

## DISPENSATIONS

### INNOCENCY

The first three chapters of Genesis relate events and prospects of the first dispensation, which is titled **Innocency**. Many important truths are found in this portion of scripture.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1) Then, in Genesis 1:26, God said, “Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness...” thus revealing the triune God working together to create the world and mankind. The fact that man was made in the image of God shows that man is a representative figure of God. Note Genesis 5:1-3. Adam’s son, Seth, was in Adam’s likeness and after his image. Christ Jesus is said to be the “express image” of God (Col. 1:15). As being made in God’s image, mankind is different from animals (we have the ability to know God, discern good from evil, and have fellowship with God). We are God’s representatives on the earth.

Why did God create man? Isaiah 43:7 states, “...for I have created him for my glory.” Also, In I Corinthians 1:9, we read that we are called unto the fellowship of Jesus Christ. God desired to show His love to mankind.

When God created man, he was innocent, but not righteous. Believing God’s Word and accepting His salvation by faith brings righteousness. Unbelief and disobedience, which is sin, brings judgment.

#### Helpmeet for man

In Genesis 2:18, we read that God said it was not good that man should be alone. Therefore, God made a woman to be a helpmeet for him. When God made man, He formed him from the dust of the earth—but when He made woman, He formed her from one of Adam’s ribs. This caused her to be “bone of his bones, and flesh of his flesh.” Compare this to Ephesians 5:30, “For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.”

There is a beautiful truth here in that Adam and Eve are a type of Christ and His bride. God, the Father, desired a “helpmeet” for His Son. Therefore, He created man and woman, making provision for them to become children of God. As His children, He is now (as He has been doing down through this age) working in them, changing them from glory to glory into the image of Christ (Romans 8:29 and II Cor. 3:18). According to Ephesians 5:25—27, Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it; “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” This will result in the marriage of the Lamb, which we read about in Revelation 19:7—9. .

Jesus died for everyone in the world, but only those who believe on Him and accept Him as their Saviour will be saved. In like manner, Jesus gave Himself for all the Church (believers) to be united with Him as His Bride. However, only those who allow the cleansing and suffering spoken of in Eph. 5:26, 27 and Rom. 8:17, 18 will be joined to Him in that manner. This is what the Apostle Paul was speaking in Philippians 3:8. He was not talking about salvation when he said he had suffered the loss of all things “that I may win Christ.” Rather, he was speaking of winning Christ as Bridegroom. Also in verse 14 of that same chapter, the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus is winning Christ as Bridegroom and reigning as joint-heirs with Him (Romans 8:17).

#### Fall of Adam

In Genesis 3:1-7, we read of sin entering the world. Satan first planted doubt in Eve’s mind-- “Yea, hath God said?” Eve’s answer to Satan revealed her discontentment and desire. Satan then directly contradicted God in verse 4, “Ye shall not surely die...,” but Eve continued listening to Satan. He next told her, “Ye shall be as gods.” This has been a strong temptation for many down through the

years. Numerous false religions have this as a theme—to be as gods. In verse six, Eve is being tempted in body (she **saw** the tree was good for food), soul (it was **pleasant** to the eyes), and spirit (a tree to be desired to make one **wise**). This was the lust of flesh, lust of eyes, and pride of life, which we read about in I John 2:16.

According to I Tim. 2:14, Adam was not deceived as Eve was. However, because of his love for Eve, he also ate of the forbidden fruit. Then their eyes were immediately opened to their nakedness. They were no longer innocent but were now afraid of the Lord God, with Whom they had been having such sweet fellowship. However, God did not leave them hidden. He called to them, wanting to do what was necessary to restore their fellowship with Him.

God had them acknowledge their sin of disobedience, and then pronounced judgment on both of them as well as on Satan. However, in His announced judgment on Satan, He gave a mighty promise of a Redeemer. Verse 15 speaks of the enmity which would be between Satan and the woman and between his seed (children of disobedience, as in Eph. 2:2) and her seed (Christ Jesus). Then God promised that “it,” that is, the seed of the woman (Christ) would give Satan a deadly wound (bruise to the head), and Satan would give Christ a minor wound (His heel). This occurred on the cross. Jesus was crucified in weakness, but He rose again, bringing complete defeat to Satan. “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.” Heb. 2:14

### Clothed with righteousness

Adam and Eve had sewed fig leaves together, attempting to clothe themselves. But God would not accept their clothing! Instead, God clothed them with coats of skins. An animal had to be killed in order to do this. Blood had to be shed! That animal was killed in the place of Adam and Eve. In this act, God was looking forward to when His Son would die on a cross in the place of all mankind. Jesus’ blood was shed so we could live! Many are still attempting to clothe themselves with their good works, but God will not accept good works for salvation. We must come through the shed blood of Christ.

God, in His love and mercy, drove Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden, putting Cherubims with a flaming sword to guard the entrance. God did this so Adam and Eve would not remain in the garden and partake of the tree of life. Had they done that, they would have lived forever in that fallen state. But God had something better for them—that is, receiving God’s salvation through acceptance of the blood of His Son and living forever with Him.

The first dispensation was characterized by absence of sin and the presence of God. However, even in this wonderful environment, man still disobeyed and brought sin into the world. This brought the human race under condemnation and the whole earth cursed. “Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.” Rom. 5:18