

# Dispensationalism: A Help

Based upon the book: "Dispensationalism" by Charles C. Ryrie

# Dispensationalism: A Help

Major opponents to Dispensationalism:

- The theologically liberal
- The covenant theologian (even many baptists)

These oppositions can result in the following views:

- Amillennialism
- Calvinism
- Replacement Theology
- Spiritualizing of Scripture
- Humanism

# Dispensationalism: A Help

- Dispensationalism fulfills 3 needs:
  - The Need of Biblical Distinctions
  - The Need of a Philosophy of History
  - The Need for Consistent Hermeneutics

# Dispensationalism: A Help:

## The need for Biblical Distinctions

Everyone that comes to the Bible recognizes the need for distinctions.

- Theological liberals
  - Recognize a difference between Christianity and Judaism
- Covenant theologians
  - Recognize distinctions between the Old and New Testaments
  - They even break the Old Testament down into 4 subdivisions
  - Recognizing 5 distinct periods
- In the simplest sense, dispensationalism is recognized as making distinctions.

# Dispensationalism: A Help:

The need for Biblical Distinctions

"The dispensations supply the need for distinctions in the orderly progress of revelation throughout Scripture. His dispensations are not stages in the revelation of the covenant of grace but are God's distinctive and different administrations in directing the affairs of the world."

# Dispensationalism: A Help:

The need of a Philosophy of History

"...a philosophy of history is defined as 'a systematic interpretation of universal history in accordance with a principle by which historical events and successions are unified and directed toward ultimate meaning,'... the definition centers on three things:"

- A proper goal
- A proper unifying principle
- A proper concept of progress

# Dispensationalism: A Help:

The need of a Philosophy of History: **A Proper Goal:**

Covenant Theology:

- The glory of God in the Eternal State
- The goal is accomplished **after** human history

Dispensational Theology:

- The glory of God in the Millennial Kingdom
- The goal is accomplished **during** human history

*This is not to say that dispensational theology discounts the glory of the eternal state.*

# Dispensationalism: A Help:

The need of a Philosophy of History: **A Proper Unifying Principle:**

Covenant Theology:

- Soteriological
- Covenant of grace
- In the end, its all about man's salvation and eternity future.

Dispensational Theology:

- Eschatological
- Theological
- Doxological
- In the end, its all about God's plan to reveal Himself and be glorified.



# Dispensationalism: A Help:

The need of a Philosophy of History: **A Proper Concept of Progress:**

Covenant Theology:

"...because of the rigidity of its unifying principle of the covenant of grace, [it] can never show within its system proper progress of revelation."

Dispensational Theology:

"Under the various administrations of God, different revelation was given to man, and that revelation was increasingly progressive in the scope of its content."

# Dispensationalism: A Help:

The need of Consistent Hermeneutics

Covenant Theology Hermeneutic:

- Nonliteral
- Allegorical
- Spiritual

Dispensational Theology Hermeneutic:

- Literal
- Plain
- Normal
- Historical-grammatical

# Dispensationalism: A Help

## Review:

- **Dispensationalism fulfills 3 needs:**

1. The Need of Biblical Distinctions

- Distinct administrations

2. The Need of a Philosophy of History

- Goal: The glory of God in human history
- Unifying principle: Man understanding and experiencing God's glory
- Progression: Seeing more of God's glory with each administration

3. The Need for Consistent Hermeneutics

- With dispensational theology you can take God's Word for exactly what it says and means.