

(2) *The Scofield Reference Bible*, footnotes 4 and 5 on Genesis 1:28:

"A dispensation is a period of time during which man is tested in respect of obedience to some specific revelation of the will of God. Seven such dispensations are distinguished in Scripture.

"The First Dispensation: Innocency. Man was created in Innocency, placed in a perfect environment, subjected to an absolutely simple test, and warned of the consequence of disobedience. The women fell through pride; the man, deliberately (I Tim. 2:14). God restored His sinning creatures, but the dispensation of innocence ended in the judgment of the Expulsion (Gen. 3:24). See, for the other dispensations: Conscience (Gen. 3:23); Human Government (Gen. 8:20); Promise (Gen. 12:1); Law (Ex. 19:8); Grace (John 1:17); Kingdom (Eph. 1:10)."

-- *The Scofield Reference Bible*, ed. C. I. Scofield, edition of 1917 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1917), p. 5.

(3) Ernest Pickering, "Dispensational Theology":

"A Biblical dispensation, therefore, is characterized by an element of time during which it is operative, an element of testing or accountability, and a standard for testing A dispensation is a period of time during which God tests man according to some special revelation of His will.

. . . dispensations are not subdivisions or parts of a covenant, either the covenant of grace or any other. They are never so identified in Scripture. Dispensations and covenants are different though they are often related.

. . . a dispensation is a rule of life, not a way of salvation. Dispensations are not different ways of going to heaven. Dispensations are different time-periods in which God's people are to live according to a rule of life laid down by God."

-- Ernest Pickering, "Dispensational Theology", reprinted from *Central Conservative Baptist Quarterly*, Spring 1961.

(4) *The New Scofield Reference Bible*, footnote 3 on Genesis 1:28:

"A dispensation is a period of time during which man is tested in respect to his obedience to some specific revelation of the will of God.

Three important concepts are implied in this definition: (1) a deposit of divine revelation concerning God's will, embodying what God requires of man as to his conduct; (2) man's stewardship of this divine revelation, in which he is responsible to obey it; and (3) a time-period, often called an 'age', during which this divine revelation is dominant in the testing of man's obedience to God.

The dispensations are a progressive and connected revelation of God's dealings with man, given sometimes to the whole race and at other times to a particular people, Israel. These different dispensations are not