

**RIGHTLY**  
**DIVIDING**  
**THE WORD OF TRUTH**

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

*What is Dispensationalism and why does it make a difference?*



**LESSON 1:**  
**A TALE OF**  
**TWO THEOLOGIES**  
2 TIMOTHY 2:15

*What is Dispensationalism and  
why does it make a difference?*





**By the end of the first century, there were more Gentiles than Jews in the church.**



# Antisemitism

**“Hostility to, prejudice towards, or discrimination against Jews.”**





# Genesis 25:23

**“Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.”**

# The Golden Rule of Interpretation

**If the plain sense makes good  
sense seek no other sense  
lest it result in nonsense.**



PASTOR TIM LEWIS

# The Protestant Reformation



NEW ENGLAND SHORES BAPTIST CHURCH



# PASTOR TIM LEWIS



NEW ENGLAND SHORES BAPTIST CHURCH



PASTOR TIM LEWIS



NEW ENGLAND SHORES BAPTIST CHURCH



**LESSON 2:**  
**A TALE OF**  
**TWO THEOLOGIES**  
**PART 2**

**2 TIMOTHY 2:15**



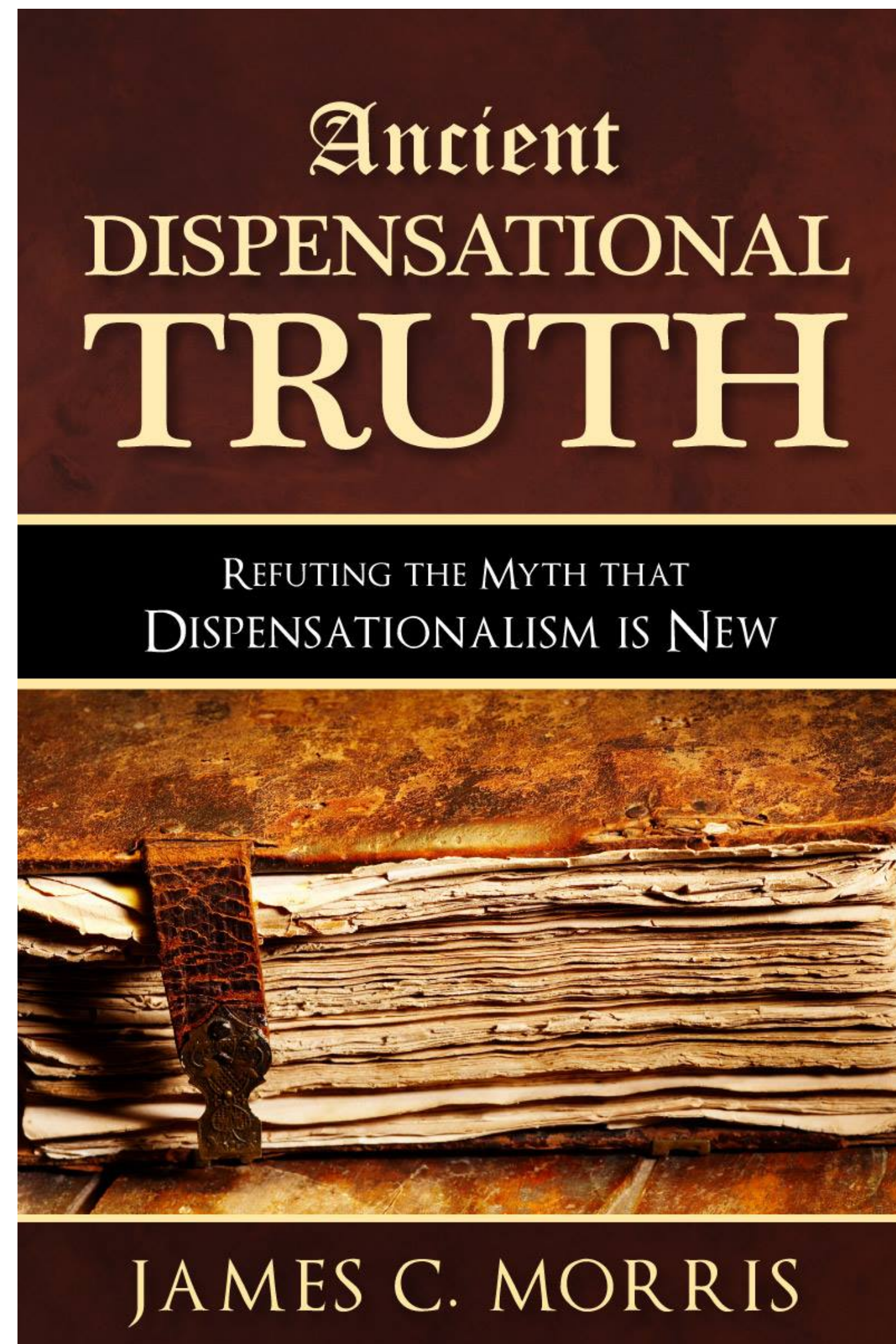
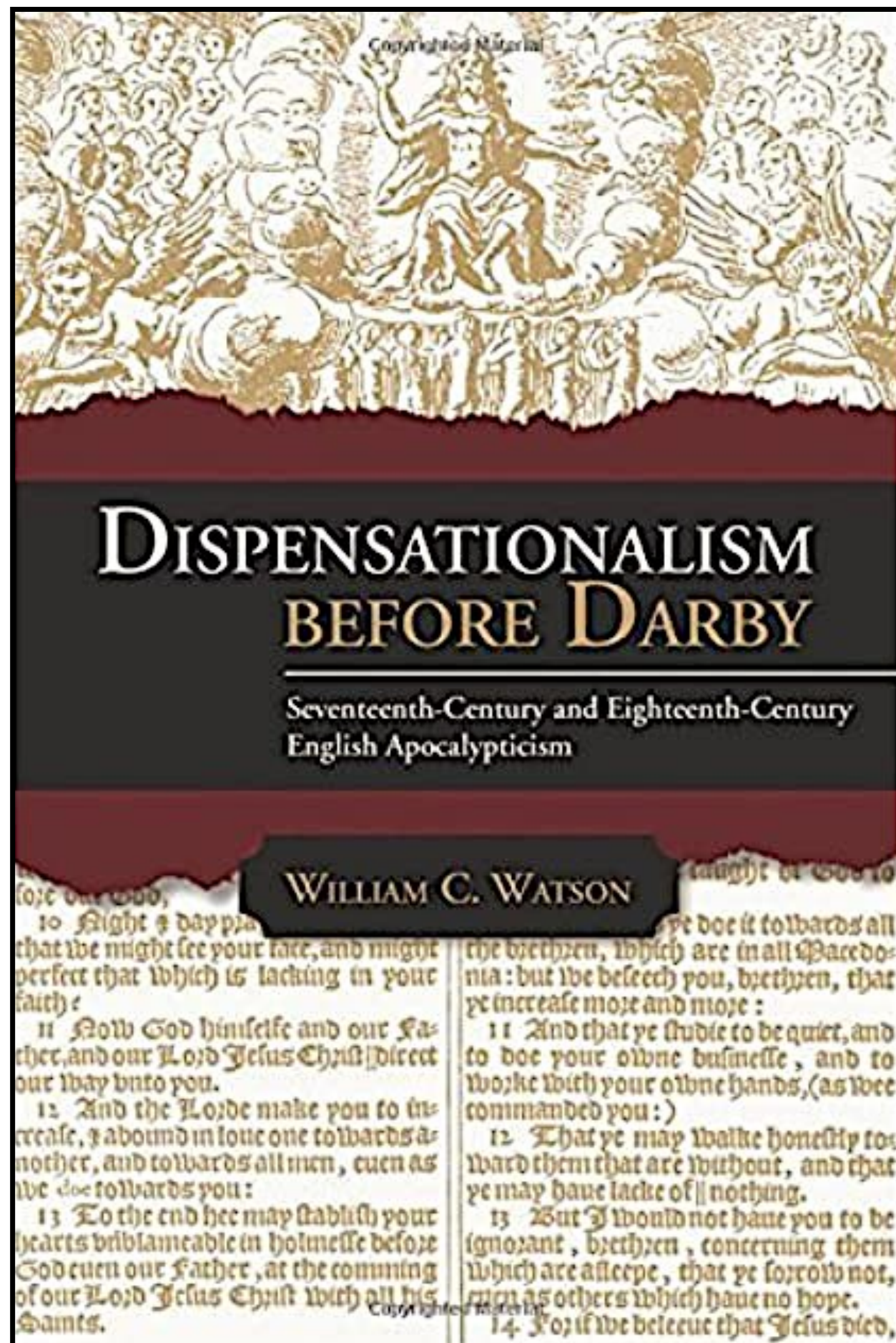
***What is Dispensationalism and  
why does it make a difference?***



**God has never lost  
his witness on Earth.  
The Reformers did  
not rediscover God's  
lost truth.**









# Defining Terms

**A covenant is an agreement between two people or groups of people that is a matter of life and death.**



# Ezekiel 20:37

**And I will cause you to pass  
under the rod, and I will bring  
you into the bond of the  
covenant:**



# Defining Terms

## Dispensation




**oikos + nomos = “A way that  
God rules his house.”**

**Economy or Stewardship**



# Defining Terms

## Stewardship

-  **God is the master.**
-  **God sets forth a series of laws He expects man to follow.**
-  **Am I a good steward?**

# Defining Terms

## Reformed Theology

- **Three overarching covenants**
- **Calvinistic Soteriology (T.U.L.I.P)**
- **A Continuity of God's people**
- **Figurative or Allegorical Interpretation**

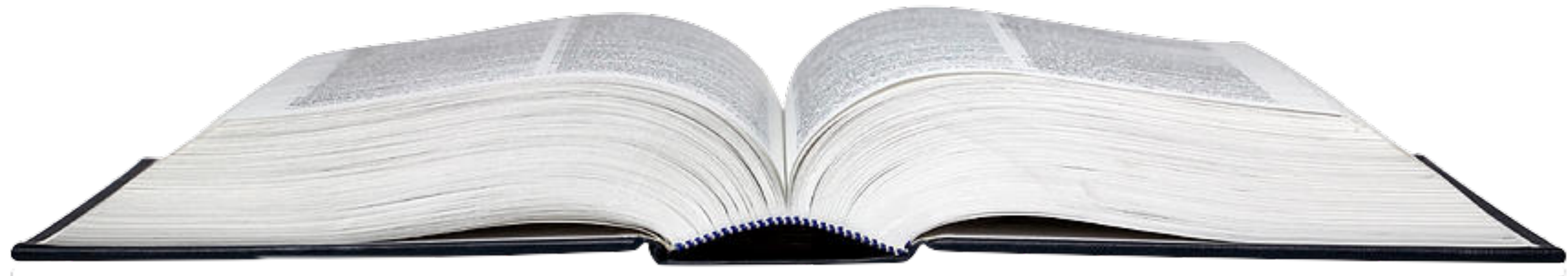


# Conclusion

**At the heart of Reformed Theology is the belief that Israel rejected God's offer of salvation so God offered it to the church with the understanding that Israel will not get it back.**

# Psalm 89:34

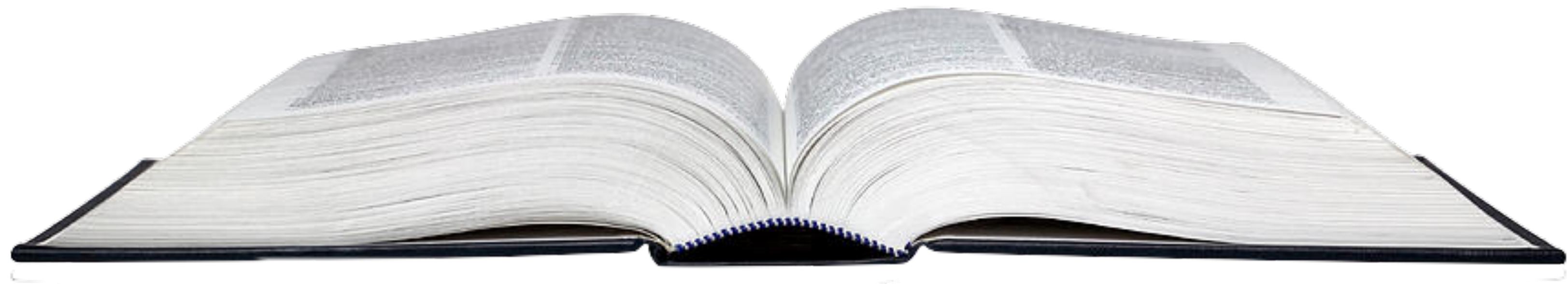
**“My covenant will I not break, nor alter  
the thing that is gone out of my lips.”**





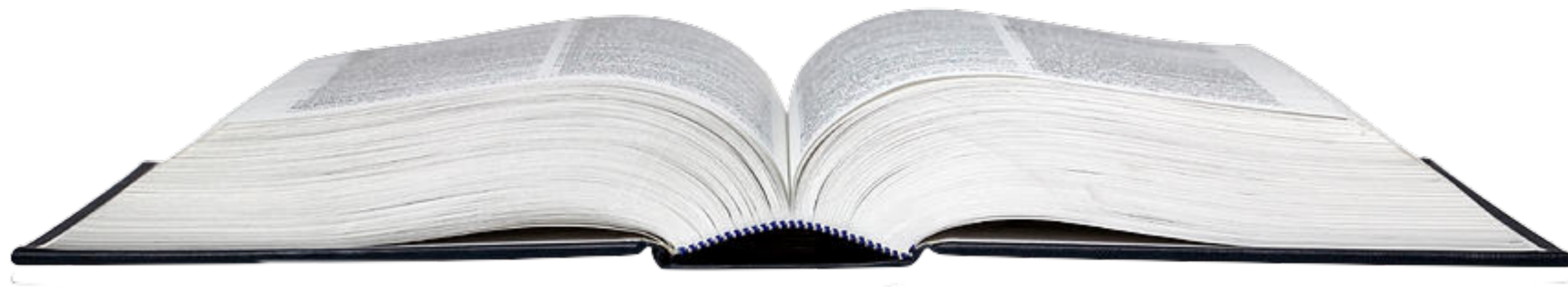
# Hebrews 6:18

**“That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:”**



# Romans 11:1-11; 25-27

**Does that sound like Israel and the church are the same entity or that the church replaced Israel? God forbid!**





# Question:




**If God cast away Israel because of their lack of faith, who is to say that God will not do the same thing to the church and go with some other mysterious group of people?**





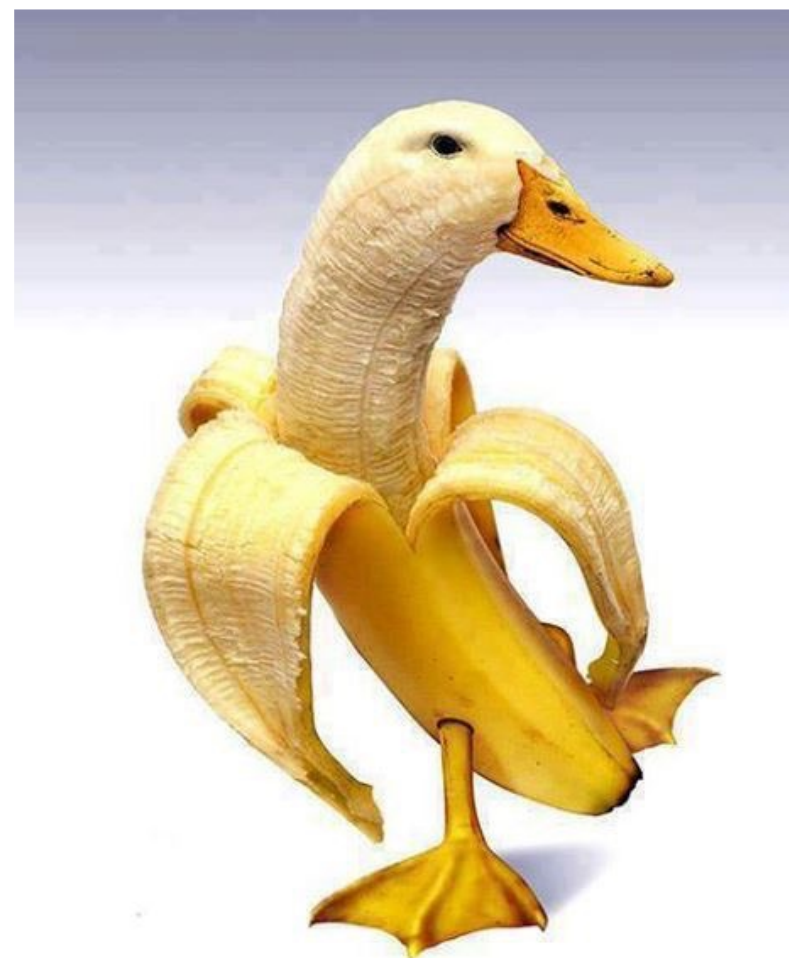
# Defining Terms

## Dispensational Theology

-  **While salvation has always remained through faith, God dealt differently with different people at different times.**
-  **Israel and the church are two separate entities.**
-  **All of the Bible should be interpreted consistently with literal interpretation.**



# Confusion





# LESSON 3: DISPENSATIONS

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

## GOD'S ECONOMY

*What is Dispensationalism and why does it make a difference?*





# General Revelation

**Truths about God that can be seen  
by all in creation and nature.**

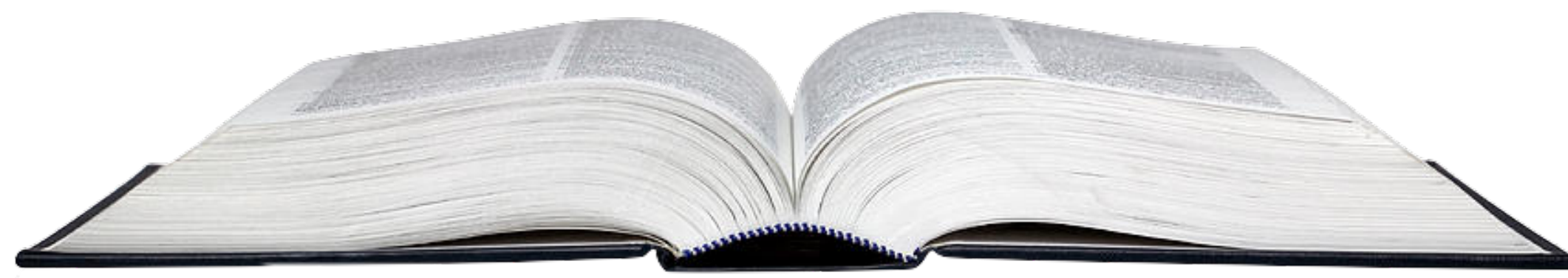


**Psalm 19:1 - The heavens declare the glory of God;  
and the firmament sheweth his handywork.**



# Special Revelation

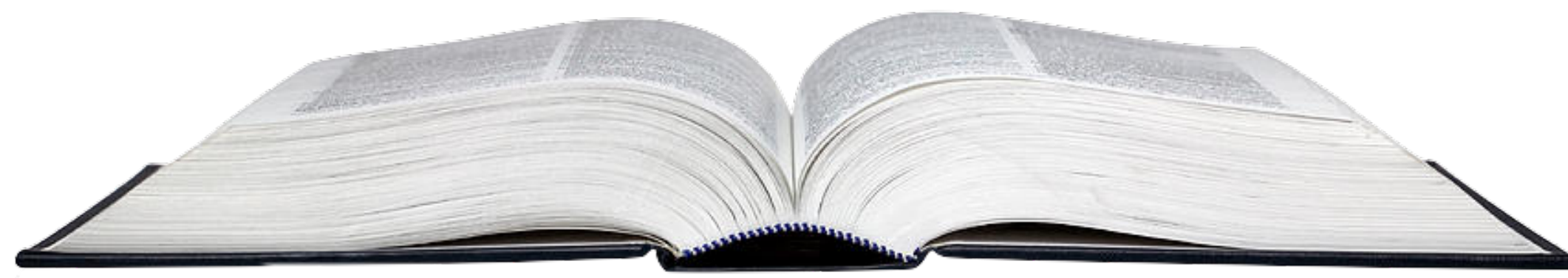
**Truths about God revealed in supernatural ways including physical appearances of God, dreams, visions, prophecy, and the written Word.**





# Progressive Revelation

**The Bible was written over a period of 1,600 years and covers over 4,000 years of history.**

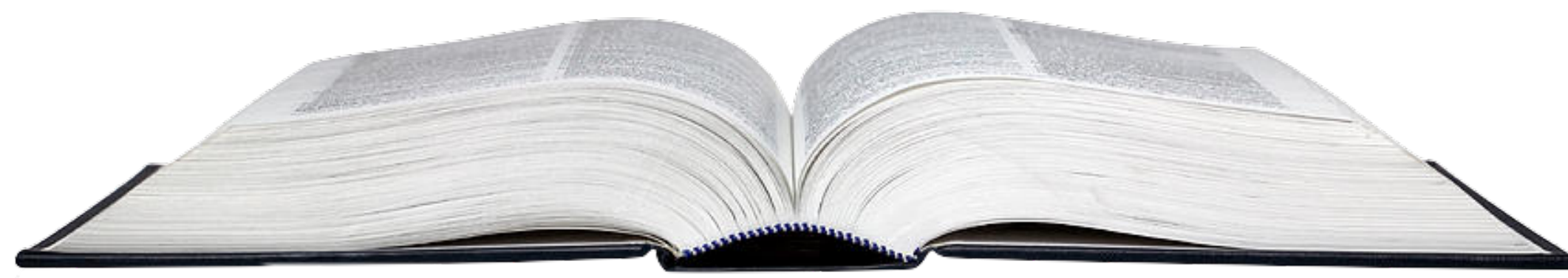




- **Adam - "I had no Bible at all, but I walked with God in the cool of the garden."**
- **Abraham - "I had no Bible at all, but at different times God would appear to me and speak to me."**
- **Moses - "My Bible contained 5 books—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy."**
- **David - "My Bible contained the same 5 books that Moses had as well as Joshua and Judges and many of the Psalms which I wrote."**
- **Ezra - "My Bible contained most of the Old Testament books but not all of them."**



- **John the Baptist - "My Bible contained all of the Old Testament books but none of the New Testament books."**
- **Paul - "My Bible contained the Old Testament books and most of the New Testament books but not all of them."**
- **John - "My Bible contained all of the Old Testament books and all of the New Testament books. Shortly before I died God used me to write the last New Testament book."**
- **Me - "My Bible contains all of the Old and New Testament books – sixty-six books in all."**





# Defining Terms

## Dispensation

**oikos + nomos = “A way that  
God rules his house.”**

**Economy or Stewardship**



# Dispensation/Stewardship

- **Man's state at the beginning of the stewardship.**
- **Man's responsibility given by God through special revelation.**
- **Man's failure to uphold his responsibility.**
- **God's judgment for man's failure.**
- **God's grace given.**





**Innocence**

**Genesis  
1:26-3:6**

# Stewardship of Innocence (Genesis 1:26-3:6)

- **Man's State: Holiness**
- **Man's Responsibility: Procreation, Subjection, Administration, Cultivation, Submission**
- **Man's Failure: The Fall**
- **God's Judgment: The Curse**
- **God's Grace: Savior Promised**





**Innocence**

**Genesis  
1:26-3:6**



**Conscience**

**Genesis 3:7 -  
8:22**

# Stewardship of Conscience (Genesis 3:7 - 8:22)

-  **Man's State: Knowingly Naked**
-  **Man's Responsibility: Pursue Holiness**
-  **Man's Failure: Only one righteous family?**
-  **God's Judgment: The Flood**
-  **God's Grace: No Water Destruction Again**





**Innocence**


**Genesis  
1:26-3:6**



**Conscience**

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**Genesis 3:7 -  
8:22**



**Government**

**Genesis  
8:23-11:32**

# Stewardship of Government (Genesis 8:23-11:32)

- **Man's State:** Sinful with a clean slate
- **Man's Responsibility:** Repopulation, Scattering, Animal Control, Death Penalty
- **Man's Failure:** Being Nimrods
- **God's Judgment:** The Tower of Babel
- **God's Grace:** Man is bent on destruction, but God is bent on loving him anyway.





**Innocence**


**Genesis  
1:26-3:6**



**Conscience**

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**Genesis 3:7 -  
8:22**



**Government**

**Genesis  
8:23-11:32**



**Promise**

**Genesis 12:1 -  
Exodus 19:4**

# Stewardship of Promise (Genesis 12:1 - Exodus 19:4)

- **Man's State: A New Nation - Abraham**
- **Man's Responsibility: Just Believe - A Great Nation,  
Blessing, Protection, Savior, Land**
- **Man's Failure: Laughter, Favoritism, Supplanter, Rebellion**
- **God's Judgment: Egypt**
- **God's Grace: Moses**





**Innocence**


**Genesis  
1:26-3:6**



**Conscience**

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**Genesis 3:7 -  
8:22**




**Government**

**Genesis  
8:23-11:32**



**Promise**

**Genesis 12:1 -  
Exodus 19:4**



**Law**

**Exodus 19:5 -  
Acts 1: 26**



# Stewardship of Law (Exodus 19:5 - Acts 1: 26)

- **Man's State: A Theocracy**
- **Man's Responsibility: Obey Law**
- **Man's Failure: Complaining, Murmuring, Rebellion**
- **God's Judgment: Assyrian Captivity, Babylonian Captivity, Destruction of Jerusalem**
- **God's Grace: April 3, 33 A.D.**





**Innocence**

**Conscience**

**Government**

**Promise**

**Law**

**Grace**

**Genesis  
1:26-3:6**

**Genesis 3:7 -  
8:22**

**Genesis  
8:23-11:32**

**Genesis 12:1 -  
Exodus 19:4**

**Exodus 19:5 -  
Acts 1: 26**

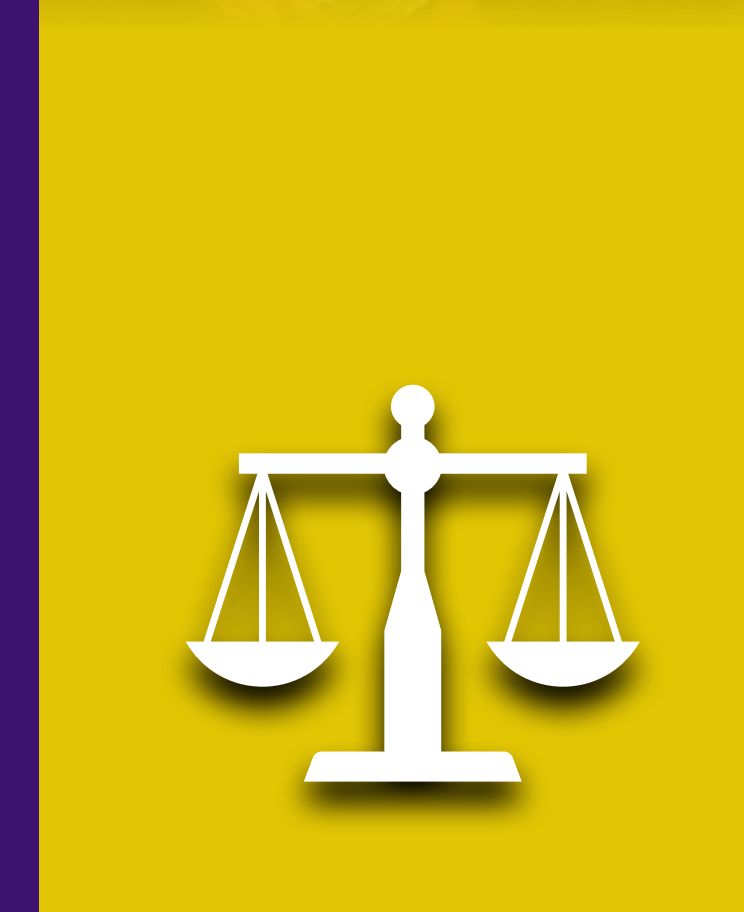
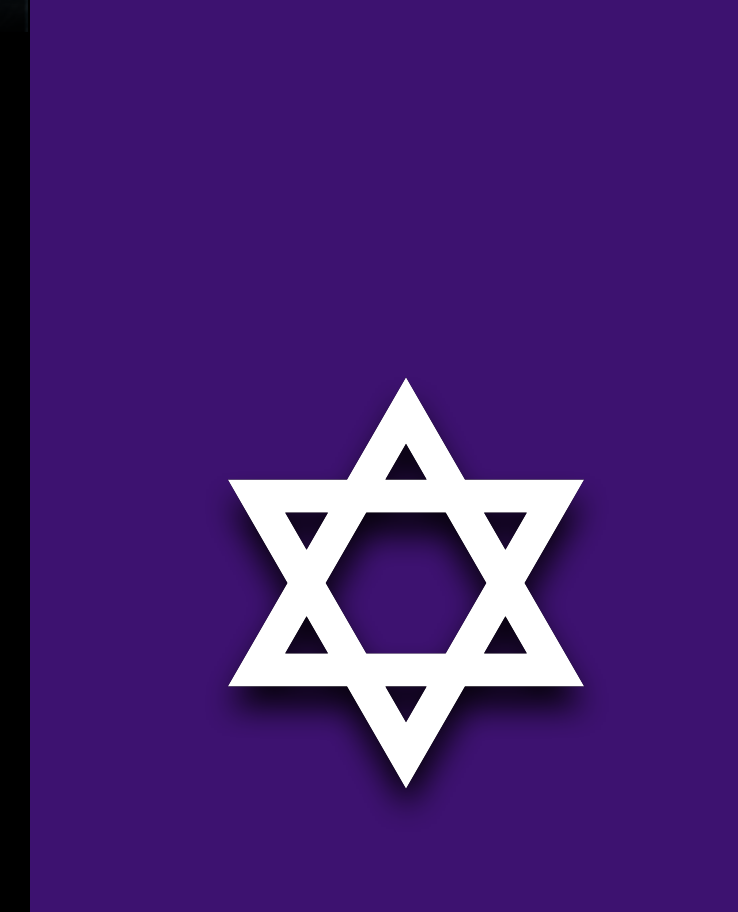
**Acts 2 -  
Revelation 3**



# Stewardship of Grace (Acts 2 - Revelation 3)

- **Man's State:** Lost, Unrighteous, Not Good, Guilty, Sinner, Dead, Disobedient
- **Man's Responsibility:** Receive the Gospel & Live It
- **Man's Failure:** Rejection
- **God's Judgment:** Hell
- **God's Grace:** The Lord is not slack...2 Peter 3:9





**Innocence**

**Conscience**

**Government**

**Promise**

**Law**

**Grace**

**Kingdom**

**Genesis  
1:26-3:6**

**Genesis 3:7 -  
8:22**

**Genesis  
8:23-11:32**

**Genesis 12:1 -  
Exodus 19:4**

**Exodus 19:5 -  
Acts 1: 26**

**Acts 2 -  
Revelation 3**

**Revelation 4 -  
Revelation 22**






# Stewardship of Kingdom (Revelation 4-22)

- **Man's State: Church Raptured, Israel Blind**
- **Man's Responsibility: Accept Messiah & Kingdom**
- **Man's Failure: More Rebellion**
- **God's Judgment: Lake of Fire, Great White Throne**
- **God's Grace: The Eternal State**



# Dispensation/Stewardship

-  **Life is short. Death is sure. Sin the Cause. Christ the cure!**
-  **Context Determines Meaning!!!**
-  **Salvation has never changed.**

LESSON 4:

# CUTTING

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

## STRAIGHT LINES



*What is Dispensationalism and why does it make a difference?*



# Literal Interpretation

**Literal interpretation seeks to understand the Bible in its plain, natural, normal sense. It looks for the clear and obvious meaning of a text.**

# The Golden Rule of Interpretation

**If the plain sense makes good  
sense seek no other sense  
lest it result in nonsense.**



# The Golden Rule of Interpretation

**Look for the  
obvious  
meaning of  
the text.**

## **Hippo eats dwarf**

BANGKOK: A hippopotamus swallowed a circus dwarf in a "freak accident" in northern Thailand, according to a columnist in the *Pattaya Mail*.

The Grapevine column reported: "A circus dwarf, nicknamed Od, died recently when he bounced sideways from a trampoline and was swallowed by a yawning hippopotamus waiting to appear in the next act."

"Vets said Hilda the Hippo had a gag reflex which caused her to swallow. More than 1000 spectators continued to applaud wildly until they realised there had been a tragic mistake."

**LESSON 5:** **THE**  
**CONFUSION**  
**OF THE KINGDOM**

**2 TIMOTHY 2:15**

*What is Dispensationalism and why does it make a difference?*





# The Kingdom of God

- **Found 70 times in 60 verses in the New Testament.**
- **Out of those 70 occurrences, 62 (85%) of them are in the Gospels and Acts.**
- **Paul mentions the concept only 8 times in his 21 epistles.**



# The Kingdom of Heaven

- **Found 33 times in 32 verses in the New Testament.**
- **Every single occurrence is in the Gospel of Matthew.**





# The Kingdom of Heaven vs. God

- **12 parallel passages in Mark and Luke use KoG for Matthew's KoH.**
- **Matthew uses the terms interchangeably in Matthew 19:23-24.**
- **No author in Scripture argues for a distinction.**
- **Matthew uses “kingdom” without delineating which kingdom (KoG or KoH) he is referring to.**

# The Kingdom of Heaven vs. God

**92% of the time, the concept of kingdom (KoG+KoH) occurs in the Gospels and Acts. If we remove Acts from the equation, kingdom occurs in the Gospels 85% of the time.**

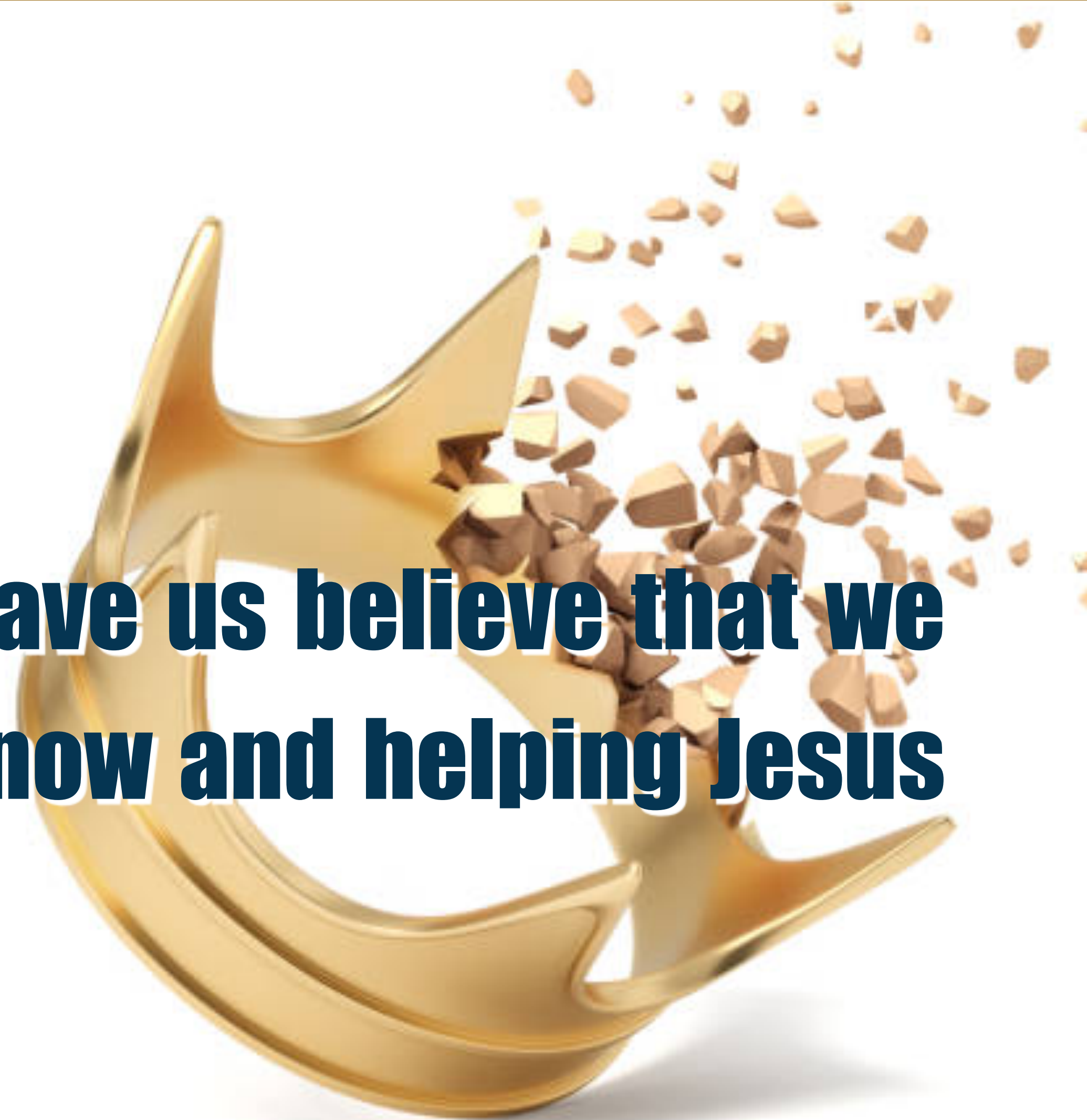


**The Kingdom of God/Heaven is not a description of a spiritual relationship between Christ and his church, but rather a reference to the future Millennial Kingdom.**



# Modern Usage

- **Brian McLaren**
- **Rick Warren**
- **Russell Moore**
- **Many Evangelicals would have us believe that we are in the Kingdom of God now and helping Jesus build it.**





# A Kingdom Has...

- **A Ruler**
- **A Rule of Law**
- **Royal Subjects**



**The concept of Kingdom in the Bible is not a description God's overall rule, but rather a specific reference to the future Millennial Kingdom.**








# The Lord's Prayer

**Matthew 6:10 - Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Luke 11:2 - Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.**



# Isaiah 2:1-5; 11:6-10; 65:17-25

-  **What city will be the spiritual and political authority of the Messiah's kingdom?**
-  **What will the atmosphere be like?**
-  **Does this describe the church age?**



# The Times of the Gentiles

**The Times of the Gentiles is a period of time beginning with Babylon's conquering of the Temple Mount in 586 B.C. It will end with the overthrow of Gentile control of the Temple Mount when Jerusalem is freed from Gentile rule at Christ's Second Coming.**



## Psalm 132:11-12

**The LORD hath sworn in truth unto **David**; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne. If thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon **thy throne** for evermore.**



# Psalm 132:13

**For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath  
desired it for his habitation.**





## Isaiah 9:6-7

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace...**



## Isaiah 9:6-7

**...Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.**

## Jeremiah 23:5-6

**Behold, the days come, saith the LORD,  
that I will raise unto David a righteous  
Branch, and a King shall reign and  
prosper, and shall execute judgment  
and justice in the earth...**



## Jeremiah 23:5-6

**...In his days Judah shall be saved,  
and Israel shall dwell safely: and this  
is his name whereby he shall be  
called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

## Acts 3:19-21

**Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you...**



## Acts 3:19-21

**...Whom the heaven must receive **until** the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.**

## Matthew 21:9

**And the multitudes that went before,  
and that followed, cried, saying,  
“Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is  
he that cometh in the name of the Lord;  
Hosanna in the highest.”**



**The concept of Kingdom in the Bible is not a description God's overall rule, but rather a specific reference to the future Millennial Kingdom.**



# LESSON 6: SYNOPTIC GOSPELS 2 TIMOTHY 2:15 & DISPENSATIONALISM

*What is Dispensationalism and  
why does it make a difference?*

