



The End Times

WEEK 2: VIEWS ON ISRAEL

The Covenants

Mainly Discontinuous, or Mainly Continuous?

The Covenants

Mainly Discontinuous, or Mainly Continuous?

Discontinuity



Continuity

The Covenants

Mainly Continuous, or Mainly Discontinuous?



History of Dispensationalism



1830s:
John Darby /
Plymouth
Brethren

Dispensationalism

- ▶ 7 “Dispensations”
 - ▶ 6th = Church Age; 7th = Millennial Kingdom
- ▶ According to Charles Ryrie, 3 tenets are:
 - ▶ (1) a strict distinction between Israel and the church
 - ▶ (2) a system of hermeneutics which is usually called literal interpretation
 - ▶ (3) a concern for the glory of God rather than simply the outworking of salvation as the “underlying purpose of God in the world.”

Dispensationalism

Major Distinctive:

“The essence of dispensationalism, then, is the distinction between Israel and the church.” – Charles Ryrie

History of Dispensationalism



1830s:
John Darby /
Plymouth
Brethren



1909:
Scofield
Reference
Bible

Dispensationalism



“One cannot overestimate the influence of the Scofield Bible on the rank and file of average Christians throughout [the US]. With the aid of the famous “Scofield Notes,” the Bible suddenly became accessible to the average, moderately educated, Christian citizen. Although Scofield certainly didn’t intend for this to happen, it became difficult for many to differentiate between the inspired text of Scripture and the interpretive notes at the bottom of the page. Other study Bibles published in more recent times, such as those bearing the names of prominent evangelicals W.A. Criswell, Charles C Ryrie, and John MacArthur, served only to reinforce the belief that this approach to biblical prophecy is the standard evangelical view.” – Sam Storms

History of Dispensationalism



1830s:
John Darby /
Plymouth
Brethren



1909:
Scofield
Reference
Bible



1941-1945:
Holocaust

Dispensationalism



“We must not underestimate the impact the Holocaust has had upon the Jews and the increase in sympathy towards the Zionist cause, and therefore the corresponding determination in the Church to avoid all accusations of Anti-Semitism.” -- Adrian Birks

History of Dispensationalism



1830s:
John Darby /
Plymouth
Brethren



1909:
Scofield
Reference
Bible



1941-1945:
Holocaust



1948:
Establishment
Of Israeli State

History of Dispensationalism



1830s:
John Darby /
Plymouth
Brethren



1909:
Scofield
Reference
Bible



1941-1945:
Holocaust



1948:
Establishment
Of Israeli State

Resulting Assumption among US evangelicals:
Dispensationalism = Evangelical Christianity

Video





Israel and the Church



**Dispensationalis
m**

Classical
Zionism /
Progressive
Disp.

Fulfillment
Theology

Discontinuity

Continuity

Israel and the Church:

Dispensationalism

- ▶ Hard distinction between Israel and the Church
- ▶ The Millennial Age (which follows the rapture of the church) will see Jesus reign *as King of the Jews*, and all remaining prophecies to Israel will be fulfilled
 - ▶ Re-instatement of temple, priesthood, and sacrifices
- ▶ 2 peoples of God (and 2 plans of redemption?)
- ▶ Very political; strong support for Israeli State
- ▶ Given developments of 20th century, sees the end *now*

Israel and the Church: Dispensationalism

Jeremiah 16:16 "Behold, I am sending for many fishers, declares the LORD, and they shall catch them. And afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks."

"All this was exactly fulfilled in the years following 1933. First, God sent 'fishermen'... who warned the Jews of Germany... After that, in fulfilment of his prophetic warning, God released the 'hunters' – the Nazis." – Derek Prince

Problems with Dispensationalism



- ▶ Misuses language of “literal interpretation”
- ▶ Misguided interpretation of prophetic / apocalyptic texts
- ▶ Misunderstands prophecy fulfillment
- ▶ Disregards way NT interprets OT
- ▶ Undervalues the role of the church in the NT
- ▶ Misunderstands the people of God
- ▶ In some cases: unqualified and authoritarian dogmatism

Amos 9:11-15

[11] “In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old, [12] that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name,” declares the LORD who does this.

[13] “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when the plowman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. [14] I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. [15] I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them,” says the LORD your God. (ESV)

Amos 9 fulfilled in Acts 15:16-17?

[13] After they finished speaking, James replied, “Brothers, listen to me. [14] Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. [15] And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written,

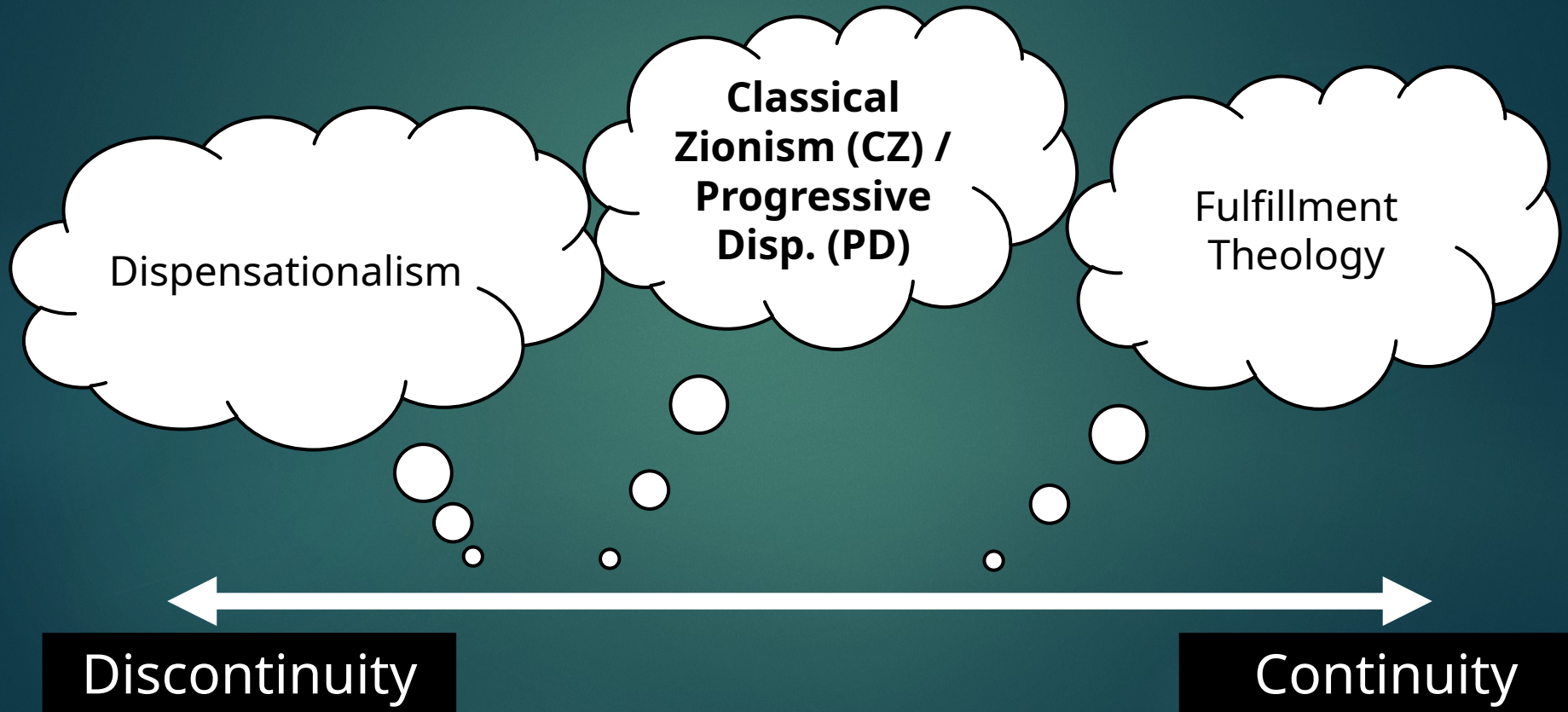
[16] “After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, [17] that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things [18] known from of old.’

[19] Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, [20] but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. [21] For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues.” (ESV)

Amos 9 fulfilled in Acts 15:16-17?

"James declares that Amos 9:12 shows that, at the return of Christ, there will not only be believing Jews ... but also believing Gentiles 'who are called by my name.'" – Scofield Study Bible

Israel and the Church



Israel and the Church:

PD and CZ

- ▶ Softer distinction between Church and Israel
 - ▶ PD: God does not have separate purposes for Israel and Church, no distinction in eternal state, and the church will reign w/ Christ during the millennium
- ▶ OT prophecies to ethnic Israel still inherited by ethnic Israel
- ▶ Particular focus on Israel's continued divine right to the land

Israel and the Church: PD and CZ

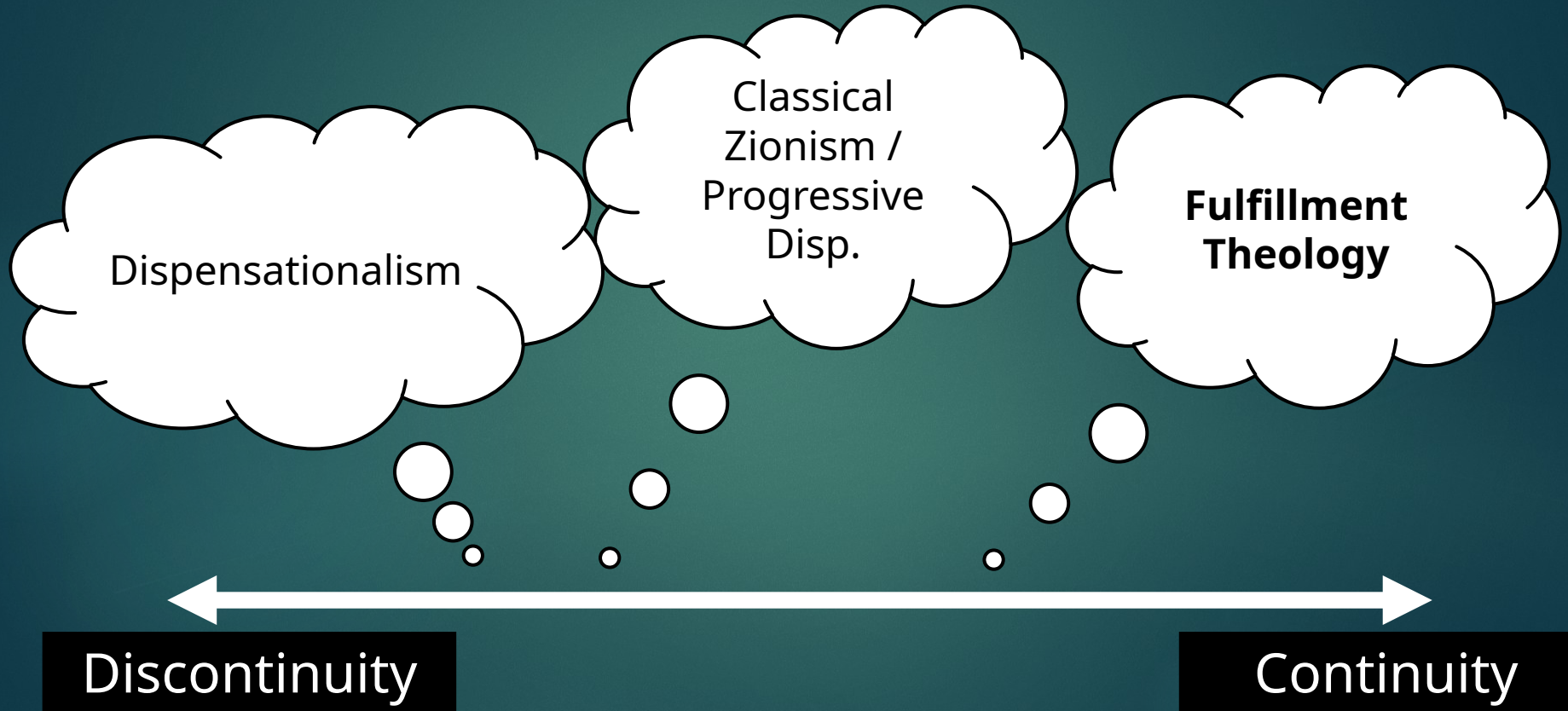
"If the Jews are still 'his people', then the land must still be theirs. If ethnic Israel is still special, then territorial Israel is as well." – David Pawson

"The Old Testament prophecies of a national restoration of Israel... will be fulfilled by racially Jewish Christians in the Millennium." – Gerry Breshsears and Mark Driscoll

Problems with PD and CZ

- ▶ Inconsistent hermeneutic for prophecy fulfillment
- ▶ Misunderstands the significance of the land

Israel and the Church



Israel and the Church: Fulfillment Theology

- ▶ The new Covenant *supersedes* the Mosaic covenant but is the ongoing fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant.
- ▶ Christ is the new Israel and is the fulfillment of all OT prophecy
- ▶ The church, as Christ's body, shares in the fulfillment of all that is fulfilled in Christ because what is true of him becomes true of her
- ▶ Does not carve out any promises fulfilled in Christ (and the church) for ethnic Israel
- ▶ The only way to access the promises fulfilled in Christ is to be in Christ

Who are the people of God?

Exodus 19:5–6 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my ***treasured possession*** among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a ***kingdom of priests*** and a ***holy nation***.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." (ESV)

Who are the people of God?

Exodus 19:5–6 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my **treasured possession** among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a **kingdom of priests** and a **holy nation**.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." (ESV)

1 Peter 2:9–10 But you are a **chosen race**, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, a **people for his own possession**, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. [10] Once you were not a people, but **now you are God's people**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (ESV)

Objections to Fulfillment Theology



- ▶ "Replacement Theology" → Robbing Israel?
- ▶ Is it Anti-semitic?

Lands' End...?

Does the promise of the
land have physical
fulfillment in the church
age?

If it does, does ethnic
Israel have a right to
that land today?

Lands' End...?

“While recognising that possession of the land was conditional despite the promise being seemingly unconditional, we must at this point be clear: to even discuss whether modern Israel meets the OT conditions is to presume the promises retain at least an element of physical fulfilment. Nevertheless, it must be said that if the OT promises are being fulfilled in the modern state of Israel (and I do not believe this to be the case) it is highly questionable that modern secular Israel meets the requirements of faith and obedience and thus the promise of being vomited out of the land (Lev 18:28) would appear far more probable than continued possession.” – Adrian Birks

Lands' End...?

- ▶ Land connected with the *city*, the *temple worship* and the *Davidic king*.
- ▶ NT: Considerable development of this theme
- ▶ Land is universalized, not merely spiritualized

Lands' End...?

- ▶ Land connected with the *city*, the *temple worship* and the *Davidic king*.
- ▶ NT: Considerable development of this theme
- ▶ Land is universalized, not merely spiritualized

"The people of God, Israel, is still a flesh and blood historical reality, although now a universal people... The land is still the actual land under our feet, but now it refers to the entire created earth." – David Holwerda

Lands' End...?

*"I cannot help wondering how Abraham,
Isaac and Jacob feel about their
misunderstanding of God's oath to them!
The poor things thought the real estate was
a permanent legacy, not a temporary loan!"
– David Pawson*

Lands' End...?

Heb. 11:9-16: "By faith [Abraham] went to live in the land of promise . . . for he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God . . . These all died in faith, not having received the things promised . . . they are seeking a homeland . . . But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one"

Heb 11:39-40: "And all these [Abraham, the judges, King David, the prophets, etc], though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect."

Lands' End...?

Galatians 4:26 [26] But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. (ESV)

Hebrews 12:22 [22] But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, (ESV)

Revelation 21:2 [2] And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (ESV)

Will All Israel be Saved?

Romans 11:25-27: Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written,

“The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”;
“and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.” (ESV)

Conclusion

“Israel, the OT people of God who inherited the land, are a pattern of the NT people of God, the church, comprising of both Jews and Gentiles, who alongside Abraham and by faith in Christ, inherit the promises of a new heavens and new earth but no longer make a particular claim to land in the Middle East. What then of the establishing of the State of Israel in 1948? Given what we have said, it is my belief that the State of Israel is not the fulfilment of OT prophecies since they are fulfilled in Christ, in the Church and in the earth. However, we would want to acknowledge the sovereignty of God in the rising and falling of nations and therefore I would suggest it is perhaps part of God’s purposes to remind the Jews of their history that perhaps they might seek and find the true Messiah.” – Adrian Birks

Resources



Israel & the Church: the Fulfilment of Promise by
Adrian Birks (article)

Kingdom Come by Sam Storms (book)

Discontinuity to Continuity by Benjamin Merkle
(book)

Last Word



- ▶ Views on Israel are in “ink” not “blood”
- ▶ The fruit of your framework matters most
- ▶ You can disagree in charity, love and grace

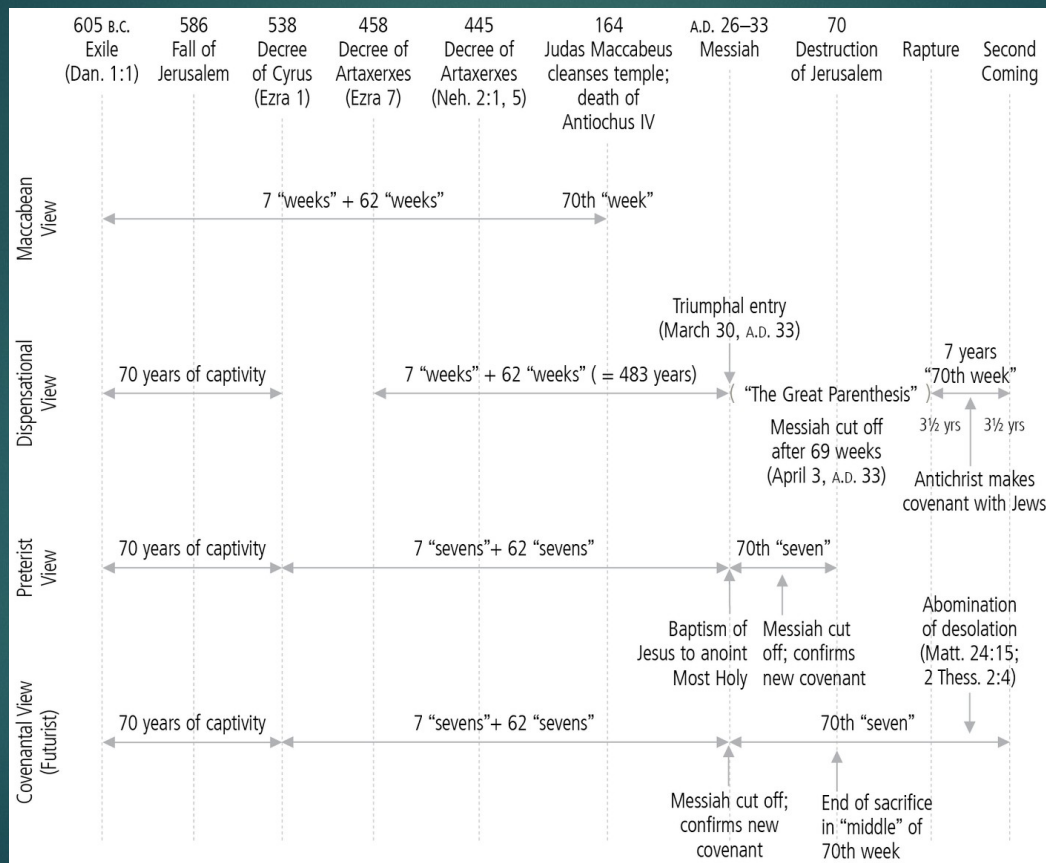
Questions



Access to Slides



70 Weeks of Daniel 9



Source: ESV
Study Bible

The Covenants

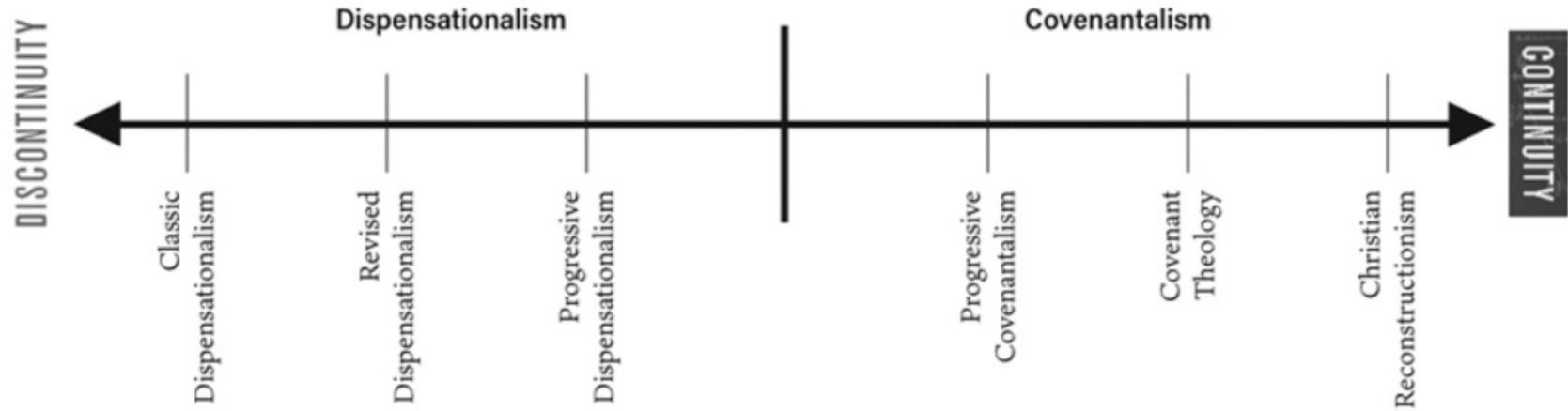


Figure 2.1 Evangelical models of covenant relationships viewed on a spectrum

Source: James Hely Hutchinson

The Covenants

Taxonomy of Theological Systems



Source: Benjamin Merkle

Romans 11:17–24

[17] But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, [18] do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. [19] Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” [20] That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. [21] For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. [22] Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God’s kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. [23] And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. [24] For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree. (ESV)