

WRONGLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH
SESSION 1 – UNDERSTANDING ULTRADISPENSATIONALISM

FORMS OF DISPENSATIONALISM				
Position	Acts 2 (Classic)	Mid Acts	Ultra	Progressive
The Nation of Israel	The church grafted into Israel's spiritual promises. The physical promises reserved for the nation in a future fulfillment.	Israel's spiritual and physical promises given to Israel alone. Promises to the church may be similar but are not the same promise		The church grafted into Israel's spiritual promises. The physical promises reserved for the nation in a future fulfillment.
The Kingdom of God	Future, physical, and includes both Israel and the Church	Future, physical, and Israel only (with a distinct and separate role for the church).		Already / not yet
The beginning of the "Church Age."	On the day of Pentecost (with some exceptions/inconsistencies at an earlier point in Jesus' ministry).	With the revelation of the mystery to Paul in the middle of the book of Acts	With the revelation of the mystery after the close of Acts 28	On the day of Pentecost (with some exceptions/inconsistencies at an earlier point in Jesus' ministry).
Baptism	An act of obedience for Christians, strongly suggested	An required act for the repentant nation of Israel, not practiced in the church.		An act of obedience for Christians, strongly suggested
The Lord's Supper	A symbolic act showing the incarnation and death of Jesus as well as the establishment of the New Covenant	Usually practiced as a symbolic act showing the incarnation and death of Jesus. Sometimes not practiced.	Not practiced, viewed as a memorial supper for the Jewish nation.	A symbolic act showing the incarnation and death of Jesus as well as the establishment of the New Covenant
The saving gospel	By faith alone, with works as an act of obedience.	By faith alone, with works as a response to grace		By faith alone, with works as a display of faith
The Law	No longer in effect after Acts 2	No longer in effect after Paul's ministry began	No longer in effect after the book of Acts closes	Believers are obligated to the moral law, but not the ceremonial or civil law.

Charismatic Gifts	Mostly cessationist	Totally cessationist	Often continuationist
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OUR PERSPECTIVE

- Two giants of dispensationalism and fundamentalism had a giant argument.
- I don't know either one of them, I don't owe anything to either one of them, I'm not trying to get a job from either one of them!
- We can learn from two giants, analyzing their thinking, evaluating their conclusions, and gaining from their insights.

OUR PRIMARY GUIDE

- Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth by Harry Ironside. -3rd edition, 1938.
- Available in free PDF form online at Randy White Ministries webpage.

IRONSIDE'S DISPENSATIONAL PREMISE

- Ironside's definition of a dispensation:
 - **"A dispensation then is a period of time in which God is dealing with men in some way in which He has not dealt with them before. Only when a new revelation from God is given, does a dispensation change."**
- However, concerning the dispensation of the Law:
 - **"The dispensation itself continued from Sinai until Jesus cried, "It is finished.""**
- How do these reconcile? What is the "new revelation"?
 - Did the "church age" begin at the cross?
 - If so, this is *not* classic (Acts 2) dispensationalism.
 - If not, was the dispensation of the Law in effect in the 50 days until Pentecost? Were the 120 observing Pentecost according to the Law?
- Ironside's position on the mystery:
 - "I sought to show that the mystery of the one Body is **never found in any other New Testament writer save Paul**, the apostle to the Gentiles, and **nowhere in the Old Testament**. This I here re-affirm. Paul was **distinctively** the one to whom this **sacred secret** was revealed." [emphasis mine]
- Ironside's basic premise on the mystery:
 - "I affirm still that Paul alone speaks of the **mystery of the Body**, but the **mystery of the blessing of Jew and Gentile on the common ground of free grace** was revealed to others before it was made known to Paul." [emphasis mine]
 - This statement is Ironside's flawed assumption.
 - The problem: that mystery of the *blessing of the Jew and Gentile* WAS revealed to others before Paul (and thus was not a mystery), but the blessing was ALWAYS coming after the Kingdom was established and NEVER without Jewish mediation.

SIX POSITIONS OF ULTRADISPENSATIONALISM (ACCORDING TO IRONSIDE)

1. "It is insisted that the four Gospels are entirely Jewish and have no real message for the Church, the Body of Christ."
2. "All might not put it quite as boldly as this, but certainly their disciples go to the limit in **repudiating the authority** of the Gospels." (emphasis mine)
3. "It is maintained that the book of Acts covers a transition period between the dispensation of the law and the dispensation of the mystery"
4. "It is contended that Paul did not receive his special revelation of the mystery of the Body until his imprisonment in Rome"
5. "The entire book of Revelation has to do with the coming age and has no reference to the Church today."
6. "The Body of Christ is altogether a different company, according to these teachers, from the Bride of the Lamb, the latter being supposed to be Jewish."
7. "The Christian ordinances, having been given before Paul is supposed to have received his revelation of the mystery in prison, have no real connection with the present economy."

WHAT IF SOMEONE IS AN ULTRADISPENSATIONALIST?

- They will not baptize.
 - Every evangelical and fundamentalist teaches that Baptism is symbolic and adds nothing to being complete in Christ.
- They will never be charismatic.
 - Charismatic practice has been wholly condemned by fundamentalism and largely avoided by evangelicalism (though the theological reasoning is lacking in these groups, unlike in the ultra groups).
- They might not serve the Lord's Supper.
 - Many fundamentalist and evangelical groups only serve this memorial supper a few times a year.
- They will reject the social justice movement that has infected evangelicalism.
 - The SJM is fully built on a bad Kingdom theology which is not held by the ultra groups.