

## I. THE DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE

By Pastor Richard Jones

### A. Man's Situation in this Dispensation

#### 1. Concerning his creation

- a. Man was made in the "image and likeness of God". That is with \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and will (Gen. 1:26,27).
- b. Man was a free moral being, capable of thinking, feeling and determining for himself. He was not a \_\_\_\_\_ and irresponsible but he was free to \_\_\_\_\_ and consequently responsible for his choices. Many folks make man a robot.

#### 2. As far as clothing

- a. Man was apparently clothed by the \_\_\_\_\_ glory of God (Gen. 2:25)
- b. The Shekinah glory of God made the face of Moses shine (Ex. 34:30,35).

#### 3. With respect to his character

- a. Man was created \_\_\_\_\_ and placed in a perfect \_\_\_\_\_ for the purpose of perfect communion and \_\_\_\_\_ with his Creator.
- b. Man lived in a state of \_\_\_\_\_ holiness until he should successively pass the test which God would place before him.
- c. Man was innocent of the existence of unseen \_\_\_\_\_ beings and the Kingdom of evil in the universe.

#### 4. With respect to his choice

- a. Because man was created a free moral being, God could not and would not violate his free \_\_\_\_\_ to choose.
- b. Neither God, nor the devil, can invade and violate man's free will. This is why God sends no one to hell, man's own \_\_\_\_\_ sends him to hell.

## **B. Man's Stewardship in this Dispensation**

1. As to what was provided (Gen. 1:28; 2:15).
  - a. Man was to have \_\_\_\_\_ over all the earth, to be fruitful and multiply, and to keep the garden. He was not to \_\_\_\_\_ of one tree.
  - b. As a reward for obedience and keeping the garden he could eat freely of \_\_\_\_\_ (2:9)
2. As to what was prohibited (Gen. 2:17).
  - a. Man was not to disobey God's \_\_\_\_\_. This would assure Adam and all his race of a holy and inseparable communion with God, the garden to be an eternal paradise and man of the joy of a never-ending life.
  - b. Man's obedience to God's test would be an open \_\_\_\_\_ before heaven and earth for all ages of his unquestioned and proven love and loyalty.

## **C. Man's Sin in this Dispensation**

1. In regard to the object
  - a. There was no inherent wrong in the eating of fruit. Man's sin was not an error in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. The tree and its fruit became the \_\_\_\_\_ or the basis of testing the creature's obedience to his Creator. It could have been any kind of tree. It did not become the tree for testing man's obedience because of its particular species.
2. In regard to the medium
  - a. Lucifer, the once anointed cherub, as \_\_\_\_\_ of God and His creature, stepped into the garden paradise.
  - b. The devil would strike back at God through \_\_\_\_\_ which was God's crowning glory of creation.

- c. The devil with all his wisdom and power could not force transgression or make man sin against his will but he could \_\_\_\_\_ man to use his own \_\_\_\_\_ to transgress (note James 1:13-14, I John 2:16).
- d. To make shipwreck of man's innocence and prove him unworthy before God, the devil waged his battle against man to tempt him to sin.
  - (1) Satan addressed Eve through an \_\_\_\_\_(serpent) which must have been one of the inhabitants of the garden (3:1).
  - (2) His intention was to sow seeds of \_\_\_\_\_ concerning God's Word so Eve would choose to disobey God.
  - (3) Satan's sin was out of ambition to become \_\_\_\_\_ God instead of being in \_\_\_\_\_ to God. So he appealed to Eve that she might adopt his own philosophy of life to act independent from God (3:4,5).

### 3. In regard to the act

- a. Eve was called upon to exercise her will and choose between the Word of \_\_\_\_\_ and the word of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (1) God's will warned of \_\_\_\_\_ "for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die". (2:17)
  - (2) Satan's will denied God's \_\_\_\_\_. "Ye shall not surely die". (3:4)
- b. Sin then was not in the act of eating but in the principle of \_\_\_\_\_ against God's will.
- c. The test then was whether the creature would \_\_\_\_\_ in the sphere into which he had been placed or whether he would \_\_\_\_\_ against his Creator.

## D. Man's Sorrow in this Dispensation

### 1. From the choice of sin

- a. The woman was \_\_\_\_\_; the man transgressed (Gen. 3:6; I Tim. 2:14).

- b. By eating man came to know by sad experience the values of “good” which he had forfeited and the bitterness of “evil” which he had known before only in name.
- c. When man sinned he lost his pure and holy likeness and took on a sinful and depraved likeness or a fallen \_\_\_\_\_
- d. After their sin and consequent separation from God, Adam and Eve realized they were no longer clothed with God’s Shekinah glory (Gen. 3:7).

## 2. As the consequences of sin

- a. When God breathed into Adam’s nostrils the breath of lives (Gen. 2:7) the life-spring of all future generations was given. When God commanded Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply (Gen. 1:28), the whole race would spring from Adams seed. So after his sin Adam begat a son in his own \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 5:3) - that is with the same sinful fallen nature. Note Rom. 5:12.
- b. Because of their sin Adam and Eve lost their garden paradise And the \_\_\_\_\_ entered into the world.
- c. To prevent Adam and Eve from eating of the tree of life and living forever in their fallen state, God place Cherubim and a flaming sword to guard the way of the tree of \_\_\_\_\_ (3:23,24).

## **E. Man’s Shortness in this dispensation**

### 1. Rule of Life

God ruled directly over Adam in the dispensation of innocence. Adam was delegated authority from God (Gen. 1:26). Man’s stewardship was to rule with dominion over the earth in obedience to God. Adam relinquished his authority to \_\_\_\_\_ who became the “god of this world”. As a result a new rule of life was inaugurated to reveal what was in man.

### 2. Test

Whether man would obey God’s Word or disobey Him (Gen. 2:17).

### 3. Failure

Adam and Eve failed under the dispensation of innocence when they disregarded God's one prohibition.

4. Judgment

As a result of man's sin a curse was placed upon the \_\_\_\_\_  
(Gen. 3:14), upon \_\_\_\_\_(Gen. 3:15), upon \_\_\_\_\_  
(Gen. 3:16, and upon \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 3:17-19).

5. Crucial event

Man was expelled from the garden and the dispensation of conscience began (Gen. 3:23,24).

### Answer Key to the Dispensation of Innocence

A.

1.
  - a. intellect, sensibility
  - b. robot, choose
2. Shekinah
3.
  - a. perfect, environment, fellowship
  - b. unconfirmed
  - c. spirit
4.
  - a. will
  - b. choice

B.

1.
  - a. dominion, eat
  - b. life
2.
  - a. command
  - b. witness

C.

1.
  - a. diet
  - b. ground
2.
  - a. adversary
  - b. man
  - c. tempt, will
  - d.

- (1) animal
- (2) doubt
- (3) like, submission

3.

- a. Almighty, adversary
  - (1) disobedience
  - (2) word
- b. rebellion
- c. abide, rebel

D.

1.

- a. deceived, deliberately
- b. nature

2.

- a. image
- b. curse
- c. life

E.

1. Satan