**Dispensationalism -** A system of theology that sees God working with man in different ways during different dispensations. While “Dispensations” are not ages, but rather administrations, we tend to see them now as ages since we look back on specific time periods when they were in force.

**Dispensationalism as a system of Biblical interpretation that has two primary distinctives.**

1. A consistently literal interpretation of Scripture, especially Bible prophecy.
2. A distinction between Israel and the church in God's program.

**Dispensationalism organizes the Bible into these basic divisions.**

**1. INNOCENCE.** *(From Creation to the Fall of Man)*

**2. CONSCIENCE.** *(From the Fall to the Flood)*

**3. HUMAN GOVERNMENT.** *(From the Flood to Abraham)*

**4. FAMILY.** *(From Abraham to the Exodus)*

***THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES.***

*(Destruction of Jerusalem to the Second Advent)*

**5. LAW.** *(From the Exodus to the Cross of Jesus Christ)*

 **(GRACE)** *(From the Cross to the Rapture of the Church)*

**6. TRIBULATION.** *(From the Rapture to the Second Advent)*

**7. MILLENNIUM.** *(From the Second Advent to the Great White Throne)*

**(8) FULLNESS OF TIMES.** *(Eternity)*

*2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

**Covenant Theology is the dominant theological system of most Protestant churches. It is a system of theology that interprets the Bible’s philosophy of history through the lens of three covenants. It is also founded on Replacement Theology, which maintains that God has replaced the Jewish people with the church and that Christians are now God’s chosen people.**

**Covenant Theology organizes the Bible into three unified, but distinct covenants: the Covenant of Redemption, the Covenant of Works, and the Covenant of Grace.**

**The Covenant of Redemption is between the persons of the Trinity in eternity past, and the Father promises to give a people to the Son as his inheritance, and the Son undertakes to redeem them.**

 **The Covenant of Works applied to Adam in the Garden. God promised him eternal life if he passed the probationary test in the Garden of Eden.**

 **The Covenant of Grace applied to Adam immediately after the Fall. God promised to send the Seed of the woman, who would defeat the tempting serpent (Genesis 3:15).**

**Covenant Theology denies the distinction between Israel and the church. It redefines the church as all covenant people throughout history.**

 **Therefore, the church begins with Abraham (Gen. 12), rather than the Resurrection of the Lord (Eph. 5:25); and Old Testament Israel no longer refers to the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Old Testament Israel is redefined as the covenant people, the people of faith in the Old Testament.**

 **This system denies the physical descent that makes one an Israelite, but rather claims, that one is Israelite only by faith in God.**

**Covenant theologians use the literal method of interpretation for most of Scripture, including all prophecy that has already been fulfilled.**

**However, when it comes to unfulfilled prophecy, they turn to a different method: an allegorical interpretation which enables them to redefine Israel and make it the church, rather than the Jewish people. They also change the Millennial Kingdom from a literal, future 1,000-year period into this current Church Age.**

