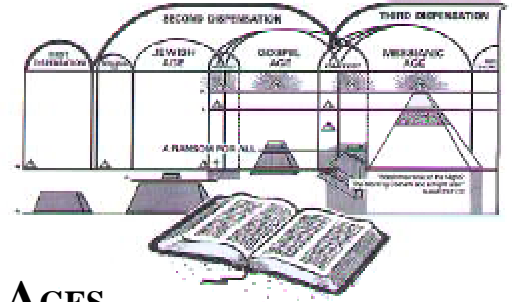


FORT WORTH BIBLE STUDENTS

P.O. Box 4085
FORT WORTH TX 76164
PHONE: (682) 518-8933



THE DIVINE PLAN OF THE AGES STUDY 4

EPOCHS AND DISPENSATIONS

NAME: _____

PHONE: () _____

- ◆ **BEFORE** filling in the blanks, please prayerfully **study** the 27 paragraphs and the scriptures cited with the questions. We suggest that you number the paragraphs in your book.
- ◆ Return your answers to us. *PLEASE ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE.* Our Canadian and International friends may make special arrangements for the postage.
- ◆ Your answers will be checked and returned to you for your future studies.
- ◆ **STUDY 5** will be sent when you have completed this lesson.

1. Through much misunderstanding and IGNORANCE, some misjudge God's unfinished work. (Eph. 4:18) God's finished work will universally declare his infinite WISDOM and POWER. (1 Corinthians 15:28; Isaiah 55:10, 11)

2. In order to be found in harmony with the plan of God, should one seek to learn his plan? YES
Will God accomplish that which he has purposed? (Isaiah 14:24-27; 46:9-11) YES

3. By FAITH and light from the LAMP the child of God is enabled to understand things pertaining to the past and the PRESENT. (Hebrews 11:6; Psalm 119:105) God's plan as it relates to man spans THREE periods of time. (2 Peter 3:6, 7) These epochs are called WORLDS.

4. The first world which started at creation lasted until the FLOOD (Genesis 7:22, 23) Peter called this first epoch the WORLD that then was. (2 Peter 3:6)

5. The second world is under the limited control of SATAN. (2 Corinthians 4:4) This present world has been full of EVIL. (Galatians 1:4)

6. The third epoch will be a WORLD without end. (Isa. 45:17) Righteousness will begin to prevail as soon as the earthly phase of the KINGDOM begins its operation. Then the knowledge of the LORD will begin to cover the EARTH as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9; 2 Peter 3:13)

7. The first world was under the administration of ANGELS. (Heb. 2:5) SATAN is the *usurper* of the second evil world. (Isaiah 14:12-14) During the first age of the third world, all the NATIONS of the earth will be blessed. (Genesis 22:17, 18)

8. EVIL is permitted to predominate during the second world. (Malachi 3:15) Evil will be blotted out during the MILLENNIAL age. (Zechariah 14:6, 7) Those who choose to remain evil doers will be CUT off. (Psalm 37:9)

9. Evil has prospered under SATAN'S usurped rulership. (Malachi 3:15) Those who have lived godly during the Gospel age have suffered PERSECUTION. (2 Timothy 3:12)

10. We are taught to pray, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on EARTH." This manifests our desire for a RIGHTEOUS government. (Isaiah 2:2-4) Darkness has covered the earth because SATAN now rules and works in the HEARTS of the children of disobedience. (Isaiah 60:2; Ephesians 6:12)

11. The transfer of the kingdoms of this world to become the kingdom of Christ causes a great time of TROUBLE. (Daniel 12:1) Does our Lord gradually bind the influence and power of Satan after entering the *strong man's house*? YES (Mark 3:22-27) Will the earthly phase of the kingdom begin its operation when Satan is fully bound? YES

12. "The earth abideth FOREVER." (Ecclesiastes 1:4) The word *heavens* often symbolizes the higher or SPIRITUAL controlling powers. (2 Peter 3:7, 10) The word *earth* often symbolizes HUMAN government and social ARRANGEMENTS. Does Satan struggle while he is gradually being bound? YES Fire is a symbol of DESTRUCTION—not *preservation*. (Revelation 20:14) The second symbolic heavens and the second symbolic earth will be replaced by a new HEAVENS and a new EARTH under Christ's control. (Revelation 21:1)

13. The apostles PAUL and JOHN saw by vision the new heaven and the new earth. (2 Cor. 12:2-4; Rev. 1:9,10) Will righteousness eventually prevail in the earth? (Rev. 21:4) YES

14. How many ages are there in the world that now is? 3 The Millennial age is the first age of the third WORLD.

15. Was the first epoch or world subdivided? NO The first world ended with the FLOOD. (Genesis 7:17,18) The tendency of sin is DOWNWARD to greater degradation. Who must intervene if the recovery of man's first estate is ever to be accomplished? GOD

16. The three ages in the second dispensation are the PATRIARCHAL age, the JEWISH age, and the GOSPEL age.

17. The period of the *times of restitution* is the same as the MILLENNIAL age. (Acts 3:19-21) How long will the *world to come* continue? (Ephesians 3:21) FOREVER

18. The faithful patriarchs with whom God dealt during the Patriarchal age were Noah, ABRAHAM, ISAAC, and Jacob. At Jacob's death, his descendants called the 12 tribes of ISRAEL. (Exodus 1:1) Typical sacrifices were offered in the JEWISH age. God sent his prophets and finally his dear Son, Jesus, to the house of ISRAEL. (Matthew 23:37; 15:24; John 1:11) During the time of our Lord's ministry at his first advent, his disciples were sent to preach to the lost SHEEP of the house of ISRAEL. (Matthew 10:5, 6) The national favor of Israel ended when the Jews rejected and CRUCIFIED Jesus. (Matthew 23:37, 38)

19. During the GOSPEL age the good tidings of justification have gone to all nations.

(Romans 1:5) The fully consecrated who follow in Jesus' footsteps during the Gospel age are given EXCEEDING great and PRECIOUS promises. (2 Peter 1:4) Have all the nations been converted during the Gospel age? (2 Tim. 3:1-5) NO It is the Father's good pleasure to give the kingdom to a LITTLE FLOCK. (Luke 12:32)

20. Even though God has permitted evil, have his deep designs been steadily progressing according to a fixed and definite plan? (Isaiah 46:10) YES As soon as Satan is fully bound, RIGHTEOUSNESS will begin to prevail. (2 Peter 3:13)

21. The first age of the Third Dispensation will last 1000 years. (2 Peter 3:8) All TEARS will have been wiped away by the close of the thousand year reign of Christ. (Revelation 21:4) The word *restitution* means RESTORATION. (Acts 3:19-21)

22. Is God's plan a progressive one? YES God is a wise *economist* of both TIME and MEANS. Are all things working together for the accomplishment of God's will? (Isaiah 45:23) YES

23. To the uninstructed and undisciplined mind, God's plan appears like ANARCHY, confusion, and FAILURE. Maturity and investigation will show BEAUTIFUL harmony working good RESULTS. Has man been receiving the necessary discipline to eventually experience the blessed results of God's plan? YES

24. One can rightly divide the word of truth by noting the distinctive FEATURES of each age. (2 Timothy 2:15)

25. The KNOWLEDGE of the LORD will begin to fill the earth after the earthly phase of the kingdom begins its operation. (Isaiah 11:9) EVIL is waxing worse and worse during this transition period between the beginning of the Third Dispensation and the full end of the Second Dispensation. (2 Timothy 3:1-13)

26. Present governments of this world are enriched and supported by oppression, INJUSTICE, and DECEIT. Does our Lord have the power to fully bind Satan? (Matthew 28:18) YES

27. Is the household of faith now enjoying more light during this *dawning* of the Millennial age? (2 Peter 1:19; Revelation 3:20) YES