

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT DISPENSATIONALISM?

Part One: July 8, 2020

Dispensationalism

• Definitions:

- Dispensationalism:
 - A “_____” or framework of Bible interpretation that says:
 - “Although God has but one plan of salvation, he has had various ways of dealing with man in regard to it, and those over a long period of time....Though God does not change, his _____ often do.”
 - Thiessen, *Lectures in Systematic Theology*, p. 202.
- Dispensation:
 - “A distinguishable _____ in the outworking of God’s purpose.”
 - Ryrie, *Dispensationalism*.
 - “A dispensation, and economy, then, is that particular order or condition of things prevailing in one special _____ which does not necessarily prevail in another.”
 - Henry Ironside.

• Derivation:

- Basic concept goes back to early church fathers
- First systematized by John Nelson _____ (early to mid-1800’s)
- _____ by D. L. Moody
- Popularized by C. I. _____
- Believed and taught by men such as:
 - R. A. Torrey, W. J. Erdman, A. C. Dixon, A. J. Gordon, W. E. Blackstone, Lewis Sperry Chafer, Henry Ironside, D. G. Barnhouse, W. Graham Scroggie, Clarence E. Mason, Jr., Charles Ryrie
- Widely accepted among fundamental Baptists and many other groups for nearly _____ years.

• Description:

- Dispensationalism is built upon four foundational _____:
 - Progressive _____
 - God has revealed _____ to man a little at a time, over a long period of time.
 - The Church Age is a _____ not revealed in the Old Testament.
 - Literal _____ of Scripture

- “Historical-grammatical approach”
 - Futuristic interpretation of _____
 - Distinction between _____ and the Church
 - The Church is not Israel and has not _____ Israel.
 - God still has a _____ for and promises to ethnic Israel that have yet to be fulfilled.
 - _____ eschatology
 - Including a Pretribulational _____ (most)
 - Dan. 12:4: _____
- **Dispensations:**
 - Vary in number, usually seven or eight:
 - _____ (before the Fall)
 - Conscience (Fall to Flood)
 - _____ (Flood to Abraham)
 - Promise (Abraham to Sinai)
 - _____ (Sinai to Pentecost)
 - Grace (Pentecost to Rapture)
 - _____ Kingdom (Rev. 20)
 - [Eternal State (Rev. 21-22)]
 - Each involves a test, a failure, and a judgment.
 - The test = man’s responsibility to wisely and faithfully _____ God’s revelation
 - The failure = man’s _____ of God’s revelation
 - The judgment = man’s _____ to God for his stewardship.
 Afterwards:
 - God makes _____ in the stewardship arrangements.
 - God gives new _____ for the new dispensation to follow.
 - Purposes:
 - Eschatological—history moving toward a _____
 - Theological—God’s _____ of Himself
 - _____—centered on the Person and work of Christ
 - Doxological—all for the _____ of God

Reformed Theology

- **So far, most of this should sound pretty familiar.**
- **So what is the alternative?**
 - Reformed (_____) theology

- Sometimes also called “_____”

- **Discussion:**

- Theological system or “grid” devised by John Calvin during the Reformation.
- Developed by many later theologians.
- Held by most _____ and Reformed churches today.
- Built around three “theological” covenants:
 - Redemption, _____, _____
 - None of which are found in Scripture!
- Views history as a _____
- Incorporates several serious errors, such as:
 - _____ of some individuals to hell
 - _____ atonement of Christ
 - _____ baptism (as the new sign of inclusion in the Abrahamic covenant)
 - Unregenerate church _____

- **Other Major Differences:**

- Sees no _____ between Israel and the Church.
 - The Church is the expansion of Israel today.
 - God is _____ with national Israel.
 - Except for those _____ who believe in Christ.
- Depends upon a (non-literal) _____ interpretation of large portions of Scripture.
 - Major and minor _____
 - Book of Revelation
- Reads the _____ Age back into the Old Testament.
 - The Old Testament prophecies of the restoration of national Israel are fulfilled in Christ and the Church.
- Amillennial or _____ Eschatology
 - Usually accompanied by the idea that many end-times prophecies have already been fulfilled or are being fulfilled _____ (either literally or symbolically).

Three Eschatological Views

- **Premillennialism**

- Christ returns _____ the Millennium.
- Derived from a literal interpretation of Scripture.

- **Postmillennialism**

- Christ returns _____ the Millennium.
- The Church will triumph over the forces of Antichrist in this age and usher in the _____.

- **Amillennialism or Nonmillennialism**

- There will be _____ literal Millennium.
- We are _____ living in the Millennium.
 - Refers to the Church Age on Earth, or:
 - Refers to the intermediate state in _____.

What Does It Matter?

- **A trend towards Reformed theology:**

- Reformed theology is currently making new inroads among evangelicals and even fundamentalists.
- More and more young _____ from a dispensational background are turning towards Reformed theology today.
- These are causes for great _____.

What Do We Lose?

- **If we abandon dispensationalism for Reformed theology, we lose:**

- A literal, historical, grammatical interpretation of Scripture;
- The _____ return of Christ at the Rapture;
- And much more.

- _____ **matters!**

Application

- **“Is Your _____ Showing?”**

- Amillennial or Postmillennial Return of Christ:
 - _____ Mandate
 - Christian ecology
 - _____ of the culture
 - _____ justice
- Premillennial, Pretribulational, Imminent Return of Christ in the Rapture:
 - “_____ till I come.” (Luke 19:13)
 - “Go ye therefore...” (Matt. 28:19-20)
 - “Watch and be _____.” (1 Thess. 5:6)
 - “_____ that fast which thou hast...” (Rev. 3:11)