

DEVELOPING A BIBLICAL PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY

It makes a difference in your view of history, politics, culture, education, and just about every discipline in the world.

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

“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.”

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

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

“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.”

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**What is our
world view?**

“Who delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son.”

Colossians 1:13

“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

“Who delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son.”

Colossians 1:13

“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

“Who delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son.”

Colossians 1:13

“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](#)

“Who delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son.”

Colossians 1:13

“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

“Who delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son.”

Colossians 1:13

One who believes with his whole heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and their Lord and Savior: “...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.”

James Orr, one of the first to develop the understanding of a Christian worldview, presented a series of lectures in 1890-91 titled "The Christian View of God and the World"

There are four dominate worldviews in the Western world: 1) Secular Humanism

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.

There are four dominate worldviews in the Western world: 2) 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."

There are four dominate worldviews in the Western world: 3) Cosmic Humanism

A worldview that 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 to 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.

There is very little difference in these 3 worldviews of secular humanism, communism, and cosmic humanism.

- 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 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

“...I will be like the most High.”

Deception of Eve

Genesis 3:1-5

“...ye shall be as gods...”

Sin of Babylon

Isaiah 47:10

“...thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.”

Ultimate demise of every society

Romans 1:25

“...changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature...”

Rule of Anti-Christ

2 Thessalonians 2:4, 10-11

“...he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”

“that they should believe a lie:”

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 from Ken Copeland, Kenneth Hagin, Paul Crouch, Morris Cerullo, Benny Hinn

There are four dominate worldviews in the Western world: 4) Biblical (Christian)

“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

There are four dominate worldviews in the Western world: 4) Biblical (Christian)

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.

There are four dominate worldviews in the Western world: 4) Biblical (Christian)

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.

Dispensational Theology - “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 primary responsibilities today in light of these two conflicting kingdoms

1) Separation

“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. 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.” Romans 12:1-2

“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;” Titus 2:12

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

Two primary responsibilities today in light of these two conflicting kingdoms

2) Evangelism

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

16:15

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

I. GOD GAVE MAN DOMINION OVER THE EARTH

Genesis 1:26,28 (theocratic form of government)

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”

“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”

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II. SATAN USURPED GOD'S DOMINION OVER MAN THROUGH THE FALL OF MAN – Genesis 3

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

1) Loss of theocratic rule

**Adam lost dominion when he disobeyed God and followed
Satan - Genesis 3**

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

2) Satan is now ruling the world's system

1 John 5:19 “And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.”

John 12:31 “Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.”

John 16:11 “Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”

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

2) Satan is now ruling the world's system

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 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.”

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

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

2) Satan is now ruling the world's system

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:12

“And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.”

Luke 4:5-7

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

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

3) God placed all of nature under a curse

“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” Genesis 3:17-19

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Others have taught these same truths using different terminology. John Schmitt and J. Carl Laney identify these three areas as 1) humanity has fallen into sin; 2) the world has fallen under Satan's sway; and 3) the earth and it's inhabitants have been affected by man's sin. They comment "most of biblical history and theology can be viewed as the outworking of one of these aspects of God's divine program."

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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

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III. GOD IS BUILDING HIS KINGDOM

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

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry” 1 Timothy 1:12

“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.” 1 Timothy 1:17

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III. GOD IS BUILDING HIS KINGDOM

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“This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.” 1 Timothy 3:1

“For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?” 1 Timothy 3:5

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

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“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-13

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

III. GOD IS BUILDING HIS KINGDOM

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

“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.”

Hebrews 13:7

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.” Hebrews 13:17

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“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.”

Messiahs Coming Temple: Ezekiel's Prophetic Vision of the Future Temple, John Schmitt and J. Carl Laney, Kregel Publishers, page 166

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IV. CHRIST WILL REESTABLISH THE KINGDOM THAT ADAM LOST

1) Restore theocratic rule

“And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.” Zechariah 14:9

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

IV. CHRIST WILL REESTABLISH THE KINGDOM THAT ADAM LOST

2) God must crush Satan and his kingdom

“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little

season.” Revelation 20:1-3

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“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,...And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” **Revelation 20:7, 9-10**

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

IV. CHRIST WILL REESTABLISH THE KINGDOM THAT ADAM LOST

3) The curse must be lifted

“And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” Matthew 19:28

“Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.” Acts 3:21

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

“Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.” 1 Corinthians 15:24-25

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.” Revelation 11:15

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

V. CONCLUSION

1) Ultimately, God is sovereign

“And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.” Daniel 5:21

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

**“God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power
belongeth unto God.”** Psalm 62:11

**“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no
power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.”** Romans
13:1

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

V. CONCLUSION

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)

“That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!” Isaiah 14:4

“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations.”

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

“Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.”

Ezekiel 28:12-14

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

“Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.” Daniel 10:12-13

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

V. CONCLUSION

3) Christians can't effectively serve two systems

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” Matthew 6:24

“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” James 4:4

“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” 2 Timothy 2:4

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

V. CONCLUSION

- 4) Christians do serve in a kingdom - God's kingdom

“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God.”

Ephesians 2:19

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

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.”

2 Corinthians 5:17-20