Gospel Dispensations

FIRST DISPENSATION

(Moses 5:6–12; 6:64–68)

Beginning of mortality. Adam taught children.

Adam (b. 4000 B.C.)[1]
Seth
Enos
Cainan
Mahalaleel
Jared

6 generations

SECOND DISPENSATION

(Moses 6:25–39; 7:68–69; 8:1; D&C 107:49)

Enoch apparently called by the Lord at age 65. Dispensation probably commenced in 3313 B.C., 687 years after the first dispensation began. (See D&C 107:47–49.)

Enoch
Methuselah
Lamech

3 generations

THIRD DISPENSATION

(Genesis 6:8–9, 13; 7:6; Moses 8:19)

Noah walked with God. Noah entered ark at age 600. Flood commenced at approx. 2344 B.C.; beginning of third dispensation with 8 people, 969 years after the second dispensation began.

Noah (b. 2944 B.C.)
Shem
Arphaxad
Salah
Eber
Peleg
Reu
Serug
Nahor
Terah

10 generations

JAREDITE DISPENSATION

Approx. 2243 B.C.
Tower of Babel.
Confusion of tongues and scattering.

LOST TRIBES

Carried away 721–717 B.C.
(? dispensations among lost tribes)

FOURTH DISPENSATION

(Abraham 1:16–19; 2:14; Genesis 12:1–4; 17:1)

Abraham called by the Lord at approx. age 75 (Genesis 12:4) or 62 (Abraham 2:14). The fourth dispensation commenced in approx. 1917 B.C., 427 years after the third dispensation began.

Abraham (b. 1992 B.C., if born when Terah was 130 years of age)
Isaac
Jacob (Israel)

6 generations

Reuben | Simeon | Levi | Judah | Zebulun | Issachar | Gad | Asher | Dan | Naphtali | Joseph | Benjamin

Kohath
Amram

14 generations from Abraham to David (Matthew 1:17)

Ephraim | Manasseh

Several generations

Ishmael | Lehi

FIFTH DISPENSATION

Moses
(b. approx. 1567 B.C.)

Age 80 when children of Israel delivered. Fifth dispensation commenced approx. 1487 B.C., 430 years after the fourth dispensation (see Exodus 3:7–12).

David

14 generations

Jechonias (carried to Babylon)

14 generations

Jesus Christ (b. A.D. 1)

SIXTH DISPENSATION

Twelve Apostles

(Dispensation of the meridian of time)

Commenced about A.D. 30, approx. 1517 years after the fifth dispensation began.

LEHI—NEPHITE DISPENSATION

(600 B.C.)

Nephi and Lehi (20 B.C.)

(Helaman 10:3–17; 11:19–23; 3 Nephi 7:15–19; 9:15–22; 11:7–40)

Commencement of 200 years of peace—A.D. 34

SEVENTH DISPENSATION

Joseph Smith (b. A.D. 1805)

(Dispensation of the fulness of times)

(Acts 3:19–21; Ephesians 1:9–10; D&C 27:13)

Joseph Smith, age 24 years and 3 months when The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized in 1830.

Commencement of last dispensation 1800 years after the sixth dispensation began.

[1]Dates are approximate and should not be considered exact. They are based on Calmet's Chronology which more closely approaches the biblical dates mentioned in the *Lectures on Faith*. Ussher's Chronology shows a difference of approximately four years for each ancient period. Thus the Adamic age is listed as 4004 B.C. and the birth of Christ as 4 B.C.

(Adapted from Joseph Fielding Smith, Jr., comp., "Our Gospel Dispensations," *Instructor*, Nov. 1959, inside back cover.)

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