

8 Transitional Periods **IN THE BIBLE**

When going from one major situation to another, there is a period before there is a normalization of affairs. Hence, the Bible student needs to take these periods into account when determining the teaching of Scripture on any subject that has also to do with these times of transition. The failure to recognize such has resulted in faulty theological belief systems.

1. From Life Inside the Garden of Eden to Life Outside of It. The roles elaborated upon by God in Genesis 3 are consistent with Genesis 1-2 but point out the effects of the fall upon the ground and in the marital relationship. ***Case in Point:*** *Cain obviously married his sister, which would later be forbidden for obvious sociological and physiological reasons. Remember too that, Adam married his rib!?!*

2. From the Pre-flood to the Post-Flood World. In Genesis 9, God reveals that the physical world had undergone sufficient change so as to bring about seasons, appearances of rainbows, behavioral change in animals toward man, and the eating of meat. We know from later revelation, and the residual effects of the flood, that the earth was relatively unsettled for many years after. ***Case in Point:*** *From ice ages to fossilization to the formation of canyons, the world is confused over the right interpretation of geological history and beyond. Hence evolution gets a fairly free ride across the academic lay of the land.*

3. From After the Tower of Babel to the Call of Abram. The 70 family groups are forced to scatter and become isolated geographically – initially by language barriers but eventually, even more so, by physiological features that developed within restricted gene pools. Ultimately, one family was separated out from all others in order to develop and then preserve a witness of the true God before the nations. ***Case in Point:*** *The world at-large still does not understand the unique position of the Israel and such ignorance has heightened the havoc Satan could create with the Jew.*

4. From Life in the Wilderness Under Moses unto Life in the Promise Land Under Joshua, then the Judges. They went from weathering the wilderness to settling into a prosperous land of their own after a time of warring, settling in, and then setting up some form of governance. ***Case in Point:*** *Without a nationally recognized moral authority (i.e., God) and purpose, they became fragmented and vulnerable.*

5. From a Loosely Confederated Nation to a United Kingdom. After over 300 years of factional tribal life – which had resulted in infighting and the infiltration of pagan ways derived from partially conquered former inhabitants – the first three kings incrementally forged the tribes into a kingdom. ***Case in Point:*** *David, the second king, did not rule a united kingdom until 7.5 years into his reign. He had to finish what Saul started, and after much conflict, handed off to Solomon a truly functional and peaceful monarchy.*

6. From Captivity to a Remnant Returning to the Land to Restore Their Society. Only about 50,000 Jews returned in three phases (under Zerubbabel, Ezra, and then Nehemiah). ***Case in Point:*** *The vast majority of the Jews through the centuries became merely culturally Jew and largely secular.*

7. From the Old Testament to the New Testament Dispensation, as Well as Israel being Temporarily Replaced by Churches as the Instrument of Ministration. God temporarily going to the use of churches while also dismantling the national structure of Israel would have to be gradual in order for as many Jews as possible to make the change in their mind. God would take roughly 70 years to do so (30-100 AD). It should be noted that the differences between the natures of the two Testaments are magnified when applied to a nation than when applied to individual churches and believers. ***Case in Point:*** *To this day, many struggle with separating out the temporary features of that transitional period from that which was to remain throughout the Church Age – from the Jew not letting go of the Old, to the Catholic adopting and reconfiguring Old Testament rites, to the Charismatics not realizing the temporary nature of some of the gifts of the Spirit (tongues, miracle-working, prophesying, apostolic office, etc.).*

8. From the End of the 7-Year Tribulation Period to the Millennial Kingdom. Daniel ends his prophecies with a notation of 1290 and 1335 days. If starting from the middle of the Tribulation Period, this is an additional 30 and then 45 days. This will be a time when Israel will not only be collectively brought into an understanding of the Gospel, but when the sheep and the goat peoples (saved and unsaved Gentiles) will be separated from each other, and when Christ will set up His millennial rule.