

Walking Through the Word

Hermeneutics and Dispensations in the Metanarrative

The Church Age and the Nation of Israel

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Hermeneutics is the study of the principles of interpretation. Exegesis consists of the actual interpretation of the Bible, the bringing out of its meaning, whereas hermeneutics establishes the principles by which exegesis is practiced.¹ Why does it matter what principles of exegesis are used when interpreting the Bible?

Hermeneutical Systems

1. Normal, Plain, or Literal Interpretation² –
 - a. Interpret grammatically.
 - b. Interpret contextually.
 - c. Compare Scripture with Scripture
 - d. Recognize the Progressiveness of Revelation
2. Allegorical Hermeneutics – The actual words, then are not understood in their normal sense but in a symbolic sense, which results in a different meaning of the text, a meaning that, in the strictest sense, the text never intended to convey.³
3. Semi allegorical or semi literal interpretation - ...many evangelicals are consistent literalists in all areas of Bible doctrine except prophecy. To do so results in amillennialism; to be literalists in all areas results in premillennialism.
4. Theological Interpretation- does not result in two purposes of God in the Scripture (one for Israel and one for the church). The consistent use of the literal interpretation leads to a distinction between Israel and the church, while theological interpretation does not.⁴

1 Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1999), 125.

2 Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1999), 129-130.

3 Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1999), 125.

4 Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1999), 128.

Dispensation – a system of revealed commands and promises regulating human affairs. – Merriam-Webster

At different times throughout the history of the world God has regulated human affairs with different commands and promises called dispensations.

We are particularly looking at the dispensation of the Nation of Israel governed by the Mosaic Covenant known as “The Law” and the dispensation of the Church Age governed by the “New Covenant in His Blood.”

The Nation of Israel

- When did it begin?
- When does it end?
- What commands govern this dispensation

- What promises have been given in this dispensation

The Church Age

- When did it begin?
- When will it end?
- What commands govern this dispensation

- What promises have been given in this dispensation?