

**BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION
THE DISPENSATION PRINCIPLE
THE FIRST DISPENSATION:
THE DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE**

I. THE DESIGNATION: DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE.
ADAM and EVE were not IGNORANT people. But understand that they were IGNORANT of GOOD and EVIL.

ADAM and EVE could only be said to be “*HOLY*” up to the FALL in that they were created by GOD for HIS PARTICULAR PURPOSES. But understand that it was an UNTESTED condition of HOLINESS. (INNOCENCE)

INNOCENCE is neutral, SIN is negative and RIGHTEOUSNESS is positive. This period proves to be man’s most disastrous failure because of the FALL OF MANKIND. (*Genesis 1:26; 2:16, 17; 3:7, 22, 24; Romans 5:12*)

II. THE CITATION: GENESIS CHAPTERS 1-3.

III. THE LIMITATION: FROM CREATION TO THE EXPULSION.

The “*DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE*” lasted from the CREATION of ADAM until the FALL OF MAN by the SIN of both ADAM and EVE and their EXPULSION from the GARDEN OF EDEN.

IV. THE DURATION: UNKNOWN.

V. THE CONDITION: PARADISE. (*Genesis 1:26-29*)

At the beginning of this DISPENSATION MANKIND lived under the most favorable of conditions. He lived in the GARDEN OF EDEN, a PARADISE.

GOD gave ADAM a “*help meet*” for him. “*Help meet*” means “*aid to*” or “*fit for.*” Therefore, EVE was an *aid* to or a *help that was fit for* ADAM.

**BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION
THE DISPENSATION PRINCIPLE
THE FIRST DISPENSATION:
THE DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE**

Of course, before the FALL, there was no need for SALVATION. ADAM and EVE were PERFECT in their SINLESSNESS and in their DEVOTION to a GOD WHO WALKED WITH THEM daily in the GARDEN OF EDEN.

Even there, however, their FAITH was subjected to a TEST. A very simple TEST. Refraining from eating the fruit of a certain tree that the GOD said was FORBIDDEN for them to eat of.

VI. THE OBLIGATION: OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD AND WILL OF GOD. (*Genesis 2:8-9, 16- 17*)

As long as they “*kept the faith,*” they enjoyed the advantages of life in PARADISE. Their WORKS could “*kill*” them, but their WORKS could not SAVE them once they SINNED.

As long as they BELIEVED GOD’S WORD that they would DIE if they ate the FORBIDDEN fruit, then they would live.

VII. THE TRANSGRESSION: DELIBERATE DISOBEDIENCE.

A. ADAM deliberately DISOBEYED the WORD OF GOD. (*Genesis 3:6*)

B. EVE was DECEIVED but ADAM was NOT DECEIVED. (*1 Timothy 2:14*)

It was when EVE BELIEVED THE SERPENT RATHER THAN GOD that she ate the FORBIDDEN fruit and DIED SPIRITUALLY and began to DIE PHYSICALLY.

She no longer BELIEVED GOD that she would DIE, and it was her LACK OF FAITH in the WORD OF GOD that caused her to do that which killed her. Eating the FRUIT was the MANIFESTATION OF THE SIN that she committed when she FAILED TO BELIEVE GOD.

**BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION
THE DISPENSATION PRINCIPLE
THE FIRST DISPENSATION:
THE DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE**

ADAM, however, was **NOT DECEIVED**. He **DID NOT BELIEVE** that he would become like **GOD**, as the **SERPENT** had promised **EVE**, who was **DECEIVED**.

ADAM knew that he would **DIE**, and he made a **CONSCIOUS CHOICE** to do so rather than live without **EVE** whom he loved. His was not a **LACK OF FAITH**, but a **WILLFUL DECISION** to suffer the consequences, choosing the things of the flesh over the **WORD OF GOD**.

He could have chosen to **TRUST** that **GOD** would provide someone more faithful than **EVE**. That is, if his trust had been in **GOD** more than in his own reason.

During the “**DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE**,” the **TEST** was a simple one: **DON’T EAT THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT**. The **CONSEQUENCES** were **DEVASTATING—DEATH** and **CONDEMNATION**. **ADAM** and **EVE** both **FAILED** this **TEST**, as men and women have **FAILED** in every subsequent **TEST**.

- C. **The Program Of Satan Is Given.** (*Genesis 3:1-7*)
1 John 2:16—“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

VIII. THE CONDEMNATION: THE CONSEQUENCE OF SIN.
The **GRACE OF GOD** was required in this **DISPENSATION** as it would be in every **DISPENSATION** when men **FAILED** their particular **TEST**. There is nothing that indicates to us how long **ADAM** and **EVE** lived faithfully in the “**DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE**.”

**BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION
THE DISPENSATION PRINCIPLE
THE FIRST DISPENSATION:
THE DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE**

We are not told how much time passed before **SATAN** successfully deceived **EVE**, but we can know with certainty that he did succeed, and that both of these people **FAILED**, making the **GRACE OF GOD** absolutely necessary if they were to be **SAVED**.

As in every **DISPENSATION**, their **WORKS CONDEMNED THEM**, but their **FAITH** in the **WORD OF GOD SAVED THEM** and produced the **GOOD WORKS** of **OFFERING a BLOOD SACRIFICE** in accordance with the **WORD OF GOD**.

The **CONSEQUENCES OF SIN** were threefold:

- A. **Creation Was Cursed.** (*Genesis 3:14-19*)
B. **Expulsion From The Garden.** (*Genesis 3:22-24*)
C. **Death.**
1. **Immediate Spiritual Death—Ephesians 2:1**
2. **Eventual Physical Death—Genesis 5:5**

IX. THE PREDICTION: PROMISE OF A REDEEMER.
(*Genesis 3:15*)

X. THE CORRECTION: WE ARE NOT ON PROBATION TODAY. (*Romans 5:12*)

Because we are “**IN ADAM**,” the **SIN NATURE** and all that goes with it has been passed on to us.