

THE FIRST DISPENSATION

NAME : INNOCENCE - man has no knowledge of sin (Heaven will be like this). It is important to note that man is a special creation by God, created in His image and likeness, and to have fellowship with God. Man has a free will, and is not a robot; man is therefore different from the animals which do things by instinct. Man can, and does, make choices, and therefore has the ability to obey or disobey God. Adam and Eve were created as perfect, fully mature, and intelligent beings. (Gen. 2:15-25)

TIME PERIOD : From creation to the fall of Adam and Eve into sin. There is no way to know how long this period lasted, but it appears to have been a short period of time. (Gen. chapters 2,3). The date would be approximately 4,000 BC, or 1 AM (Anno Mundo - year of the world)

TEST : To have dominion over creation and obey God, concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:15-17).

FAILURE : Adam & Eve disobey, eat of the fruit of the forbidden tree, and fall into sin (Gen. chapter 3). Also known as "The Curse", or "The Fall of Man" (Gen.3:7-19)

JUDGMENT : man is driven out of the Garden of Eden, and is now under the curse of death - both physical and spiritual. (Gen.2:17,3:17-24, Eph.2:1, Col.2:13)

REMEDY : blood of innocent animals which were killed by God to make coats of skins, and so sacrificed to cover the sin of Adam & Eve. (Gen.3:21-24 , Gal.4:4-5) The typology here refers to Christ.

Main Scripture Refs : Gen.1:26 - 3:24

Continuing Principles : Marriage, proper clothing, we will again live in innocent perfection in Heaven.

People : God (the Trinity), Adam & Eve, satan (not human, but a real person), Cherubims.

Events : **(1)** completion of creation (Gen.1). **(2)** God's will revealed to man through Adam (Gen.2:15-17), note that this is by God's spoken word, since there was no written Scripture at that time. **(3)** Adam named all the animals (Gen.2:18-20). Adam was created in God's image, his mind having been created with all wisdom and knowledge, and unaffected by sin; in complete fellowship with God. **(4)** God made Eve to be Adam's mate (Gen.2:20-24). **(5)** God establishes the institution of marriage between a man and a woman (Gen.2:24-25 , Matt.19:4-6). **(6)** man falls into sin (Gen 3). **(7)** The Messianic promise (Gen.3:15).

Notes : creation occurred approx. 4000 BC, according to genealogies. Some cults falsely teach that Jesus' death on the cross only forgave 'original sin', and it is up to us to take care of our sins. There was no written Scripture in this dispensation.

(dates - for the study of 1st disp: June 23, 2002 to July 30, 2002 , July 10-31, 2005 , Feb 3, 2008 ,)
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