

How To Study Your Bible (part 5—Seven “C’s” of History)

2 Timothy 2:15—“...rightly dividing the word of truth” (cf. 2 Tim. 3:15-17)

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH (2 Timothy 2:15)

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ADAM	2,000 yrs.		ABRAHAM	2,000 yrs.		CHRIST	2,000 yrs.		2nd ADVENT	1,000 yrs	END
Gen. 1-3	Gen. 4-8	Gen. 9-11	Gen. 12-Ex.19	Ex. 20-Acts	Rom.- Philem.	Heb - Rev + O.					
1,600 yrs.	427 yrs.	430 yrs.	1,500 yrs.	2,000 yrs. ?	7	1,000 y					
Innocence [DIET: Vegetarians] [DIET: No unclean meat- Pork, etc.]	Conscience [DIET: No unclean meat- Pork, etc.]	Human Government [DIET: All meats]	Promise (Patriarchs)	Law [DIET: No unclean meat- Pork, etc.]	Church Age [DIET: No unclean meat- Pork, etc.]	Kingd					
Flood	Babel	Bondage in Egypt	Israel Scattered	Tribulation	Great White Throne	Curse & Death					
ABEL	NOAH	ABRAHAM	MOSES	PAUL	CHRIST	Represent ADAM					
Do good and be righteous (Gen. 4:6-7)	Spread out over the earth. (Gen. 9:1-2)	Remain in the land of promise. (Gen. 12:1)	Observe the Law (Ex. 19:5; Lev. 18:5; Dt. 7:11)	Believe the Gospel of Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4)	Submission to the Son/King (Ps. 2:3; Isa. 55:1)	Require knowledge of good and evil.					
All flesh and built tower of Babel.	Settled in Shinar Egypt (type of the world).	Went into Egypt. Murdered the Messiah.	Broke to Law / rejected. "Another gospel"	Paul's gospel is obedience	Feigned Ate of the forbidden tree	Rebellion → corrupted (Gen. 6:5-13)					
Confusion of tongues	Bondage in Egypt	Israel is scattered Temple destroyed	Tribulation Period	Great White Throne Judgment	Retribution → Curse & Death	Flood					
Believe God's word (Lev. 17:11; Num. 3:15)	Trespass & sin offerings	Trust Christ's finished work (Rev. 22:17)	Keep commandments and eat sacrifice.	Accept God's offerings							

It is a MISTAKE to believe salvation is the same in every dispensation. Although the WAY of salvation has always been by grace through faith, the APPLICATION of faith has changed throughout the ages.

- ➡ For a man to be “saved” in any dispensation depended on how he applied his faith. If he believed what God told him to do, he would be saved.
- ➡ How did men apply their faith to be saved in various dispensations? Most fundamentalists say, "Men were saved in the Old Testament by looking forward to the cross, while we are saved by looking backward to the cross." Sounds good, BUT, is that what the Bible provably teaches (Acts 17:11). That is the subject of this message.

SEVEN “C’s” OF HISTORY — There are seven periods of history in the Bible. They may be categorized as “Seven ‘C’s’ of Bible History.”

I. CREATION / Innocence (Gen 1-2).

- The only thing Adam had to do to have eternal life was to eat of the tree of life (cf. Gen. 3:22-24)

II. **CORRUPTION / Conscience** (Gen. 3-11). World corrupted by sin.

- A. After Adam sinned (rebellion), God made provision for him by slaying an innocent animal and provided Adam and Eve with "coats of skins" (Gen. 3:7-11, 21 cf. Heb. 9:22). Adam exercised faith in God's provision by accepting them and putting them on.
- B. This was the beginning of animal sacrifice. Adam's descendants were to following this pattern (Gen. 4:3-7).

III. **COVENANT / Promise** (Gen. 12-Ex. 19). God would make from Abraham a great nation.

- Romans 4:3 says, "*Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*" The same can be said of any New Testament Christian. **What Abraham believed and what we believe today are two different things.** What did Abraham believe to be counted righteous? Was he believing in Christ's future death on the cross?
 1. Look at Genesis 15:4-6. Abraham's faith was not looking forward to the cross, but looking forward to a bunch of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, etc. (Rom. 4:16-24).
 2. New Testament saving faith is believing the gospel that "*Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures*" (1 Cor. 15:3-4). Quite a difference from believing in having as many children as there are stars.

IV. **COMMANDMENTS / LAW** (Ex. 19-Gospels cf. Ex. 19:5)

- A. Under the law of Moses, men had to believe by offering the proper sacrifice, their sins would be atoned for (Lev. 5:13; 6:7; 16:30; 17:11).
- B. If they did not bring the sacrifice they would be lost (Num. 9:13)! The law did not save them, but their faith in observing what God said saved them.

C. Cf. Matthew 19:16-17

V. CHRIST (Gospels). Christ offers the Kingdom to Israel and fulfills the Law.

A. **CONSIDER THE TWELVE.** Were they saved by believing in Christ's sacrificial death on the cross? NO! (cf. Luke 18:31-34).

➡ That means either...

(1) They were lost according to 2 Corinthians 4:3, "*If our gospel be HID, it is HID to them that are LOST.*" But this can't be true for Jesus prayed in John 17:12, "...those that thou gavest me I have kept, and **none of them is lost**, but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled."

(2) Therefore, the disciples were saved by believing another gospel other than Christ's death, burial, and resurrection!

- According to Luke 9:6 the disciples were preaching some kind of gospel prior to Luke 18, but not the gospel of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. It was "*the gospel of the kingdom*" (Luke 9:1-5 cf. Mt. 9:35; 10:6-8). They were not saved by looking forward to the cross, but forward to Christ setting up His kingdom on earth.

B. Jewish nation rejects Christ / Messiah and the Kingdom is held in abeyance (Luke 19:14 cf. John 19:15; Mt. 23:37-39).

VI. CHURCH (Acts - Philemon). Parenthetical period. A mystery.

A. Faith alone in the finished work of Christ—No works (Rom. 10:4-5; 11:6; Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:5). No more animal sacrifices—Jesus is the ONE sacrifice for our sins.

B. TRIBULATION (The tribulation period is Daniel's 70th week, an extension of the dispensation of Law like the previous sixty-nine weeks of Daniel 9:24-27).

- The application of faith concerning tribulation saints will be "*keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus*" (Rev. 14:12). They must "*endure unto the end*" (Mt. 24:13; cf. Heb. 3:6, 14) and refuse to take the mark of the beast (Rev. 14:9-11; 20:4). If they do that, they will be saved.

VII. CONSUMMATION / Kingdom (Hebrews - Revelation). Christ returns and sets up the Kingdom on earth for 1,000 years

- A. Since many will enter the future Kingdom out of the tribulation period in their natural bodies, how will they sustain their life during the 1,000 year reign of Christ? How will children who are born with natural bodies during the kingdom receive eternal life? They must get it from "*the tree of life*" (Gen. 3:22) which is in the midst of New Jerusalem (Rev. 22:1-2).
- B. The only way they will be given access to the tree of life is by obeying God's commandments (Rev. 22:14).

WHY THERE ARE CULTS: Most false doctrines and cults originate in a failure to "rightly divide" the Scriptures. This happens when someone takes a verse that belongs in one dispensation and tries to apply it doctrinally to another dispensation. Most heresies are truths that have been misplaced.

- 7th Day Adventists observe the Sabbath and abstain from pork (Law).
- Jehovah Witnesses preach a kingdom message (Tribulation).
- Church of Christ baptize for the remission of sins (Apostolic).
- Armenians teach you can lose salvation (O.T. & Tribulation).
- Mormons teach salvation by works (O.T. Tribulation).
- Charismatics believe in speaking in tongues is for today (Apostolic).

PRINCIPLE: All Scripture is not written TO us (doctrinally), but all Scripture is written FOR us (devotionally). "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for OUR LEARNING, that WE through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor 10:6, 11).

➡ 2 Tim. 3:15-17: We must look at a passage of Scripture three ways:

1. HISTORICALLY— The content of a passage of Scripture actually happened in history just the way it says it happened.
2. DOCTRINALLY / DISPENSATIONALLY (or prophetically)—Every verse of Scripture is God speaking to a specific people for a specific purpose.
3. DEVOTIONALLY / PRACTICALLY (or inspirationally) — This verse is profitable for me to either rebuke me; correct me; or teach me how to live righteously today.

Bible study should follow a simple three-step process:

- (1) **Observation**— “What does the verse say literally?”
- (2) **Interpretation**— “What does the verse mean or teach?”
- (3) **Application**— “How does this verse apply to my life today?”

➡ This three-step process is illustrated in Proverbs 24:30-34.

- (1) *Observation* of a broken down wall around a field overgrown with thorns and weeds.
- (2) *Interpreted* the evidence as being a case of laziness and neglect of the owner of the field.
- (3) *Application* to personal life that he would not allow laziness ruin his life.

SUMMATION: SALVATION TODAY is received simply by applying your faith to the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, in that He died for your sins, was buried, and was raised for our justification (Rom. 4:24-25). It is not by baptism, sacraments, the ten commandments, or church membership.

Don't be misled by those who say you must keep the Law of Moses to be saved. You are not under the law of Moses. Listen to the Apostle to Gentiles who tells us—*“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth... That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness ; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Rom. 10:4,9-13).

Are you saved? Do you know you have eternal life?