

"STUDY THE BIBLE 3a" – (STB 3a) "Dispensations" (Part 2)

Amillennialism

This is the wrong belief that there will be **no** one thousand year reign of Christ on earth after the battle of Armageddon. This contradicts *And I saw an angel come down from heaven, ... and bound him a **thousand years**, ... till the **thousand years** should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. ... they **lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years**. ... until the **thousand years** were finished. ... shall **reign** with him a **thousand years**. And when the **thousand years** are expired. Rev 20:1-7*

Dispensations or Ages

Most writers claim there are about **nine to twelve dispensations** with the first beginning about 4,000 years ago at **Eden** which ended with Adam being **cast out**. The second finished with God destroying a wicked earth with **Noah's flood** around 2340BC. The third went to the **tower of Babel** and ended with the earth, which was one land mass, being separated into the **continents** in the days of Peleg (Gen 10:25). The fourth goes from Abraham to the **Egyptian exodus** in 1450BC. The fifth is called the age of the law and goes from the exodus to Christ ending with the **destruction of Jerusalem** in AD70. The sixth is the **church age** which ends with the **rapture**. The seventh is the **seven year tribulation** which ends with the battle at **Armageddon**. The eighth is the Millenium which ends with all of creation being **destroyed by fire**. The ninth is **the day of God** (2Pet 3:12) which will continue for **eternity**. You will notice that all the dispensations end with a **judgement**. However, no matter what the dispensation God has always demanded **PERFECT OBEDIENCE** to his laws at any time and that the entry standard for heaven is **PERFECT WORKS**. Current instructions for the present Church Age are "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ*" (Acts 16:31) because Christ has kept the law perfectly for us on our behalf.

Apostasy

This means to **fall away**. Churches get into apostasy by **1**. Not believing the King James Bible **2**. Not following Paul as he follows Christ **3**. Resorting to the Greek and Hebrew **4**. Adding, subtracting, omitting and substituting words, phrases and sentences from God's pure, inspired, inerrant and infallible words of the Authorized Bible. This condition particularly applies to the Christian church in the last hundred years and more since the publication of Westcott and Hort's 'bible' of 1891. *Let no man **deceive** you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a **falling away first**, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 2 Thess 2:3.*
The very nature of apostasy thrives and exists on **deception**.

Armageddon

This is an actual place on earth, also called Megiddo, to which Christ returns, **not** as the Saviour, but fierce judge and ruler of the world and the earth (Rev 19), to rescue Israel and destroy all the world's armies including the kings of the East (Rev 16:12). This happens at the end of the seven year tribulation. *His **eyes were as a flame of fire**, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And **the armies** which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And **out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword**, that with it **he should smite the nations**: and **he shall rule them with a rod of iron**: and **he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God**. Rev 19:12-15*

Day of God See Post Millennialism

The First and Second Deaths

Christ rejecting people believe that once they have died, that is all there is, and they no longer will exist, but according to the scriptures there are two deaths for the unbeliever. **For all**, including the Christian, there is the **first death**, but God assures the Christian, that after this first death, we will "*... be with Christ; ...*" Phil 1:23 and as Christ dieth no more, neither will we. (Rom 6:9).

Now, those not saved, **after** the first death, will spend 1000 years **in hell** till the great white throne of judgment (Rev 20:11), to be then cast in the lake of fire, which will be their **second death** (Rev 20:14).

The Book of Hebrews

In the late AD 60's, Paul writes to **the Hebrews (they were not Christians)** who have separated themselves from the hardliners of the doctrine of Moses and their animal blood sacrifices, with the latter now treating them as enemies. Although the cross had taken place about 30 years earlier, these Jews were still embracing Jesus as the Messiah, but **not** as Saviour. Paul clearly states that their Messiah beliefs will take them to hell. Paul urges them to stop being 'Messianics' (unsaved Messiah believing Jews) and get saved and have Christ as their Saviour and become Christians. They were, as the saying goes, caught between "**a rock and a hard place**". In their case, **the Rock was Jesus the Saviour** and the **hard place was the animal sacrifices of Moses**.

The New Covenant

The word 'covenant' is a term **always** used for Israel and the Jews and never for the church or Christians. The Christian is under 'the new testament' and **not** a new covenant as many uninformed pastors preach. The 'new covenant' will be for the Jew in the tribulation (Heb 8:8-13).

The Old Testament

A testament is that which is written down. Under the Old Testament God had his laws written down. When broken these laws required **animal blood** in order to get right with God. This was only **temporary**. Hence, there was the constant repetition of sacrifice of blood.

The New Testament

Under the New Testament, getting right with God is by the **shed blood of Jesus** 2,000 years ago. Never to be repeated, **once only**.

Peace

People want peace on earth but do they want '**vertical**' peace with God?

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:14

People misunderstand this verse by thinking that at last the earth will have peace. A sort of **horizontal** peace between men. Nothing could be further from the truth. *Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. Matt 10:34-36*

Furthermore, the earth is rapidly getting darker and more violent by the day. There will be no peace until the Prince of peace comes back. (Is 9:6).

No, the verse of Luke 2:14 speaks of the fact that we can now have the **vertical** peace with God and no longer be under his wrath. There's only one peace to have. *Therefore being justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ: Romans 5:1*

Post Millennialism

This is the time after the 1000 year reign of Christ on earth. This will be called **the day of God**.

*Looking for and hasting unto the coming of **the day of God**, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 2 Pet 3:12*

The Rapture

The rapture is Christ coming for his church before the seven year tribulation starts. It is **not** the second coming which happens at the end of the tribulation. There are approximately twenty-eight references in the New Testament, with five in Philippians, seven in 1Thessalonians, two in 2 Thessalonians, three in 1Peter, four in the Timothy's and mentions in Titus, 1&2 Corinthians, James and 1John.

*...that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep (dead). For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 1 Thess 4:15-17***

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