

Think logic and philosophy are not important? Think again!

## The Content of Your Theology

### Responding to Finis Jennings Dake, et al.



**Finis J. Dake**  
1902-1987

"God has a personal spirit body (Dan. 7:9-14; 10:5-19); shape (Jn. 5:37); form (Phil. 2:5-7); image and likeness of a man (Gen. 1:26; 9:6; Ezek. 1:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:7; Jas. 3:9). He has bodily parts such as, back parts (Ex. 33:23), heart (Gen. 6:6; 8:21), hands and fingers (Ps. 8:3-6; Heb. 1:10; Rev. 5:1-7), mouth (Num. 12:8), lips and tongue (Isa. 30:27), feet (Ezek. 1:27; Ex. 24:10), eyes (Ps. 11:4; 18:24; 33:18), ears (Ps. 18:6), hair, head, face, arms (Dan. 7:9-14; 10:5-19; Rev. 5:1-7; 22:4-6), and other bodily parts.

Dake, NT, p. 97.

Note what kind of God you end up with without good philosophy

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**But, does God have wings and feathers?**

Ruth 2:12 "The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose **wings** you have come for refuge."

Psalms 17:8 "Keep me as the apple of Your eye; Hide me under the shadow of Your **wings**."

Psalms 36:7 "How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your **wings**."

Psalms 57:1 "Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your **wings** I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by."

Psalms 61:4" I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your **wings**. Selah"

Psalms 91:4 "He shall cover you with His **feathers**, And under His **wings** you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler."

## Examining Presuppositions- theology/POG/Dispensationalism (4)

1. The importance of logic, metaphysics, philosophy, and systematic theology in classical theism. It really is more than *merely* reading your Bible. God gave us a mind to understand.
2. Thinking God's thoughts after Him, and avoiding simply using God to feather our beds and make the hurt go away (paganism). We are meant to be theologians and winners in the spiritual life. We will always be unsatisfied until *we* know Him.
3. There are two major philosophies of history— dispensationalism and covenantalism—that are used to interpret the whole Bible.

# Definition of Covenantalism

- ✓ System of theology based on a covenant of works and a covenant of grace as governing categories for understanding and interpreting the entire Bible.
- ✓ Note the presuppositional effect: interpreting the entire Bible.

# THE THEOLOGICAL COVENANTS

**COVENANT  
OF WORKS**

**GOD  
and  
ADAM**

**GENESIS 1:27-3:6**

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**COVENANT  
OF GRACE**

**GOD  
and  
MANKIND**

**OLD  
TESTAMENT  
Patriarchal/Mosaic**

**GENESIS 3:7**

**NEW  
TESTAMENT  
Christian**

**REVELATION 20:15**

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**COVENANT THEOLOGY**

## **Definition & Description of Dispensationalism.**

- ✓ “A distinguishable economy/administration or stewardship in the outworking of God’s purpose.”
- ✓ Each distinct economy includes such things as a distinct revelation, responsibility, failure, and judgment.
- ✓ Dispensationalism views the world as a household run by God in various stages of revelation.



# THE DISPENSATIONS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Scripture</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Judgment(s)</b>
Innocency	Genesis 1:3–3:6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Keep garden</li> <li>■ Do not eat one fruit</li> <li>■ Fill, subdue earth</li> <li>■ Fellowship with God</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Curses, and physical and spiritual death</li> </ul>
Conscience	Genesis 3:7–8:14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Do good</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Flood</li> </ul>
Civil Government	Genesis 8:15–11:9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Fill earth</li> <li>■ Capital punishment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Forced scattering by confusion of languages</li> </ul>
Patriarchal Rule	Genesis 11:10–Exodus 18:27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Stay in Promised Land</li> <li>■ Believe and obey God</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Egyptian bondage and wilderness wanderings</li> </ul>
Mosaic Law	Exodus 19:1–Acts 1:26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Keep the law</li> <li>■ Walk with God</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Captivities</li> </ul>
Grace	Acts 2:1–Revelation 19:21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Believe on Christ</li> <li>■ Walk with Christ</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Death</li> <li>■ Loss of rewards</li> </ul>
Millennium	Revelation 20:1–15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Believe and obey Christ and His government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Death</li> <li>■ Great White Throne Judgment</li> </ul>

# Examining Presuppositions: Spiritual Life Orientation

**#1 –Salvation, #2--the spiritual life, and #3 spiritual growth.**

**Titus 2:11** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men [unlimited atonement], <sup>12</sup> instructing (παιδεύουσα/training) us to deny ungodliness and worldly (κοσμικός) desires and to live sensibly (σωφρόνως), righteously and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus [OWC]; <sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us, that He might liberate us from every lawless deed and purify (καθαρίση ) for Himself [for true fellowship there must be no barriers, no sin, no mistrust, true fellowship demands removal of every barrier and knowledge of the person] a people for His own possession (περιούσιος), zealous for good deeds. <sup>15</sup> These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.



### 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

Government 5 - Natural Law and the 5 decay stages of a nation

1. The incredible *evil* power of Satan to deceive individuals, nations and the world is absolutely staggering!
  
2. Consider Satan's Power to deceive nations, Rev 12:9-10.
  - ✓ **Revelation 12:9** And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives (ὁ πλανῶν) 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 (κεῖται ) in *the power of* the evil one (ἐν τῷ πονηρῷ).

3. Consider how Satan deceived the church with the influx of paganism as Constantine “Christianized” Rome.
4. Consider how Satan deceived the church by getting her to cut herself off from the root of Judaism and consequently became viciously anti-Semitic—a complete reversal of Acts 15. Ideas always have consequences and here you have the “church” persecuting God’s chosen people, the Jews, all the while embracing Roman paganism—from 300-1500 A.D.
  - ✓ **Romans 11:17** But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree,<sup>18</sup> do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, *remember that* it is not you who supports the root, but the root *supports* you.

5. 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 philosophy, theology, BD, for spiritual growth, then being sensate or PC.
  - ✓ “Church TV” is an abomination. The evil as expressed by not calling evil “evil” is now in the church. Neo-paganism masquerading as Christianity before the world—frightening. They do not have enough doctrine to be aware of their heresies.
  - ✓ Polls indicate that most people in church have the same viewpoints as culture regarding moral relativism, illicit sex, marriage, and the daily life. We live in a very pagan—narcissistic and sensate world. God help us!

6. Not only has sin been parlayed into evil throughout society, it is prevalent in many churches as well. Very paganistic non-theological view of God, “God is here for me . . . I do not want to think. . . If I just \_\_\_ He will bless me” (= “keys to & victory in” manipulating God)

**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! <sup>21</sup> Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!



7. When sin is parlayed into evil, the evil becomes the new absolute where almost anything is tolerated except calling evil evil. In reversionism evil becomes the new standard where it is actually promoted & encouraged, Rom. 1:34.
  
8. 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. 26:14-33: #1 terror, #2 removal of strength/pride, #3 plagues, #4 military defeat, #5 destruction of country by another nation.
  
9. When God disciplines a nation, He does so through other evil nations, cf. Assyria, Babylon, and Rome—Islam today?

10. Divine discipline on a nation begins with the house of God for its 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.

11. 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 point out evil in churches, and the evil in the churches is actually approved of because of some “good/blessed result.” Meanwhile, Christianity continues to be distorted in the public’s eye.

12. 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?"

13. As a reversionistic nation rejects NL and the 7 laws of divine establishment, it actually trusts in evil, cf. Isa 47:10: For thou hast trusted (בְּטַח) in thy evil (בְּרָעוֹתֶיךָ).”
- ✓ Trusting in evil = trusting in: man rather than God, positive law, 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, natural law, & laws of DE establishment.
  - ✓ Rejection of God always means rejection of BD and the laws of divine establishment (Rom 1:20ff).



14. The only hope for any nation is the pivot of maturing believers known as the Remnant—God always keeps a remnant ( **ῥᾶψ, λείμμα**). Unfortunately, throughout the OT and NT the majority of believers are reversionistic losers as they become products of their age, Matt. 5:13; Hos. 4:1-6, 2 Chron 7:14; I Kings 19:9-18; Isaiah 1:9; Rom. 11:2-5.
15. All the way through the Old Testament, over and over again, it was always the minority/remnant of Jews who obeyed the revelation of God and was able to stay out of evil thinking.
16. The prophets called the small group of believers the Remnant of Israel, the **ῥᾶψ**.

17. It has always been the Remnant of Israel that accepted what God has to say through the prophets.
18. The majority by and large has always rejected Bible doctrine, including the religious leaders of that day.
19. The Remnant in the OT always had to go against the religious leaders of their day—who called evil good and good evil.

20. The apostle Paul notes that this was also true in the New Testament with regard to Messianic Jews, Romans 11:5.

- ✓ **Romans 11:4** But what is the divine response to him? "I have kept for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." <sup>5</sup> In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to *God's* gracious choice.

21. If not for the Remnant in a nation, God will destroy that nation, Isa. 1:9.

- ✓ **Isaiah 1:9** Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, *and* we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

## 22. There is always a correspondence between breakdown of BD and the breakdown of natural law and laws of DE.

**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. <sup>2</sup> *There is* swearing, deception, murder, stealing, and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. . . . <sup>4</sup> Yet let no one find fault, and let none offer reproof; For your people are like those who contend with the priest. <sup>5</sup> So you will stumble by day, And the prophet also will stumble with you by night; And I will destroy your mother. <sup>6</sup> My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest.

## 23. 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.”

24. 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. <sup>19</sup>  
"For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

25. Sin was solved at salvation, but evil can only be resolved through spiritual growth/BD resulting in maturity—supergrace!
26. The sins of humanity were judged on the Cross, but problem of evil was not solved at the Cross or in salvation.
27. 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).

28. 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 feed—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. <sup>15</sup> Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

29. 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.
30. 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.
31. 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.

32. 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!
33. 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.
34. 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.



## **35. 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.

# The Relationship between the Church and State

1. There are perspectives on the relationship of church and state.
  - a. Secularism—State over the Church.
  - b. Reconstructionism—Church over the State.
  - c. Jeffersonianism—a cooperation between church and state.
  
2. Secularism: Marxism, as manifested in the old Soviet Union and China; increasingly in North America. Leadership often claims a separation of church and state, but in practice it is domination of the church by state. In secularism the state ends up imposing irreligion on the state. Characteristics: government is reduced to situationalism as it eschews all God-given moral absolutes, cf. Humanist Manifestos I and II. As the state rejects God (Rom 1:20ff), there are no God-given inalienable rights from the Creator and civil law replaces moral law.

3. Reconstructionism: Church over State a.k.a. theocracy. The reconstructionists want to reconstruct civil government in a theocratic model, cf. Constantine, Charlemagne, Roman State Church, Augustine's *City of God*.
- ✓ Aka dominion theology, kingdom-now theology, theonomists
  - ✓ Reformational State churches: Calvin and Puritans. Calvin did for Geneva was Constantine did for RCSC
  - ✓ Puritans in early American colonies followed Calvin and persecuted believers like Roger Williams.
  - ✓ Players today: Rushdony, James Kennedy, David Barton.
  - ✓ The aim is to Christianize both America and the world.
  - ✓ Generally postmillennial.

- ✓ Problems: God never gave biblical law to Gentiles as basis for civil law; theonomy is unworkable in a pluralistic society; theonomy politicizes the church's mission; and theonomy stresses God's special revelation to the neglect of natural law (Romans 2:12-14).
- ✓ Theonomists deny the practical value of general revelation and natural law (due to noetic effects of sin). However, the Word declares that natural revelation is clearly seen, written on the hearts of all unbelievers, is the grounds for their being without excuse and is sufficient for them, to eternally perish, Rom. 2:12.

4. Jeffersonianism (J): The Natural-Law View.
- ✓ Early America – Declaration of Independence
  - ✓ Avoids both statism as well as theonomy.
  - ✓ Opposes statism because statism denies divine NL.
  - ✓ Opposes reconstructionism because 1) J denies special revelation as basis for civil government, and 2) J denies that any national church should be the law of the land, thus allowing freedom of belief for all groups.
  - ✓ J = Civil government is based on Nature's Law which comes from Nature's God.
  - ✓ By basing government in natural, universal, moral law, Jeffersonianism avoids antinomianism (secularism) on the one hand and state-mandated religion (reconstructionism) on the other.

- ✓ Natural Law did not begin with Christians: Natural law is also found in ancient Hindu, Chinese, Greek, and Roman writings that predate the time of Christ.
- ✓ Natural Law is reflected in God's image within humanity; the image is marred but not wholly blotted out. Thus God is just in punishing unbelievers for not living in accordance with natural law written on their hearts.
- ✓ Natural law is common to all people whereas special revelation is only for believers.
- ✓ Jefferson believed these unalienable rights are rooted in Law of nature that derive from Nature's God.



- ✓ On the Jefferson Memorial in D.C. are his words: “God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?”
- ✓ For Jefferson, natural law is not a humanly descriptive “is” but a divinely prescriptive “ought.”
- ✓ Secularists who attempt to argue that it is a violation of the First Amendment to impose a moral laws based on a Moral Lawgiver (God). Balderdash! Foundational natural law is the view of the Declaration of Independence, our country’s founding document. It is a twisted logic that pronounces our National Birth Certificate unconstitutional.