

# Lessons and Legacy of Dispensationalism

David Dunlap - Easter Conf. Sudbury Bible Chapel - April 2007

## 1. Dispensational History

**George Elton Ladd** - "It is doubtful if there has been any other circle of men who have done more by their influence in preaching, teaching, and writing to promote a love for Bible study, hunger for the deeper Christian life, a passion for evangelism, and a zeal for missions in the history of American Christianity. *Crucial Questions About the Kingdom of God*", p. 49

**James Boice** - "I am delighted to say that the Scofield Bible was a great influence upon my own studies of the Scriptures. Moreover, I have the deepest respect for these Bible teachers. They were steeped in the Bible - Far more than most Bible teachers today." (Commentary on Sermon on the Mount)

**D. L. Moody** - "I had my attention called to C. H. M.'s notes, and was so pleased and at the same time profited by the way they opened up Scripture truth, that I secured at once all the writings of the same author, and if they could not be replaced, I would rather part with my entire library, excepting the Bible, than these writings. They have been to me a very key to the Scriptures." (Ernest Sandeen, *Roots of Fundamentalism*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1978), p. 166

## 2. Foreign Missions

Andrew Miller - 1,300 assemblies in 29 countries by 1878  
Central American Mission (1890) - Founded by C. I. Scofield

### Dr. Timothy Weber, Yale University

"By the 1920's (dispensational) premillennialists were claiming that they made up 'an overwhelming majority' of the missions movement. Others estimated that believers in the imminent second coming made up from 75 to 80 percent of the missionary force world wide...American premillennialist were better represented on the mission fields than in the home churches...Instead of cutting missionary involvement, premillennialism increased it." Timothy Weber, *Living in the Light of the Second Coming*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1983), p. 81

## 3. Biblical Evangelical-Dispensational Scholarship

J. N. Darby  
William Kelly  
F. W. Grant

Lewis Sperry Chafer  
W. E. Vine  
Erich Sauer

### Scofield Reference Bible (1909)

Bible Colleges- Moody Bible Institute  
Biola, California  
Grace College and Seminary

Dallas Theological Seminary (1924)  
Nyack College, NY  
Philadelphia College of the Bible

## 4. Ongoing Legacy of Dispensationalism

### • Evangelism

• Publishing - Loizeaux Brothers  
Moody Press  
Fleming Revell

W. E. Blackstone's - *Jesus Is Coming* (1898)  
R. A. Torrey (ed.) *The Fundamentals* (1917)  
Dwight Pentecost - *Things to Come* (1957)  
300,000 copies

### • Bible Conferences

### • Expository Preaching

### • Prophetic Teaching

### • Defense of Doctrine - Person of Christ, Inerrancy & Inspiration of Scripture

# Calvinism - Origin of Sin

The origin of sin has perplexed Christians throughout the history of the church. Many have asked, since God is supremely good and untainted by sin and infinitely sovereign over His created universe, how is it that sin entered the world which God declared to be “very good”? . How did sin enter the world? It was through disobedience to God’s revealed will on the part of the first man and woman. For we read, “By one man sin entered the world and death by sin” (Rom. 5:12).

## The Calvinist Doctrine of Determinism

John Calvin wrote:

*By predestination we mean the eternal decree of God, by which He determined with Himself whatever He wished to happen with regard to every man. All are not created on equal terms, but some are preordained to eternal life, others to eternal damnation; and accordingly, as each has been created for one or other of those ends, we say that he has been predestined to life or death.* Calvin, *Institutes*, Vol. 2, (Grand Rapids, MI, Eerdmans, 1952), p. 206

## The Coornhert “Heresy”?

In 1579 an educated Dutchman and the Secretary of State, Dirck Coornhert (1522-1590), kindled a theological firestorm by his scholarly lectures in refutation of Beza’s teaching. Coornhert argued that if, as Beza said, God causes sin, then in reality He is the author of sin. The Bible, he said, did not teach such a monstrous thing. Coornhert was attracting such a large hearing and arguing so brilliantly that great fear was awakened, lest the whole structure of Calvinism in the low countries be undermined. No minister seemed to be able to refute him, and so Jacob Arminius was commissioned by the Reformed church to do so. Arminius had studied under Beza in Geneva, and had also distinguished himself at the University of Leyden. Arminius set himself to the task of answering Coornheert. He began a serious review of predestination from the Bible itself and particularly from the book of Romans. The deeper Arminius went into his study of Romans, the more he became convinced that what Paul was teaching was a refutation of Beza’s concept of predestination. Arminius’ scholarly mind was now challenged to explore the subject more thoroughly. He read the church fathers. In his research he discovered that no church father had ever taught Beza’s view. Needless to say, the refutation of the Coornheert “heresy” was never issued.

## The Calvinist Doctrine: God Is The Author of Sin

A. W. Pink, - *Clearly it was the divine will that sin should enter this world, or it would not have done so. God had the power to prevent it. Nothing ever comes to pass except what He decreed...God’s decree that sin should enter this world was a secret hid in Himself.* —A. W. Pink, *Gleanings from the Scriptures*, (Chicago, IL, Moody Press, 1964), p. 207

Dr. John MacArthur - *Sin is something God meant to happen. He planned for it, ordained it—or in the words of the Westminster Confession, He decreed it. Evil and all its consequences were included in God’s eternal decree before the foundation of the world.* —John MacArthur, *Vanishing Conscience*, (Waco, TX, WordPublishing, 1995), p.113

R. C. Sproul, Jr. - *Every Bible-believing Christian must conclude at least that God in some sense desired that man would fall into sin...God wills all things that come to pass. It is in His power to stop whatever might come to pass. It is within His omniscience to imagine every possible turn of events and to choose that chain of events which most pleases Him...But wait a minute... Isn’t it impossible for God to do evil? He can’t sin. I am not accusing God of sinning; I am suggesting that He created sin.* —R. C. Sproul, Jr. *Almighty Over All*, (Grand Rapids, MI, Baker Books, 1999), p. 53-54)

## The Biblical Origin of Sin

How did sin enter the world? God is not the author of sin, nor will He entice man to sin.

James 1:13 - “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man”

Hab.1:13 - “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity” .

1 John 2:16 - “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father”

James 4:1 - “From whence come wars and fighting among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?”

# Calvinism - Total Depravity

**Total Depravity or Ability** The crux of the matter is to what extent an unbeliever is ruined by sin.

Theological View	Consequences of Sin	Degree of Ability
Pelagianism	None	Man can believe by his own ability - total
Semi-Pelagianism	Limited	Man can believe by his own ability-
Reformed view	Total Depravity	Man can only believe being regenerated by Spirit
Dispensational view	Total Depravity	Man can believe by the convicting work of Spirit

## Depravity - “Dead”

Calvinism teaches that man is “dead”. Spiritual death means inability to believe, understand, or respond. A dead man is just that —dead, unable to respond.

A. W. Pink - *What can a lifeless man do, and man by nature is dead in his trespasses and sins. A dead man is utterly incapable of willing anything.*

## Does the Word “Dead” Mean Inability

Eph. 2:1- What does the Bible mean when it speaks of “spiritual death”? Does it mean that man is incapable of faith?

Romans 6 - our position in Christ in Romans 6. There the Christian is “Dead to sin”(6:2), yet believers are exhorted not to yield themselves as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin” (6:13).

John 5:25, we read these words, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, ‘The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.’ ”

## The Meaning of the Word “Dead” in Scripture

What then does “dead” mean? In Scripture the primary meaning of the “death” is separation.

Spiritual Death	At Conception	Born in Adam	Separation from God by sin	Gen. 2:17, Eph. 2:1	Salvation; Indwelling Spirit of God
Physical Death	At Death	Fall, curse, and being in Adam	Separation of soul & spirit from your body	Heb. 9:27	For the believer, it is “sleep”, then resurrection
Eternal Death	Begins at death and last forever	Physical death apart from faith in Christ	Separation of your body,soul, and spirit from God forever.	Rev. 20:14, Matt. 25:46	Salvation and eternal life

## The Will of Man and the Will of God in Scripture -

Isaiah 46:10 - “My counsel shall stand, I will do My good pleasure.”

Isa. 65:12 - “... Because when I called, you did not answer; when I spoke, you did not hear; but did evil before Mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not”.

Luke 7:30 says, “But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected for themselves the counsel of God, being not baptized of him...”

Matt. 23:37 - “How often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wing and you would not.”

1 Tim. 2:4 - “...God of Savior; Who will have all men saved, and come to a knowledge of the truth.”

**W. E. Vine** - “For who withstands His will?”(Rom. 9:19) The word rendered “will” is *boulema*, which signifies a deliberate purpose and is to be distinguished from the more frequent and general word *thelema*, which, frequently has the meaning of a desire, or spontaneous will. Man is able to resist the will, the *thelema* of God, but whatever takes place, God's determinate counsel, *boulema* is never prevented from fulfillment. —W. E. Vine, *Romans*, (London, GB:Oliphants LTD, 1948), p.146

2 Peter 3:9 - “The Lord...is not willing (*boulema*) that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

# Christ, the Center of God's Program on the Earth

## Christ and Biblical Ages

"End of the ages" - Heb. 9:26

"Ages of Ages" - Eph. 3:1

"Age to Come" - Eph. 2:7

"Powers of the Age to Come" - Heb. 6:5

"Upon whom the ends of the world (ages) are come...1 Cor. 10:11

"Demas who loved this present evil age" Gal. 1:4

"Shall not be forgiven in this *age* or in *the age to come*" Matt. 12:32

## King of the ages

1 Tim. 1:17 King eternal, immortal, invisible only wise God honor glory unto the ages of ages

## Creator of the ages

Heb. 1:2 His Son whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom he made the ages

## Beginning of the world

2 Tim. 1:9 Given us in Christ Jesus before the "times of the ages" (world began)

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life which God who cannot lie promised before the "times of the ages"

**Heb. 9:26 - "Once at the end ("consummation"- Darby ) of the world (ages) Christ appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself"**

**James Flanigan** - Once in the consummation of the ages, he appeared, his coming was a climactic moment of fulfillment. It was the moment toward which all purpose and prophecy had been moving. It was not so much an end as a consummation. The Savior's coming to put away sin was the very climax of human history. Past ages and ages future meet here at the cross. All the ages past looked forward to Calvary. All the future will look back to it. The ages meet at Golgotha. Calvary was the meeting place of two eternities.

**Eph. 3:21 - "Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus *throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*" (Eternity)**

J. N. Darby -

**"To all generations of the age of ages"**

Alexander Maclaren -

**"To all generations of an eternity of ages"**

**W. Robertson Nicoll** - *"The phrase age of ages may have the force of a superlative, the 'age par excellence', the age besides which there is none other to be named"*.

**Alexander Maclaren** - "An eternity of ages will be needful for the redeemed to show forth His praise and to blaze out like the sun in the radiation of His glory. We shall not die until we have exhausted God. And comprehended all His nature in our thoughts, and reflect all his beauty in our character; and have attained all the bliss we can think."

**Rev. 4-5 - Christ, the Centerpiece of Heaven** - All things are positioned in relationship to Christ

4:3 **Round about** the throne there were four-twenty elders

4:5 **Out of** the throne proceeded thunderclaps and voices...

4:6 **Before the throne** there was a sea of glass...**the midst** of the throne...**round about the throne**...

5:11 The voice of many angels **round about the throne**

# “Replacement” Theology Examined

**Intro:** What is it? The church inherits the promises and prophecies given to Israel?

## 1. When God Replaces Something Your Never Hear From It Again

Sodom and Gomorrah Gen. 19

City of Tyre - Ezek. 28

Jericho - Josh. 6:26

## 2. History Disproves Replacement Theology

**Theodor Herzl** - (1853-1904) “There is a land without a people and there is a people without a land, give the land without a people to the people without a land.”

**W. E. Blackstone** -

**Balfour Declaration 1918**- “Her majesty’s government will do everything in her power to give a homeland to the jews...”

**General Edmund Allenby** - Five weeks later- entered Jerusalem with out a shot being fired

**Nation of Israel** - May 14th, 1948

## 3. Jesus Did Not Believe in Replacement Theology

A. Luke 13:6 - Israel - Fig Tree - **During the Earthly Ministry of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

B. Matt. 21:17-20 - Israel - Fig Tree - **During the Last Two Thousand Years**

C. Matt. 24:32-34 - Israel - Fig Tree - **Israel in the Future - Budding of the Fig Tree**

## 4. God’s Prophecies Disprove Replacement Theology

A. National and Spiritual Rebirth of Israel - Ezekiel 36-37

• Ezek. 37:7-8, 13 - National regathering of the nation - the Present- May 14, 1948

• Ezek 37 :9-10, 14 Spiritual rebirth of the Nation of Israel - Future

## 5. God’s Promises Disprove Replacement Theology - “My Land” Joel 3:2

**A. - The Lord’s Promise of the Land - Deut. 32:8**

**B. The Ownership of the Land is the Lord**

**Lev. 25:23** - “The land shall not be sold forever, (at any time) , for *the land is mine.*”

**Jer. 2:7** - “I brought you into a plentiful country,... but when you entered, you defiled *my land*

**C. The Stewardship of the Land is the Lord’s**

**Deut. 11:11** - “A land of hill and valleys..A land with the Lord thy God careth for; the eyes of the Lord thy God are *always upon it from the beginning of the year to the end of the year...*

**Ezek. 20:6** - “In the day I lifted up my hand, brought them out of Egypt, a land I had espied (chosen) for them...flowing with milk and honey...*which is the glory of all lands.*

**D. Israel my Glory**

**Isa 46:13** - “I will bring near my righteousness; ... and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory.”

**Ex 4:22** - (My son) “Say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the Lord, Israel is *My son*, even *My firstborn son...*let *My son* go, that he may serve me...if thou will refuse I will slay thy son...

**God is not finished with His people Israel; they are His son, His glory, His promises concerning his land He will not alter!!!**