

DEVELOPING A BIBLICAL PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY

"Contrary to the more popular postmillennial belief in progress and the gradual Christianization of society, nineteenth-century premillennialists thus believed that churches and culture were both in decline and that this inexorable trend would continue until the apocalyptic return of Christ. Rather than trying to 'Christianize the social order,' an ideal which, in their minds, could never be fully achieved, premillennialists considered it the duty of all believers to "redeem the time" by trying to save as many souls as possible before Christ returned."

Darren Dochuk, Redeeming the City: Premillennialism, Piety, and the Politics of Reform in Late-Nineteenth Century Toronto, Historical Papers 2000: Canadian Society of Church History: page 5

"Reclaiming' the culture is a pointless, futile exercise. I am convinced, we are living in a post-Christian society—a civilization that exists under God's judgment."

John F. MacArthur, The Vanishing Conscience: Drawing the Line in a No-Fault, Guilt-Free World (Dallas, TX: Word, 1994), 12

"Such political preoccupations are somewhat ironic considering the dominant premillennial eschatology of conservative evangelicalism. Our end-times theology tells us that until Christ returns, nothing can or will fix this crumbling world system. Yet our political practice suggests we are desperately trying to fix it nonetheless."

John MacArthur, ed., Right Thinking in a World Gone Wrong (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2009), 121-122

Colossians 1:13 "Who delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son."

- "The term *worldview* refers to any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement, or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world, and man's relation to God and the world." David Noebel, *Understanding The Times*, 1991, Harvest House Publishers
- "A worldview is a way of viewing or interpreting all of reality. It is an interpretive framework through which or by which one makes sense of the data of life and the world." Norman Geisler and William Watkins
- The biblical word *world*, the Greek word *cosmos*, speaks of the satanic worldview: "The word *world*, the Greek word *cosmos*, encompasses the entire world system, including all the ideas and philosophies which Satan is promoting among people to establish his kingdom on the earth."
Thomas Ice and Robert Dean, Jr. *A Holy Rebellion*
- "The *cosmos* is a vast order or system that Satan has promoted which conforms to his ideals, aims, and methods. It is civilization now functioning apart from God - a civilization in which none of its promoters really expect God to share, who assign to God no consideration in respect to their projects. This system embraces its godless governments, conflicts, armaments, and jealousies, [as well as] its education, culture, religions of morality, and pride. It is that sphere in which man lives. It is what he sees, what he employs. To the uncounted multitude it is all they ever know so long as they live on this earth. It is properly styled *the satanic system*, which phrase is in many instances a justified interpretation, of the so-meaningful word *cosmos*. It is literally a *cosmos diabolicus*" Lewis Sperry Chafer
- James Orr, one of the first to develop the understanding of a Christian worldview when he presented a series of lectures in 1890-91 titled "*The Christian View of God and the World*", argues that one who believes with his whole heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and their Lord and Saviour: "...is committed to a view of God, to a view of man, to a view of sin, to a view of redemption, to a view of the purpose of God in creation and history, to a view of human destiny, found only in Christianity."
- There are four dominate worldviews in the Western world:
 - 1) Secular Humanism, 2) Communism, 3) Cosmic Humanism 4) Christian (biblical)

SECULAR HUMANIST WORLD VIEW

The dominant worldview of our secular colleges and universities. It has also made some inroads into Christian colleges and universities. The secular humanist worldview is that God does not exist, only nature exists, they deny God and the supernatural in every way - from start to finish. Man becomes the supreme authority.

MARXISM/LENINISTS (COMMUNISM)

Secular humanism is the root of Communism. In essence it differs little from secular humanism Karl Marx himself said, "Communism, as fully developed naturalism, equals humanism."

COSMIC HUMANISM (New Age Movement)

A worldview has been increasing in the West. Some estimate the number of adherents to this belief system in the U.S. as high as 60 million (although this is probably too high) and half a billion around the world. This worldview believes "all is god", "all is one substance", "all is changing", "all is progressing", and "all is perfectible". Thus they deny a personal God and absolute truth and elevate oneself as god.

- At the core of each of these views are atheism, materialism, and evolution.
- All of the humanist worldviews have one main thing in common. They stand unalterably opposed to a Christian or biblical worldview.
- The predominate view taught in our schools and publications is a secular humanism viewpoint. Why is this when we have close to 200 million (or more) of the people in our country claim to be Christians and only 10 million or so that profess to be secular humanists?

What is the source of these views that embrace atheism, materialism, and evolution.

Rebellion of Satan	Isaiah 14:12-14
Deception of Eve	Genesis 3:1-5
Sin of Babylon	Isaiah 47:10
Ultimate demise of every society	Romans 1:25
Rule of Anti-Christ	2 Thessalonians 2:4, 10-11

They are grounded in "the lie" of Satan that we can become gods.

- Satan's deception is active in this world. Consider the following quotes:

"You don't have a god in you, you are one."
"I am a little god."
"...I AM too."
"...he opens up the union of the very godhead, and brings us into it,"
"...a small, miniature god."
"We (the Church) are Christ."
"... you are a little god on earth running around."
"you are god."

Quotes of Ken Copeland, Kenneth Hagin, Paul Crouch, Morris Cerullo, Benny Hinn

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

"Apart from the knowledge of this war (between God and Satan) it is impossible to understand what life is all about, and the only way to learn about this conflict is to study the philosophy of history presented by the Bible."
Renald Showers, *What On Earth Is God Doing?*, Loizeaux Brothers, 1973

Even within Christendom there are differences in our worldview. There are two interpretative methods used in biblical Christianity. Although the two views may agree in many points on such things as christology and soteriology within conservative, fundamental belief there is a great difference in how these two views understand major issues such as ecclesiology and eschatology.

- Covenant Theology

A system of Theology which attempts to develop the Bible's philosophy of history on the basis of two or three covenants. It represents the whole of Scripture and history as being covered by two or three covenants.

Some problems with Covenant Theology (*There Really Is A Difference*, Renald Showers)

- 1) It's ultimate goal of history is too narrow (doesn't recognize many of God's different programs such as with the nations, the lost, rulers, etc.)

- 2) It denies or weakens some of the distinctions that are in the Bible (e.g. Abrahamic Covenant and the Mosaic Covenant and Israel and the Church)
- 3) In order to make its system work it must employ a double hermeneutic

- **Dispensational Theology**

"Dispensational Theology can be defined very simply as a system of theology which attempts to develop the Bible's philosophy of history on the basis of the sovereign rule of God. It represents the whole of Scripture and history as being covered by several dispensations of God's rule...the term *dispensation* as it relates to Dispensational Theology could be defined as a particular way of God's administering His rule over the world as He progressively works out His purpose for world history." Renald Showers, *There Really Is A Difference*

God's distinctive method of governing mankind or a group of men during a period of human history, marked by a crucial event, test, failure, and judgment. From the divine standpoint, it is an economy, or administration. From the human standpoint, it is a stewardship, a rule of life, or a responsibility for managing God's affairs in His house. From the historical standpoint, it is a stage in the progress of revelation.

Paul Nevin, "Some Major Problems in Dispensational Interpretation", TH.D. dissertation, Dallas Seminary, 1965

TWO KINGDOMS IN THIS WORLD

1. Satan's kingdom

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them," 2 Corinthians 4:4.

2. God's kingdom

"That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory," 1 Thessalonians 2:12.

Two primary responsibilities today in light of these two conflicting kingdoms:

- 1) Separation - Romans 12:1,2; Titus 2:12

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

"Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;"

This is done in word (doctrine) and action (godly lifestyle)

- 2) Evangelism - Mark 16:15

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

A BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICS AND OUR WORLD FROM A PREMILLENNIAL VIEW

I. GOD GAVE MAN DOMINION OVER THE EARTH

Gen. 1:26,28 (theocratic form of government)

II. SATAN USURPED THE DOMINION OVER MAN

Isaiah 14:12-14

* * * Three consequences of Satan's act * * * *

- 1) Loss of theocratic rule
Adam lost dominion when he disobeyed God and followed Satan Genesis 3
- 2) Satan is now ruling the world's system
1 John 5:19
John 12:31; 16:11
2 Corinthians 4:3-4
Ephesians 6:12
Luke 4:5-7
- 3) God placed all of nature under a curse
Genesis 3:17-19

Others have taught these same truths using different terminology. John Schmitt and J. Carl Laney identify these three areas as:

- 1) Redeem humanity (Humanity has fallen into sin)
- 2) Reclaim His kingdom (Because of the fall the world has fallen under Satan's sway)
- 3) Execute Judgment (The earth and it's inhabitants have been affected by sin and must be purged)

They comment "most of biblical history and theology can be viewed as the outworking of one of these aspects of God's divine program."

Messiahs Coming Temple: Ezekiel's Prophetic Vision of the Future Temple, John Schmitt and J. Carl Laney, Kregel Publishers, page 201, 2014 Updated Edition

III. GOD IS BUILDING HIS KINGDOM

"The kingdom of God involves God's people in God's place under God's rule."
Graeme Goldsworthy, *Gospel and Kingdom*, page 47, Paternoster, 1981

Pastors (elders) are God's authority in His kingdom

1 Timothy 1:12, 17

1 Timothy 3:1,5

Ephesians 4:10-13

Hebrews 13:7,17

"Is there a kingdom of God in the present age? Yes! The kingdom of God involves God's people, in God's place, under God's rule. Today, the people of God are believers in Christ (whether Jew or Gentile). God's place would be the body of Christ, the church. God's rule over His people is exercised through Christ and His undersheperds (church elders)."

Messiahs Coming Temple: Ezekiel's Prophetic Vision of the Future Temple, John Schmitt and J. Carl Laney, Kregel Publishers, page 206, 2014 Updated Edition

IV. CHRIST WILL REESTABLISH THE KINGDOM THAT ADAM LOST

- 1) Restore theocratic rule
Zechariah 14:9
- 2) God must crush Satan and his kingdom
Revelation 20:1-3, 7, 9-10
- 3) The curse must be lifted
Matthew 19:28
Acts 3:21
1 Corinthians 15:24-25
Revelation 11:15

V. CONCLUSION

- 1) Ultimately, God is sovereign
Daniel 5:21
Psalm 62:11
Romans 13:1-7
- 2) Satan is the god of the political systems of the world (includes all political systems)
Nations have demons (some nations at least, possibly all)
Isaiah 14:4, 12
Ezekiel 28:12-14
Daniel 10:12-13
- 3) Christians can't effectively serve two systems
Matthew 6:24
James 4:4
2 Timothy 2:4
- 4) Christians do serve in a kingdom - God's kingdom
Ephesians 2:19
2 Corinthians 5:17-20