

Grace Bible Church
Robert R. McLaughlin Bible Ministries

The Tree of Life is a weekly teaching summary.
The Tree of Life from the week ending 08/03/08
The dispensation of the most dramatic exhibition of divine love.
The Hypostatic Union.

We have begun a study on the dispensation of the most dramatic exhibition of divine love: the dispensation of the Hypostatic-union. This is the period of time when God became a member of the human race and lived upon on this earth. This falls under the Christocentric dispensations, where the Lord Jesus Christ is the center or the member of the Trinity who is to be glorified. There are two Christocentric dispensations: the first is the dispensation of the Hypostatic-union which refers to the period of time when Jesus Christ, who is God, lived on this earth around 4-5, B.C. to His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, around 30 A.D. The second is the Church-age, which began around 30 A.D. and will end at the Rapture of the Church. The dispensation of the Hypostatic-union was the period of time when God revealed the ultimate manifestation of His love, character and nature to all of His creation. It was a period of time in human history when, for the first time, a member of the human race fulfilled the Law. **"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill" (Mat 5:17).** It was the first time a member of the human race functioned under the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the plan of God (Heb 9:14). It was also a period of time when a member of the human race became the prototype to all believers on how to live the spiritual life **(Eph 5:1-2).**

The dispensation of the Hypostatic-union is the center point of all the dispensations, and therefore all of human history. This was the period time in human history when God chose to reveal the ultimate manifestation of His love for us, the Cross. The Lord Jesus Christ would fulfill the Old, the Mosaic Law, and introduce the new, the spiritual life for the Church-age. That is why He is called the "chief cornerstone."

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner {stone}, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.
(Eph 2:19-22)

In the dispensation of the Hypostatic-union, Jesus Christ became the foundation for two spiritual buildings: Israel and the Church. While both have the same person as their foundation, they are entirely different buildings. The Church is under construction today waiting to be completed; while Israel will not be constructed, and completed until the Millennium. At the beginning of the dispensation of the Hypostatic-union, and the greatest demonstration of divine power in man, beginning with the virgin birth, Jesus Christ became the foundation for the future spiritual building called Israel. At the

termination of the dispensation of the Hypostatic union (which was resurrection, ascension, and session of Jesus Christ), Jesus Christ was seated at the right hand of the Father, at which point He received His third royal title, King of kings and Lord of lords, making Him the foundation for the building now under construction, the Church.

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of God's grace which was given to me for you; that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. (Eph 3:1-3)

The apostle Paul becomes our living example of the grace of God given to mankind the power, and the ability to love, worship, serve and honor God even though we possess an old sin nature (OSN). The dispensation of the Hypostatic-union, and the dispensation of the Church-age are at the hub of human history. The term "Hypostatic-union" is a theological term for the incarnate person of Christ, the union of deity and humanity, or God and man. At the virgin birth, God the Son took upon Himself true humanity, and became a new person, the God-Man, the unique person of the universe (Joh 1:1-14; Rom 1:2-4; Phi 2:5-11; 1Ti 3:16).

Paul, a bond servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ [the Messiah, God] according to the flesh [He was revealed in the flesh, the human body], who is over all [He is over all, complete sovereignty], God [the Lord Jesus Christ is called God in this passage] blessed forever. Amen. (Rom 9:1-5)

The Hypostatic-union is the fact that in the person of Jesus Christ there are two natures, undiminished deity and true humanity in one person forever. There is no mixture of the two natures, He is not half-God and half-man. Therefore He is called the God-man. For example, sometimes our Lord would say things from His deity only: **The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets {also}; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word, he shall never taste of death.' Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out {to be}?"** Jesus answered, **"If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God'; and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I shall be a liar like you, but I do know Him, and keep His word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw {it} and was glad."** The Jews therefore said to Him, **"You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"** Jesus said to them, **"Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am [or before Abraham came into being, I existed eternally, because I am the great I am]" (Joh 8:52-58).**

Sometimes the Lord Jesus Christ would speak from His humanity, and not His Deity: **After this, Jesus [notice He's called Jesus, emphasis on His humanity], knowing that all things had already been accomplished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I am thirsty" (Joh 19:28).** Deity does not get thirsty, only humanity does.

"You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced, because I go to the Father; for the Father is greater than I" (Joh 14:28). Here is speaking from His humanity!

"For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. [That's from His deity] "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son," in order that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him (Joh 5:21-23). He's now speaking as God, from His deity.

Sometimes He made statements from both natures, or from His hypostatic-union. **"What then if you should behold the Son of Man [humanity] ascending where He [deity] was before? (Joh 6:62).** It's vital that you understand the dispensation of the Hypostatic-union, because there are cults out there that will point to scriptures where the Father is said to be greater than the Son, and they deny the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord said, **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me" (Joh 14:6).**

"Let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead by this {name} this man [the sick man that Peter healed] stands here before you in good health. He [Jesus Christ] is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders [a reference to verse 5, the Jewish rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem], {but} which became the very corner {stone.} [a reference to our subject, dispensationalism]. "There is salvation in NO ONE ELSE; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved. Our Lord is the only way, the truth, and the life and; no one comes to the Father, but through HIM" (Act 4:10-12).

Why the dispensation of the Hypostatic-union, when Christ, who is God, had to become a man?

1. Jesus Christ had to become perfect humanity to be our Savior, to be our high priest, to be the mediator between God and man, and to fulfill the promise of the Davidic covenant which said that David would have a son who would rule forever.
2. Jesus Christ had to become true humanity to be the Savior of the world because as God, Jesus Christ could not have anything to do with sin except judge and reject sin. Only humanity could bear our sins.
3. Undiminished deity took upon Himself true humanity in order to be the Savior, **Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same [the same nature - flesh and blood], that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives (Heb 2:14-15).** This was the fulfillment of the promise of the Abrahamic covenant.
4. Jesus Christ had to become true and perfect humanity in order to receive the imputation and judgment of our sins on the Cross (1Pe 2:24).
5. Jesus Christ had to become true humanity to be the mediator between God and man (Job 9:2; Job 9:32-33; 1Ti 2:5-6). He had to be equal with both God and mankind to be a mediator between both parties. Therefore, Jesus Christ had to be both undiminished deity and true humanity in one person forever.
6. Jesus Christ had to become true humanity to be a priest. A priest must be a man in order to represent man before God. Jesus Christ became true humanity to be our high priest after the order, or pattern, of Melchizedek (Heb 7:4-5, 7:14; 7:28; Heb 10:5; 10:10-14). What does that mean? In Psa 110, Christ is the One being addressed; the Father is speaking to the Son. **(A Psalm of David.) The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand, Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet. The Lord will stretch forth Thy strong scepter from Zion, {saying}, "Rule in the midst of Thine enemies." Thy people will volunteer freely in the day of Thy power; In holy array, from the womb of the dawn, Thy youth are to Thee {as} the dew. The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, "Thou art a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek" (Psa 110:1-3).** Melchizedek

was a true historical person rather than a theophany as some teach. Melchizedek was a king, he was a priest under the family priesthood system, therefore, a perfect illustration and a perfect pattern of the unique priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ - for the Lord Jesus Christ is a king as well as a priest.

7. Jesus Christ had to also become true humanity to be a king and rule forever. He had to be the son of David to fulfill the Davidic covenant to Israel (2Sa 7:8 16; Psa 89:20 37).

The dispensation of the Hypostatic-union was therefore the most unique expression of the fantastic power of God ever known to man. It began with the virgin birth. Long before 70 AD when Jerusalem was destroyed, Israel stopped functioning as a client nation to God. Around 4 B.C., we have the virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ which was the beginning of the first Christocentric dispensation, the Hypostatic-union, or what we call the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. During the time of the dispensation of the Hypostatic Union, Judea was under Rome and was not a client nation. The only reason Judea was still there was so that the Jews in their homeland could have the freedom to make a decision regarding the Lord Jesus Christ as their Messiah. This is why they were preserved, and they were given one more chance. Starting with the dispensation of the Church-age, in 30 A.D., God then another 40 years before Jerusalem was destroyed. During that time God used the gift of tongues to evangelize the Jews. For, as the apostle Paul said, **For indeed Jews ask for signs. (1Co 1:22)**. Therefore, in 1Co 14:22 **So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers**; So, if the Jews wanted another sign, here it is, the gift of tongues.

When the day of Pentecost had come, there were Jews living in Jerusalem, from every nation around the world. **And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were bewildered, because they were each one hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and marveled, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? "And how is it that we each hear {them} in our own language to which we were born? "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs we hear them in our {own} tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God" (Act 2:6-10)**. This was a sign fulfilling a Jewish prophecy, the sign of tongues was given to the Jews from 30 A.D., to 70 A.D., just as Isaiah had prophesied in Isa 28:11-13).

In the dispensation of the Hypostatic union we have the fulfillment of the first prophecy given to mankind **"And I will put enmity Between you [Satan] and the woman, And between your seed [the devil is the father of the unbelievers, Joh 8:44] and her seed [the Lord Jesus Christ]; He shall bruise you on the head [take away the poison and power of the serpent], And you shall bruise him on the heel [a reference to the unfair and unjust treatment of our Lord prior to the Cross]" (Gen 3:15)**. The dispensation of the Hypostatic-union began with the virgin birth (the incarnation) which refers to the only impeccable birth in human history, the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. The virgin birth means that no male was involved in the procreation of our Lord. The scriptures are crystal clear on this (Isa 7:14; Luk 1:35).

The Lord Jesus Christ came into the world without the imputation of Adam's original sin, and therefore without an OSN. The virgin birth was necessary if the Lord Jesus Christ was to be offered on the Cross as a perfect sacrifice to God the Father for us. The necessity of the virgin birth is based on the fact that the OSN is passed down to each member of the human race through the male species. This is because the woman was deceived in the Garden, the man was not (1Ti 2:14). Mary had an OSN just like everyone else, in fact, she admitted that she was a sinner, and in need of a Savior (Luk 1:46-47). Mary also offered a sacrifice for sin according to the prescriptions of Leviticus chapter 12, as recorded in Luk 2:21-24. That she was a virgin at the conception of Christ is evidenced by the Biblical record of

Luk 1:34. The virgin birth therefore becomes very important for all of us to understand as it relates to the dispensation of the Hypostatic-union. The virgin birth was the only way to become a member of the human race apart from spiritual death and the imputation of Adam's original sin to the genetically formed OSN. No virgin birth means no salvation. The Lord Jesus Christ had to enter the human race without an OSN, and live a perfect life to qualify as our Savior on the Cross. Not only did He have to be born minus spiritual death, but He also had get to the Cross minus spiritual death. That means for 33 years He had to live a life free from personal sin (Heb 4:15).

The first Adam was tempted and he fell, the last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, did not. In His deity, He was **not able** to sin, but in His humanity, he was **able not** to sin. No one was ever tempted like the Lord Jesus Christ. He had years of intense pressure because Satan tried to head off from the Cross, when the Lord arrived at the Cross He was impeccable. When He was hanging on the Cross He was hanging there as the only member of the human race who was totally innocent and sinless. The virgin birth, therefore, allowed the Lord Jesus Christ to accomplish two victories in the Angelic conflict. The first victory - the First Advent which consummated with the cross, the death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and session of the Lord Jesus Christ. The second victory will be at the Second Advent, where the Lord Jesus Christ takes over the ruler-ship of the world and "makes His enemies His footstool."

So, beginning with the virgin birth, our Lord offered up Himself to satisfy the justice and righteousness of God. The human body of our Lord Jesus Christ was offered to God the Father by the humanity of Jesus Christ. He was impeccable even during those 3 hours on the Cross. All of the time prior to the Cross and on the Cross, He remained perfect, impeccable and without sin. In fact, in Mat 27:12 **while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He made no answer.** He remained perfect, impeccable and without sin. **The soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole {Roman} cohort around Him. And they stripped Him, and put a scarlet robe on Him (Mat 27:27-28).** He remained perfect, impeccable and without sin. **And after weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they kneeled down before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spat on Him, and took the reed and {began} to beat Him on the head.** [He still remained perfect, impeccable and without sin]. **And after they had mocked Him, they took His robe off and put His garments on Him, and led Him away to crucify {Him} (Mat 27:29-31).** But He still remained perfect, impeccable and without sin.

And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of a Skull, they gave Him wine to drink mingled with gall; and after tasting {it,} He was unwilling to drink. And when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves, casting lots; [He still remained perfect, impeccable and without sin]. and sitting down, they {began} to keep watch over Him there. And they put up above His head the charge against Him which read, "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS." [But, He still remained perfect, impeccable and without sin]. **At that time two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, and saying, "You who {are going to} destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking {Him,} and saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we shall believe in Him. "He trusts in God; let Him deliver {Him} now, if He takes pleasure in Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" And the robbers also who had been crucified with Him were casting the same insult at Him. (Mat 27:34-44).** He still remained perfect, impeccable and without sin. All of the time, prior to

the cross and upon the cross, He remained perfect, righteous and without sin. He never became sin, which is a blasphemous doctrine. He did however become a "sin offering." He was being judged the righteous one for the unrighteous ones,

While God the Father used both His justice and omnipotence, to judge the Lord Jesus Christ, it was the omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit that sustained the humanity and impeccability of Christ. Therefore, for those 3 hours when He was being judged for our sins He was the sinless sin offering. The dispensation of the Hypostatic union was therefore the most unique expression of the fantastic power of God ever known to man.

Every problem and adversity our Lord faced, He faced by operating in the power of the Holy Spirit revealing the tremendous assets we would have as members of the Church-age, His future church.

There were six trials for the Lord Jesus Christ, and with the exception of one short interrogation, these all six trials were unfair and unjust in every way. On trial was the unique Person of the universe undiminished deity and true humanity combined in one Person forever, the Lord Jesus Christ! And, how did He face these problems and pass these different tests, as He glorified God the Father in the midst of the appeal trial of Satan and in the fallen angels, in the historical phase of the angelic conflict called human history?

Every problem and adversity He faced, He faced by operating in the power of the Holy Spirit. We all need to learn how to handle the injustices of life and the unfairness that we will all inevitably all face. That is by learning from our Lord how to operate in the power of the Holy Spirit by giving the matter over into the Lord's hands. "Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle masters, but also to those who are perverse and unreasonable ones; for this is grace, if for the sake of conscience toward God, anyone bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly." (1Pe 2:18-19).

Some people in authority are perverse, but you are just as responsible to submit to their authority. You serve them and do your best job as unto the Lord. And such a believer has a PVTD and desires to fulfill their calling. The weak believer complains and rejects authority, and so becomes a loser. It is very important to have a soul filled with doctrine so that you can handle unjust treatment in the same manner that you handle fair treatment. We must be very careful that we do not allow our conscience to become filled with garbage when we encounter the injustices of life and the unfairness that we observe. If you have a strong conscience, you will leave it in the Lord's hands and those who treated you unfairly will be put to shame without you ever trying to defend yourself or answer back.