

# The Grapevine

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

## The Administration of the Grace of God

By Jack Northart

There are specific administrations listed in the Bible. Some people refer to these administrations as “dispensations.”

### I Corinthians 9:17

**For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.**

“Dispensation” is translated from the Greek word, *oikonomia*, and it would be more logical to translate this word as “administration.” This word means, “the administration of a household, or the act of administering.” In order to rightly divide the Word of God, it is vital that we understand these different time periods, or administrations in which God spoke to His people.

### Hebrews 1:1

**God, who at sundry [different] times and in divers [various] manners [ways] spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets.**

God had to change His ways of dealing with mankind during each administration because situations drastically changed from one administration to another. To understand administrations better, we could draw a parallel to the administrations of various presidents of the United States. Each administration is named from the office of a particular president such as, the Kennedy Administration, or the Reagan Administration. Once one president is elected, his administration begins, and his predecessor's ends.

There are seven administrations in God's Word:

1. The Original Paradise. 2. The Patriarchal. 3. The Law. 4. The Christ. 5. The Mystery or Grace. 6. The Appearing or Revelation. 7. The Final Paradise or Glory.

Each one of these administrations has distinct characteristics of how God deals with His people. For instance, in the Original Paradise Administration with Adam and Eve, God told them they could have any thing that they wanted with one exception. As long as they continued to carry out what God had told them, they thrived in Eden. However, once they “broke rank,” and sinned, things changed for the worst for them, as well as all of mankind thereafter. They were banned from Paradise and a different life ensued for them.

The Patriarchal Administration records the times of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his twelve sons. (Hebrews 7:4). The Law Administration began with God giving the law to Moses. This administration lasted until John the Baptist.

### Luke 16:16

**The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.**

Following John the Baptist was the Christ Administration. During this period of time, Christ was personally present on earth to keep and fulfill the law.

### Romans 10:4

**For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**

Christ was the fulfillment of the promised seed to mankind in Genesis 3:15. He was the fulfillment of the promises to the patriarchs, and he was the fulfillment of the promises of the Law Administration.

Next comes the Mystery or Grace Administration. This is the age in which we live today, and it began on the day of Pentecost. It is also known as the Church of God. It is called the Mystery Administration because of the Great Mystery that was hid in God. The details of it were made clear to the Apostle Paul, and he revealed it all in his epistles to the Church.

### Ephesians 3:2-6

**If ye have heard of the dispensation [oikonomia] of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,**

**Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:**

Jews and Gentiles are now fellowheirs and of the same body, with Christ as the head. All are now partakers of his promise in Christ. This is such a fantastic age in which to live. Christ told his disciples how wonderful this age would be, and how such tremendous power would be available to God's people.

**John 14:12**

**Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.**

God has looked forward to this wonderful age of grace. He looked forward to being a Father to His people. His love could be fully manifest to them and in them. It was unlike anything that had ever been available before.

**Ephesians 1:4**

**According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.**

What a wonderful time to be alive! To be the focal point of God's attention and love, to have His grace in manifestation like no other period of time, should make our hearts skip a beat. He has wanted this from before the foundations of the world, and we have the privilege and honor to be the recipients of it all. It was so fantastic, so magnificent that God kept it hidden in Himself until He revealed it to the Apostle Paul.

**I Corinthians 2:7-8**

**But we speak the wisdom of God in a [or regarding the] mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

If the princes of this world, namely Satan and his hosts, had known about the greatness of this mystery, they would not have crucified Christ. Why? Because of the power that Christ foretold that we would have. When he was walking upon the earth, he could be in one place, at one time. But now, everyplace there is a believer who believes, understands and manifests this power, he can defeat Satan on every time! It is no wonder that God kept it a secret.

This Administration of the Grace of God will be fulfilled with the return of Christ at the gathering together, at which time, the Appearing or Revelation Administration will commence.

**I Thessalonians 4:16-18**

**For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**

After the things recorded in the book Revelation come to pass, and Christ has returned once again to the earth with his saints, then comes the seventh and Final or Glory Administration.

**Revelation 21: 1-5**

**And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first [former] heaven and the first [former] earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.**

**And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.**

**And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.**