

Dispensational Premillennialism: God Is History – A

Eschatology: Study of God Developing
People in His Image
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Context – Missing Piece

- All the views of eschatology thus far can stand alone without context on their gnostic foundations
 - Their hermeneutical approach employs logical fallacies (orthodoxy, ad hominem, straw man, etc.) in the guise of "spiritual wisdom"
 - Their ultimate goal substitutes man's truth for biblical truth similar to the methods of the Pharisees condemned by Christ
 - They do not define history in biblical terms of God's redemptive plan but in terms congruent with man's understanding of God and history
- The Dispensational Premillennial eschatology *requires* a historical *and* spiritual context

Define History

- History is Not
 - Dates
 - People
 - Story of man's upward evolutionary development toward perfection
- History Is
 - God working out His plan of redemption and salvation calling out a people for His glory according to His own good pleasure (sovereignty)
 - Man's rebellion against God's plan and their enjoyment of the fruits of their rebellion including their final accounting before God (free will)

What is the Spiritual Context?

- The unanswered questions of Scripture
 - If Satan is judged, why is he not in the Lake of Fire
 - If lost man is condemned already (Joh 3:18), why is he allowed to continue to do evil
- These are dismissively disposed of with, "It's the plan of God," or worse, "God does not exist!"
 - This gives rise to silly fantasies that plague Dispensationalism

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My Understanding of Context*

- I have spent nearly four decades pondering these, and other questions, seeking coherent, congruent Scriptural answers
- I cannot be completely dogmatic but I have sought to base my understanding on
 - Consistent normative hermeneutical reading of the Bible
 - Four Laws of Aristotelian Logic (Distinct from Oriental Tetralemma logic)
 - My evolving understanding of God's word based on continual study and experience

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My Basic Assumptions

- God is the sole Judge of all that He has created
 - The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge! (Ps 50:6 ESV)
 - I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom (2 Ti 4:1 ESV)

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My Basic Assumptions

- God determines the only outcome allowed based upon your condition: clothed in Christ's righteousness or in your own works (menstrual rags) (Is 64:6 KJV)
 - Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Re 20:11-15 ESV)

My Basic Assumptions

- Day Star (Lucifer {Latin}) (הַיְלֵל) – Description of Satan before his fall and judgment (Is 14:12)
 - Reflection of Christ Who is called the Morning Star
 - I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright *morning star* (Christ) (Re 22:16 ESVS1)
 - And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the *morning star* (Christ) rises in your hearts (2 Pe 1:19 ESVS1)
 - And I will give him the *morning star* (Christ) (Re 2:28 ESVS1)

Lucifer (KJV) Judged

- In eternity past Lucifer reflected God (Is 14:12-20; Ez 28:12-19)
 - Lucifer was the arch angel reflecting God's perfection of angelic creation
 - He was allowed to walk on God's holy mountain and Eden in Heaven
 - He had NO equal among the angels – unrestricted access to God
- At some point Lucifer became Satan
 - Pride at his position could have deluded him into thinking he could be above God, do better than God, and/or, (Ez 28:15; Is 14:13-14)
 - I believe Lucifer rejected God's plan to make man who would start lower but eventually be above Lucifer (He 2:9; 1Co 6:3; Ep 1:4-6)
- Lucifer, judged by God, lost his exalted position

Why the Name – Satan

- Satan was not a name but a noun or verb in Hebrew (שָׂטָן) that means accuser or adversary (not used as a name until NT {translators made it a name in the OT probably based on NT usage})*
- Hebrew names describe some significant aspect of the being to which they are applied
 - Adam – Man, to distinguish him from God
 - Abel – Worthless, to distinguish him from the strong one (Cain)
 - Satan – Accuser, to distinguish him from his former self as the Day Star

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Satan, the Accuser (Satan)

- I believe the Bible describes him as such because
 - God revealed to Satan His plan to create Man and place him above the angels through His plan of redemption, becoming sons of God
 - Satan, fearful of losing his exalted position, rebels against God's plan knowing he will never be a son of God
 - He was judged by his rebellion, sentenced to the Lake of Fire (Rev 2:4)
 - He appealed to God's mercy and longsuffering but remains unrepentant
 - God allows him to present his case through God's material creation – Man
- Satan's defense: Man is unworthy; thus, Satan accuses us before God *proving* our unworthiness

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Satan's Defense

- You cannot condemn me because these men are as sinful, or more sinful, than I; thus, how can You elevate them over me; which only condemns him more
 - Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. Do you suppose, O man — you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself — that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. (Ro 2:1-5 ESV)

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Satan's Defense

- History is NOT a contest between:
 - God and Satan – How can the created overcome the Creator
 - Good and Evil – How can evil (weakness) overcome Good (strength)
- History is
 - Satan proving his main defense argument that man is inherently evil and unfit for any relationship with God
 - God demonstrating His consistent mercy and longsuffering
 - Acknowledging Man's sinfulness
 - Providing a sinless sacrifice
 - Honing His elect, through Satan's work, into treasures for His glory

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