

II. DISPENSATION OF CONSCIENCE

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A. MAN'S SITUATION IN THIS DISPENSATION

1. After his disobedience to God

- a. When man sinned he entered the sphere of moral experience but he did so through the wrong choice. Instead of experiencing what it meant to do _____, he experienced what it meant to do _____.
- b. Man, before his choice, only had a _____ knowledge of good and evil. After His choice man acquired an _____ knowledge.
- c. Man had become as God in the sense that he knew the difference between _____ and _____. But man was unlike God because he gained this knowledge through the experience of choosing what was wrong instead of choosing what was right (Gen. 3:5).

2. In regard to his approach to God

- a. When man sinned the _____ which he had with God in the garden was broken. This resulted in a grave problem for man. How could he now, with his sinful fallen nature, approach a holy God and have communion with Him?
- b. God prescribed man's approach by clothing Adam and Eve with coats of animal skins (Gen. 3:21). To approach God, innocent blood had to _____ and a _____ sacrifice had to be made for the one who had sinned. This act of God prefigures and presents us with a type of what the Lord Jesus would do when He gave Himself for sinners (I Cor. 1:30; II Cor. 5:21).
- c. God's provision to clothe Adam and Eve made the first sinners _____ for His presence. This did not change man's fallen nature however and approach to God required _____ sacrifice.
- d. This requirement was apparently handed down to Adam's children and it marked the difference between those whom God would _____ and those whom God would _____. It is still the same today. Note Rom. 3:23-25.

B. MAN'S STEWARDSHIP IN THIS DISPENSATION

1. Because of his new sphere

- a. Man was now _____ responsible and therefore _____ to do all known good and abstain from all known evil.
- b. Man was to be guided by his _____ in the things which he would now do. He was conscious of what was _____ and what was _____.

2. Concerning his new prohibitions.

- a. Man was not to go against his conscience and do that which he knew was _____ to do.
- b. Man was not to come before God without blood _____.

C. MAN'S SIN IN THIS DISPENSATION

1. In his approach to God (Gen. 4:1-7)

- a. Abel brought an offering to the Lord which received God's _____ because it met God's requirement of blood sacrifice. It recognized the sentence for sin and the need for a _____ (4:4).
- b. Cain brought an offering to the Lord which God _____ because it didn't meet God's requirement of blood sacrifice. It recognized no sense of guilt from sin, or the need for a substitute to atone for himself. It was the work of his own hands. Herein is the beginning and essence of all _____ religions which invoke man's pride and involve the works of his own hands (4:5-7).

2. Against his own conscience

- a. Cain rose up and _____ his brother Abel (Gen. 4:8; I Jn. 3:12).
- b. Cain went out from the Lord's presence, as it were, being through with the Lord and began a _____ civilization who lived apart from God (Gen. 4:16-24).
- c. Sins against man's own conscience became the way of life with _____ and _____ toward God (4:16), polygamy (4:19), murder (4:23) and the like.
- d. Seth was born to Adam and Eve (Gen. 4:25) and became the progenitor of a _____ line of descendants who walked with God and lived according to their stewardship of conscience. But in time the line of separation, which separated the descendants of Seth (called the Sons of God) from the wicked descendants of Cain, was broken when the men of Seth's line _____ with women of Cain's line (Gen. 6:2).
- e. The "giants" in 6:4 were not the result of angels marrying women as some propagate, but rather, it means "fallen ones" which expresses the moral lapse and result of the _____ descendants of Seth marrying the _____ descendants of Cain.

D. MAN'S SORROW IN THIS DISPENSATION

1. As a result of disobedience (Gen. 6:3)

- a. God, in mercy, gave man _____ years before judgment.

- b. During this time the Holy Spirit was _____ with men over their sin through the preaching of Noah (Gen. 6:3; I Pet. 3:19,20; II Pet. 2:5).
- c. Only Noah's household believed God and was saved from God's judgment. By faith Noah built an ark and they got in it. Note many believed "in" God and perished.

2. From sin against his conscience

- a. God judged man who had corrupted himself through sin against his own _____.
- b. God's judgment was a _____ which destroyed all flesh but eight souls.

E. MAN'S SHORTNESS IN THIS DISPENSATION

1. Rule of life

Man had been permitted to follow his conscience doing what he knew was _____ and _____. During this dispensation God governed man through his conscience.

2. Man's test was to do all known _____, to abstain from all known _____, and to approach God through blood _____.

3. Failure

Man, before the flood, not only failed to approach God properly, but they attempted to live independently from God sinning against his conscience until finally the whole earth was _____.

4. Judgment

God judged men for their sinful failures with a _____ flood.

5. Crucial event

The flood ended the dispensation of conscience and began the dispensation of _____.

ANSWER KEY

II. CONSCIENCE

- A. 1. a. right, wrong
b. theoretical, experiential
c. good and evil
- 2. a. fellowship
b. shed, substitution
c. fit, blood
d. accept, reject
- B. 1. a. morally, accountable
b. conscience, right, wrong
- 2. a. wrong
b. sacrifice
- C. 1. a. approval, substitute
b. rejected, false
- 2. a. slew
b. corrupt
c. indifference, rebellion
d. righteous, intermarried
e. godly, ungodly
- D. 1. a. 120
b. striving
- 2. a. conscience
b. flood
- E. 1. right and wrong
2. good, evil, sacrifice
3. corrupt
4. universal
5. human government