

LESSON - 4

DISPENSATION OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT

References : Gensis. 8 : 15 -11 :19

Memory Verse : Psalms. 127 :1

Objective : To understand that human efforts apart from God are doomed to failure.

Introduction : The reason of all frictions in the world today is man's desire to rule others. Man was originally endowed with power to rule but lost it by reason of his fall. This explains why the tendency still prevails. It is a common fact that we love those who are yielding and hate those who are otherwise. This dispensation (post deluvian) was a period during which man vainly thought that he could make the earth plentiful and prosperous by his own government and worked there to. So it is called "The Dispensation of Human Government". It is not true of the present human societies? But the history of the past period proves that man's attempts apart from God are liable to failure. This dispensation spans from the Flood to the call of Abraham, about 427 years.

WELL BEGUN :

How many had survived the great flood? Who were they? Noah, his wife, three sons and their wives stepped on the new earth. What did they do then? Noah built an altar to the Lord and offered sacrifices on it. The Lord was pleased (Gen. 8:20, 21) in him and entered into a covenant (agreement) with man. The covenant consisted of the blessings, promises, and commandments that God gave man.

They are summed up in the following conditions (Gen.8:20-9:7)

1. That God would never again destroy the earth by flood because of man.
2. That all living creatures would never again be destroyed.
3. God blessed man to be fruitful to increase in number and to fill the earth.
4. Dominion of man over all living creatures was established.
5. Man was permitted to eat flesh.
6. Flesh must be eaten without blood in it.
7. Warned man against shedding the human blood.

As a token of this covenant, God showed the **Rainbow** in the sky. Thus, the new dispensation of Human Government began with government entrusted to man and great promises and blessings given to him. It was well begun every way.

HUMAN FAILURE :

1. Noah planted a vineyard which yielded abundant grapes. It happened that he was overdrunk with wine which led to the curse of his son. Notice how the wrongs of the parents adversely affect the generation!
2. Noah's descendants disbelieved God. They thought that God might break the covenant that he would never destroy the earth by flood. This led them to the decision of building a **heaven-reaching tower** to be safe, in the event of another flood.
3. God gave the blessing and commandment to increase in number and spread across the earth (Gen. 9:1). But rather, they decided to build a big city in the plains of Shinar so that they might not be scattered over the face of the earth (Gen. 11 :4). That is the beginning

of Babel (Babylon). Thus they rebelled against God's covenant.

4. Their pride and self-boasting knew no bounds. Their aim was to make a name for them or earn a big reputation instead of glorifying the name of God. That is how the city of Babylon was built.
5. Nimrod, the grandson of Ham was a Hero of the ancient time, who gave leadership to the people. It was Nimrod who induced the people to reject the true living God and worship idols and other creations. Thus, it marked the beginning of what we call Babylonian worship.

PUNISHMENT :

Although man knew about God's judgement through the flood and the covenant made to Noah, they rebelled against God. Men also prepared plans and projects to make life secure and prosperous apart from God. But they failed in their attempt. God confused their language so that their communication was crippled. They began to use many languages. This confusion of language scattered the people all over the earth. The name 'Babel' means 'confusion'. This is how all the diverse languages spoken in the world originated.

All efforts, projects, vogues and cultures despising God are doomed to utter failure and destruction. Let's desire and pray for God's presence and help in all our affairs.

EXERCISE - 4

Answer the following questions

1. What was the covenant made between God & men?
2. What was the token sign for this covenant?
3. Why did Noah's descendants decide to build a great tower?
4. How was the city of Babylon built?
5. Who gave leadership to begin Idol -worship?
6. How did God punish the people of this dispensation?
7. What is the meaning of the word 'Babel'?

