

The Doctrine of Intercalation¹

Charts, Maps and Short Doctrines

Preface

Definition

The Mystery Doctrine

The Intercalation of the Church Age Occurs between these Passages

Preface: This is a brief examination of the Doctrine of Intercalation. I have alluded to it several times in the past, as have other doctrinal sites. However, in doing a search on the internet to find this doctrine posted somewhere, I came up with nothing, apart from the definition. Therefore, it seemed only reasonable to put at least the basic doctrine online. However, I should point out that I did this quickly, and this is not as complete as it could be.

1. *Intercalation* essentially means *insertion*.
2. The way that this term is used in Scripture is, the Church Age is *inserted into* (or, *intercalated in*) the Age of Israel. That is, the Age of Israel draws almost to a close, and then apart from any specific prophecy in the Old Testament, we have a period of time where God runs His household with a slightly different system or using a slightly different set of rules. This is properly the definition of *dispensation*, which means *the administration of a household*.
 - a. Our basic dispensations are the Age of Innocence, the Age of the Gentiles, the Age of Israel, the Church Age, and the Millennium. Some of these dispensations are further and reasonably subdivided.
 - b. The entire Old Testament was written before and during the Age of Israel. The Old Testament contained a lot of information about what was to come (prophecies) and it included a complete Christology and Soteriology in shadow form (i.e., a shadow representation of Who and What Jesus is and how He would save us).
 - c. God revealed enough information in the Old Testament about our Lord so that, when He arrived on the scene, one could go to the Old Testament prophecies and identify Him. Furthermore, *after* His death on the cross, His purpose for coming here was also made clear.
 - d. However, prior to this time, although God certainly saved individuals who trusted in Jehovah Elohim, the exact nature of Jesus and what He would do were somewhat obscured. Now, in my opinion, and I think I am accurate here, God reveal so much information about Messiah to come that we can look at the gospels and line these up with Psalm 22 or Isa. 53 or Gen. 22 and find a perfect

¹ Some of this material came from R.B. Thieme, Jr., *Dispensations*; ©1974, p. 30. The material for this booklet was originally taught as a part of the 1963 Dispensation Series, Lesson #41 with some excerpts from the 1969 Basic Series, Lesson #67.

match between type and antitype. However, Satan, genius that he is, was not able to discern all that would occur when Jesus came. Specifically, I do not believe that Satan was smart enough to figure out that Jesus would go to the cross and die for our sins. For this reason, Satan played a part in bringing Jesus to the cross. He did it out of hatred; and God made this work out for good.

- e. What was more or less expected is, Jesus would, after the cross, be King over all. However, what He did instead was, go up into heaven, send back the Holy Spirit, and begin a new period of time in human history, known as the Church Age.
 - f. R. B. Thieme Jr. calls this *the great parenthesis*.² Within the Age of Israel, the Church Age is parenthetically placed. We have no idea as to the length of time that the Church Age will run.
3. The **Doctrine of Dispensations** is found here: [HTML](#) [PDF](#) (the pdf document will probably need to be downloaded to your hard drive in order to read). A short version of this doctrine put together by someone else can be found [here](#).
 4. The Church Age is the intensified period of the Angelic Conflict.
 5. So, what we have is, the Church Age is intercalated into the Age of Israel. Prior to the Church Age is the 1st advent of our Lord; and after the Church Age is the 2nd advent of our Lord. Except for some teaching which Jesus did with His disciples, there is no set of prophecies which tell us that the Church Age is coming.
 6. Peter speaks to this in 1Peter 1:10–12: **Even the prophets, who prophesied about the spiritual blessing meant for you, made careful investigations and persistent research about this salvation, earnestly trying to find out the time, and the nature of the times, which the Spirit of the Christ within them pointed to, in foretelling the sufferings of the Christ and the glory that should follow them. It was made known to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in their searching for these things that have already been told to you by those who through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven brought you the good news. The angels long to take a peep into these things.**
 7. This new dispensation and the doctrine pertaining to it is called a *mystery* by Paul. The word *mystery* refers to a private set of doctrines known to a particular group or fraternity, but are not known outside this group or fraternity. What this means is, those who were saved in previous dispensations had no idea what would come about in the Church Age; that God would work with Gentiles or that God would send the Holy Spirit to live in us (these are two specific doctrines). Rom. 16:25–26 Eph. 3:1–6 Col. 1:25–26
 8. In other words, the Old Testament speaks prophetically about the birth of our Lord and His death, then it skips over the Church Age, and picks with the Tribulation, 2nd advent and the Millennium.

² Ibid.

9. Throughout the Old Testament the advent of our Lord is predicted. However, the 1st and 2nd advents are not clearly distinguished, nor are they presented as separate events. For this reason, I have broken this down as per the chart below.

Essentially, what we find in the following passages, are prophecies concerning the advent of Jesus Christ, where the advents appear to be blended, but, in each case, they are carefully separated into the 1st and 2nd advents. This observation is clear to us today, but it would not have been as clear to someone from the Old Testament.

Rather than simply referencing these passages, I will write them out, distinguish between the 1st and 2nd advents with different colors of blue, and then give an explanation or commentary if I believe one is necessary. Usually, but not always, the 1st Advent is found first and the 2nd Advent is found second.

The Intercalation of the Church Age Occurs between these Passages		
1 st Advent	2 nd Advent	The Text and Commentary
Psalm 2:7	Psalm 2:6, 8–9	<p style="color: blue;">Yea, I have set My king on My holy mount on Zion. I will declare concerning the statute of Jehovah: He said to Me, You are My Son. Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give the nations as Your inheritance; and the uttermost parts of the earth as Your possession. You will break them with a rod of iron; You will dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.</p> <p>Here, the 1st and 2nd Advents of our Lord are mixed. In the 2nd Advent, our Lord will sit as King over all on Mount Zion; God will give to Him all the nations as His possession. When He first returns at the 2nd Advent, He will destroy the nations plaguing Israel and in open revolt against Him.</p> <p>In the 1st Advent, Jesus will come as the Son of God, begotten of man.</p>

The Intercalation of the Church Age Occurs between these Passages		
1 st Advent	2 nd Advent	The Text and Commentary
Psalm 22:22	Psalm 22:23	<p>I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You. You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of Israel!</p> <p>Our Lord's disciples rarely seemed to fear Him or His great power; however, on the Mount of Transfiguration, when Jesus was glorified, I suspect that the disciples who were there cowered.</p>
Psalm 96:11–13a	Psalm 96:13b	<p>Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and the fullness of it. Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it; then the trees of the forest shall rejoice before Jehovah; for He comes; for He comes to judge the earth; He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with His faithfulness.</p> <p>We have a repetition of the phrase <i>for He comes</i>, which speaks of the 1st Advent and then of the 2nd Advent.</p>
Psalm 98:2–3	Psalm 98:9	<p>Jehovah has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has unveiled to the eyes of the nations. He has remembered His mercy and His truth toward the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of Jehovah.</p> <p>Jehovah comes to judge the earth; with righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples in uprightness.</p>

The Intercalation of the Church Age Occurs between these Passages		
1 st Advent	2 nd Advent	The Text and Commentary
Psalm 146:7–9a	Psalm 146:9b–10	<p>[The Lord] executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!</p> <p>The exact point at which we go from the 1st to the 2nd advent might be debatable. However, Jesus gave food to the hungry and He opened the eyes of the blind and He caused to walk those who were lame. When John the Baptizer questions whether or not He is the Messiah, Jesus gives these things as proofs of His anointing by God.</p> <p>At the Great White Throne, Jesus Christ will bring the wicked to their final ruin. At the Millennium, and then going into eternity, Jesus Christ will reign forever.</p>
Isa. 9:6a	Isa. 9:6b–7	<p>For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.</p> <p>God sent His Son in the form of a man, both fully man and fully God. He will, in the 2nd advent, assume all power over the earth.</p>

The Intercalation of the Church Age Occurs between these Passages		
1 st Advent	2 nd Advent	The Text and Commentary
Isa. 40:3–4	Isa. 40:5	<p>The voice of him who cries in the wilderness: Prepare the way of Jehovah; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley will be exalted, and every mountain and hill will be made low; and the knoll will be a level place, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of Jehovah will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together, for the mouth of Jehovah has spoken.</p> <p>Although Jesus was glorified on the Mount of Transfiguration, this will not be revealed to all until the 2nd Advent.</p>
Isa. 42:1a	Isa. 42:1b	<p>Behold My Servant; I will uphold Him; My Elect in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit on Him; He shall bring forth justice to the nations.</p> <p>One may certainly interpret the last half of v. 42 to bringing just by His death on the cross (the 1st Advent) as well as removing those who have rejected Him at the 2nd Advent.</p>
Isa. 42:2–4a	Isa. 42:4b	<p>He will not cry aloud, nor lift up, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoking wick He will not quench; He will bring forth justice to truth. He will not fail nor be crushed until He has set justice in the earth; and the coasts will wait for His Law.</p> <p>Jesus Christ did not force Himself upon anyone during the 1st Advent. The majority of His teaching required those who listened to follow Him, often to a quiet area on the outskirts of the city.</p> <p>The <i>coasts</i> refers to other nations besides Israel, and they will anticipate and wait for His Law, which will be delivered to them at the 2nd Advent.</p>

The Intercalation of the Church Age Occurs between these Passages		
1 st Advent	2 nd Advent	The Text and Commentary
Isa. 52:14	Isa. 52:13	<p>Behold, My Servant will rule well; He will be exalted and extolled, and be very high. Just as many were astonished at You (so much was the disfigurement from man, His appearance and His form from the sons of mankind).</p> <p>The Servant of God, His Messiah, will rule in the 2nd Advent; however, He appeared in the 1st Advent just as any man, without any distinguishing features. Before the cross, He was greatly disfigured by the physical abuse of the Roman soldiers.</p>
Isa. 61:1–2a	Isa. 61:2b	<p>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.</p> <p>In a synagogue, Jesus quotes the portion of this passage which applies to His 1st advent, and He does not quote the final line of v. 2. And then He said to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4:21).</p>
Jer. 23:5a	Jer. 23:5b–6	<p>Behold, the days come, says Jehovah, that I will raise to David a righteous Branch, and a King will reign and act wisely, and He will do justice and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely. And this is His name by which He will be called, Jehovah our Righteousness.</p> <p>Jesus is the righteous Branch raised up from David in His 1st Advent; however, He will not reign until His 2nd Advent.</p>

The Intercalation of the Church Age Occurs between these Passages		
1 st Advent	2 nd Advent	The Text and Commentary
Jer. 33:14–15	Jer. 33:16	<p>Behold, the days come, says Jehovah, that I will fulfill the good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days, and at that time, I will cause a Branch of Righteousness to grow up to David. And He will do judgment and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell in safety. And this is the name that will be called on her: JEHOVAH OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.</p> <p>Judah will not be saved nor will Jerusalem dwell in safety until the 2nd Advent. That He will do justice and righteousness may be applied to both advents.</p>
Daniel 6:27a	Daniel 6:26	<p>I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth.</p> <p>This is actually a decree of King Darius, which first speaks of the 2nd advent and then of the 1st.</p>
Daniel 7:13	Daniel 7:14	<p>"I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a Son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which will not pass away, and his kingdom one that will not be destroyed.</p> <p>The first verse refers to our Lord being taken into heaven and being accepted as the atonement for our sins.</p>

The Intercalation of the Church Age Occurs between these Passages		
1st Advent	2nd Advent	The Text and Commentary
Daniel 9:24–26	Daniel 9:27	<p>Seventy weeks are decreed as to your people, and as to your holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make atonement for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. Know, then, and understand that from the going out of a word to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem, to Messiah the Prince, will be seven weeks and sixty two weeks. The street will be built again, and the wall, even in times of affliction. And after sixty two weeks, Messiah will be cut off, but not for Himself. And the people of a coming ruler will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will be with the flood, and ruins are determined, and war will be until the end. And he will confirm a covenant with the many for one week. And in the middle of the week he will cause the sacrifice and the offering to cease. And on a corner of the altar will be abominations that desolate, even until the end. And that which was decreed will pour out on the desolator.</p> <p>The one confirming the covenant for one week is the Beast of the Tribulation. Here, we jump from the Messiah in the first advent to the circumstances preceding the 2nd Advent.</p>
Daniel 11:35	Daniel 11:36	<p>And some of the wise shall stumble, so that they may be refined, purified, and made white, until the time of the end, for it still awaits the appointed time. And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done.</p> <p>The focus here is not upon the Lord Jesus Christ, but upon his disciples in the 1st advent and upon the actions of the Beast in the 2nd.</p>

The Intercalation of the Church Age Occurs between these Passages		
1 st Advent	2 nd Advent	The Text and Commentary
Hosea 3:4	Hosea 3:5	<p>For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods. Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the LORD and to His goodness in the latter days.</p> <p>After Judah is first removed from the land, there will be no more Jewish kings for the Jews. They will return to the land, but they will be ruled by others.</p> <p>The Jews will return to the Lord in the Tribulation and they will be the primary evangelizing force.</p>
Hosea 5:14c–15	Hosea 6:1	<p>I, even I, will tear and go away; I will carry off, and no one shall rescue. I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek Me. Come, let us return to the LORD; for He has torn us, that He may heal us; He has struck us down, and He will bind us up.</p> <p>In the first portion of this passage, Jesus Christ will be crucified, resurrected and then taken into heaven, and He will remain at the right hand of the Father until His people, in their distress, earnestly seek Him.</p> <p>The Jews will return to Jesus Christ, their Savior, in the Tribulation.</p>

The Intercalation of the Church Age Occurs between these Passages		
1 st Advent	2 nd Advent	The Text and Commentary
Zech. 9:9	Zech. 9:10	Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King comes to you! He is righteous and being victorious, humble, and riding on an ass, even on a colt, the son of an ass. And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem. And the battle bow will be cut off, and He will speak peace to the nations. And His dominion will be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.
Malachi 3:1	Malachi 3:2–3	Behold, I will send My messenger, and He will clear the way before Me. And Jehovah, whom you seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Angel of the Covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He comes, says Jehovah of Hosts. But who can endure the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap. And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver. And He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer up a food offering in righteousness to Jehovah. The messenger being sent in advance is John the Baptizer, and suddenly, Jehovah (Jesus Christ) will come to His Temple. The remark about purging is quite interesting: as Jesus purged the Temple of the money changers; but at the end of the Tribulation, He will purge the earth of sin and human good and restore perfect environment.

I hope that you can see that, Satan, reading and studying these passages, decides that his best plan of action is to kill Jesus before He is made King over the earth, thus displacing Satan. Therefore, when given the opportunity to get Jesus to the cross and to crucify him, Satan was a willing, if not gleeful, participant, not realizing that the cross would be the tactical victory which is a turning point in the Angelic Conflict.

R. B. Thieme Jr. also includes Daniel 2:40 & 41 7:23 & 24 8:22 & 23, but I think I need to see these passages exegeted before I place them into this chart.

If we remove the Church Age, the intercalated age, then we have Jesus Christ fulfilling these prophecies, one right after the other, almost as one event.

**Return to the Beginning of the
Doctrine**

**Return to the Charts, Maps and Short
Doctrines**