

In addition to God's six covenants, he has chosen to work in <u>different ways</u> with <u>different groups</u> at <u>different times</u>.

These are called "dispensations" from the word dispensatio, which is the Latin translation of the Greek oikonomia. oikonomia means "house law."

Considering humanity as God's "house," the dispensations are simply a way to see how God has managed his house over the years.

An easy way to understand the concept is to compare it with how you run your house – age of children, number, stage of life.

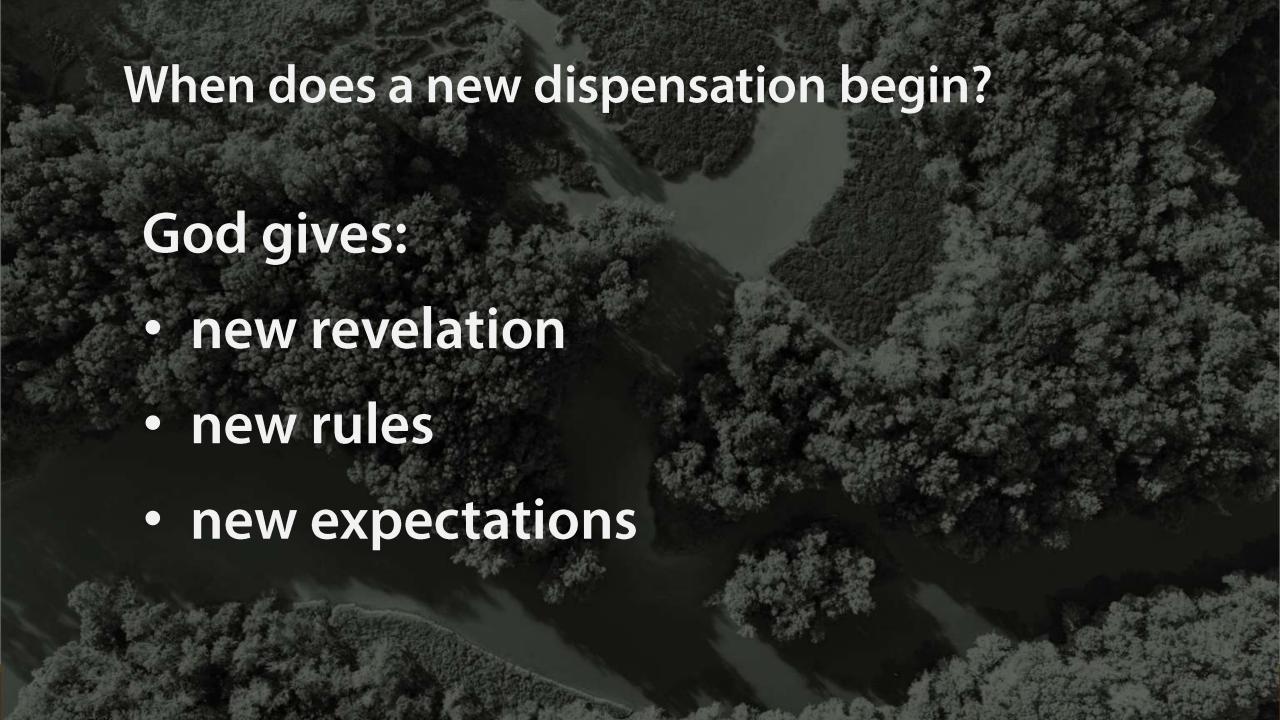
How many dispensations?

- 1. Paul mentioned three
 - Colossians 1:25 the church (present)
 - Ephesians 3:5, 9 previous generations (past)
 - Ephesians 1:10 fullness of the times (future)

At the time of this writing, Paul may not have known about the distinction between the Millennial Kingdom and the Eternal State

How many dispensations?

- 2. Theologians in the 1600-1700s usually listed five, six, or seven
- 3. Scofield popularized seven in his Scofield Reference Bible (traditional)
- 4. Dr. Christopher Cone sees twelve





Free Will / Innocence

(Genesis 1-2)

- One law for all humanity
- Power of contrary choice
- Ended with the Fall



Moral Conscience (began Genesis 3)

- Many unwritten laws
- Still in effect today



Human Government (began Genesis 9)

- One new <u>permission</u>: all things acceptable to eat
- One new <u>law</u>: capital punishment
- Still in effect today
- Noahic Covenant



Abrahamic Promises (began Genesis 12)

- One new <u>law</u>: bless
 Abraham/Israel or be cursed by God
- Still in effect today
- Abrahamic Covenant



Mosaic Law (Exodus 12 - Cross)

- 613 new laws
- Given to the nation of Israel only
- Ended with the cross; no longer in effect
- Mosaic Covenant



Church (Acts 2 - Rapture)

- Numerous rules (the law of Christ) which we are empowered to live out by the indwelling Holy Spirit
- Accessible to everyone but comprised of only those who believe in Jesus; Spirit baptism



Tribulation / Daniel's "70th week"

- 7 years; after the Rapture until Jesus' Second Coming
- Visions and dreams will provide new revelation
- Moral Conscience, Human Government, and Abrahamic Promises still in effect



Millennium (Revelation 20:1-6)

- 1,000 years
- Theocratic kingdom; Jesus' word will be law; animal sacrifices in effect; rebels will be executed
- Human Government and Abrahamic Promises continue
- Land, Davidic, New Covenants



Fullness of the Times / Eternal State (Revelation 21-22)

- No law will be necessary because all people will be fixed in their permanent spiritual state
- All other dispensations will be summed up here; this dispensation will last forever

