

Sunday, October 4, 2009—West Michigan Grace Bible Conference--*History's Final Act*

- Explain what the Dispensation of the Fullness of Time is and when it occurs as part of the Ages to Come.
- Explain how this dispensation fulfills the purpose for which God created time
- Demonstrate how the arrival of this dispensation brings about the completion of the two-fold purpose of God.
- Describe what man does for all eternity (e.g., tend to the universe, judge angels) and how time appears in the rear view mirror (Is 65:17)

Outline

1. The DOFT is the culmination of history
2. God's twofold purpose is accomplished in the DOFT as the LJC exercises absolute dominion over heaven and earth
3. What man does for eternity is serve God in God's perfect creation
4. In eternity, this life is not even remembered.

1. The DOFT is the culmination of history

The DOFT is from the new heavens and new earth forward into eternity.

The DOFT is not simply the last chapter – it is that time is full.

Eph 1:10 Time is full – God has accomplished that which he set out to do

There is no future dispensation – it is the end

The Satanic rebellion is put down

1Cor 15:24-25 All things are put under Christ

Q: Why did God create the universe?

God didn't need it.

He was completely self-sufficient and content without it.

But God desired to share creation with created beings who could voluntarily choose to believe him and love him.

Time has two basic purposes (maybe others but this is what I understand)

1. To demonstrate that the LJC is worthy of all praise and worship and deserves to be the head of the universe

2. To identify those men and angels who will believe God

Heb 11:6 Without faith it is impossible to please God

Ex. The Bible is an intentionally cryptic book.

In interpreting a contract, the problem is what is unanticipated.

Issues that were anticipated have typically been explicitly and clearly addressed.

The unanticipated is what is difficult b/c there are no clear provisions.

But God anticipates all things.

Why isn't there a verse that says, "The Rapture is pretribulational" or "The charismatic gifts shall cease after the end of the Acts period"?

God names people in the Bible before they are born. He could identify the exact name of whatever heresy he wanted to refute, if he wanted to.

The only conclusion you can reach is that God wants certain things to remain ambiguous.

Heb 4:12-13 The word discerns men's hearts

The ambiguity is designed to give you freedom to believe as you will

1Cor 11:19 You identify a man who is approved based upon what he believes.

2Cor 4:2 You commend yourself to a man's conscience by manifesting the truth

What God does during time the course of time is identify those who choose to believe him.

The DOFT is after God has identified those who are his during the course of time.

2. God's twofold purpose is accomplished in the DOFT as the LJC exercises absolute dominion over heaven and earth

2Cor 4:4 Satan is the god of this world today

It is not that the earth belongs to Satan.

It is that Satan is who the world chooses to worship.

1Cor 10:26, 28 Even now, the Earth and all its fulness belongs to the Lord.

Everything has always belonged to God, but he permits rebellion against his authority to continue for a time.

Isa 14:12-14 Satan wanted to be like the Most High

Gen 14:19 The Most High possesses heaven and earth

Time is about a war between God and Satan taking place on two battlefronts:

1. Heaven
2. Earth

Rev 21:1 God creates a perfect new heaven and new earth

No trace of sin or rebellion

Total conclusive victory

Abraham is the example of justification and father of both Israel and the BOC

1. Rom 4:1 the BOC
2. Jam 2:21 Israel

Gen 22:17 Abraham's seed is multiplied like two things: (Heb 11:12)

1. Stars of heaven (heaven – BOC)
2. Sand upon the sea shore (earth – Israel)

3. What man does for eternity is serve God in God's perfect creation

Earth

Man tended to the garden even before the Fall.

Gen 2:15 Man was to dress and keep the garden

Plants need trimmed.

Plant life dies before the fall.

Gen 3:19 Prior to the fall, man has responsibilities but does not sweat.

In eternity, man has meaningful work but it is not laborious work as a result of the burden of sin.

Rev 21:3 Man dwells with God forever

Heaven

Jude 9 Michael is an archangel.

He is the only archangel in the Bible.

Dan 12:1 Michael is the great prince, the prince of Israel.

Dan 10:13 Michael is one of the chief princes.

There are evil princes, such as the prince of Persia.

Rev 12:7 Michael has a group of angels that are described as "his angels."

Rev 12:9 He fights against the dragon (i.e. Satan) and his angels.

Rev 5:11 The elect angels number over 100 million.

ten thousand times ten thousand is 100 million

Heb 12:22 Heaven contains an innumerable company of angels.

Dan 10:21 Michael and one other prince (likely Gabriel) that held with Christ in the truth.

Implication: The other heavenly princes joined in the satanic rebellion.

Rev 12:4 one-third of stars fall

We shall judge angels. 1Cor 6:3

We shall hold higher positions in the heavenlies than the angels.

Man judges angels, administers the heavenly government, and praises God.

Heb 1:7 angels = ministers

Ps 148:2 Angels praise God

The BOC does what rebellious angels refused to do.

Satan is replaced by the BOC, not Israel.

4. In eternity, this life is not even remembered.

Isa 65:17 The former earth shall not be remembered nor come to mind

Worldly accomplishments truly mean nothing – you can't even remember what they were.

Ex. You often hear athletes talk about how happy they are that they are in the hall of fame because it is "forever."

Wrong. It won't even be remembered.

Rev 21:4 Sorrow, sadness, regret is gone

As a saved person today, you can still feel regret for your past.

There is none of this in eternity.

Rev 22:19 A man's "part" of the book of life is removed (i.e. there is no evidence that his part ever existed).

Ex. The book of life is not like a piece of paper where if you erase something, there is a big blank spot that testifies that something was there.

It is like a word processing document where there is now no evidence of the words that were deleted.

There is never a feeling that heaven is incomplete.

This present world matters so little that you will not even remember it.

Invest in those things that are eternal – the word of God and the souls of men.