

# Covenant V Dispensational Theology

The Dispensational View of the “Main  
Question”

# Covenant theology is characterized by:

- An Ecclesiology: the NT Church is OT Israel, and OT Israel is the NT Church
- An Eschatology: There is no literal, earthly kingdom, in which Christ rules on earth
- A Hermeneutic: Passages about the future of national Israel are spiritualized

## Dispensational theology is characterized by:

- An Ecclesiology: The NT Church is not national Israel
- An Eschatology: There is a literal kingdom of 1000 years during which Christ reigns on earth
- A Hermeneutic: Passages about the future of national Israel are taken literally

- Let's look at some of those passages. The real issue is not “are we Dispensational or Covenantal?”
- The real question is, “Are those passages predicting literal truth or figurative truth?”
- What is at stake is God's glory. Has the God who did not abandon national Israel because of their idolatry (Exodus 32-34) now abandoned them because of their rejection of Jesus?

# Isaiah 2.1-22

- “Last days”: This is what will happen. 2.1-4
- God is punishing Israel for their idolatry. 2.5-10 (The question is: temporary or permanent?)
- 2.11-22: This is what will happen in the last days

# Isaiah 11

- 11.1-3: What the Messiah will be like
- 11.4-9: What the Kingdom will be like
- 11.10-16: What the King will do.
- If these are only figurative words, what does “the second time” in 11.11 mean?

## Isaiah 61.1-9

- Jesus quoted part of this passage in Luke 4.16-19
- He stopped in the middle of Isaiah 61.2
- The “day of vengeance” was for the future
- Is 61.7 literal? Will they be “in their land?”

## Isaiah 65:17-25

- 65.17—compare with Revelation 21-22
- 65.18-25: Compare with Revelation 19-20
- The options are to interpret this “spiritually”, and have Jerusalem represent the Church
- Or to interpret them literally



Before we move to the NT

- Israel is for Gods glory: Isa 46:13 I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory
- If God is finished with national Israel, what's the point of the “remnant?”
- Isaiah 10.20-22

# Romans 11

- Romans 11 answers 2 questions
- 11.1: Has God repudiated His people?
- 11.11: Is God's hardness against Israel permanent?

# Romans 11.1-10

- God has not repudiated His people
- God's answer to the question is:  
“Remnant!”

# Romans 11.11-32

- God harshness is not permanent: they didn't stumble so that they could fall.
- They DID stumble
- So that God could have mercy on Gentiles 11.25
- And so the nation will be saved. 11.26-27

And Paul concludes with God's glory

- Romans 11.33-36