

**WHOLE BIBLE TIMELINE (CHARTED)**  
**Part II: Explaining The Transitions In The Bible Timeline**

**I. Introduction**

- A. Interactions with class members have revealed the need to provide a *whole Bible timeline* together with the *dispensations* and an explanation of *dispensationalism*, and *why* we *hold* to *dispensational beliefs*.
- B. We are thus teaching *two* lessons on the whole Bible timeline, the *first* one having been on *dispensationalism itself*, with this *second* lesson being on the *transitions* in the timeline that occur *besides* the *dispensations*:

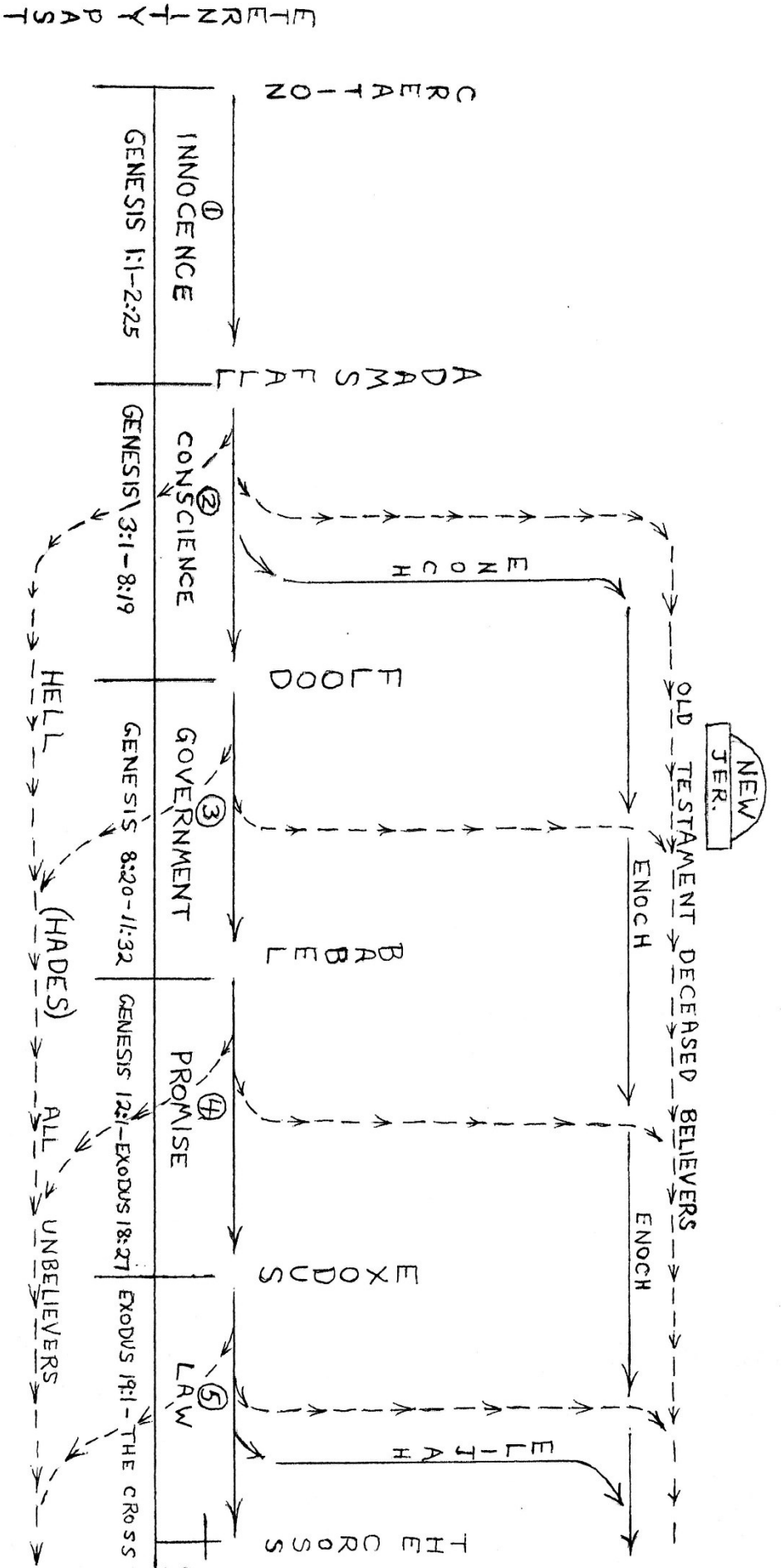
**II. Explaining The Transitions In The Bible Timeline.**

- A. The *first five dispensations* of *Innocence, Conscience, Government, Promise* and *Law* follow each other in *immediate succession*, but a *minor transition* occurs with the book of Acts as believers *in* the *dispensation* of the *Church adjust* from the *Law* to the *Church*, a *greater transition* occurs *between* the *dispensations* of the *Church* and the *Millennium* and the *greatest transition* occurs *between* the *Millennium* and *Eternity Future*.
- B. These *transitions* that occur in the whole Bible timeline are *explained* in view of *God's eternal plan*:
  - 1. The *succession* of the *dispensations* reveals *man's escalating sin* that is *met* by *God's escalating grace*:
    - a. Though God created man in *innocence* and told him not to eat of the forbidden tree, man disobeyed God's order, resulting in man's Fall into sin, death and eviction from the Garden of Eden (Genesis 1:1-3:6).
    - b. God thus led man to heed his *conscience* to avoid sinning, directing Cain to bring the right sacrifice to be accepted by the Lord versus letting sin defeat him. However, Cain disobeyed God and slew his brother Abel (Genesis 4:1-8). In time, the human race turned violently murderous, so God had to judge this failure by destroying the human race in the Genesis Flood, saving only godly Noah and his family, Gen. 6:1-8:19.
    - c. To check the murderous tendency in fallen man, after the Flood, God assigned human *government* the responsibility of practicing capital punishment for murder, Genesis 9:6. However, human government went apostate, turning the world's peoples from God to paganism at the Tower of Babel, Genesis 11:1-9.
    - d. God then graciously called Abraham to leave Ur of the Chaldees and to sojourn in Canaan, and from Abraham's "seed," being Israel in general and Jesus Christ in particular (Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:13-14), God *promised* to bless all the families of the earth. However, Abraham's descendants sinned in rejecting God's servant Joseph who was Jacob's son (cf. Genesis 37:1-36), so God by grace intervened to use Joseph to preserve Jacob's family and its unity by use of a great famine (Genesis 39:1-50:26).
    - e. Again, God graciously rescued Abraham's descendants from Egypt in the Exodus and gave them the *Law*, forming them into the nation Israel to prepare them to conquer the Promised Land to fulfill God's promise to Abraham (Ex. 1:1-20:17; Gen. 15:13-21). However, Israel failed to keep the Law, and the nation later crucified Jesus Christ, the promised "seed" of Abraham (2 Chron. 36:14-21; Dan. 9:26a; Matt. 27:22-26).
  - 2. However, *escalating levels* of *man's sin met* by *God's escalating grace* required *escalating transitions*:
    - a. After Christ was crucified, in *great grace*, God chose to save individual Hebrews and Gentiles and put them into one body, the *Church*, Rom. 11:1-36. For *Hebrew* and *Gentile* believers to merge in *unity* took a *big adjustment*, requiring a *minor transition* from the *Law* to the *Church* as *noted* in the *book* of *Acts*.
    - b. Yet, *most* of the *world* will *reject* the *Church's witness* of *Christ* (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12), and since God *very graciously* plans to set up the *righteous Millennial Kingdom* for *believers* after the *world's rejection* of *Christ*, *massive changes must* occur in the *world* for that *Kingdom to arrive*. Thus, God *must* send a *greater transition* of the *Tribulation Period* to lead *every human* on *earth either to trust* in *Christ* or in the *Antichrist*, and to *punish* the *unsaved* for *rejecting Christ* (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12).
    - c. Nevertheless, *even* with the *righteous Millennium* and *Christ* on the *earth ruling* the *world in blessing* for a *thousand years*, man's *heart is still so evil* that when Satan is freed to deceive unbelieving offspring of believers with sin natures, it will result in a *worldwide rebellion against Christ*, Rev. 20:7-8. Thus, in *vast grace*, God will *abolish* the *effects* of *sin* in man's *environment* and *fully address sin* in *every human being throughout eternity* in His *greatest transition*: God will destroy the worldwide rebellion, cast Satan into the lake of fire, destroy the old universe that is stained by sin and its effects, conduct the Great White Throne judgment of all unbelievers and create a new universe without sin in believers (Rev. 20:9-22:5).

**Lesson:** *The dispensations reveal an escalating growth in man's sin that is met by God's escalating grace, so escalating transitions in the timeline are needed to handle the rising contrast between man's sin and God's grace.*

**Application:** *May we today rejoice in God's great grace to us and rely on Him for total victory over sin in our lives!*

# BIBLE TIMELINE 1

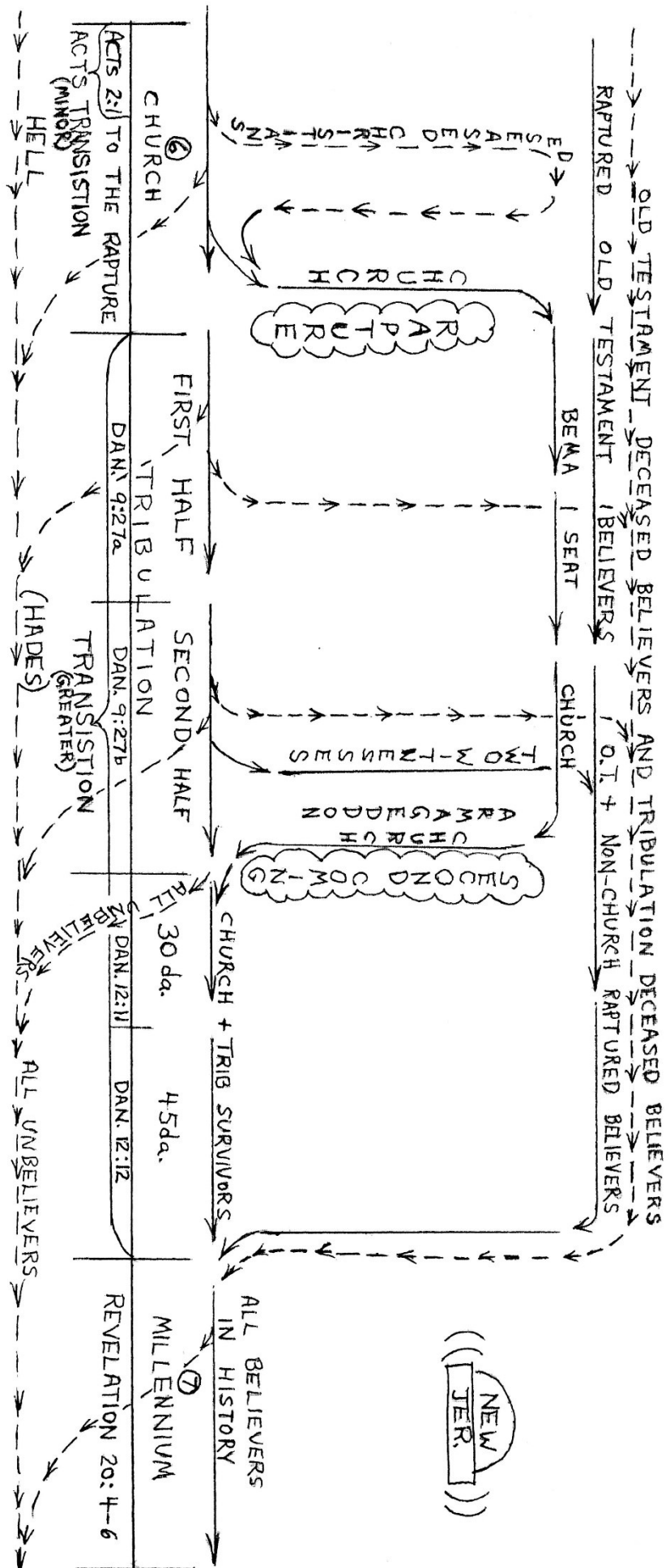


## LEGEND

- LIVING (OR RAPTURED)
- - - - - DECEASED
- ETERNALLY CONDEMNED
- ① . . . . ⑤ DISPENSATIONS

ETERNITY PAST

# B I B L E T I M E L I N E 2



B I B L E T I M E L I N E 3

