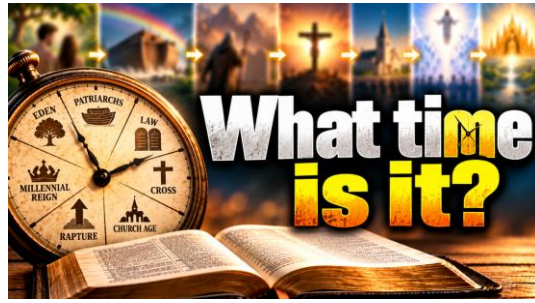




Series: How to Study the Bible in 2026

INTRODUCTION

2 Timothy 2:15 – *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

God has spoken in the past in separate and distinct times and in different ways. This is clearly revealed in the introduction to the book of Hebrews...

Hebrews 1:1 God,
who at sundry times and in divers manners
spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

W1828 “sundry”
Separate and distinct

Hebrews 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son...

When you think about time, you must remember God created time – He dwells outside of time.

There have been 6,000 years of human history. You must learn the timeline of this history according to the Bible’s perfect historical account. Tonight, we will learn how God views time through the *divisions* set forth in the Bible.

You must understand that a statement in the Bible can be absolutely true and still be wrongly applied if you fail to recognize the time, dispensation, or prophetic setting in which it was given.

1. The Bible has divisions (Consider this: **GODISNOWHERE** What does it say?)

The Bible has divisions, and you must understand these divisions to understand the Bible.

Scripture with Scripture

2 Timothy 2:15 – ... rightly dividing the word of truth.

To divide means to cut or to separate. Improper divisions can be catastrophic!

1 Corinth 9:17 – ... a **dispensation** of the gospel is committed unto me.

The Bible is divided into differing “dispensations” concerning God’s dealing with mankind.

Ephesians 1:10 – That in **the dispensation** of the fulness of times...

Think of God dwelling outside of time “pouring” or dispensing His truth throughout history.

Ephesians 3:2 – ... **the dispensation** of the grace of God... given me to youward:

Paul was given stewardship over a dispensation of truth for the Church Age.

Colossians 1:25 – ... according to **the dispensation** of God... given to me for you...

Paul was the Apostle to the Gentiles – he wrote the Church’s mail – all our doctrine is there.

A Biblical definition of Dispensation

✓ A “time period” where God has a certain method of dispensing His truth. (**Heb 1:1**)

W1828
“dispensation”
Distribution; that which is dispensed or bestowed.

2. God's Truth must be understood in its proper time.

Understanding the Bible's Dispensations

- ✓ There was a time when God dispensed His truth through **Moses and the Law**.
- ✓ There was a time when God dispensed His truth through **the Prophets**.
- ✓ While Christ was on earth, God dispensed His truth through **Him – the Living Word!**
- ✓ Now, God dispenses His truth through **the Bible** (the written word of God) by grace through faith in Christ alone!

Scripture with Scripture

Hebrews 13:8 – *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*

Key Truth

- ✓ Jesus Christ does not change, but God's program and administration have changed at separate and distinct times in biblical history.

3. The Major Dispensational Divisions of the Bible

There are 7 dispensations throughout biblical history (*9 if you include Eternity Past and Future*)

- 1) **Edenic** Approx. 1 year; before the fall of Adam and Eve (*How different it was!*)
- 2) **Adamic** Approx. 1,656 years; Adam and his lineage to the time of the flood
- 3) **Noahic** Approx. 436 years; Noah and his sons + their lineage to time of Abraham
- 4) **Abrahamic** Approx. 430 years; Abraham and his lineage to the time of Moses
- 5) **Mosaic** Approx. 1,526 years; Moses to Exodus; the time of the Law to Christ's Death
- 6) **Christian** Approx. Church Age (2,000+); from Apostles to the Rapture of the Church
- 7) **Millennial** 1,000 years; Christ's Return + Reign until the Great White Throne Judgment

4. Important Divisions in the Bible

The most obvious dispensational division – the Old and New Testaments

KEY **Hebrews 9:11-17**

- ✓ The New Testament technically begins with the death of Jesus Christ – the cross!
- ✓ The Gospels are technically transitional books from the Old to the New Testament!
- ✓ Every Bible student must understand this division!

Example – Matthew 12:31-32

Wherefore I say unto you,
All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men:
but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

1. **Context Factor:** Israel's leaders
 2. **People Factor:** The Jews
 3. **Time Factor:** Old Testament

Other important (subtle) divisions

Books (Table of Contents page of Bible)

✓ Three Basic Applications (next week)

- **History** OT = Genesis to Esther NT = Matthew to Acts
- **Devotional** OT = Job to Song Solomon NT = Romans to Philemon
- **Doctrinal** OT = Isaiah to Malachi NT = Hebrews to Revelation

✓ Every book is a division of sorts (not a dispensation)

Chapters, Verses, Punctuation Marks

✓ Help us locate the divisions through specific times and details within each book

Major dispensational divisions can take place within the context of a few verses

Isaiah 9:6-7 **BIRTH** (Mosaic) **REIGN** (Millennial)

Luke 1:30-33 **BIRTH** (Mosaic) **REIGN** (Millennial) **FOREVER** (Eternity Future)

5. Most all false doctrines and heresy is truth taken out of its proper place

The Five rules to proper division:

1) Do not take truth from one part of the past and read it into another part of the past

- ✓ **Genesis 1:29** (veggies) vs. **Genesis 9:3** (eat meat)
- ✓ God's instructions for man's food changed.
- ✓ What God said at one point in the past isn't automatically for other times in the past.

2) Do not take truth from the past and read it into the present

- ✓ **Acts 15:1-11** (Gentiles) or **Exodus 20:8** (Sabbath)
- ✓ Some were attempting to bring the OT requirements into the present Church Age
- ✓ Heretics: Seventh Day Adventists and some modern "Messianic" Christians

3) Do not take truth from the present and read it into the past

- ✓ **Romans 8:9** (Spirit in you) vs. **Numbers 11:29** (Spirit upon them)
- ✓ The ministry of the Holy Spirit was different in the Old Testament than for us today.
- ✓ The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is part of the Church Age believer's blessing!

4) Do not take truth from the future and read it into the present

- ✓ **Revelation 14:1-4** (144,000)
- ✓ The passage describes the 144,000 Jewish witnesses sealed during the Tribulation.
- ✓ Heretics: Jehovah's False Witnesses

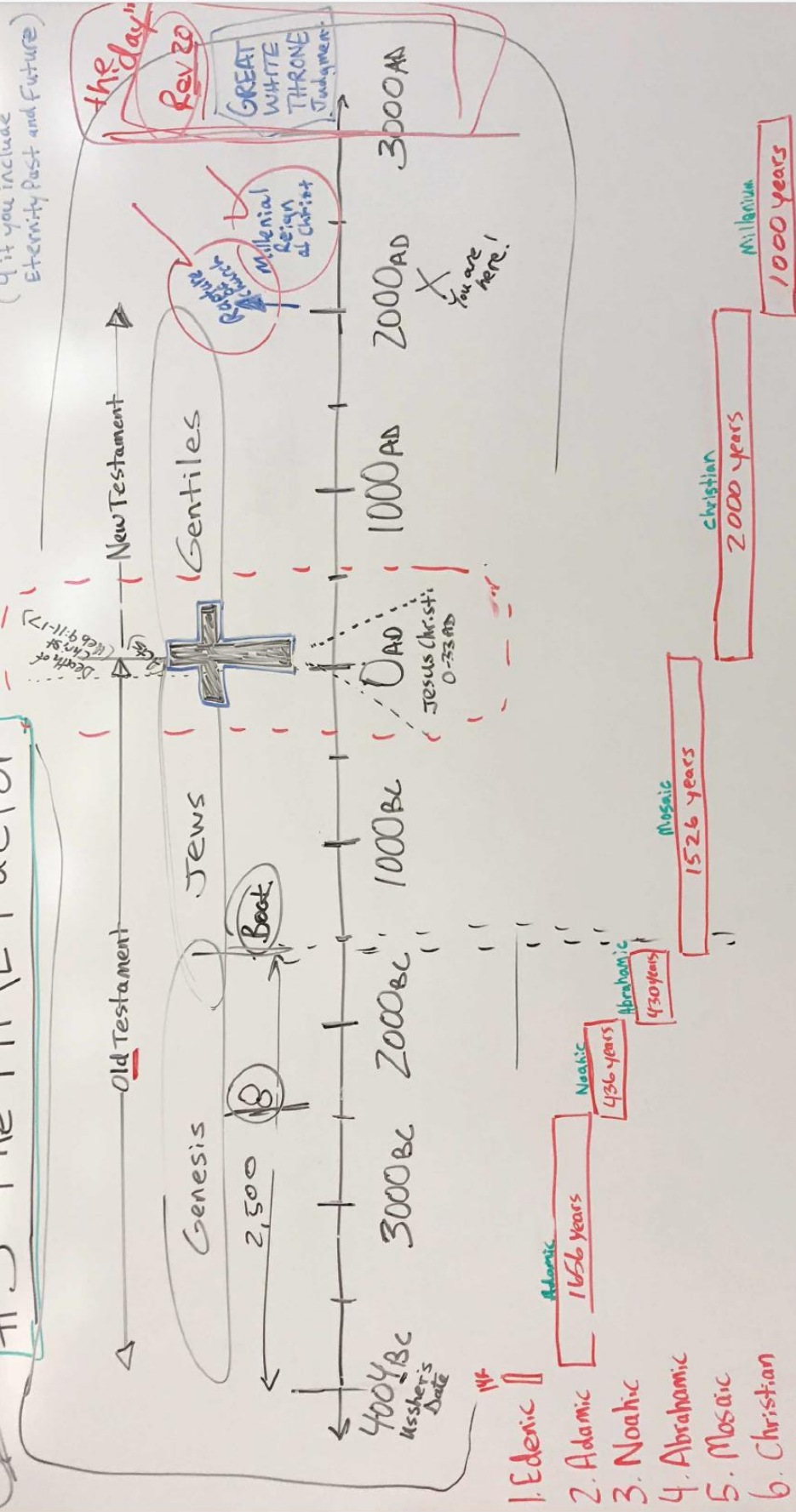
5) Do not take truth from the future and read it into another part of the future

- ✓ **1 Thess 4:13-18** (Rapture) vs. **2 Thess 1:7-9; 2:1** (2nd Coming)
- ✓ Heretics: Everyone removing the Rapture and keeping the Church in the Tribulation!

GOD

#3 The TIME Factor

Human History: There are 7 dispensations of God's truth throughout human history as the Bible teaches. (Q if you include Eternity Past and Future)



#3 The TIME Factor

Human History: there are 7 dispensations of God's truth throughout human history as the Bible teaches (9 if you include Eternity Past and Future)

