

CHART: PROGRESSIVE REVELATION

BASIC DISPENSATIONAL LESSONS - PART VII

“Again it shall greatly help thee to understand scripture, if thou mark, not only what is spoken or written, but of whom, and unto whom, with what words, at what time, where, to what intent, with what circumstances, considering what goeth before and what followeth after.”

~ Miles Coverdale, Prologue to his 1535 version of the Bible

1. Progressive Revelation

- a. Perception, people, principle, perspective, priority, place, now progressive revelation
- b. We will not define 7 dispensations... why?
 - i. 1) Scofield did not have it all right, he does not define dispensational approach
 - ii. 2) Others had 7 before (covenantalists)
 - iii. 2) Dispensational approach does not rise or fall on 7 dispensations
- c. The opposite view is not to recognize progressive revelation:
 - i. “Everyone in the OT looked forward to the cross”
 - ii. The whole Bible says the same thing, same instructions, same responsibilities
 - iii. Bible just proverbs, list of rules, insights for living, not real history over time
- d. You can't tell a story backwards – the time/place/people/sequence matters

2. Time Changes in the Bible

- a. Time, revelation, and responsibility changes and is progressive
- b. Should they fast or not? Mark 2:19-20
- c. Take scrip or not? Luke 9:3 and Luk e22:35-36
- d. War or not? Micah 43 and Joel 3:9-10
- e. Will God destroy them or show mercy, are they his people or not? – Hosea 1:1-11
- f. Christ is the end of the law for righteousness, which means it changed - Rom 10:4
- g. What is different is not the same – Acts 3:211 and Rom 16:25

3. Separate Comings of Christ – Suffering and Glory

- a. Dispensational truth only recognized by progressive revelation including the mystery
- b. 2nd coming is only the 2nd in reference to his coming to the Earth to fulfill prophecy
- c. Jesus appeared already, and he will come again! Acts 9:15 and 1 Thess 4:11
- d. “What manner of time” ... suffering (1) and the glory that should follow (2) 1 Pet 1:11
- e. What days were they? The Last days? - Joel 2:28-32 – Acts 2:16-17
- f. In those days... of 2000 years ago? Dan 2:32-45 – the kingdom of heaven is not here
- g. The stone rejected (1) has become the head (2) - Ps 118:22 – Matt 21:42-43
- h. The child born (1) gov't on his shoulders (2) - Isa 9:6 and Luke 2:11
- i. The suffering (1) Isaiah 53:4 – Matt 8:17, 1 Pet 2:24 was only part of the prophecy
 - i. The glory is still future - consider Rom 8:18 or Rom 11:26-27, 2 Pet 1:11
- j. Does not cry (1) judgment of the Gentiles (2) - Isaiah 42:1-4 – Matt 12:17-20
- k. Acceptable year (1) day of vengeance (2) - Isaiah 61:1-2 and Luke 4:16-21
- l. Prepare the way... (1) fire and burning (2) - Malachi 3:1-2 and Mark 1:2 / Matt 3:11
- m. With the revelation of the mystery interrupting God's prophetic timeline, there is the need to rightly divide the word of truth, to notice the differences, distinctions, etc.
- n. Otherwise – details of the Bible must be ignored and application turned into a blurred confused amalgam of spiritualizations.