

**2 Timothy 2:19a** Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His.”

**1 Corinthians 3:11** No man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (NASB)

3. **The First Floor** initiates a system of spiritual growth that is developed in Scripture. One of the most detailed passages on this system is found in 1 Corinthians 2:6–16. It is from this passage that the visual, “Operation Z,” né “The Grace Apparatus for Perception,” was developed.
4. **The Second Floor** is comprised of the unique characteristics of the Church Age which are developed in the study of dispensationalism.

There are ten unique things in the Church Age that believers in other dispensations do not possess. As a result, there is tremendous emphasis on the individual believer in the Church Age.

1. **The baptism of the Holy Spirit** results in the creation of a new spiritual species and membership in the royal family of God. Understanding this makes the believer aware of the tremendous requirements related to his spiritual life.

A species is a class of individuals having common attributes designated by a common name. All genus *Homo sapiens* is descended from Adam through Noah’s three sons. Only two new species have been subsequently added: the Jew, a new racial species, and among believers, a new spiritual species.

The Jewish race emerged from Abraham and Sarah through the birth of Isaac, the first natural-born, full-blooded Jew. The new spiritual species is unique to Church-Age believers who are regenerated by the baptism of the Holy Spirit at the moment of faith alone in Christ alone.

Jesus Christ was the prototype in His true humanity during the dispensation of the Hypostatic Union. His human perfection established the prototype divine dynasphere in which He functioned throughout His physical life.

Church-Age believers have the option of functioning inside the operational divine dynasphere in which they are able to produce divine good under the filling of the Holy Spirit.



The new racial species of the Jew and the new spiritual species of the Church-Age believer are witnesses for the Prosecution in Lucifer's appeal of a prehistoric trial whose verdict assigned all fallen angels to eternity in the lake of fire.

Each new species, the racial Jew and the spiritual believer, originated from a category of biblical death: **(1)** Jews originated from Abraham's sexual death noted in Romans 4:17–21; Hebrews 11:11–12. **(2)** The Church originated from the baptism of the Holy Spirit, by union with the substitutionary spiritual death of Christ on the cross.

- 2. The modus operandi for the Church-Age believer is protocol** which is the summary statement of their obligations to God and His plan:

**A rigid, long-established code, prescribing complete deference to superior ranks and authority, followed by strict adherence to due order of precedence, coupled with precisely correct procedure.**

From the definition of protocol, a divine system of authority is recognized. It is made available by divine revelation in Scripture. Some of this authority is delegated while some is in writing.

This "writing" must have a system of communication. The divine policies that protect this communication are referred to as "**verbal-plenary inspiration,**" defined thusly:

**God so supernaturally directed the human writers of Scripture, that without waiving their intelligence, their individuality, their personal feelings, their literary style, or any other factor of expression, God's complete and coherent message to mankind was recorded with perfect accuracy in the original languages of Scripture, the very words bearing the authority of divine authorship.**

**Verbal** means that the Bible, in the original languages from first to last, is the exact record of the mind and the will of God as He intended it to be:



God is the author of the Bible. The focus of inspiration is the words of the Bible. All the words and all the verbal relationships are inspired by God. The data of the Bible are God-breathed and Spirit-borne inspiration. God sovereignly prepared the writers for the instrumental task so they willingly and naturally recorded God's revelation in the way He required. The autographs of the biblical books are solely thus inspired. Inerrancy is the quality of such a Bible with exactitude on all matters. Authority flows from such a Bible concerning what a Christian is to believe and how he is to live.<sup>8</sup>

**Plenary** means full, entire, and complete. This asserts that God is the author of the Bible. The focus of inspiration is on the writers of the Bible. The writers have been inspired in all that they have written [ i.e., revelation ], through varied ways. The Bible is described as without error, without mistake, and infallible.<sup>9</sup>

3. **A portfolio of Invisible Assets.** This portfolio consists of three doctrines. The first is the **Sovereignty of God** related to the human race, the **Love of God which is the Integrity of God**, and His **Omniscience**.

**Divine sovereignty** is expressed in the divine decree. This divine mission statement for mankind is organized within the framework of time categorized into six dispensations.

**Principle:** In human history, the sovereignty of God and the free will of man coexist by divine decree. God is absolute; man is qualified.<sup>10</sup>

In eternity past, the sovereignty of God decided to create a counterpart to His sovereignty: a free will in every person to function during human history as a part of resolving the angelic conflict.

Free will is part of the human soul imputed at physical birth and may be characterized as the Law of Freedom.

**(End JAS3-03. See JAS3-04 for continuation of study at p. 31).**

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<sup>8</sup> I. S. Rennie, "Verbal Inspiration," in *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, ed. Walter A. Elwell (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984), 1140.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., "Plenary Inspiration," 860.

<sup>10</sup> "To fit by training, skill, or ability for a special purpose. To declare competent or adequate. To be or become fit: meet required standard. To acquire legal or competent power or capacity" (*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed. [2003], s.v. "qualify").



**The love of God is the Integrity of God** and the Integrity of God is the Love of God. His righteousness is absolute. His justice is the guardian of His righteousness. His omniscience guarantees that all the facts were consulted. The grace of God is the policy for His integrity.

**Omniscience** means that God knows perfectly, eternally, and simultaneously all that is knowable whether actual or possible.

God is infinite and therefore has infinite knowledge. God is truth and His knowledge is totally and perfectly accurate. Therefore, the future is as perspicuous to Him as the past.

This portfolio of invisible assets with regard to the believer is the subject of this comment by Paul in:

**1 Corinthians 2:9** It stands written [ in **Isaiah 64:4** ], “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.”

**4. Regardless of human characteristics, either positive or negative, every believer has equality given to Him by God.**

It is impossible for a man or a group of people to make a person equal. Man can only provide the Law of Liberty which permits volition to function within the framework of the laws and customs in a free society.

True equality originates with the baptism of the Holy Spirit and entry into union with Christ. But spiritual freedom means, that following, salvation divergences among believers begin to develop.

This inclination brings about diversity. Under the Law of Freedom, some believers pursue truth and become winner believers while some through lack of interest or persistence become loser believers.

Nevertheless, because we are entered into Union with Christ at salvation, every believer is in the royal family of God.

**5. All believers have two royal commissions: (1) Royal Priests and (2) Royal ambassadors.**

**The Royal Priesthood** of the believer is mentioned in Scripture but is ancillary to that of Jesus Christ who is our High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:15–17).

Our association with the royal priesthood is mentioned by Peter in:

**1 Peter 2:9a** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation ...

The chief privilege of a priest is access to God. Under law, only the high priest could enter “the holy place” only once a year (Hebrews 9:7); but when Christ died, the veil, a type of Christ’s human body (Hebrews 10:20), was torn, so that now the believer-priests, equally with Christ the High Priest, have access to God in the holy of holies (Hebrews 10:19–22).<sup>1</sup>

**The Royal Ambassador.** A high-ranking minister of state of royalty sent to another state to represent his sovereign or country. By analogy, we are spiritual aristocracy as members of the royal family of God, and Christ is the King who has sent us into a foreign country, i.e., the devil’s world.

The ambassador does not treat any insult to himself as personal. This is the royal ambassador’s function in both spiritual self-esteem and unconditional love for all mankind. We tolerate others and hold no grudges.

When insulted, treated unfairly, or ridiculed, we have tremendous problem-solving devices to deploy and leave the situation in the Lord’s hands.

Royal ambassadorship is specialized and intensified in the gift of pastor-teacher. All communication gifts (evangelists and pastors-teachers) become critical and specialized functions of ambassadorship because they communicate spiritual truth. Paul addresses this in:

**Ephesians 6:19** Pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

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<sup>1</sup> C. I. Scofield, “The New Testament Priesthood, Summary,” in *The Scofield Study Bible* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 1698n2:9(4).

