DISPENSATIONAL DIVISIONS OF THE AGES

I. The "Dispensation of INNOCENCE"—from CREATION to the FALL (Gen. 1:26-2:23)

   A. Man in a PERFECT environment, with no SIN nature, still FAILED

   B. Duration uncertain—almost certainly LESS than ONE YEAR

II. The "Dispensation of CONSCIENCE"—from the Fall to the FLOOD (Gen. 3-7)

   A. Man guided by his conscience still FAILED

   B. Duration of about 1660 YEARS

III. The "Dispensation of HUMAN GOVERNMENT"—from the Flood to the CALL OF ABRAHAM (Gen 8-11)

   A. Man with organized government for DISCIPLINE still FAILED

   B. Duration of about 430 YEARS

IV. The "Dispensation of PROMISE"—from the call of Abraham to the EXODUS (Gen. 12 – Exod. 18)

   A. Man with promise of God's REDEMPTION still FAILED

   B. Duration of about 430 YEARS

V. The "Dispensation of LAW"—from the Exodus to CALVARY (Exod. 19 – Acts 1)

   A. Called "this PRESENT age" in the GOSPELS (Matt. 13:39-40; Lk. 1:70; 16:8; Jn. 9:32)

   B. Man with a WRITTEN CODE of God's law still FAILED, even in the physical presence of the SON OF GOD

   C. Duration of about 1490 YEARS

VI. The "Dispensation of GRACE"—from PENTECOST to Christ's RETURN (Acts 2 – Rev. 5)

A. Called "this present age" in ACTS and the EPISTLES (Gal. 1:4; Eph. 1:21)

B. Man with the offer of FREE FORGIVENESS, the knowledge of CHRIST, and the presence of the indwelling HOLY SPIRIT, still FAILS

C. Duration of nearly 2000 YEARS and COUNTING

VII. The "Dispensation of JUDGMENT"—from the RAPTURE of the CHURCH to the MILLENNIUM (Rev. 4-19)

A. Man under intense TRIBULATION from God will still FAIL

B. Duration will be 7 YEARS

VIII. The "Dispensation of the KINGDOM"—from the descent of CHRIST to ETERNITY

A. Man under direct governmental RULE OF GOD with CHRIST on the THRONE will still FAIL

B. Duration will be 1000 YEARS, after which the "AGES" conclude and "ETERNITY" begins

C. Situation will CHANGE with that transition

1. Man's sin nature is REMOVED

2. Satan is JUDGED

3. All opportunity for disobedience is ELIMINATED in the NEW HEAVEN and NEW EARTH