

the Hebrews, it must have the same meaning when applied to the plan of salvation revealed in the gospel.

Secondly, that the plan of salvation is presented in the Bible under the form of a covenant is proved not only from the signification and usage of the words mentioned above, but also and more decisively from the fact that the elements of a covenant are included in this plan. There are parties, mutual promises or stipulations, and conditions. So that it is in fact a covenant, whatever it may be called.

The Identity of the Covenant of Grace under all Dispensations. By this is meant that the plan of salvation has, under all dispensations, the Patriarchal, the Mosaic, and the Christian, been the same

. . . the common doctrine of the Church has ever been, that the plan of salvation has been the same from the beginning. There is the same promise of deliverance from the evils of the apostasy, the same Redeemer, the same condition required for participation in the blessings of redemption, and the same complete salvation for all who embrace the offers of divine mercy.

-- Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1952), Volume Two, pp. 117-118, 354-355, 366-367.

2. Definitions of Dispensations in these Systems

a. Dispensational Theology on the Dispensations of Scripture

(1) C. I. Scofield, *Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth*, "The Seven Dispensations":

"The Scriptures divide time (by which is meant the entire period from the creation of Adam to the 'new heaven and a new earth' of Rev. 21:1) into seven unequal periods, usually called 'Dispensations' (Eph. 3:2), although these periods are also called 'ages' (Eph. 2:7) and 'days' -- as, 'day of the Lord,' etc.

These periods are marked off in Scripture by some change in God's method of dealing with mankind, or a portion of mankind, in respect of the two questions: of sin, and of man's responsibility. Each of the dispensations may be regarded as a new test of the natural man, and each ends in judgment -- marking his utter failure in every dispensation.

Five of these dispensations, or periods of time, have been fulfilled; we are living in the sixth, probably toward its close, and have before us the seventh, and last -- the millennium.

1. MAN INNOCENT. . . .
2. MAN UNDER CONSCIENCE. . . .
3. MAN IN AUTHORITY OVER THE EARTH. . . .
4. MAN UNDER PROMISE. . . .
5. MAN UNDER LAW. . . .
6. MAN UNDER GRACE. . . .
7. MAN UNDER THE PERSONAL REIGN OF CHRIST. . . ."

-- C. I. Scofield, *Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth* (New York: Loizeaux Brothers, Inc., 1896), pp. 12-16.