

Revelation and Daniel

Why Study the Prophetic Word?

1. It gives us joy in affliction – 2 Cor. 4:17
2. It encourages holy living – 1 John 3:2-3
3. It is profitable – 2 Tim. 3:16-17
4. It tells of the afterlife – 2 Cor. 5:8
5. It reveals the outcome of history – Dan. 2
6. It gives proof of the reliability of Scripture.
7. It draws our hearts to worship God – Rev. 19

A Biblical Philosophy of History

A biblical philosophy of history offers a systematic interpretation of history, based on the Bible, that covers the entire scope of history, including the past and the *what* and *why* of the future.

- 1 – Have an ultimate purpose and goal of history
- 2 – Recognize the distinctions in history
- 3 – Recognize the progress of revelation
- 4 – Have a unifying principle that ties the distinctions and progress of revelation together
- 5 – Explain why things have happened the way they have and where they are going
- 6 – Offer answers to man's three basic questions:
 - Where have we come from?
 - Why are we here?
 - Where are we going?

Renald Showers

Development of Theological Systems

Since the Reformation, two major systems have emerged.

- 1 – Covenant Theology
- 2 – Dispensational Theology

Overview of Covenant Theology

- CT attempts to develop the Bible's philosophy of history based on the covenants of the Bible
- Along with the biblical covenants they see two or three *theological* covenants

Key Points:

- Strong continuity between the Old and New Testament
- Replacement theology – Israel is replaced by the church
- The New Testament interprets the Old. Israel's Old Testament promises are spiritualized and the promised millennial kingdom is a spiritual kingdom, (amillennialism), not a physical/earthly kingdom
- The Law of Moses continues as a means of sanctification for the church
- Infant baptism reflects circumcision as the rite of entrance into the church
- The Sabbath (spiritualized to Sunday) is still to be observed
- There is a strong Reformed influence, thus faithfulness becomes a test of justification
- The emphasis is on *one people of God* and strong *continuity* throughout the Bible

Overview of Dispensational Theology

Key Points:

- Only the biblical covenants are recognized
- The progress of revelation is seen as unfolding through different economies or dispensations
- A literal method of interpretation is maintained throughout the Bible
- Dispensationalism recognizes greater discontinuity between the Old and New Testaments
- Old Testament promises to Israel are not changed by the New Testament

Charles Ryrie's *sine qua non*:

- 1 – Israel and the church are distinct
- 2 – A literal hermeneutic
- 3 – God's purpose in history is His glory

The result is a premillennial view of history

Three basic approaches to eschatology:

1. Premillennialism
2. Postmillennialism
3. Amillennialism