

### The Transition of Dispensations

- When reading the Bible carefully, we note that a new Dispensation begins with a fundamentally new revelation.
- We also notice that that dispensation is coming to a close when there is a fundamental crisis or judgment that disrupts everyone included within the dispensation.
- The pattern: A completely new revelation was given that fundamentally changed man's relationship with God, and when man did not live up to that revelation, a catastrophic punishment was delivered.

### The Transition to Grace

- The conclusion of the age of the Law does not fit the pattern because this age was "put on hold" and will resume for Israel in the Tribulation.
- Every piece of Biblical evidence is that the age of Grace overlapped the age of Law.

### Age of Law

### Apostolic Age

### Age of Grace

- The overlap can be called the "Apostolic Age."
  - It is, in a sense, a "mini-dispensation."
  - It is not usually called a dispensation because it does not contain a fundamentally new revelation.
  - All issues of Charismatic theology are rooted in this question: Does the Apostolic Age continue in our day?
- During the Apostolic Age, there were times of living in complete obedience to the Law, followed by times of a mixture of the Kingdom Gospel (and its Law-related demands) and the Grace Gospel of Paul (and its rejection of Law-related demands).

### Two things that must be recognized:

- The "early church" was living in obedience to the Law, and not teaching grace.
  - Acts 2:38 - Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
  - Acts 5:12, 21, 42 - in one accord in the Temple, and "all" were being healed (5:16).
  - Acts 5:28-30 - Peter charged with bringing Christ's blood upon the people for their guilt, and Peter affirms the charge.
  - Acts 6:13 - It was *false* that Stephen was speaking against the Temple and the Law (therefore, he must have refrained from any speech against the Temple or the Law, at best). Compare with the charge Stephen gives the leaders of Israel, in 7:53.
  - Acts 10:35 - Peter preaches a Kingdom based works Gospel to the gentiles.
  - Acts 22:12 - At the conversion of Saul, Ananias was disciple (Acts 9:10) and also "a devout man according to the law."
  - Acts 13:38-39 - Paul preaches a message of grace, very different from Peter's message of repentance and obedience
- Paul claimed a unique Gospel.
  - Romans 2:16, 16:25
  - 2 Timothy 2:8
  - 1 Corinthians 15:1, Galatians 1:11, 2:2, 1 Timothy 1:11

### So When Did the Age of Grace Begin?

- Grace and the Age of Grace are not to be considered synonymous.
- The Age of Grace included salvation outside of any relationship to Israel or the Law.
- This Age began with the Apostle Paul.
  - Our Christian living doctrine must come from the time of Paul onward.
  - Our Christian living doctrine must discern between issues that cease with the Apostolic Age and those that continue.

### Amazing Grace!

- When God made the fundamentally new revelation to Paul that now gentiles would be given full opportunity for a relationship with God, not through Judaism and the Law, and not on the basis of race, but solely "by grace through faith," He delivered unto the world what we today call "Christianity."
- What God did was so fundamentally new that followers are not Jewish, not under the Law and not receiving a Kingdom, but they have a heavenly, spiritual, eternal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, who paid it all.