



Senior Adult Community
Grace Fellowship Church

SO WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Differing Beliefs in the Local Church

SESSION 6 What are Dispensational Theology Distinctives?

REVIEW & REMINDERS



CLASS SESSIONS

5. What are Covenant theology distinctives?
6. **What are Dispensational theology distinctives?**
7. How does a believer grow spiritually?
8. Summary & Discussion



REVIEW

Branches of Theology

Roman Catholic	Covenant	Methodism
Eastern Orthodox	Reformed	Lutheranism
Neo-Orthodox	Dispensational	Pentecostal
Liberal	New Covenant	Liberation



COVENANT THEOLOGY REVIEW

Interpreting the Bible through 3 Divine Covenants

Covenant of Redemption: Eternal agreement within the Godhead in which **the Father** chose a people to save, appointed **his Son** to redeem them, and **the Spirit** applying this redeeming work to this elect people.

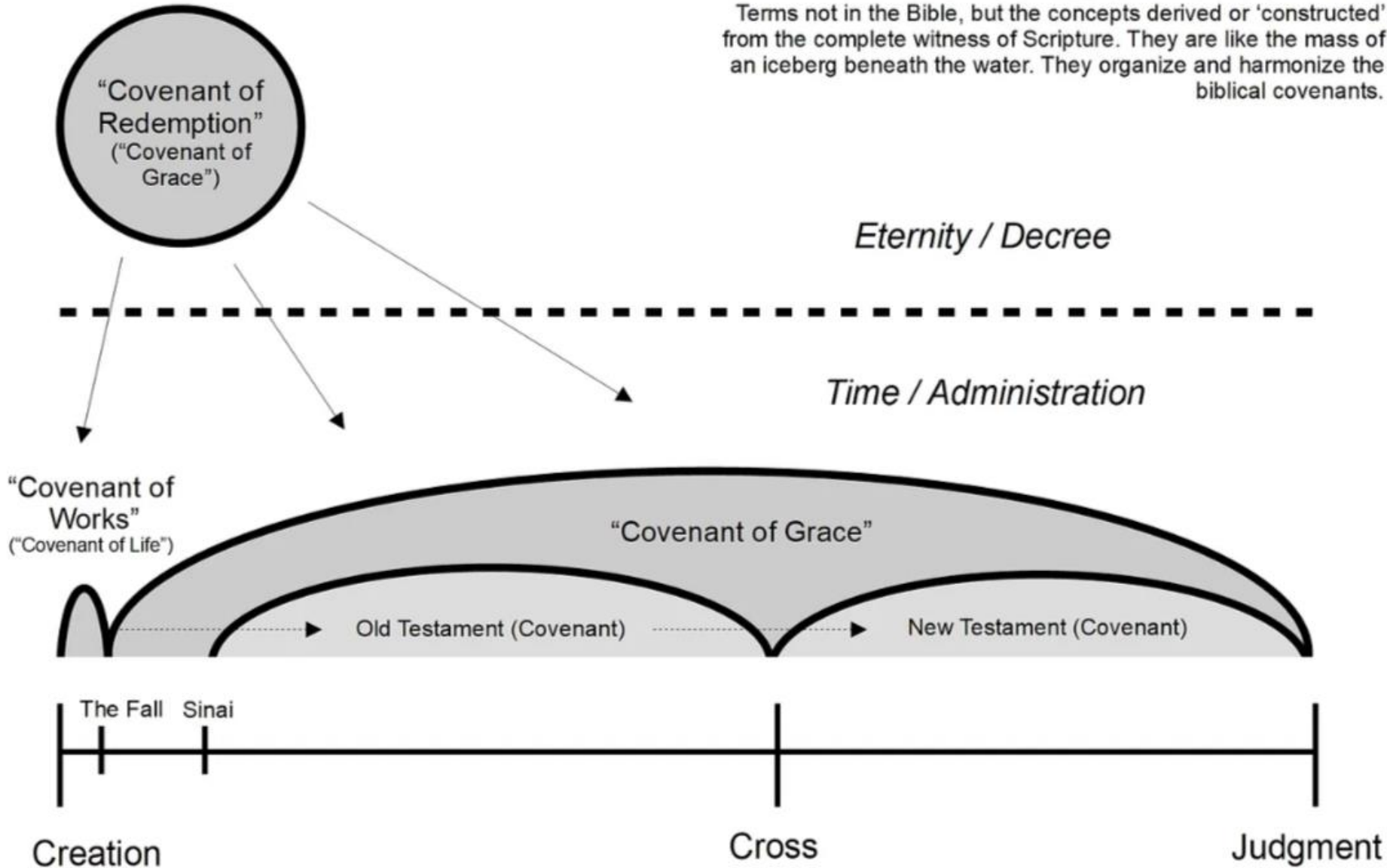
Covenant of Works: God's promise of eternal life for **Adam's obedience** (federal head of mankind) and death for disobedience.

Covenant of Grace: God's promise of eternal life for **all who have faith** in Jesus Christ who is the second Adam.



The 'Construct' Covenants

Terms not in the Bible, but the concepts derived or 'constructed' from the complete witness of Scripture. They are like the mass of an iceberg beneath the water. They organize and harmonize the biblical covenants.



UNDERSTANDING REFORMED THEOLOGY

- To be **Calvinist** is to hold to the 5 points of Calvinism.
- To be **Covenantal** is to hold to the covenantal framework of the bible.
- To be **Confessional** is to hold to one of the historic confessions of the faith.
- To be **Reformed** is to be Calvinistic, covenantal, confessional, plus two other convictions: #1 the ordinary means of grace through corporate local church practices, and #2 the distinction between the law and the Gospel.



SESSION 6
WHAT ARE DISPENSATIONAL
THEOLOGY DISTINCTIVES?



UNDERSTANDING DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY

Dispensationalism organizes history and theology around a series of distinctive ways God administered His governance of the world as He revealed His character and His plan for mankind. These are called dispensations.

Each Dispensation begins with an offer of blessing by God and ends with mankind's failure and its consequences.



UNDERSTANDING DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY

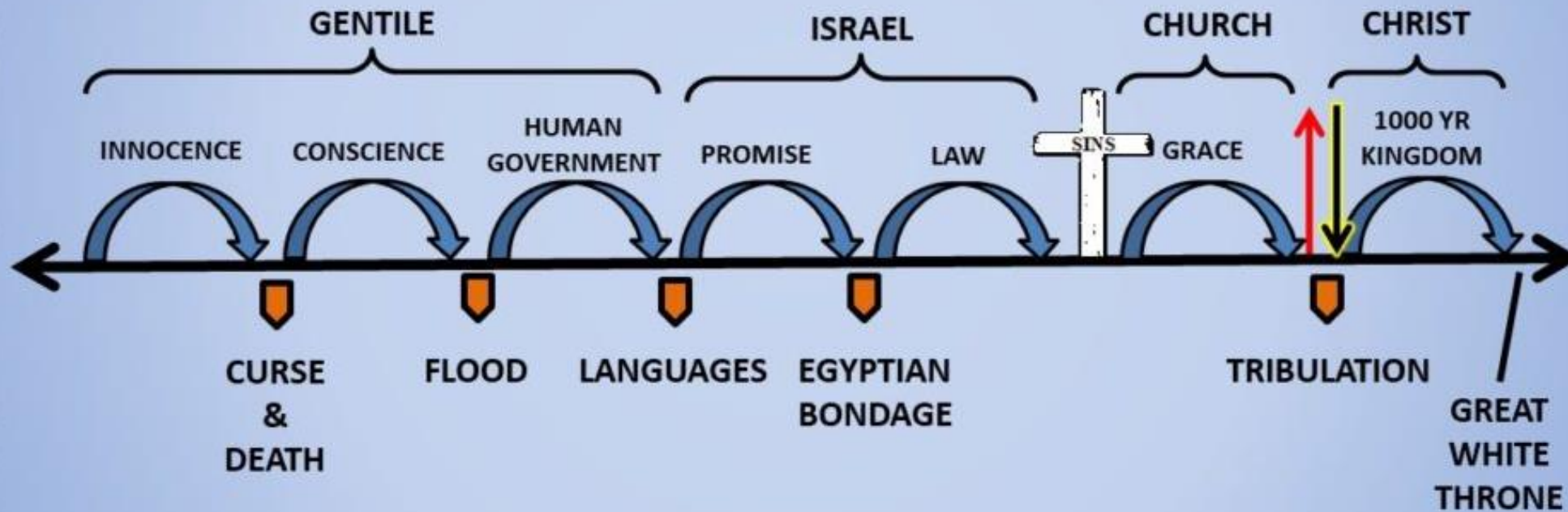
Dispensationalism believes that God has dealt with humanity in different ways at different times—revealing to us His character and His plan for mankind. These different periods of time are called dispensations.



7 DISPENSATIONS

ETERNITY
PAST

ETERNITY
FUTURE



CLAIMS OF DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY

- Stresses a **literal** not figurative/allegorical hermeneutic.
- **Israel and the Church** are two separate entities.
- **OT promises** to Israel fulfilled literally – not by the Church.
- The **Church is a parenthesis** – a mystery – in God’s plan.
- **Salvation is always through faith** but the content of that faith changes through progressive revelation.
- **The Mosaic Law** has been fulfilled and superseded.



COVENANT OR DISPENSATIONAL AREAS OF IMPACT

- **Framework** for understanding whole storyline of Scripture
- **Promises** to Israel of the LAND and THRONE
- **Church practice:** law, sabbath, tithes, infant baptism
- **View** of the present and future KINGDOM
- **Prayer** for God - not for us - to bring in His kingdom
- **Prophetic expectations** of next events



PROGRESSIVE DISPENSATIONALISM

This mode of thought emerged in the 1980s and holds to Four major dispensations. While this variant is more closely aligned with Classical Dispensationalism, it does have a few key differences. While Classical Dispensationalists will use a literal hermeneutic, Progressive Dispensationalists will use a Complementary Hermeneutic.

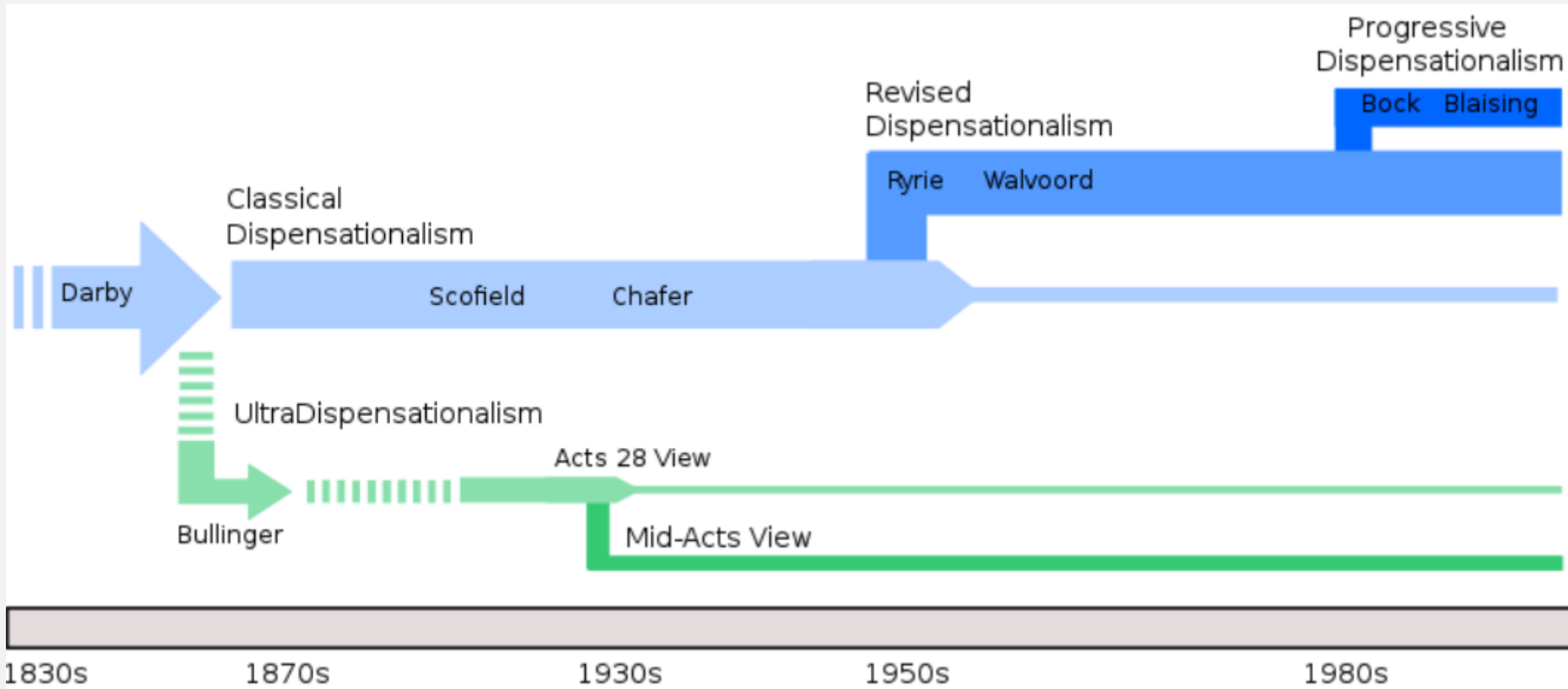


CLASSIC VS PROGRESSIVE DISPENSATIONALISM

	Old Testament Promises to Israel	Church Age	Millennium
Traditional Dispensationalism	*		*
Covenant Theology	*	*	
Progressive Dispensationalism	(spiritual) *	*	*
	(physical) *		*



HISTORY OF DISPENSATIONALISM

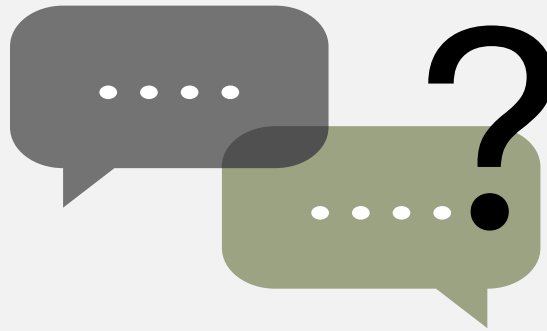


NEXT WEEK – SESSION 7

**How does a Believer
grow Spiritually?**



QUESTIONS / DISCUSSION



THE END OF SESSION 6

