

DISCOVERING DISPENSATIONALISM

**CONNECTING DISPENSATIONAL THOUGHT
FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT TO DARBY**

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FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT TO DARBY



He has found dispensational ideas [before Darby], but not Dispensationalism.”

-David Malcolm Bennett, Author
The Origins of Left Behind Eschatology

CONNECTING DISPENSATIONAL THOUGHT
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There is perhaps no part of divinity attended with so much intricacy, and wherein orthodox divines so much differ as the stating of the precise agreement and difference between the two dispensations of Moses and Christ.”

-Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)

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A controversy among orthodox theologians over dispensational distinctions is not new... But this discussion, as is often the case, has suffered much for want of definition.”

-Lewis Sperry Chafer

CONNECTING DISPENSATIONAL THOUGHT
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There is no more primary problem in the whole matter of dispensationalism than that of definition. By this is meant not simply arriving at a single sentence definition of the word but also formulating a definition/description of the concept.”

-Charles Ryrie

CONNECTING DISPENSATIONAL THOUGHT
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The divine institution of sacrifice was suitable in the former dispensation, but is not suitable now. For the change suitable to the present age has been enjoined by God...

-Augustine of Hippo (A.D. 354-430)

CONNECTING DISPENSATIONAL THOUGHT
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... He is the unchangeable Creator of mutable things, ordering all events in His providence until the beauty of the completed course of time, the component parts of which are the dispensations adapted to each successive age.”

-Augustine of Hippo (A.D. 354-430)

CONNECTING DISPENSATIONAL THOUGHT
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Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down and eat, and will come and serve them... Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

-Jesus (Luke 12:37,40)

CONNECTING DISPENSATIONAL THOUGHT
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**“Who then is that faithful and wise steward
[οἰκονόμος], whom his master will make ruler
over his household, to give them their portion
of food in due season?”**

-Jesus (Luke 12:42)

CONNECTING DISPENSATIONAL THOUGHT
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οἰκονόμος

1

- It occurs within the context of the management of a household.
- It is a compound of two nouns *oikos* “home” or “household” and *nomos* “law” or “rule”.
- It could be literally translated as “house-governor” or “house-administrator”.

CONNECTING DISPENSATIONAL THOUGHT
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οἰκονόμος

2

- The steward was appointed by the master of the household.
- The steward is under the master and yet over the household.
- The steward serves in a supervisory role as appointed by the master.

CONNECTING DISPENSATIONAL THOUGHT
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οἰκονόμος

3

- The steward dispenses the master's goods.
- The steward does not give from his surplus.
- The steward distributes to the master's household only that which has been appointed from the master's possessions.

CONNECTING DISPENSATIONAL THOUGHT
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οἰκονόμος

4

- The stewardship is temporary.
- The stewardship has a beginning as well as a definite end.
- The duration of the stewardship is appointed by the master.

CONNECTING DISPENSATIONAL THOUGHT
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οἰκονόμος

5

- The steward's faithfulness must be judged.
- The steward will have to give an account for his stewardship to the master, and will be judged accordingly, based on his faithfulness or lack thereof.

CONNECTING DISPENSATIONAL THOUGHT
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οἰκονόμος

6

- The setting for the illustration involves a transition in administrations.
- Specifically, this transition anticipates the coming of the Lord.

“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect”.

(Luke 12:40)

CONNECTING DISPENSATIONAL THOUGHT FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT TO DARBY



There was a certain rich man who had a steward [οἰκονόμος], and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. So he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship [οἰκονομία], for you can no longer be steward [οἰκονομέω].’

-Jesus (Luke 16:1,2)

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He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much. Therefore, if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to you the truest riches.”

-Jesus (Luke 16:10-11)

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Lord, do You speak this parable only to us, or
to all people?”

-Peter (Luke 12:41)

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Who then is that faithful and wise steward [οἰκονόμος], whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has”

-Jesus (Luke 12:42-44)

CONNECTING DISPENSATIONAL THOUGHT
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“

Well done, good servant because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.”

-Jesus (Luke 19:17)

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And thou shalt be removed from thy stewardship [τῆς οἰκονομίας], and from thy place. And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Chelcias: and I will put on him thy robe, and I will grant him thy crown with power, and I will give thy stewardship [τὴν οἰκονομίαν] into his hands.”

-Yahweh (Isaiah 22:19-21)

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“ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—if indeed you have heard of the dispensation [*τὴν οἰκονομίαν*] of the grace of God which was given to me for you... which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets.”

-Paul (Ephesians 3:1-5)

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To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship [*ἡ οἰκονομία*] of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ.”

-Paul (Ephesians 3:8-11)

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For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship [οἰκονομίαν]”

-Paul (1 Corinthians 9:16-17)

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“ I became a minister, according to the stewardship [τὴν οἰκονομίαν] from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles.”

-Paul (1 Corinthians 9:16-17)

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“ Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God.”

-Paul (Romans 16:25-26)

CONNECTING DISPENSATIONAL THOUGHT
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**The day [is coming] when God will judge
the secrets of men by Jesus Christ,
according to my gospel.”**

-Paul (Romans 2:16)

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“Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.”

-Paul (1 Corinthians 3:5-8)

CONNECTING DISPENSATIONAL THOUGHT
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For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it."

-Paul (1 Corinthians 3:9-10)

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“ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.”

-Paul (1 Corinthians 3:11-13)

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