent Sacrifice for Sin Heb 9:11-15, 10:1-12

A New, Permanent Covenant of the Heart Heb 10:14-18

“Do you have any questions?”

“Well, Jason, there you have it! The whole Bible in one page. As you consider what we’ve learned, what one thought, other than getting this over with, is on your mind?”

Iron Sharpening Iron

“As iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.” Proverbs 27:17

My Time With God: (circle one) 1-2 days 3-4 days 5-6 days

My Time With God’s People:

☐ Sunday School/Small Group ☐ Morning Service
☐ Evening Service ☐ Mid-week Ministry ☐ Other _____

My Service to Others:

(This can be a formal or informal ministry. Be specific about time and ministry.)

Let me tell you about it! _____

My Sharing With Others:

1. Person(s) I am praying to share my faith with.

2. How I am doing on learning to tell my story?

3. Here is what I am doing in efforts to share my faith.

My Personal Growth:

Hiding God’s Word in My Heart: (Quote the Scripture memory assignment.)

Sermon Notes & Application ☐ Yes ☐ No

Significant Scriptures, statements, or principles I have learned.

My Questions:

My Next Step:

(Discipler’s signature & date) (Next discipling meeting time, date, & place)

Study Four

Doing God's Will and Making Wise Decisions

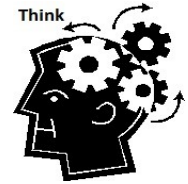
Hiding God's Word in My Heart: Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

What Would You Say?

Dan & Sarah have had a lot of changes in their lives in the last few years, but none so notable as a new baby—Natalie. One night they were talking about the kind of home they wanted their baby to grow up in and the values they wanted to pass on to their daughter. “These are some of the most important decisions we will make in our lives,” Dan said. “In my *Steps of Faith 201* discipling we’re doing a study decision making. Why don’t you do this study as well, and when we’re done we’ll talk about it.”

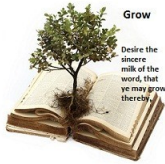


“I think we need to get very specific. Let’s plan on both of us bringing 3 truths we want to pass on to our daughter, and we’ll talk about why we chose them,” Sarah suggested. With Dan’s agreement they began doing the Bible study.

Knowing and Doing God's Will

“What is God’s will?” is a common question you will ask yourself on your spiritual journey many times. Look at the Hiding God’s Word in My Heart section. Underline the last three words of the passage. The entire passage builds to this conclusion—“that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.” So, let’s examine this passage to learn the process God uses to show us His will. Remember this:

The word of God reveals the will of God, and the will of God is always consistent with the Word of God.



I. The Decision

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice

- Other than receiving Christ to save you, why is this the second most important decision in your life?
- Being saved is a once-for-all decision. Is presenting yourself as a living sacrifice a one-time decision or a repeated decision? Why or why not?

II. The Depiction

This decision is described as “*a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.*”

- Based on what you know of Old Testament sacrifices, how is the decision to present yourself to God similar?

III. The Description

- Why is this presentation of yourself “*your reasonable service?*” (See 2 Cor. 5:15)

IV. The Differentiation

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed

- **In other words...** Write this in your own words.

V. The Difference-Maker

Real and lasting change takes place not just externally but internally by thinking differently. Changing your thinking to biblical thinking is what makes the difference.

- Why would God include the expression, "*By the renewing of your mind?*"

VI. The Determination

that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

- Giving yourself to God as Romans 12:1-2 describes is necessary to determine what?

- What does this indicate about the focus of God's will in your life?

God is

- ☐ Concerned with the "whats," "wheres," "hows", and "whens"
- ☐ Concerned with the person I am primarily on the inside
- ☐ Unconcerned about the "whats," "wheres," "hows", and "whens"
- ☐ Concerned with the "whats," "wheres," "hows", and "whens" secondarily as He is changing me to be like Christ

VII. The Delight

*That ye may prove what is that good,
and acceptable, and perfect will of God.*

- Circle the three adjectives that describe the will of God in this verse.
- Why is this important to claim by faith?
- Have you ever struggled with surrendering to the will of God? Tell about it and describe why it was a struggle.
- How are these descriptions of the will of God encouraging in those times?

Biblical Decision-Making

Two of the most important aspects of living a life that honors God are doing His will and making biblically-based decisions.

Many people think their life follows the course of what happens to them. In reality, your life follows the course of the decisions you make—whether in the day to day decisions of life, times of crisis, or strategic transition points. God reveals His will to us in two ways

1. Precepts: Never-changing truths that are explicitly stated. For example: "Thou shalt not steal."
2. Principles: Never-changing truths that, when applied to changing situations, give God's direction in that situation.

As we study the following principles, you will learn what each principle means and then ask God to help you make specific application to your life.

Underline the verses or key words in your Bible as a record of what God is teaching you.

I. The Ownership Principle 1 Cor 6:19-20; 2 Cor 5:15

- *What it means:* Since Jesus has taken ownership of my life, He has the rights to my life, and I am responsible to Him for my life.
- *According to this principle, how or what can I change?*

II. The Transformation Principle Rom 12:1-2

- *What it means:* My choices reveal whether I am being conformed to the world or transformed by Jesus Christ.
- *According to this principle, how or what can I change?*

III. The Love Principle Matt 22:35-39; John 13:34-35; John 14:15,21, 24

- *What it means:* Every choice I make reveals loving God & others or loving self.
- *According to this principle, how or what can I change?*

IV. The Priority Principle Col 1:18, Matt 6:33; Heb 10:24-25

- *What it means:* When Jesus has first place, every area of my life revolves around Him.
- *According to this principle, how or what can I change?*

V. The Glory of God Principle 1 Cor 10:31

- *What it means:* Whatever decision I make should give the right opinion of my God.
- *According to this principle, how or what can I change?*

VI. The Input Principle Phil 4:8; Matt 12:34; Psalm 19:14

- *What it means:* What comes out of your life reveals what's inside your heart.
- *According to this principle, how or what can I change?*

VII. The Appearance Principle 1 Thess 5:22; Rom 14:16

- *What it means:* If it looks like something that is wrong, avoid it. If it is associated with something that is wrong, avoid it.
- *According to this principle, how or what can I change?*

VIII. The Replacement Principle Eph 4:22-24; 2 Cor 5:17; Heb 12:1

- *What it means:* As God changes my thinking, I must replace the old things that God wants to remove from my life that will hinder me with new things that will help me.
- *According to this principle, how or what can I change?*

IX. The Stumbling Block Principle Rom 14:7-8, 11-13

- *What it means:* I am responsible to God when the choices in my spiritual life cause others to stumble in their spiritual life.
- *According to this principle, how or what can I change?*

X. The Slippery Places Principle Rom 13:14, 1 Cor 6:12, 1 Cor 10:23

- *What it means:* If you don't want to fall, avoid slippery places.
- *According to this principle, how or what can I change?*

Do You Know What The REAL ISSUE In Christian Decision-Making Is?

Do I Love Jesus Enough To Obey Him? John 14:15

What Would You Say?

It took them a week to do, but Dan and Sarah finished their study and sat down to talk. “What were the three most important values we want to pass on and live in our home?”

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



FIFTEEN QUESTIONS FOR MAKING BIBLICALLY WISE DECISIONS

Regarding its affect on others

1. What type of people are most often associated with this type of action?
2. How do the unsaved look upon a Christian who does this?
3. Will this in any way hinder my effectiveness in reaching an unsaved person for Christ?
4. Would the most Christ-like people I know approve of this action?
5. Can this harm the attitude, thoughts, or conscience of a new believer?

Regarding it's affect on me

1. Will this harm my body's health?
2. Can this arouse impure thoughts or desires in my mind or in someone else?
3. Will this create a free-spirited, insubordinate attitude to God?
4. Can this cause me to become proud and self-centered?
5. Can this cool my evangelistic fervor or spiritual hunger?

Regarding its affect on God

1. Does this in any way dishonor God?
2. Is this strictly forbidden in God's Word or violate a principle of God's Word?
3. Is God pleased with what I am doing?
4. Would Christ do this?
5. Will this action bring glory and honor to Christ?

Iron Sharpening Iron

“As iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.” Proverbs 27:17

My Time With God: (circle one) 1-2 days 3-4 days 5-6 days

My Time With God’s People:

☐ Sunday School/Small Group ☐ Morning Service

☐ Evening Service ☐ Mid-week Ministry ☐ Other _____

My Service to Others:

(This can be a formal or informal ministry. Be specific about time and ministry.)

Let me tell you about it! _____

My Sharing With Others:

1. Person(s) I am praying to share my faith with.

2. How I am doing on learning to tell my story?

3. Here is what I am doing in efforts to share my faith.

My Personal Growth:

Hiding God’s Word in My Heart: (Quote the Scripture memory assignment.)

Sermon Notes & Application ☐ Yes ☐ No

Significant Scriptures, statements, or principles I have learned.

My Questions:

My Next Step:

(Discipler’s signature & date)

(Next discipling meeting time, date, & place)

Hiding God's Word in My Heart

Forget Memorizing & Scripture Assignments

Forget Memorizing?

Don't think of this as memorizing. Think of this as getting familiar with your weapons of spiritual warfare. These verses are “the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God (Ephesians 6:17)” to arm you in the fight. You don't have to have every word exactly right; you need to have the truth of it readily available. Here is how!

Write It!

You may copy the verse on cards or on paper many times to seal it in your mind, but eventually you will want to write the verse on a card. Whether a business card size or 3 x 5 card size—card it!

Rehearse It!

Don't worry about memorizing the verse—just rehearse the verse. Keep your card with you. Rehearse it throughout the day—getting dressed for the day, throughout the day, before you eat, as it comes to your mind, before you go to bed, sharing it with a friend. The verse will eventually become embedded in your mind. It doesn't matter whether you memorize it—just rehearse it!

Review It!

Do you ever forget? We all do. So, keep your cards in a single place. As you walk with God He will bring verses into your life that will empower you in spiritual warfare. Then, periodically review.

Scripture Assignments

Study One

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen

Study Two

Proverbs 3:5, 6

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; lean not unto thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

Study Three

Proverbs 3:7

Be not wise in thine own eyes: Fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

Study Four

Romans 12:1-2

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.*