

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy

## Chapter 2

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

**2 Timothy 2:1**

- *“For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ”*. Rom 5:17
- *“What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith”*. **Rom 9:30**
- *“Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness”* **James 2:23**

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

**2 Timothy 2:2**

- As sons of God, you, too, must be concerned about your Father's business

# A Chain of Gold

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Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

**2 Timothy 2:3,4**

- If you are in “Special Operations:” you cannot afford to carry any excess baggage or entanglements; you need to be deadly serious in what you are about
- The Christian life is a battleground, not a playground

And if a man also strive for masteries, *yet* is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

2 Timothy 2:5

- “Strive” refers to contending in the game; committed to winning, and winning *by the rules*.
- Paul frequently uses athletic allusions from his familiarity with the Olympic and Isthmian games

Phil 3:14; 1 Cor 9:24-27

The only exercise some Christians get is

- jumping to conclusions,
- running down their friends,
- sidestepping responsibility,
- and pushing their luck.

The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.

2 Timothy 2:6

- A farmer has to work.  
If you leave a field to itself it will produce mostly weeds.
  - Solomon had this in mind when he wrote about the field of a sluggard: Pro 24:30-34

Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

Remember [*that*] Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:

**2 Timothy 2:7,8**

Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, *even* unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

*It is* a faithful saying: For if we be dead with *him*, we shall also live with *him*. **2 Timothy 2:9-11**

- For other “faithful sayings:” **1 Tim 1:15; 4:9; Titus 3:8**
- It is faith in Jesus Christ that gives victory **1 John 5:4**



If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*.  
if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:

2 Timothy 2:12

- Some scholars believe that *not all* believers are going to reign with Him.
- On the basis of this verse, it would appear only those who have suffered for Him.

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If we believe not, *yet* he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

2 Timothy 2:13

- God cannot deny Himself. He cannot accept as true one who is false.
- That's why He gave such a scathing denunciation of the religious leaders of His day. He called them hypocrites because they were pretending to be something they were not.
- We need to be genuine, too.

Of these things put *them* in remembrance,  
charging *them* before the Lord that they strive  
not about words to no profit, *but* to the  
subverting of the hearers.

2 Timothy 2:14

- “Strive about words” means *disputes* of words
  - “Only by pride cometh contention” Pro 13:10
- “Words to no profit” only undermines God’s work:
  - Major on the essentials
  - Don’t “Major on the minors”

1 Tim 6:4; Titus 3:9

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

**2 Timothy 2:15**

- “Study” = to be diligent, be zealous.
- “Workman” = The Word is a treasure that the steward must guard and invest.  
The soldier’s sword and the farmer’s seed.
- One of the great discoveries is that the Bible is a well-organized integral whole.  
That’s why it must be studied *in its entirety*.

# Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

- The distinction appears undeniable between
  - the Law and Luke 16:16
  - Grace Eph 3:1-2
- Covenant theologians are disturbed by the recognition of dispensational distinctions. Even the new manifestation of divine grace becomes one of those disturbing features of truth.
  - If there is but one covenant of grace operating uniformly in every age, to what must the Apostle be referring when he asserts that a dispensation respecting a hitherto unrevealed program was committed to him? Eph 3:1-10

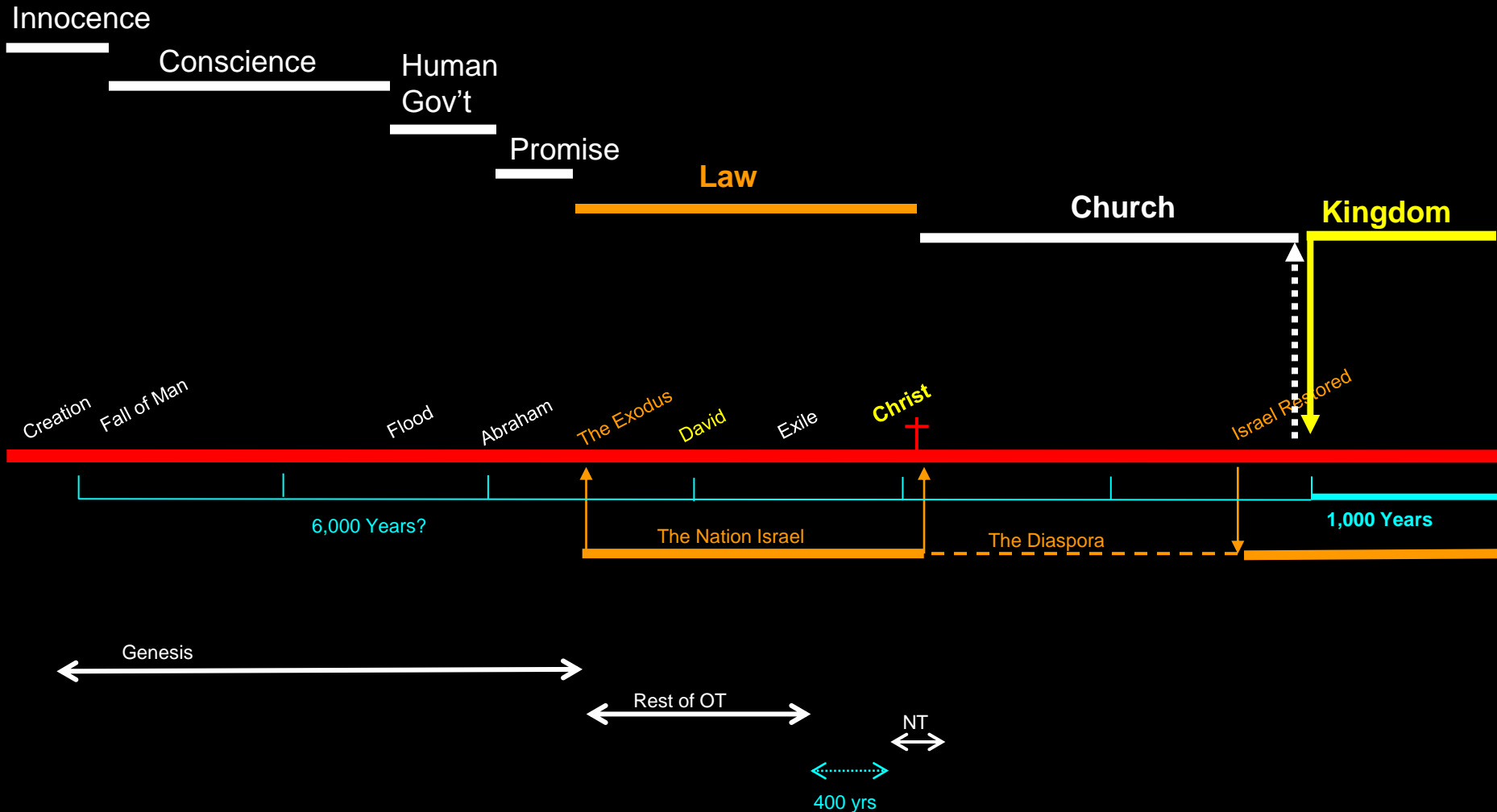
# “Dispensations”

(Traditional View)

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Innocence              | Gen 1:28                 |
| 2. Conscience             | Gen 3:7                  |
| 3. Human Government       | Gen 8:15                 |
| 4. Promise                | Gen 12:1                 |
| 5. Law                    | Exo 19:1                 |
| Moses to John the Baptist | Luke 16:16;<br>Mat 11:13 |
| 6. Church (“Grace”)       | Acts 2:1                 |
| 7. Millennial Kingdom     | Rev 20:4                 |

# The Seven Dispensations

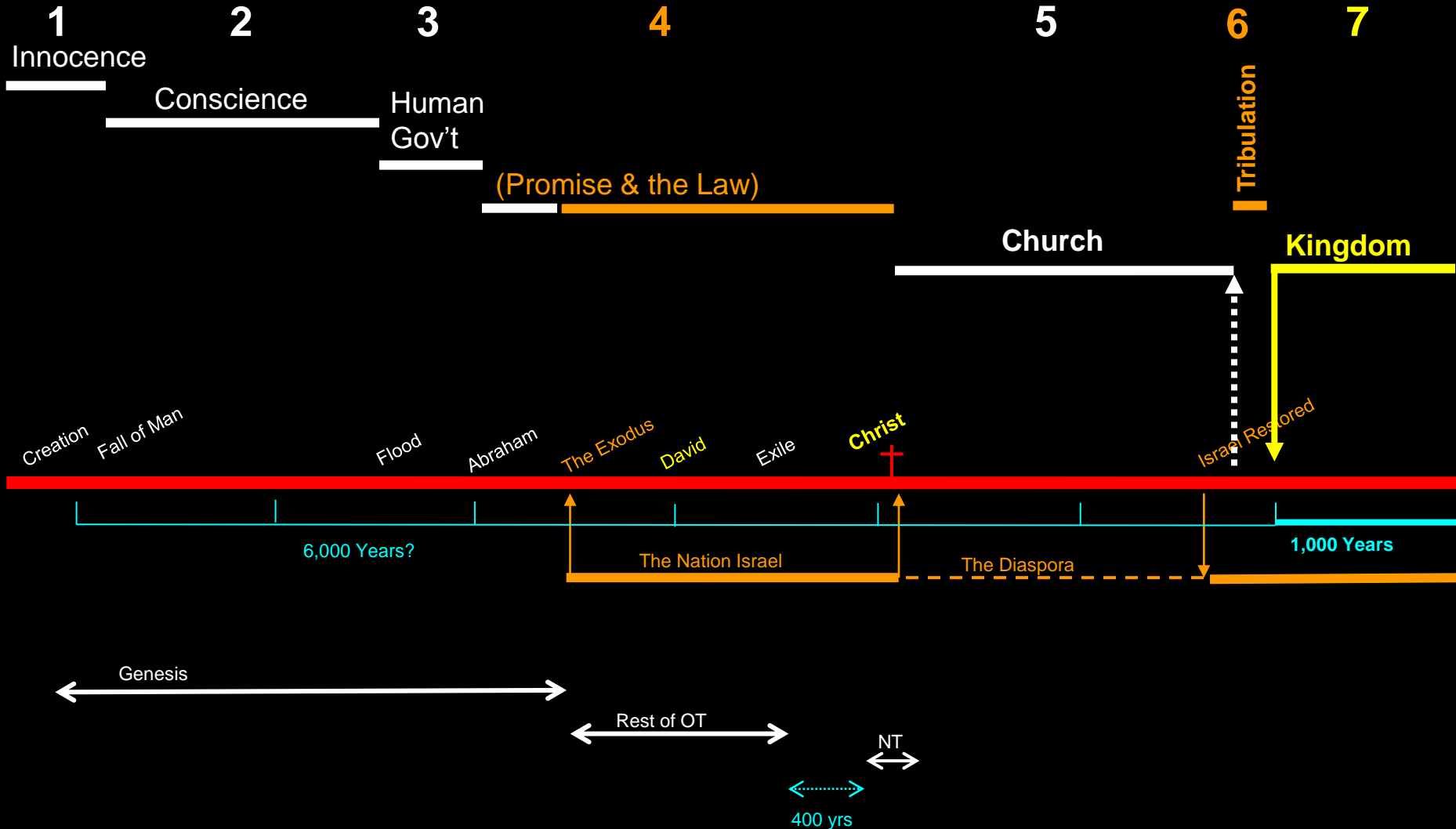
## Traditional View





# The Seven Dispensations

## Alternative View



# Classic Dispensations

- Each dispensation involved grace as the basis of salvation.
  - Abel and Abraham brought little lambs to sacrifice to the Lord.
  - (But I hope you didn't take a lamb to church last Sunday!)
- The Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world has already come John 1:29
  - The offerings simply pointed toward this consummate cosmic act

But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

2 Timothy 2:16

- Even “Bible-babble” can prove vapid unless *applied* to the “real” world.
- *A mild inoculation can serve to make you immune to the real thing*

And their word will eat as doth a canker: of  
whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

**2 Timothy 2:17**

- “Canker” = gangrene: spreads, infects.
- False doctrine is dangerous.

Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

**2 Timothy 2:18**

- In that day, there were some who were teaching that the resurrection had already taken place, which meant that those still living had missed it!
- This was the occasion for Paul's *2nd* letter to the Thessalonians—responding even to a forgery of a purported letter from Paul.
  - This letter is among the most prophetically illuminating in the New Testament.

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

2 Timothy 2:19

- “This seal” = a mark of authentication, security and ownership.  
*No one would dare break a Roman seal.*
- The Israelite was to use his house as a billboard for the Word of God. **Deut 6:8-9**
- How do *you* advertise the fact that you are a child of God?

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

**2 Timothy 2:22**

*dou/loj* ***doulos*** was a bond-servant.

A slave had no will of his own; he was totally under the command of his master.

**Cf. Ex 21:5**

But foolish and unlearned questions avoid,  
knowing that they do gender strifes.

And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but  
be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient,

**2 Timothy 2:23,24**

**“Only by pride cometh contention”** **Pro 13:10**



In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

**2 Timothy 2:25**

- A servant's purpose is to win souls, not arguments.

And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

**2 Timothy 2:26**

- Reviewing these seven aspects of the ministry, it is demanding: there is no place for a loafer.

# 7 Aspects of Ministry

1. Be Strong
2. A worthy workman
3. Be faithful; Endure all things
4. Study to rightly divide the Word
5. Avoid vain babblings
6. Seal and cleanse this vessel of honor
7. Flee youthful lusts



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