

**Unfolding Covenants**  
**Session 9**  
*Dispensationalism*

**A. History & Key Figures / Works**

J. N. Darby (1830s)  
C. I. Scofield (late 1800s to early 1900s)  
Charles Ryrie (1900s)

*The Late Great Planet Earth* by Hal Lindsey  
*Left Behind* series by Tim LaHaye

**B. Key Features**

1) God operates via dispensations

There have been changes, amendments, emendations, nuances over the last almost 200 years of dispensationalism, but the essence remains the same

2) Literal hermeneutic (see Acts 9)

- a. God made an unconditional covenant with Israel that must be fulfilled literally
- b. Prophecies of Israel must be fulfilled literally
- c. There is a distinctive future for ethnic and national Israel
- d. Always premillennial (end times view)

3) Essential to distinguish between Israel and the Church

- a. “seed of Abraham” understood in multiple senses (Gal 3:7)
- b. There are both physical and spiritual fulfillments to God’s covenants

### C. The Dispensations

<b>Darby</b>	<b>Scofield (per O.P.R.)</b>
From paradise to the flood	Dispensation of Innocency
Era of Noah	Dispensation of Conscience
Era of Abraham	Disp. Of Human Government
Era of Moses & Israel	Dispensation of Promise
Era of the Gentiles	Dispensation of Law
Era of Spirit	Dispensation of the Church
The Millennium	Dispensation of the Fullness of Times / Kingdom / Millennium

### D. What does the Bible say?

Amos 9

Philippians 3:3 // Romans 2:29

Romans 4, 11

Galatians 3:7