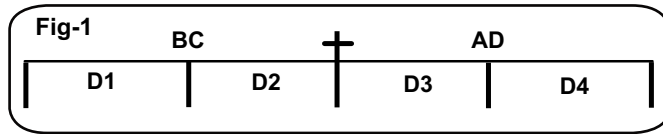


## ML109 The Dispensation Tool

God has provided special tools to help us interpret the scriptures. The Dispensation Tool will become one of the most popular ones in your tool box. This lesson teaches what this tool is and how it works.

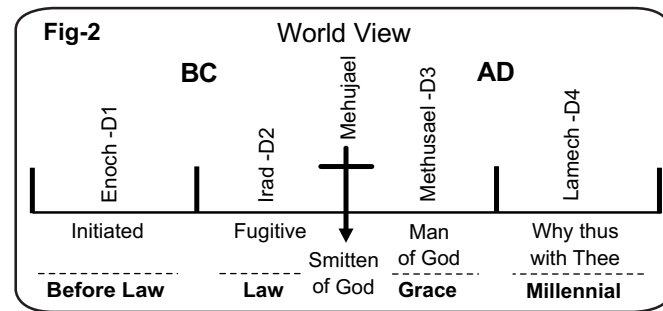
The Dispensation Tool is a simple chart that compares doctrines, times, events, and chains of events with other doctrines, times, events, and chains of events. The tool is so versatile that you could use the pronoun “things” and say that “the tool compares things with like things.”



This chart shows the four dispensations of humanity. To show how it works I have put the generations of Cain into the tool [see Fig-2]. Please read the text carefully and observe how four of Cain’s five generations align with Dispensations D1-D4. [See Fig-2]

*And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: ... And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begat Methusael: and Methusael begat Lamech [Ge. 4:17-18].*

The definitions of the names of Cain’s 5 sons are directly beneath the base line in Fig-2. The titles under the dotted lines show the times of the four dispensations. These titles are applicable to the way we know and understand the dispensations.



Now let’s insert the “Garden of Eden” into the Tool. You will need your Bible; the text is too long to include here [Ge. 2:8-15].

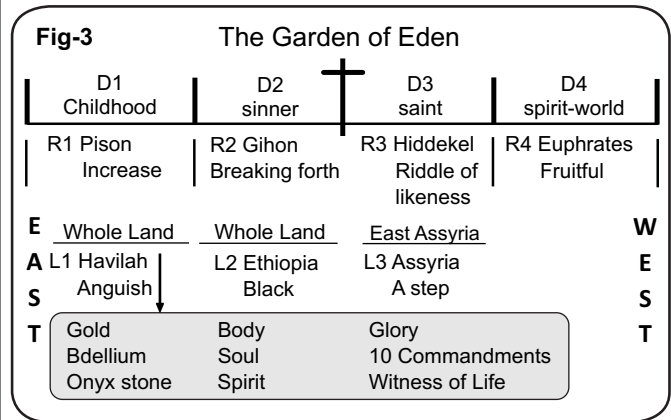
Please read this text before continuing. Notice that the story of Adam follows immediately after the formation of man in Ge. 2:7.

FL201, “What is the Soul” lays a foundation that will make this story much easier to follow. You can add even more to this foundation by reading FL106, “From Faith to Faith.” Both are posted on this website.

Notice these points as you read this Genesis text:

- 2:8: God plants and puts the man in the Garden.
- 2:9: God makes certain trees to grow in the Garden.
- 2:10: A river goes out of Eden to water the Garden.
- 2:10: This river divides into four heads.
- 2:11-12: The 1st of the 4 river-heads.
- 2:13: The 2nd of the 4 river-heads.
- 2:14 The 3rd and 4th river-heads.
- 2:15 The man must dress and keep the Garden

Most details that describe these points appear in Fig-3. The Tool shows the river-heads as Dispensations D1-D4. It shows the names of the rivers as R1-R4 and the names of the lands as L1-L3. River-4 has no land.



The definitions of the rivers and lands are from “A Dictionary of Scripture Proper Names” [J. B. Jackson] and from Strong’s Concordance. Figure-3 contains all the names and definitions, but this lesson covers only D1 and D2. In Fig-3, the “Key Words” directly under D1-D4 correlate with the bold titles in Fig-2. One last point: the information in the gray area concerns D1 only.

Now turn to Ge. 2:8: East represents beginnings; west represents endings. Thus, D1-D4 span the whole time of humanity on this earth. The dispensations have their own ending [D4] and all people within each dispensation have their own personal endings. Thus, East and West applies to a multitude of events, peoples and times.

Trees are the only plants in the garden [Ge. 2:9]. Trees represent both people and the lives of people. Thus, Adam was the first tree in the Garden; and the trees in Ge. 2:9 represent unique aspects of man’s life and body.

One of these trees is the knowledge of good and evil. The “knowledge of good” gives life to the human spirit; the “knowledge of evil” brings death to the human spirit. Therefore, this tree condemns those who eat of its fruit. In D1, Adam has not sinned, but he journeys from D1 to D2 when he falls into sin.

## ML109 The Dispensation Tool

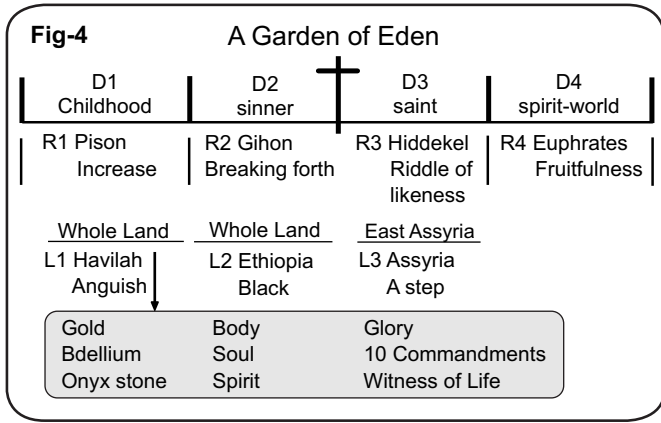
Water represents spirit [Joh. 7:38-39]. A river runs out of Eden to water the garden [Ge. 2:10]. The only way for it to leave Eden and yet water the Garden is for this river to represent Adam’s human spirit. And for this to be so, the Garden has to represent Adam’s descendants.

Also in Ge. 2:10, the river that flows from Eden divides into 4 heads. Heads represent authorities. These four heads show the authority of the human spirit during each of the four dispensations.

Another point about symbols. Every symbol is either a root or a branch. Water is a ROOT. It always represents spirit because it conforms to the inside of its vessel. This is true of all vessels — physical and spiritual.

[Please read “Symbol Families, ML110.] Now let’s see how these four river-heads apply to the four dispensations of humanity.

*The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone [Ge. 2:11-12].*



River-head-1 [R1] is Pison [Ge. 2:11]. Pison means “Increase.” Strong defines Pison as “dispersive” [H6376]. He takes this from H6335 which means “to spread, to grow up, etc.” In Fig-4, notice that the word “Childhood” helps to identify the souls in D1. Also, recall from Fig-2 that Childhood is “Before Law.”

This doesn’t imply that children are without law, only that their minds don’t yet know the law that’s embedded within their souls. As they grow and fall into sin, their minds learn the law that’s innate within their hearts.

Looking back briefly at Fig-2, the four authorities align with: D1 “the time Before Law,” [D2] “the time of Law” [D3] “the time of Grace,” and [D4], “the time of the spirit world.” [I named D4 “spirit-world” because it has no land. Also, notice that Euphrates means “Fruitfulness.”]

Continuing with D1 in Fig-4, the river Pison *compasseth* [H5437] the whole land of Havilah. The Hebrew word for *compasseth* means to revolve, surround, or border. For this definition to agree with common sense, Havilah would need to be an island in the middle of the river Pison. Rivers go through lands; they do not surround lands. Thus, “*compasseth the whole land*” means that the human spirits within all children are alike.

Next, Havilah means circular [H2341] and is derived from H2342 which means to twist or whirl. David used this word for H2342 when speaking of having been “*shapen in iniquity*” [Ps 51:5]. Thus, the name Havilah represents the “sin nature” within little children.

Now let’s discuss the gold, bdellium and onyx stone. These are innate within every child because D1 applies to all of them. Gold represents glory. Not only this, but this gold is of the land of Havilah and not of the river Pison. Because water represents spirit — land represents flesh.

So, this glory concerns the bodies of little children. At this time read 1Co. 11:1-16. Paul teaches that the man [male] is the image and glory of God, and that the woman [female] is the glory of the man. And because little boys and little girls become men and women, Paul’s lesson applies this gold to their glories. Thus, this gold represents the child’s innate knowledge of the glory of his or her sexuality.

Next, the text doesn’t connect bdellium and onyx stone to the river or to the land. The “Hebrew, English Interlinear Bible” reads, “*there bdellium gum resin; stone of the onyx.*”

The word “*bdellium*” [H916] means “pieces.” FL106 teaches how God embeds His Covenant within the soul of every child. [Read “A Measure of Faith” in “From Faith to Faith.”] Thus, these “pieces” [*bdellium*] represent the 10 Commandments within the heart.

As to the onyx stone, stones represent witnesses [Jos. 24:27]. Moses engraved the names of the 12 tribes of Israel on two onyx stones, which the High Priest wore on his shoulders [Ex 28:11]. The onyx stone in D1 is a witness that the human spirit/soul of every child has eternal life. [Notice that this contradicts the doctrine of “Original Sin.”]

Now, take another look at Fig-4. When God formed man of the dust in Ge. 2:7, He did everything you see in D1. [If you haven’t done so already, read “What is the Soul,” FL201 on this website.

[Note: Figures 5-11 on Page-3 show several more applications for the Dispensation Tool. This chart should become one of the more popular tools in your tool box.]

**The Second Dispensation**

*And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same [is] it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia [Ge 2:13].*

Every human is born with eternal life innate within the soul of the spirit. Thus, children that die before they fall into sin are saved. They do not need to be baptized.

But as Pison “compasses the whole land of Havilah;” Gihon “compasses the whole land of Ethiopia.” Therefore, all normal-minded children fall into sin. This happens during puberty. They break the covenant that’s in the soul and the knowledge of the commandments enters the mind. The spirit dies, and the individual departs Havilah [D1] and enters Ethiopia [D2]. The authority of River-1 is life; the authority of River-2 is death. [See Fig-4.]

The name of River-2 is Gihon, which means “breaking forth” [H1521 from H1518]. The land R2 is Ethiopia, which means “black.” Certain scriptures equate Ethiopia with Egypt; Egypt represents the land of sin. “Children of day” are of God; “children of night” are of this world. Thus, when sin “breaks forth” in the adolescent, the youngster journeys from R1 and L1 to R2 and L2 — from the land of day to the land of night, from innocence to condemnation.

Moreover, the lesson of Gihon is similar to that of Pison: *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”* [Ro. 5:12]. Those who die in innocence are saved; those who die in condemnation are lost.

There is an exception to that lesson of Gihon. People who don’t have the mental capacity to know good and evil don’t become sinners: *“... If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth”* [Joh. 9:41].

**Other Applications of the Dispensation Tool**

It is easy to understand the rivers and lands of D1 and D2 without the Dispensation Tool. However, charts are like maps. They provide visual references that help recall. They also help to simplify doctrines.

We began this lesson by showing how the Dispensation Tool associates four of Cain’s five generations with D1-D4. [See Fig-2.] But the amount of details needed to explain D3 and D4 demands a lesson of their own.

