

New Testament; and the Old and the New Testaments we emphatically call the WORD OF GOD.

Y. Has this collection of divine revelations any other name?

T. Yes; it is also called THE BIBLE, which signifies THE BOOK, to denote its eminence and supreme excellence. The Christian religion is also called "THE GOSPEL," which signifies "*the good news*." The Jewish religion is called "THE LAW," because of the commands, *moral, ceremonial, and Judicial*, which were given to the Jews by Moses.

Y. Is not the Bible sometimes called "the Old and New Testaments?"

T. Yes; because in them God enters into *covenant* with man, and engages to bestow certain blessings upon him of his own good pleasure. This covenant under the law was made specially with the Jews, but under the Gospel with both Jews and Gentiles. The former is for this, and for some other reasons, called THE OLD TESTAMENT, or COVENANT; the latter THE New, and is perfect, universal, and shall never pass away.

Y. Pray explain another term often used,—DISPENSATION.

T. This word signifies a *dispensing or bestowing*; and, in the theological sense, means the truth and grace which have been dispensed in different periods of the world by successive revelations of the will and mercy of God to mankind. For this reason we say the *Patriarchal, the Mosaic or Jewish, and the Christian dispensations*:—the first commencing with Adam and reaching to the giving of the law by Moses; the second, from that event to the death of Christ; the third, from the death of Christ to the end of the world.

Y. All this I comprehend: but I would now be more fully instructed in the PROOFS that these dispensations are from God; in other words, how the