

Seven Administrations: Part I

The Greek word oikonomia means, ‘administration of a household’. This word is actually two words combined, ‘oikos’ and ‘diakonia’. Diakonia means, ‘ways of serving’. Diakonos is often used to show how an oikonomia [household] is administered. Let’s study the different administrations in the bible.

Seven Time Periods

There are seven different major time periods disclosed in the Bible. They are called administrations. When rightly dividing the Word of Truth, these administrations must be understood.

Some of these periods end abruptly, like the Original Administration—Paradise.

The first administration - the Original Administration

This administration is God’s re-start of this heaven and earth. Then, he made Adam



and Eve. Then, Eve sinned, and Adam rejected God’s rule. Eden was paradise, a place on earth.

(Gen 3:22 KJV) And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

Then, God realized that Adam and Eve became aware of the devil and the pain he causes—they became ‘like God’.

(Gen 3:23-24 KJV) Therefore the LORD

God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. {24} So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

This Original administration ended when Adam and Eve were removed from Eden.

The second administration - the Patriarchal Administration

(Acts 7:8 KJV) And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs.

The Patriarchs ruled this administration. They were the ‘fathers.’ God wanted this

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type of leadership, but the people demanded more.

During this administration, sin was not imputed.

(Rom 4:15 KJV) Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, *there is no transgression.*

(Rom 5:13-14 KJV) (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. {14} Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

Breaking unwritten laws before the Mosaic Law were transgressions in the third administration. These acts were still sins, but these sins were not imputed. They became transgressions under the Law. This doesn't mean that the Patriarchal administration was lawless. It means that the laws were unwritten. God just winked at this period of time.

The third administration - the Law Administration

The Law administration began in this fashion.

(Exo 18:20 KJV) And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt show them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.

The Ten Commandments were delivered to Moses.

(Exo 24:12 KJV) And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

The Law was received by Moses at Sinai. This began the Law Administration of over 900 laws. This time period ended with Christ.

(Mark 15:38 KJV) And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

The temple was between 45 and 60 feet tall. This vale separated the holy of holies

and was four inches thick. It was rent in twain when Christ ended the Law. The Law administration was closed down.

Notice the way in which it was ripped. Normally, something like this would be ripped from the bottom to the top. Here, it was ripped from the top to the bottom. Man could not do this, only God! Now, the entire temple territory was made available to all. Jesus terminated the Law, reducing over 900 laws into 2.

The fourth administration - the "bride" or "church" administration

The fourth administration officially began with the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

These are the two remaining commandments.

(Mark 12:29-31 KJV) And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: {30} And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul,

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and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. {31} And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

This administration were ruled by these two laws. Love God and love your neighbor.

(John 15:12 KJV) This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

We are to love one another.

(John 17:4 KJV) I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

The forth administration is also referred to as the Christ Administration.

(2 Cor 5:19 KJV) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; . . .

During this administration, God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself.

(Mat 9:15 KJV) And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.

Jesus Christ was the Bridegroom; Israel was the Bride. The bridegroom was soon to be taken from them. This is what ended the Christ administration. From a practical perspective, it ended sometime during the later part of the book of Acts because the revelation of what the church was had not yet been given and so many believers were still zealous for the law. In reality, it ended when the next administration began.

Much Love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown