

Timeline of Prophetic and Dispensational History in the Bible

There are two kinds of prophecy; "Thus says the Lord" and "It will come to pass".		
The source of prophecy and all divine revelation in the Bible is God Himself (2 Peter 1:20-21).		
The purpose of prophecy in the Bible is to prove the authority of the message and the messenger.		
Prophecy therefore is foundational to the Christian message (Ephesians 2:20).		
The canon of Scripture is complete. No man today can add or subtract from it (Revelation 22:18-19).		
A dispensation is a period of history in which God deals with man in a specific way.		
The Bible itself does not outline in these terms, but they are helpful to our understanding.		
There are many lists of dispensations, ranging from 5 to 14 of them. Here is my breakdown.		
Dispensation	Timeframe (References)	Characteristics
Innocence	Adam and Eve (Genesis 1-2)	before original sin perfect communion with God
Gentiles	Genesis 3-11	almost wholesale rebellion against God grace by faith introduced
Jews	Genesis 12-Matthew 1:17	God's chosen nation divine revelation through Jews (Rom 3:2) God's plan progressively revealed anticipation of the Messiah to come
First Advent	Matthew 1:18-Acts 1	arrival of Jesus, God Incarnate, in flesh Christ rejected by men, suffers for our sin purpose to appease God (Rom 3:23-26) Resurrection, victory over death fullness of the gospel preached
Age of Grace	Acts 2-Revelation 5	church age, Christ the cornerstone salvation still by grace through faith kingdom of God a spiritual one (1 Cor 3:16)
Tribulation	Revelation 6-20:3	seven years of judgment upon earth described also in Matthew 24 ends with Second Coming of Jesus
Millennial Kingdom	Revelation 20:4-10	thousand year reign of Christ on earth peace and justice (Isaiah 2:1-4)
*** Revelation 20:11-22 refer to the eternal state of the wicked, and of believers in heaven.		