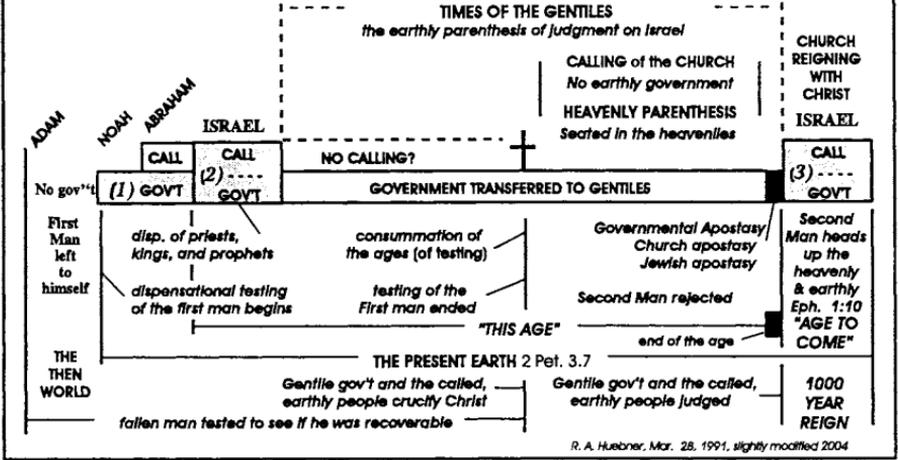


The Three Administrations

God's purpose to glorify Himself in Christ, in two spheres
(A representation of some dispensational truth expounded by J. N. Darby)



The Key to the OT

The key to understanding the OT is that it is the history of the (fallen) first man to show that he was not recoverable, with a view to setting him aside and introducing the second Man and last Adam, through Whom God's purpose to glorify Himself is carried out. The crowning act of the first man's implacable hostility to, and enmity against, God was the rejection of the revelation of the Father in the Son (John 15:23, 24), nailing the Son to the cross. This terminated the testing of the (fallen) first man to show he was not recoverable. Of course, during that time God acted in sovereign grace in the case of individuals, making saints of them. Moreover during that time God also brought in certain things (for example such things as government, priesthood, judges, kingship, etc.) wherein man failed, but Christ will take up all wherein man has failed and make those things good, redounding to God's glory. It is not so, as Covenantists claim, that "Dispensationalism" holds to two purposes of God -- because of holding that there is a heavenly people and an earthly people. The unity of the Scriptures is seen in God's one purpose, to glorify Himself in the heavenly and earthly sphere (Eph. 1:9, 10) -- Christ in resurrection, as the second Man and last Adam, having displaced the first man, the first (fallen) Adam. That there is a heavenly people and an earthly people involved in this display of God's glory in Christ is not a valid basis to say that this means God has two separate purposes and that this amounts to undermining the unity of Scripture. Such a conclusion is merely in the eye of the Covenantist beholder. It is his erroneous system which makes it appear that way to him.

Redemption is the way God changes sinners into saints who participate in the display of His glory in Christ, in the two spheres. But redemption is not what unifies Scripture.