

LOOKING AT HISTORY WITH GOD'S TIME LINE

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was [became] formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.



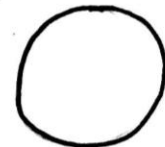
Our God is an awesome God. He reigns from heaven above, with wisdom, power, and love. Our God is an awesome God!

God has always reigned (ruled) and will always reign. A long, long time ago, God, in His wisdom, power, and love, created angels. He created the earth for the angels to enjoy. They could enjoy both heaven and earth. Wouldn't that be fun? They could zoom back and forth! God gave them a wonderful existence!

Heaven

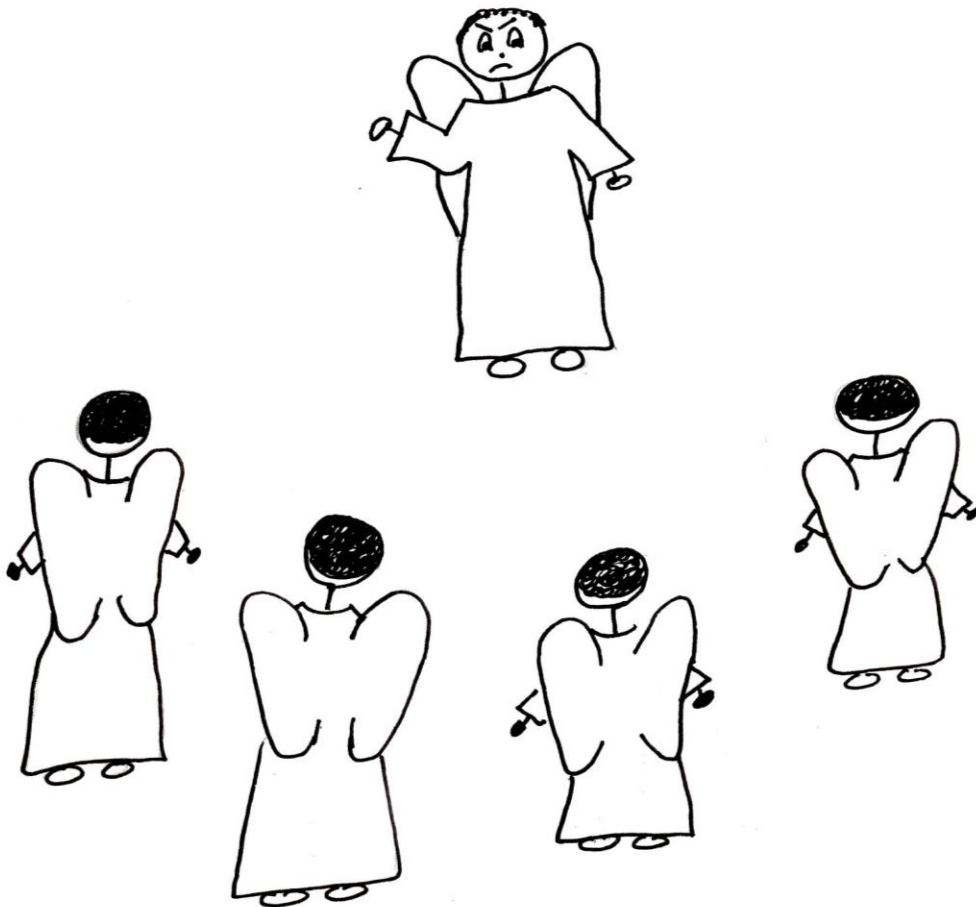


Earth

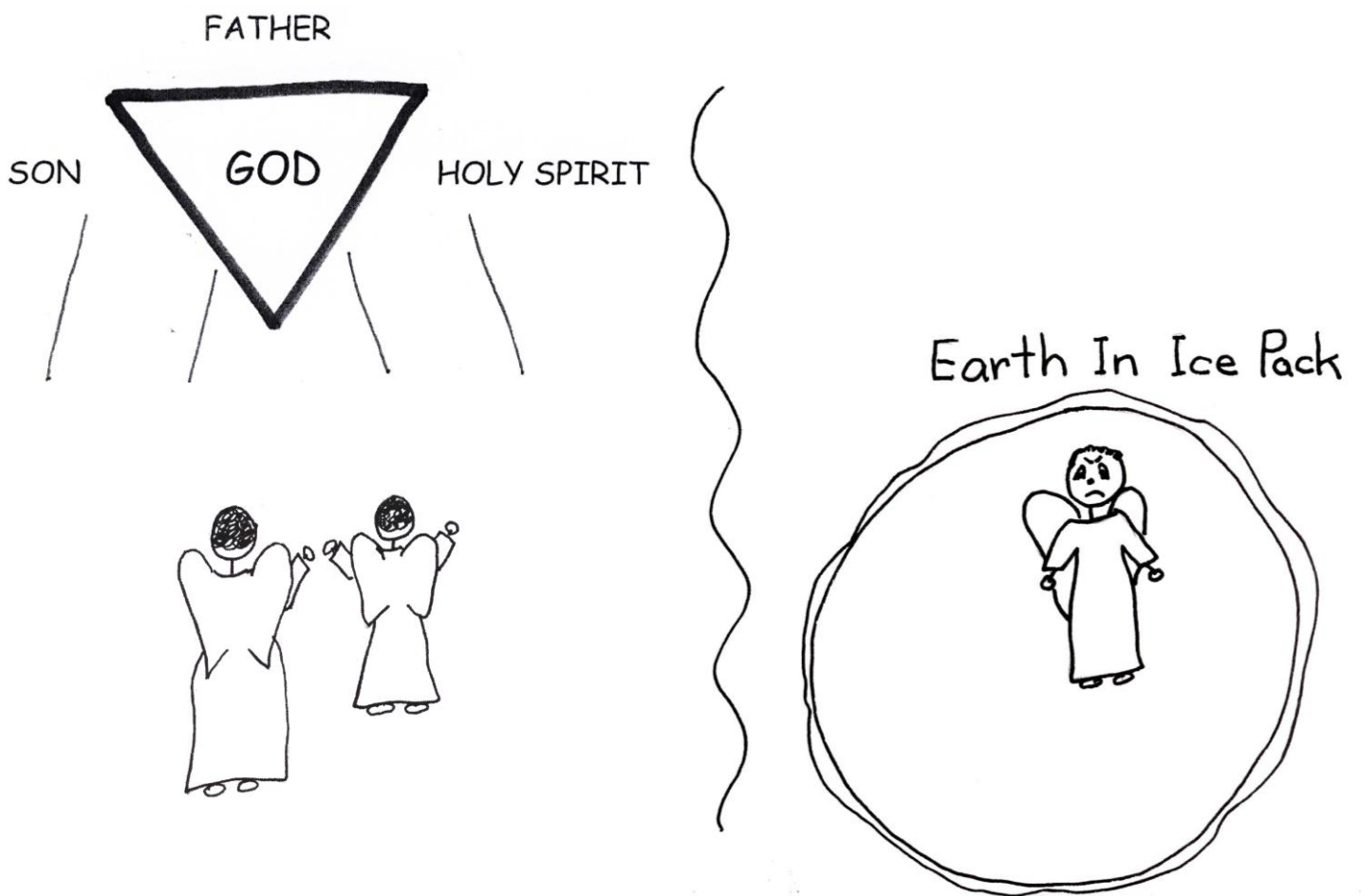


Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The angels, with Satan as their leader, did not appreciate what they had. After they had lived for awhile on the earth, their leader, Satan, got **very** arrogant. He became **very** self-centered. He wanted to be like God and rule the world without God. Satan wanted to be independent of God! He convinced the other angels to be independent of God also! They rebelled against God! Not a good idea!

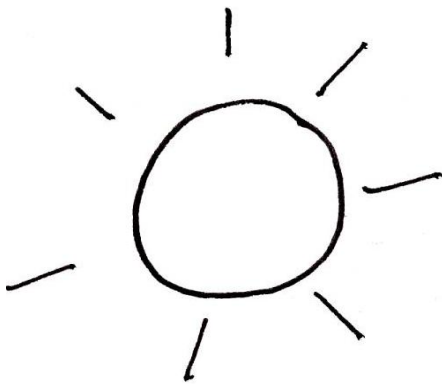


God, in His grace, offered Satan and the fallen angels a way to be saved. We don't know the exact way for the angels, but God is always just and fair. Two thirds of the angels depended on God again, but Satan and the rest of the angels didn't! **Bad mistake!** Because of their rebellion they were put in prison under (inside) of the earth! Then God showed His hatred for the sin of rebellion by putting the earth in an ice pack! He took away the sun and nothing could live in the ice pack!



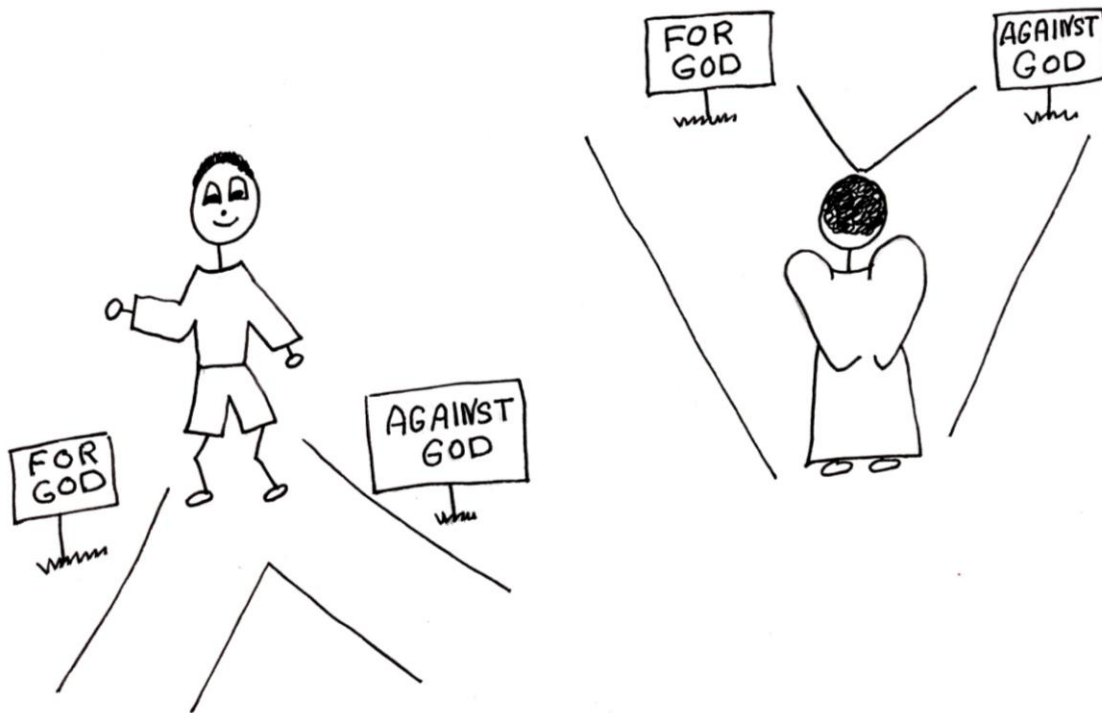
Genesis 1:2 Now the earth was [became] formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep,

Satan goofed but he wouldn't admit that he was wrong. He didn't accept God's way of salvation for him. He didn't think that he needed God. Believe me, he needed God. God wanted to show that it is impossible for **any** creature to live, even for a second, independent of God the Creator. So, He took the ice pack off the earth, restored the earth, and created man. God gave Satan another chance to prove his case.



Genesis 1:3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
Read Genesis 1:4-25

Satan and the fallen angels thought that God was unfair to put them in prison and condemn them to the Lake of Fire. So, God created man to show them that man, who is inferior to angels, can chose to follow God. God gave man the power to follow Him. Man has to use his volition to choose for or against God. Satan and all the angels had been given the same choice. God is completely fair!

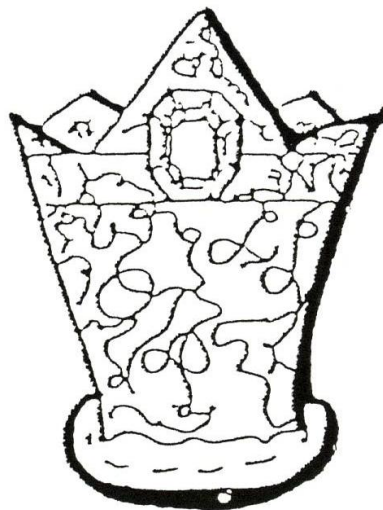


Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, in Our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

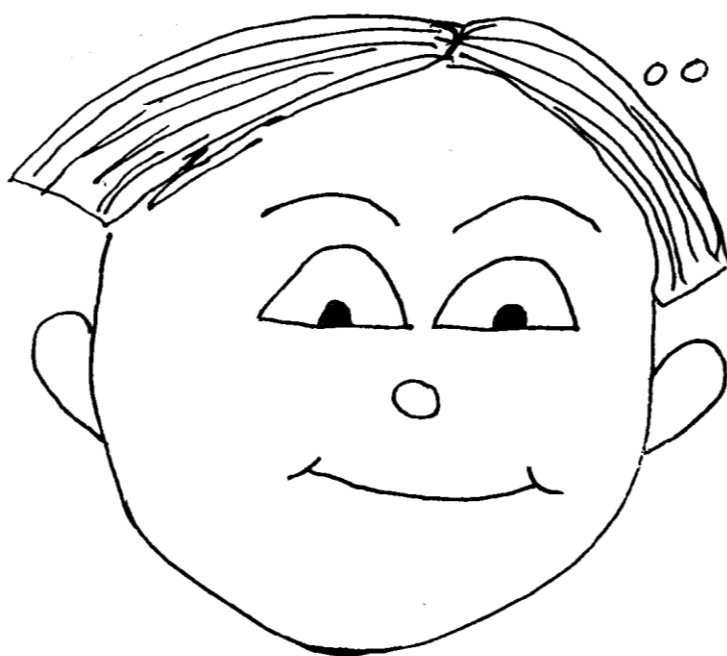
When God created man, He also created time. God doesn't need time, but He thought it would be handy for us. Besides hours, days, months, etc., He created dispensations. A dispensation, or age, is a period of time when God sets certain rules for a specific period of time. The dispensations are the divine outline of time and human history. God tells the people of each dispensation **exactly** how to live and what rules to follow for that age.

God's Outline of Time - Dispensations

1. The Age of the Gentiles: Before the Mosaic Law was in writing, people served God and were ruled by their consciences. (Adam to the Exodus generation, 1441 B.C.) Glorifies God the Father.
2. The Age of Israel (Age of the Jew): Moses is given the Law for the new nation, Israel. (From 1441 B.C. to the 1st Advent of Christ, 4-5 B.C.) Glorifies God the Father.
3. The Hypostatic Union: The time that Jesus Christ walked the earth as 100% God and 100% man. (4-5 B.C. to 30 A.D.) Glorifies God the Son.
4. The Church Age: The age of grace. This is right now! (30 A.D. to the Rapture) Glorifies God the Son.
5. The Tribulation: The 7 years after the Rapture of the church. There will be 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years of peace and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years of pain and destruction. (Rapture to the 2nd Advent of Christ) Glorifies God the Holy Spirit.
6. The Millennium: 1000 years of perfect environment where the Lord Jesus Christ comes back and is the Ruler of earth! (From the 2nd Advent to the last Judgment) Glorifies God the Holy Spirit.

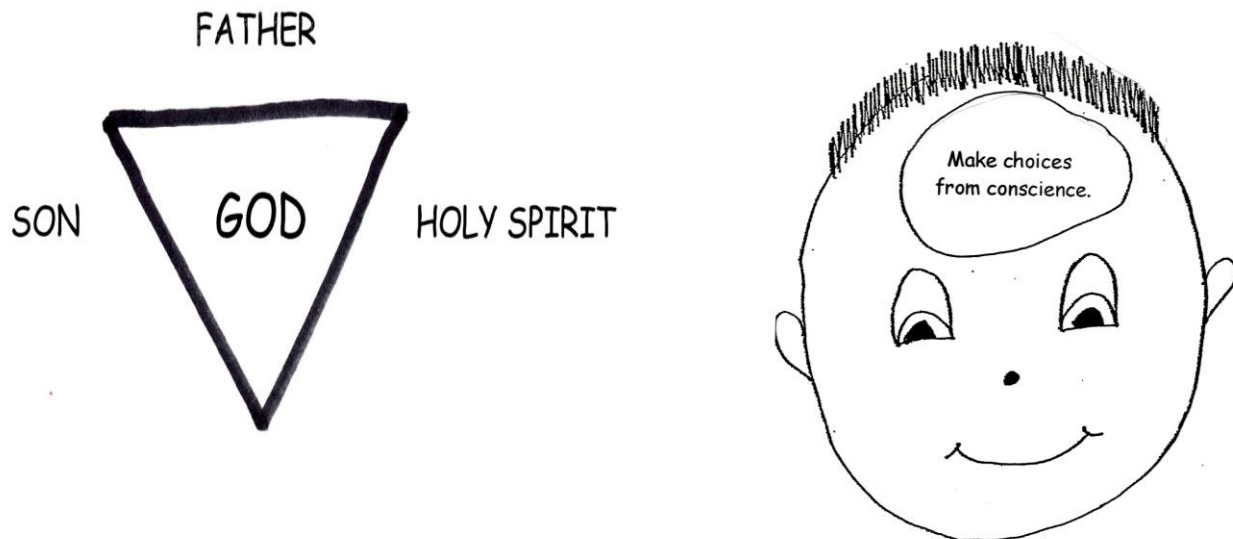


The most important thing about dispensations is that they answer the question, "After salvation, what am I supposed to do with my life?" In every period of time the way of salvation is always the same: believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. The part that is different is the plan that believers are to follow. We have to know what dispensation we are in so that we know God's plan, will, and purpose for our lives.



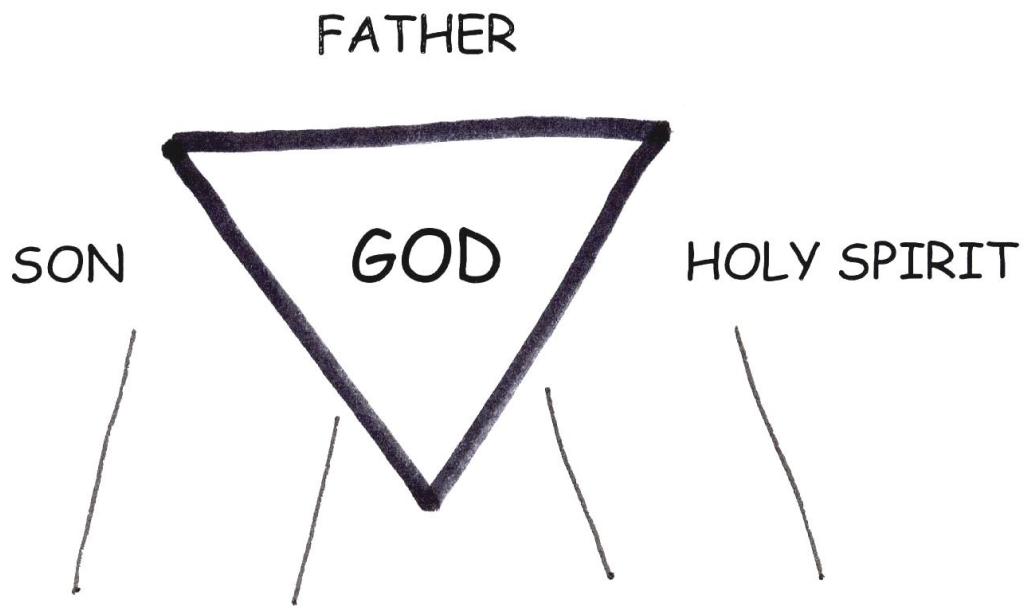
After salvation, what am I suppose to do with my life?

The first dispensation is the **Age of the Gentiles**. This time goes from the Creation to the Exodus, when Moses led the Jews out of Egypt. The Bible had not been written so the people were to decide what was right or wrong through their consciences. Jesus was and is the Light that lights every man who comes into the world. Even if they have never heard the truth of God, they have a conscience within them that makes it possible to see the word of God. God always makes it possible for man to know Him. The Gentiles still had to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation, but the rules for their life after salvation were different.



Romans 2:14-15 Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.

Abraham lived during the Age of the Gentiles. He was the leader of the Jews. God made promises to Abraham. We call these promises "covenants." These promises were for Abraham's seed (relatives going all the way to the end of time), and the Gentiles who were associated with him. We're not going to study all about the covenants now, but God made many wonderful promises to the Jews.

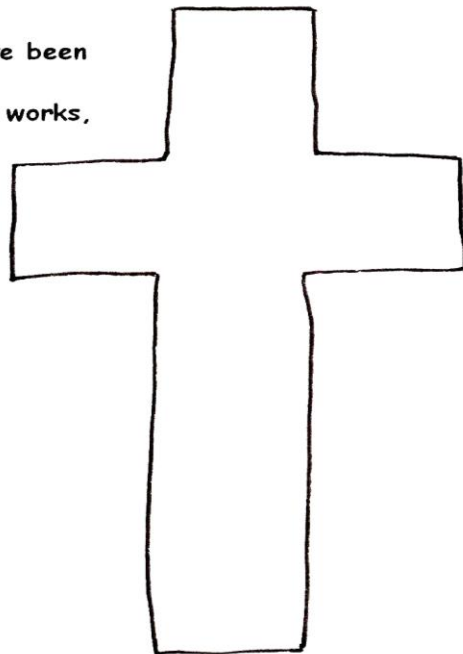


Covenants: Promises to Israel

- The Abrahamic Covenant
- The Palestinian Covenant
- The Davidic Covenant
- The New Covenant

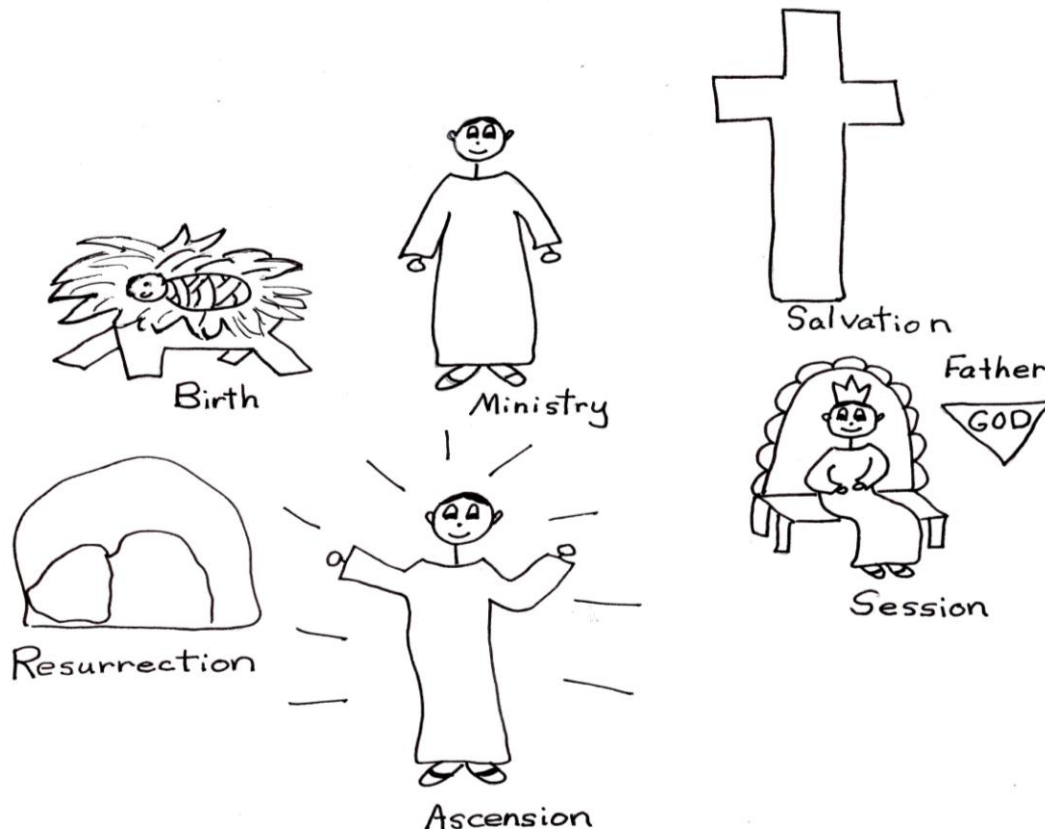
The next dispensation is the **Age of Israel**. This age goes from the Exodus to the birth of Jesus Christ. It was a Theocracy. This meant that the same person or people were the spiritual and governmental authority. During the Age of Israel, God gave the Mosaic law to Moses. It was given to Israel only. The Mosaic law was to show people their sinful nature. It was to force them to recognize their bad state and lean back on God's grace, not their own human good. The law was effective only if it drove the sinner to Christ. It became the way of turning people to God for His mercy rather than the way of trying to please Him. It was not the way of salvation. Salvation was the same as it is now: believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.



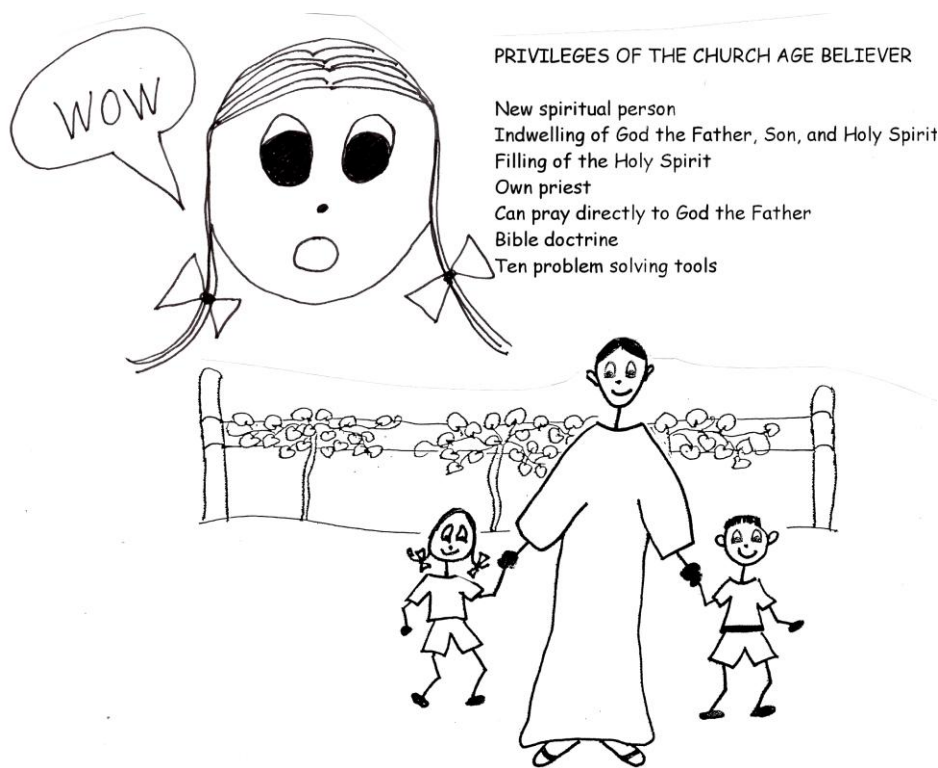
Romans 7:7 What shall we say then, or what shall we conclude, is the law sin? God forbid, on the contrary I had no known sin, but by the law. [The law pointed out the sinful nature, but that was it. It couldn't be the cause of someone losing his/her salvation.]

The next dispensation is the **Hypostatic Union**. It was a Christocentric Dispensation, which means that The Lord Jesus Christ was the center of that time. The hypostatic union refers to Jesus Christ and means that He was 100% man and 100% God. It covers the time from Jesus' birth to His resurrection, ascension into heaven, and being seated at the right hand of God the Father. Sometimes He acted in His humanity, and sometimes He acted in His deity (as God). In His humanity, He provided our so great salvation by receiving the judgment for our sins in His own body. Also, in His humanity He was resurrected from the dead, ascended into heaven, and was seated at the right hand of God the Father. During all of this time, Jesus Christ as God was holding the universe together by the power of His word. Isn't that amazing? When Jesus was seated by God the Father, in His humanity He was made higher than angels! This really upset Satan! Jesus was victorious!



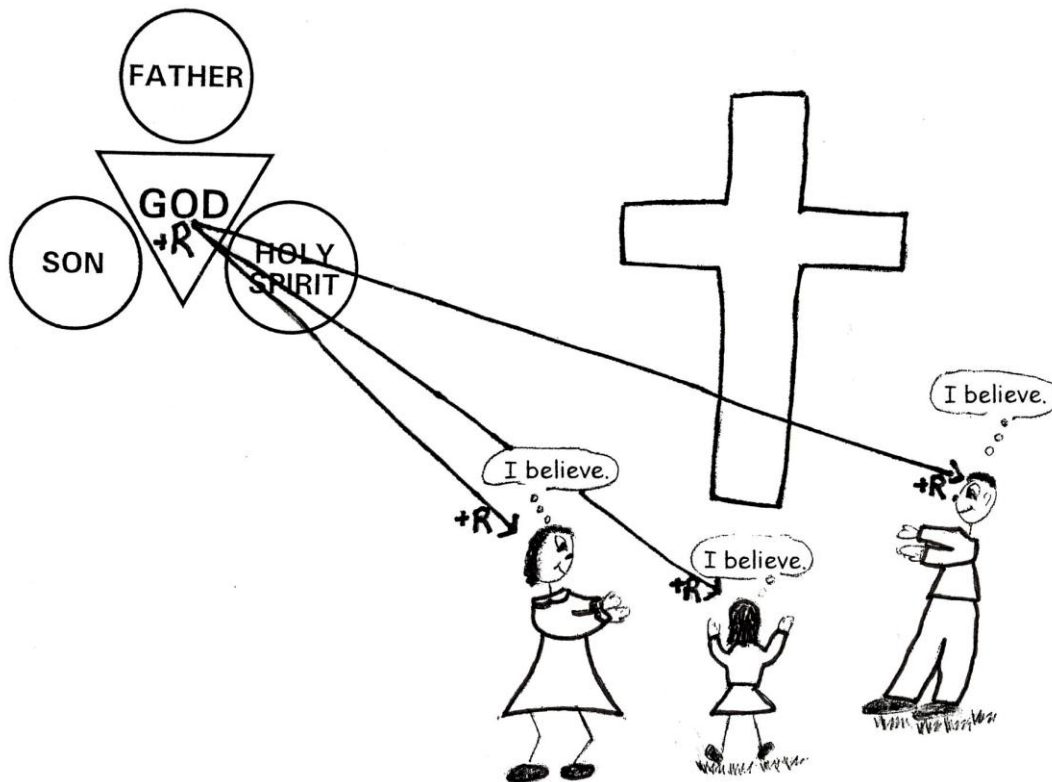
Hebrews 1:3-4 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So He became as much superior to the angels as the title He has inherited is superior to theirs.

Jesus prepared the way for the **Church Age**, the dispensation in which we live! After Jesus was seated at the right hand of God the Father, He received the title King of kings and Lord of lords. However, He needed a royal family so that He could be its King and Lord. Thus, enter the **Church Age**! When we become believers, the baptism of the Holy Spirit produces a new spiritual person inside of us! This never happened before! It is also the first time believers have the indwelling of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is the first time that believers can be filled with the Holy Spirit. We never lose the indwelling of the Spirit, but we can lose the filling of the Spirit through sin. However, we know how to regain it: REBOUND! We are our own priests, so we can rebound and pray directly to God the Father. We have the Bible, the written Word of God. God gave us ten problem solving tools, rebound being one of them. The Church Age has been given great privileges and opportunities! Jesus is our King! Let's live like royalty, like the royal family of God!



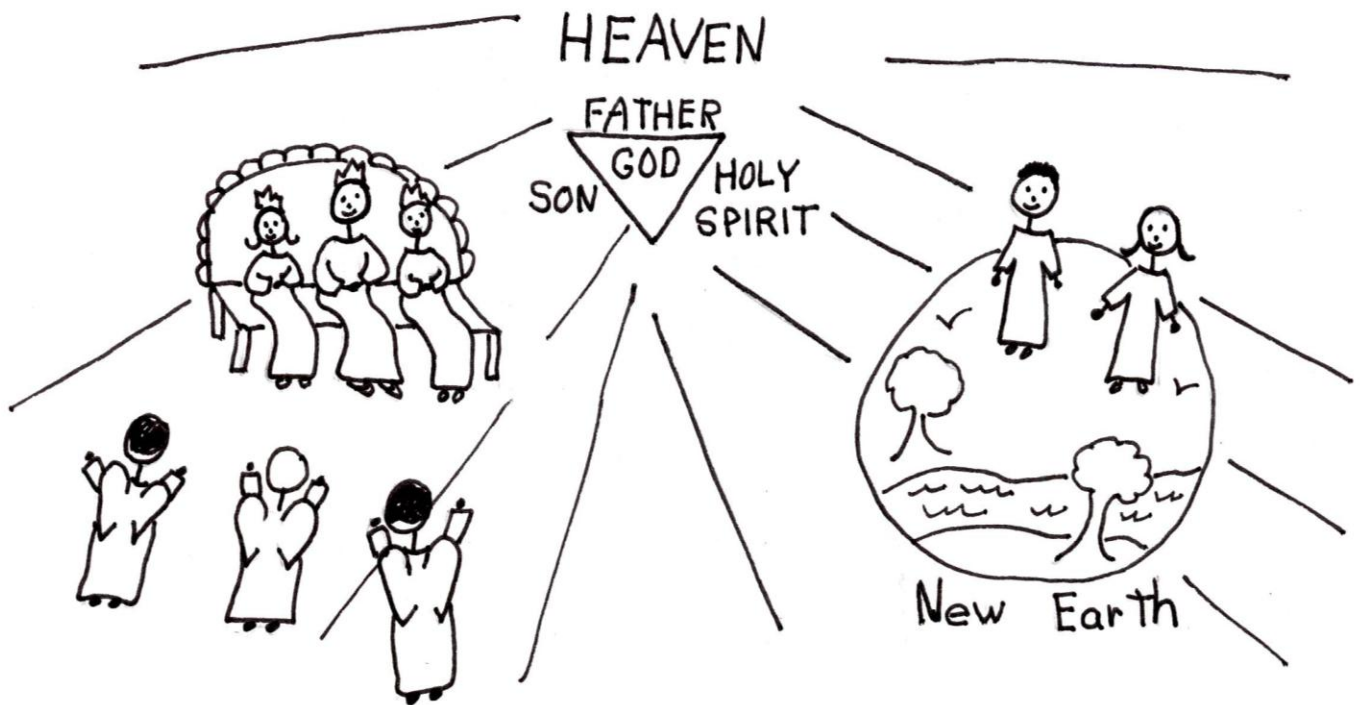
Ephesians 1:22 And He [God the Father] has subordinated all [angelic creatures] under His feet. Furthermore, He appointed Him [Jesus Christ] ruler over all things to the church [Church Age].

Time is marching forward, and in time **The Age of Tribulation** will come. But before the human race jumps right into that age, all believers are whisked up into the clouds with The Lord Jesus Christ! Wow, that sounds like fun! We call this the Rapture. Only unbelievers are left on earth and that is the start of the Tribulation. It is the age of the greatest power struggle in all of history. It involves not only people, but angelic creatures as well! Even though it is really short, 7 years, it is one of the greatest periods of evangelism in all of human history. Millions of people believe in The Lord Jesus Christ in fewer than seven years. However, it is also the **WORST** time in human history because Satan and his demons are going to torture humans! **YIKES!** But, since God is soooooo gracious, He gives these unbelievers one more chance to believe in The Lord Jesus Christ and be saved! **YEAH!!** Of course, because of free volition, some will believe and some will not.



Revelation 3:10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial [the Tribulation] that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

The last dispensation is the **Millennium**. It begins when The Lord Jesus Christ comes back down to earth to rule for 1000 years! When He comes back, Satan and his demons are bound so they can't bother anyone anymore! Yippee! The Lord Jesus Christ, as the King of kings, is going to set up a perfect environment for all the people living in the Millennium! However, even in perfect environment, people will **STILL** not believe in The Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. Can you believe it? Well, believe it. Even Adam and Eve failed in a perfect environment in the Garden of Eden. And remember Mr. Arrogance himself, Satan? He also failed in a perfect environment. So, it's not hard to believe that little old humans in the future will also fail. Right after the 1000 years is up, Satan will try one last time to deceive the nations, but God will have him thrown into the Lake of Fire for ever and ever. Bye, bye, Satan! Then, finally, God will renew the heavens and the earth and believers will live with Him in His love for eternity! **AMEN!! AMEN!!**



2 Peter 3:13 But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

Looking at History with God's Timeline

References: Robert McLaughlin Bible Ministries

gbible.org

Lessons: 6-18-03, 3-10-06, 3-12-06

Jr. Tree of Life: 2-26-06, 3-05-06, 3-12-06. 3-19-06

Tree of Life: 11-20-05

Prep School Lessons: Doctrine of Dispensations, lessons 1,2, and 3 for
ages 4-8

Doctrine of Dispensations, weeks 1,2,and 3 for
ages 9-13

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