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Week 5: The Dispensation of the Messianic Kingdom
Isaiah 4:2-6, 11:1 to 12:6, 54:11-17 and 60:1-22

One of the most important things in understanding the Bible is **rightly dividing the word of truth (Second Timothy 2:15 NJK).** There are a number of ways we can divide the Bible to understand the different parts of the whole. One of the ways is by the dispensations contained in **God's** Word. To understand what a dispensation is, we need to take a look at two Greek words. The first word is *oikumenei* from which we get our English word ecumenical. It means *to manage*, *to regulate*, *to administer*, or *to plan*. The second word is *aion* and it means *age*. It emphasizes the time element of the dispensation. So the term *dispensation* refers to a specific way by which **God** administers **His** program, **His** will, **His** rule, and **His** authority. Each dispensation is an age, because each dispensation covers a period of time. Dispensations are periods of time in which **YHVH** governs in a different way than **He** did previously.

There are seven dispensations described in the Bible: (1) the Dispensation of Innocence **(Genesis 1:28** to **3:8)**; (2) the Dispensation of Conscience **(Genesis 3:9** to **8:14)**, (3) the Dispensation of Civil Government **(Genesis 8:15** to **11:32)**, (4) the Dispensation of Promise **(Genesis 12:1** to **Exodus 18:27)**, (5) the Dispensation of the Torah **(Exodus 19:1** to **Acts 1:26)**, (6) the Dispensation of Grace **(Acts 2:1** to **Revelation 19:21)**, and (7) **the Dispensation of the Messianic or Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 20:1-10).** The name Messianic Kingdom emphasizes the fact that **God** will return to the earth and reign as **the Messiah**, and the name Millennial Kingdom emphasizes that it will last for a Millennium or a thousand years. Different aspects of the Messianic Kingdom are discussed in other books of the Bible, especially the TaNaKh, one of those being **Isaiah**.

The ***key person*** in the dispensation of the Messianic Kingdom will be **Yeshua Messiah**, because **He** will be providing direct new revelation **(Isaiah 2:2-4).** This new revelation will be the basis of this new dispensation.

Mankind's ***responsibility*** will be to the B'rit Chadashah, which was the same as in the sixth dispensation. This means accepting the gift of righteousness, which **God** offers to all mankind, through faith in **Yeshua Messiah**. But, in addition, obedience to **the King** and the new commands **He** will issue will be added. Therefore, in the dispensation of the Messianic Kingdom there will be something old and something new.

The ***test*** during that period will be for each one born in the Kingdom to personally receive and accept **the King** as his or her personal **Lord**, not in place of the Gospel but with the aid of the Gospel. To accept the gospel means that one believes that **Yeshua** died for his or her sins, was buried, and rose again **(First Corinthians 15:3b-4).**

There will also be a ***failure*** during the Messianic Kingdom. At the end of the Millennium men and women will fail to recognize Satan's deception as he leads a rebellion against **God** and **His** authority. So many will be deceived, that **in number, they** will be **like the sand on the seashore (Revelation 20:8b).** They will be so bold as to try to invade Isra'el and Tziyon.

The ***judgment*** will be the total destruction of all these invading armies from around the world by fire out of heaven **(Revelation 20:9).**

The ***grace*** of **God** will be displayed during the dispensation of the Messianic Kingdom in three major ways. First, there will be the fulfillment of all the prophecies of the TaNaKh (see my commentary on **The Life of Christ, to see link click Mu – 354 Prophecies Fulfilled in Jesus Christ**). Every prophecy that has remained unfulfilled will find its fulfillment during the Messianic Kingdom. Secondly, it will be a period of prosperity for everyone. Thirdly, there will be immortality for the saved, in that believers will not die. Only unbelievers in the Kingdom will die if they do not accept **Messiah** by the time they are one hundred years old **(Isaiah 65:20).**

This is the seventh and final dispensation. When it ends, history will move from time to eternity, as it enters the Eternal State (see my commentary on **Revelation Fq – The Eternal State**).