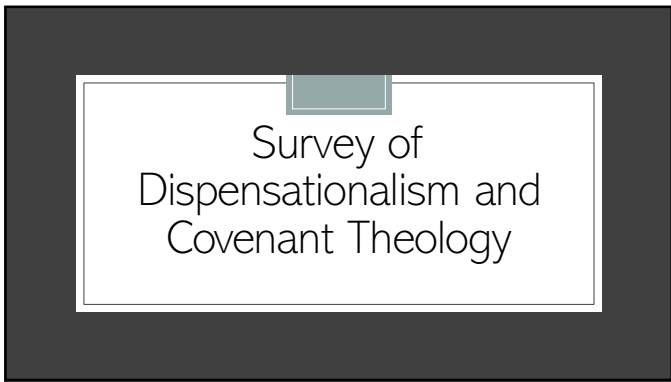
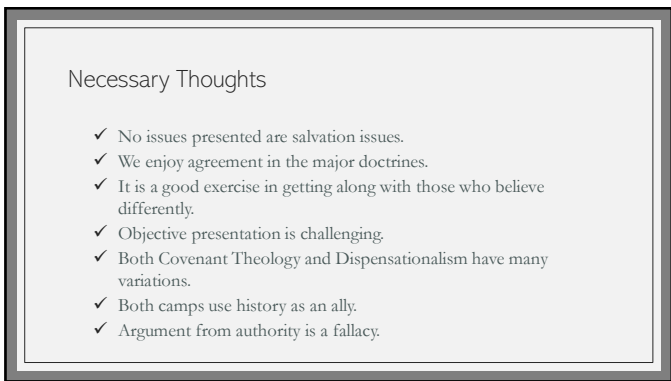


1



2



3

Covenant Theology

Definition

A system of interpreting the Scriptures on the basis of two covenants: the covenant of works and the covenant of grace. Some include a third covenant, the covenant of redemption.

Key Elements

- ✓ Eternal covenant of redemption between Father/Son
- ✓ Federal Headship of Adam
- ✓ Unity of covenant of grace
- ✓ Justification by faith

4

Covenants of Covenant Theology

Covenant of Works

According to the Westminster Confession: "The first covenant made with man was a covenant of works, wherein life was promised to Adam, and in him to his posterity, upon condition of perfect and personal obedience."

- ✓ Hosea 6:7; Rom 5:12–21; Gen 1:28–30; 2:15

5

Covenants of Covenant Theology

Covenant of Grace

Westminster Confession:

"Man by his fall having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the covenant of grace: wherein he freely offered unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ, requiring of them faith in him, that they may be saved, and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto life, his Holy Spirit, to make them willing and able to believe."

- ✓ Scripture: any Scripture dealing with grace

6

Covenants of Covenant Theology

Covenant of Redemption

Westminster Confession:

The Father commissioned the Son to be the Savior, and the Son accepted the commission, agreeing to fulfill all righteousness by obeying the law of God.

- ✓ Scriptural support—numerous but none explicitly state this as a covenant

7

Covenant Theology

Other Beliefs

- ✓ Affirmation of Reformed Theology
 - ❖ High view of God
 - ❖ High view of Scripture
- ✓ New Testament Priority
 - ❖ OT primarily interpreted allegorically
- ✓ Parts of the Mosaic Law in effect today
 - ❖ Moral law = YES but Civil and Ceremonial = NO
- ✓ Christ is ruling His kingdom from David's throne currently

8

Covenant Theology

Other Beliefs

- ✓ The Church:
 - ❖ Existed in the Old Testament with Adam and Abraham
 - ❖ The church now replaces Israel (NOTE: Covenant Theology today would more often say church = Israel and Israel = church)
 - ❖ The Church and/or Christ is/are the fulfillment of all promises to Israel.
- ✓ Doesn't lead to a particular millennial view
- ✓ Infant baptism based on Abrahamic Covenant (not all in Covenant Theology agree with this)

9

Dispensationalism: Foundations

- ✓ Hermeneutics (Bible study method)
 - ❖ Literal fulfillment of Old Testament promises to Israel
 - ❖ New Testament does not reinterpret the Old Testament
 - ❖ Progressive revelation and harmony of the testaments
 - ❖ The original Old Testament meaning remains in effect
 - ❖ Old Testament quotes in the New Testament are where the rubber meets the road.
- ✓ Unconditional, eternal covenants made with national Israel (Abrahamic, Davidic, New) just be fulfilled with national Israel
- ✓ Salvation and restoration of Israel

10

Dispensationalism

- ✓ Church is distinct from Israel
 - ❖ Jesus viewed church as future (Matt 16:18)
 - ❖ Spirit baptism did not begin until Day of Pentecost
 - ❖ Christ became Head of the Church as a result of His resurrection (compare Eph 4:15; Col 1:18 with Eph 1:19–23)

11

Dispensationalism

- ✓ Church is distinct from Israel
 - ❖ Spiritual gifts associated with the church (Eph 4:7–12; 1 Cor 12:11–13) were not given until the ascension of Christ
 - ❖ The “new man” nature of the church (cf. Eph 2:15) shows that the church is a New Testament organism and not something incorporated into Israel
 - ❖ Foundation of the church is Jesus Christ and the New Testament apostles/prophets (cf. Eph 2:20)
 - ❖ Acts neatly distinguishes Israel and the Church

12

Dispensationalism

- ✓ Multiple Sense of the “seed of Abraham”
 - ❖ Ethnic Jews (Rom 9–11)
 - ❖ All people spiritually related to God by faith (Rom 4:11–12; Gal 3:7)
 - ❖ Does not mean that those spiritually related only (Gentiles) take over all promises to the physical seed of Abraham (believing Jews)

13

Dispensationalism

- ✓ Other Key Beliefs:
 - ❖ Authority of Scripture
 - ❖ Belief in dispensations (God has phases in His redemptive plan. These phases have similarities and dissimilarities; many varieties)
 - ❖ High emphasis on Bible Prophecy
 - ❖ Belief in Premillennialism

14

Non-Essential Elements of Dispensationalism

- ✓ The term “dispensation” as a divider—all Christian theologians acknowledge the concept of dispensation
- ✓ Number of dispensations—not essential
- ✓ Calvinism vs. Arminianism

15

Variations in Dispensationalism

- ✓ Classical (traditional) Dispensationalism
- ✓ Revised (Modified) Dispensationalism
- ✓ Progressive Dispensationalism

16

Critique of Covenant Theology

- ✓ “Covenant” is not the overriding theme of Scripture
- ✓ Covenant Theology starts with presuppositions with which to interpret Scripture.
- ✓ Covenants of Covenant Theology—not clear from Scripture
- ✓ Evaluation of Covenants of Covenant Theology:
 - ❖ Based on assumptions not exegesis
 - ❖ No consistency
 - ❖ Three covenant view in particular falls apart quickly

17

Critique of Covenant Theology

- ✓ New Testament Priority
 - ❖ Doesn't give justice to context of Old Testament
 - ❖ Covenant Theology interpretation of the Old Testament is inconsistent with interpretation of the New Testament.
 - ❖ New Testament priority taken to the logical extreme is ludicrous.

18

Critique of Covenant Theology

- ✓ Church
 - ❖ The Bible never represents the Church as the New Israel (or interchanging Israel/Church)
 - ❖ NT affirms the expectation of salvation and restoration of national Israel (Matt 19:28; 23:37–39; Acts 1:6; 3:19–21; Rom 11)
 - ❖ We do not agree with the CT claim that the church existed in the Old Testament with Adam or Abraham.
 - ❖ Mosaic Law is not partially in operation today.

19

Comparison of Hermeneutics

Covenant Theology	Dispensationalism
New Testament priority over the Old Testament	Starting point = Authorial Intent
Non-literal fulfillments of Old Testament texts	Progressive Revelation
Typological Interpretation (Old Testament = shadow of greater New Testament realities)	Historical-Grammatical Interpretation applied to all Scripture
Old Testament promises are ultimately about Jesus, not national Israel	Types and their implications should be understood on a case-by-case basis (context governs the existence of types)
Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel means there is no reason to expect a national Israel	Jesus is linked with Israel as Israel's Corporate Head who restores the nation Israel

20

21
