

## The Oologah Informer November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### The Patriarchal, Mosaic, and New Testament Dispensations Bryan Braswell

The Bible speaks of three different dispensations or ages. The period of time from creation to the exodus of the Israelites out of Egypt, is formally called the **Patriarchal** dispensation. The books of the Bible that detail this dispensation include Genesis through Exodus 20, and also the book of Job. The next dispensation, called the **Mosaic**, is historically and scripturally depicted in Exodus chapter 20 through the prophecy of Malachi — which brings the Old Testament pages to a close. It is during this period of time that the Israelites are officially organized as a nation by the Law of Moses, beginning at Mount Sinai and finding its fulfillment in the birth of Christ (Deuteronomy 18:15-18; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-23; 5:19-20; Galatians 3:26-29 et al.). The Law of Moses foretold of this event, and the New Testament confirmed that it took place (Deuteronomy 18:15-18; Acts 3:22-26). And the final dispensation is the **New Testament** dispensation which was ushered in with the Christ (Acts 2:36; James 1:25-27; Hebrews 1:1-3). It is also called the perfect or complete dispensation. It is founded upon the perfect Law of Liberty or the Law of Christ. It is also the last dispensation and thereby comprises the last days (Galatians 6:2). So in the Bible, you have sixty-six books, thirty-nine of them found during the Old Testament, and twenty-seven reveals the New Testament. Both Old and New Testaments refer to the change we refer to as dispensations (Jeremiah 31:31; Hebrews 10:16-18). Hence, we can clearly identify with three different dispensations in our Bible.

#### THE DISPENSATION'S DIFFERENCES

Patriarch means the male of a family or tribe. A Patriarch was a biblical figure regarded as a father of the human race, especially Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, according to the Oxford University Press Dictionary. During this time, God spoke directly to these individuals — hence, the Patriarchal period. In so doing, God did not communicate through written Law as He did during the Mosaic and also now, during the New Testament dispensations. This is why we read about God speaking directly to men like Adam, Cain, Noah, and Abraham. However, once this dispensation was fulfilled, God revealed a written Law to Moses, which became His authority for that dispensation, and then revealed a final Law through Christ. Authority is our primary issue of concern, regarding the different dispensations, because we must understand what is bound today as compared to then. Now, in the New Testament dispensation, we do not worry about obeying what Noah, Abraham, or the Jews had to obey under their respective laws. The Hebrews writer reminds us of this:

*“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake **in times past** unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us **by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, **and upholding all things by the word of his power**, when he had by himself purged our sins sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high”*(Hebrews 1:1-3)

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#### Service Times

##### **Sunday**

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.  
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

##### **Wednesday**

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

#### Preacher:

Russ Earl

#### AM Sermon:

Reason for our Hope (Heb 13:5-6)

#### PM Sermon:

The 7 “I AM” sayings of Christ  
“I am the Good Shephard”  
John 10:11

#### Sunday AM Bible Class:

The book of Judges – D. Jackson

#### Wednesday Bible Class:

Swearingen

#### In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

Tulsa KWHB TV 47  
Sunday mornings at 7:30am

**emphasis mine**). Therefore, God does not speak to man directly today, but does speak to everyone through His Word. And knowing this is His final say, today, Christ's Words are for all to obey now under the New Testament (Colossians 3:16; John 8:31-32; 14:6).

### **THE CHRISTIAN DISPENSATION IS THE LAST AND FINAL DISPENSATION**

Contrary to popular theories advanced by Dispensational Premillennialists, the New Testament age is the last and complete age (Hebrews 1:1-3). In this last dispensation, all will stand condemned or justified by Christ's blood (Matthew 26:28). There will be no second chance come Judgment Day, and the Bible teaches that we await this final day when all will be resurrected from the grave and stand before God (John 5:28-29; 8:24, 31-32; 12:48-52; Matthew 24:35; Romans 14:10-12). Heaven and earth will pass away, but the New Testament will stand. Are we prepared for eternity now (2 Peter 3:9-11)?

The patriarchal and Mosaic dispensations have been fulfilled (Matthew 5:17-20; Luke 24:44ff.; Ephesians 2:14; Colossians 2:14). The New Testament teaches that Christ's Words, the New Testament, will judge us in the last day (John 12:48; Matthew 24:35). Therefore, as Paul said, we must do all things by the authority of Jesus Christ, not Noah, Abraham, or Moses (Colossians 3:16-17). We must rightly divide the Bible and know its contents (2 Timothy 2:15). If we will do this, we can be the thoroughly furnished man of God, ready for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).