

Theological Orientation to the POG—Dispensationalism (3)

1. Etymology—οἰκονομία

- ❖ Compound word meaning: house administration, the action of administering or managing a system, to manage, regulate, administer, plan.
- ❖ 22x in the Bible: steward, stewardship, manager, dispensation, administration,
- ❖ Unfortunately, original Scofield Bible, defined a dispensation as a “*period of time* during which man is tested in respect of obedience to some specific revelation of the will of God.”

2. Definition and Description of dispensationalism

- ❖ A dispensation is a distinguishable economy in the outworking of God’s purpose.
- ❖ God’s governing method in dealing with mankind in different stages, each with new revelation, tests, failure, judgment.

Covenantalism—Amillennialism



Covenantalism—Postmillennialism



Dispensationalism—Premillennialism (Thieme)

Theocentric

Gentiles | Israel

Christocentric

HU | Church

Eschatological

Tribulation | Millennium

Spiritual Life Orientation

#1 –Salvation by grace.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved (ἐστε σεσωσμένοι) through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, that no one should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

#2 – Fellowship with God. The problem with “silver bullet theology” as an outgrowth of a superficial understanding of fellowship w/God.

Genesis 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. . . . Noah was a righteous man, blameless (תָּמִים) in his time; Noah walked with God. . . . **11** Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. . . . all flesh had corrupted their way

Genesis 17:1 . . . the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty (אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָם); Walk before Me, and you shall be תָּמִים

Romans 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts, ¹³ and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.

#3 – The importance of Spiritual Growth.

Revelation 3:18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. ¹⁹ 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent. ²⁰ 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ **'He who overcomes (ὁ νικῶν)**, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²² 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

LIFE OF DAVID (92) – Government, part 5: Natural Law and the Real Problem of Evil

Review:

Government 1 - The 7 laws of divine establishment.

Government 2 - The Evils of Big Government, 1 Sam 8.

Government 3 - The purpose of Government, Rom 13.

Government 4 - How Christ and BD founded Western Civilization

1. Natural Law and the Founding of our Great Country.

- *When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the **Laws of Nature and of Nature's God** entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. --That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed*

2. Natural Law (NL) refers to laws and ethics that are transcendent and not a human creation—cf. dustup over Clarence Thomas.
3. These transcendent laws can be discovered apart from the Word of God.
4. If NL is true then the believer can engage the unbeliever on universal values, if untrue then all we have is the gospel.
5. Biblical basis for natural law:
 - ✓ **Romans 2:14-15** For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience (συνειδήσεως) bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,

- OT prophets condemned Israel's pagan neighbors, who did not have the Law, for many of the same things He condemned Israel, Isa. 13-27; Jer. 46-51; Ezek. 25-32; Amos 1-2. Unless the nations have access to God's law apart from written Law, it is hard to see how God can be just in holding them accountable for that which they have no knowledge.

- God's reveals Himself in creation to all men—and this revelation includes moral law, Psa. 19; Prov. 6:6-11; 8:32-36; 24:30-34—from order of nature to order of reason.
- Scripture and NL are two sides to God's wisdom.

6. Limits of natural law.

- ✓ Reformers: NL = virtually useless due to noetic effects of sin.
- ✓ Although NL does help reveal some basic moral principles, Scripture is always the final arbiter.

7. Natural law (rule of law) or legal positivism (rule of man).

8. All laws are grounded in God & His creation, revealed in general revelation, deduced by reason & experience. They are substantially revealed in Scripture which is the final authority!

9. Natural law: Blessings and cursings , Dt. 28:1ff; Lev 18:17-24.
- ✓ Blessings, Dt 18:1-14: greatest nation on earth; blessings in the city and the country; good health, financial prosperity, victory in war (WWI WWII), spiritual blessings, respect around the world, lender nation, independent great power.
 - ✓ Cursings, Dt 18:15-25: economic ruin, diseases, mental illness, military defeat.
 - ✓ Sins that defile any nation, Lev. 18:17-25. Lasciviousness, salaciousness, child molestation, adultery, sacrifice children to idolatry—mammonism and the gods of selfishness and convenience, homosexuality (30 years off of life), 5th cycle of discipline on gentile nations (25).

- ✓ The iniquities of the Amorites, Genesis 15:16.
 - **Genesis 15:16** "Then in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity (עֲוֹן) of the Amorite is not yet complete."

- ✓ The iniquities of Sodom and Gomorrah, Gen 18:20-31; 19:4-13.
 - **Genesis 18:20** And the LORD said, "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave (כְּבִדָּה מְאֹד).

- **Genesis 18:32** Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak only this once; suppose ten are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy *it* on account of the ten."
- **Genesis 19:5** and they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them." ⁶ But Lot went out to them at the doorway, and shut the door behind him, ⁷ and said, "Please, my brothers, do not act wickedly."

10. The 5 decay stages of a nation of a nation, Rom. 1:18-32.

- ✓ #1—Rejection of the true God, 18-22. A worldview that is not livable is not worth having (cf. Carl Sagan). No gratitude.
- ✓ #2—Idolatry, 22-25. No one can live a purely secular life. Because man is a “spiritual” being with spiritual needs. If you reject the truth, you will vulnerable to the lie.
- ✓ #3—Sexual immorality, 26-27. Spiritually and physically damaging, even in Paul’s day. Over 300 homosexual diseases, not counting AIDS.
- ✓ #4—Depraved mind, 28-31. When man rejects God, God turns him over to a depraved mind. MAS, SOT, evil, and lack of moral absolutes.
- ✓ #5—New Morality—rejection of God’s natural laws and the approval of evil, 32.

11. Modern America, for the most part, continues to turn her back on the God who blessed her by rejecting His NL/BD. The results of this negative volition is more saturation of evil/good—manifested by the rule of man rather than by NL.

12. As American moves into paganism, she falls under increasing Satanic deception like the rest of the nations, Rev. 12:9; 1 John 5:19.
 - ✓ **Revelation 12:9** And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.
 - ✓ **1 John 5:19** We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one.

13. We should not be surprised when the world acts like the world. However, when the church does not act like the church we have every reason to be concerned.

- ✓ The church needs to be more concerned with BD and spiritual growth, then being PC. Christ was not crucified for being PC.
- ✓ Church TV is an abomination. The problem of people being PC and not calling evil evil is now in the church.
- ✓ Polls indicate that most people in church have the same viewpoints as culture regarding absolutes, marriage, and the daily life.

14. When natural law and/or BD is rejected, sin is parlayed into evil. In evil the absolutes of NL are rejected and new absolutes eventually emerge.

Isa. 5:20-21, Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! ²¹ Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

15. Rejection of NL leads to new PC absolutes where it is wrong to call wrong “wrong.” It is not just doing that which is wrong, but encouraging that which is wrong. The only ones who are condemned are those who condemn sinful acts. This is the nature of evil.

16. When a nation reaches a saturation point of evil (where evil is called good and good is called evil), God brings in various cycles of divine discipline to warn the nation of impending destruction, Lev. 26:14ff.

17. When God disciplines a nation, He does so through other evil nations, cf. Assyria, Babylon, and Rome—Islam today?

18. Divine discipline on a nation begins with the house of God for their own evil within that nation, 1 Pet. 4:17, Matt. 5:13. Just as He does with national entities, God allows evil enemies of Christianity to attack/discipline her (cf. the media, college professors, liberals, atheists and cults).

- ✓ **1 Peter 4:17** For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

- ✓ **Matthew 5:13** "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty *again*? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

19. The evil in the church is well-documented. However, most of the Christian media turn a blind eye to the scams (cf. Baker, Tilton, Hagin, Roberts, Hinn, Osteen). The extent of the evil in the church is to the point where hardly anyone believes it is good to point out these evils. It is now evil to call point out evil in churches, and the evil in the churches is actually approved of because of some “good result.” Meanwhile, Christianity continues to be distorted in the public’s eye.

20. When a nation is saturated with evil, God has no choice but to administer cycles of discipline on that nation in order to protect the upcoming generation, Rom. 1:32; Isa. 5:20; Jon. 4:11.

- ✓ **Jonah 4:11** "And should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know *the difference* between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?"

21. As a reversionistic nation rejects the six laws of divine establishment, it actually trusts (נִטְּוּ) in evil, cf. Isa 47:10.
- ✓ Trusting in man rather than God, NL, and Laws of DE: Big Government, Social Security, enemy nations, Muslims, socialists, communists, liberals, United Nations, psychology, self-help, criminals, legislation to control inflation and guns, government control over free enterprise/capitalism, sociology, evolutionary environmentalism, “compassionate” fascism, and a million other things whereby man trusts in himself and his solutions as he rejects God and His laws of divine establishment.
 - ✓ Nations which are not influenced by BD will not be able to maintain laws of divine establishment (Rom 1:20ff).

- ✓ The only hope for any nation is the pivot of maturing believers, Matt. 5:13; Hos. 4:1-6, 2 Chron 7:14.
 - **Matthew 5:13** "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty *again*? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.
 - **2 Chronicles 7:14** and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. ¹⁵ "Now My eyes shall be open and My ears attentive to the prayer *offered* in this place.

- **Hosea 4:1-6** Listen to the word of the LORD, O sons of Israel, For the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land, Because there is no faithfulness or kindness Or knowledge of God in the land. ² *There is* swearing, deception, murder, stealing, and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. . . . ⁴ Yet let no one find fault, and let none offer reproof; For your people are like those who contend with the priest. ⁵ So you will stumble by day, And the prophet also will stumble with you by night; And I will destroy your mother. ⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest.

22. Evil is the grand policy of Satan as the ruler of this world.
- ✓ Evil includes human good, sweetness and light, a chicken in every pot, social and economic panaceas, the attempt to solve the problems of life apart from God or the laws of DE, social gospel, social action (cf. America's messianic complex), socialism, religion, legalism, "Christian" victorious life panaceas, prosperity gospel, "its good because it is helping some people" mentality, et al.
 - ✓ Chafer, "The program of Satan, which the world calls "optimistic," rests on the Satanic purpose of a reformed society; in contrast, the program of God, which is called pessimistic, in that it discredits this age, rests upon the infinite wisdom, love and power of God, and is so certain and near that the believer is taught to watch, wait, and be ready for the first divine movement toward this glorious end.

- ✓ Chafer, “The motive of Satan is four times revealed, and these disclosures stand out like milestones in his career.
 - First, his master passion. His secret purpose was to be “like the Most High,” Isa. 14:14.
 - Second, his ideal in others. In the Garden he recommended his own goals, “you shall be as gods.”
 - Third, his desire to take the place of God. When he met the last Adam in the wilderness, he manifests his desire to take the place of God, “if you will worship me,” Lk 4:7.
 - Fourth, his motive ultimately revealed in the assumption of the Man of Sin, 2 Thess. 2:4.
 - ✓ **2 Thessalonians 2:4** who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

- ✓ Chafer, “Next to the lie itself, the greatest delusion Satan imposes—reaching to all unsaved and to a large proportion of Christians—is the supposition that only such things as society considers evil could originate with the devil—if, indeed, there be any devil to originate anything. It is not the reason of man, but the revelation of God, which points out that governments, morals, education, art, commercialism, vast enterprises and organizations, and much of religious activity are included in the *cosmos diabolicus*. That is, the system which Satan has constructed includes all the good which he can incorporate into it and be consistent in the thing he aims to accomplish. A serious question arises whether the presence of gross evil in the world is due to Satan’s intention to have it so, or whether it indicates Satan’s inability to execute all he has designed.”

23. Sin comes from man's OSN whereas evil pervades man's heart/thinking. Therefore, evil is far more difficult to get rid of. Evil gets into the thoughts, the frame of reference, the memory center, the vocabulary, the norms and standards, and then on the launching pad, Mtt. 15:18-19.

- ✓ **Matthew 15:18** "But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. ¹⁹
"For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

24. Sin was solved at salvation, but evil can only be resolved through spiritual growth/BD resulting in maturity—supergrace!
25. The sins of humanity were judged on the Cross, but problem of evil was not solved at the Cross or in salvation.
26. Evil continues as the policy of Satan until the millennium. He continues to attempt to improve the world by human good and evil. Evil distorts legitimate things (i.e. charity, prayer).

27. Satan attempts to improve apostate Christianity with religion and ministers of “righteousness.” Satan is not opposed to quoting Scripture, Matt. 4. He loves all of the distortions on Christian TV from tithing to bribing God. He loves to focus on buildings, programs, and productions—monsters which have to fed—just as long as BD is not taught. He is a genius at parlaying good/legitimate things into evil.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

28. The believer's sin is handled by rebound relating it to the Cross, but evil can only be avoided by establishing a command post of the soul—constructed of Bible doctrine.
29. When a believer is in extended carnality or reversionism, he lives a life of trusting in evil. Only the daily intake and use of the WOG under FHS can remove this evil thinking and protect him.
30. The greatest enemy of mankind and the believer is evil, which always produces arrogance. It is not simply an isolated sin—it is a way of thinking that dominates the life.

31. Evil is the single hardest thing to overcome in the CWL. It takes years and years of consistent and persistent BD under the FHS. The problem is that in evil/arrogance doctrine—this message, BD—is rejected out of hand!
32. Evil originates from the arrogance and evil genius of Satan. It is the epitome of arrogance to assume that man, by man's efforts, can really solve man's deep spiritual and psychological problems.
33. Evil has no capacity to understand grace or what a relationship with God really is or means. Evil has no capacity for freedom for self or for others. Evil makes self into a god—even a savior of sorts.

34. A look at Lucifer, the Evil One—the origin of evil, Isa.14:12ff.

- a. Satan wants to be like God—not unlike God.
- b. He wants to be possessor of heaven and earth.
- c. Satan brought in “evil” for the first time with his independence.
- d. Satan will try to establish a kingdom, but will fail, cf. 17.

- e. Consider how Satan used His position and God-given gifts against God. Ultimate failure of the prosperity test.
- f. Consider how Satan rejected intimate fellowship with God.
- g. Consider how Satan used power from God to fight against and oppose God to the very end. The gifts of God are irrevocable.

- h. Satan will fail to clean up the world or improve nature of man.
- i. Since Satan deceives the whole world (Rev. 12:9), it is not hard to see why he will permit about anything but the teaching of Bible doctrine. He totally rejected Bible doctrine, Jn. 8:44.
- j. Satan loves to get people to reject God and natural law so they will move into idolatry and eventually worship him. He is always pushing success without God—the epitome of evil.