

Waltke On The “Fundamental Error” Of Dispensational Eschatology

by HEIDELBLOG on February 18, 2023

“With regard to eschatology, dispensationalists commit the fundamental error of leaving the Reformed principle that unclear texts must be interpreted in the light of clear ones, and, instead, they interpret the clear texts of the New Testament epistles in light of the unclear symbols of apocalyptic works such as Daniel and Revelation. Not one clear text in the New Testament teaches that Israel will be restored to the land, or that Israel will be restored as a nation, or that there will be a millennial reign of Christ after this age, which is called by the apostles “the last days” (i.e., the last stretch of historical time) ([Acts 2:16–17](#); [Heb 1:2](#)). No word in Scripture depicts the consummate glory of Christ as an earthly king ruling over the restored nation of Israel. This silence, after the Lord had promised that the Spirit would guide the apostles into all truth, and bring glory to Christ ([John 14:26](#); [16: 12–15](#)), is deafening! The New Testament teaches that the new covenant is in effect now, ([Heb 8](#)), and that the shadows of the Old Testament law have been done away with forever ([Heb 9–10](#)). The attempt to link the Golden Age, anticipated by the prophets with the millennium envisioned in [Revelation 20](#) is a desperate one. None of the characteristics of the apocalyptic millennium—resurrected martyrs, judging, living, and reigning with Christ in heaven—link it with the Old Testament kingdom promises, a remarkable absence in the New Testament book that shows more links with the Old Testament than any other book.

—BRUCE WALTKE, “Dispensational and Covenant Theologies” in William S. Barker and W. Robert Godfrey ed. *Theonomy: A Reformed Critique* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990), 66–67.

RESOURCES

- [Subscribe To The Heidelblog!](#)
- [The Heidelblog Resource Page](#)
- [Heidelmedia Resources](#)
- [The Ecumenical Creeds](#)
- [The Reformed Confessions](#)
- [The Heidelberg Catechism](#)
- [Recovering the Reformed Confession](#) (Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 2008)
- [Why I Am A Christian](#)
- [What Must A Christian Believe?](#)
- [Heidelblog Contributors](#)
- Support Heidelmedia: use the [donate button](#) or send a check to

Heidelberg Reformation Association
1637 E. Valley Parkway #391
Escondido CA 92027

USA

The HRA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Subscribe to the Heidelblog today!

Email Required*

SUBSCRIBE

Posted by HEIDELBLOG | Saturday, February 18, 2023 | Categorized in [Dispensationalism](#), [Eschatology](#), [HeidelQuotes](#).



About Heidelblog

The Heidelblog has been in publication since 2007. It is devoted to recovering the Reformed confession and to helping others discover Reformed theology, piety, and practice. [Meet all the HB contributors»](#)

[View all posts by Heidelblog →](#)

