Page 1 of 2 © PTI 2017

DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY COMPARED TO NEW COVENANT THEOLOGY



The chart below depicts the principal commonalities and differences between Dispensational Theology (as defined by its two *major* branches - Classic Dispensationalism & Progressive Dispensationalism) and New Covenant Theology (as defined by Providence Theological Institute). Although certainly <u>not</u> exhaustive, this chart highlights the *general* commonalities and differences between these two theological systems.

	$(\sqrt{)}$ indicates that New Covenant Theology <i>generally</i> agrees with Dispensational Theology regarding this distinctive.	(°) indicates that New Covenant Theology <u>partially</u> agrees with Dispensational Theology regarding this distinctive.	(⊗) indicates that New Covenant Theology <u>disagrees</u> with Dispensational Theology regarding this distinctive.
	DISPENSATIONA	NEW COVENANT THEOLOGY (NCT)	
	CLASSIC DISPENSATIONALISM	PROGRESSIVE DISPENSATIONALISM	(as defined by Providence Theological Institute)
√ 1 √ 1 ⊗ 0 ⊗ 1 ⊗ 1 ⊗ 1	 Sola Scriptura ("by the Scriptures alone") A. The Bible is the Word and words of God. B. All Scripture is inspired by God and thus <i>wholly</i> inerrant, infallible, sufficient and authoritative. C. Normal / plain (i.e. literal) historical-grammatical interpretation of Scripture (especially OT Scriptures). D. New Testament (NT) does <u>not</u> have interpretive priority over the Old Testament (OT). E. Rejects 'Now-Not-Yet' understanding of NT Prophecy & redemptive history F. Literal understanding of apocalyptic prophecy (i.e. Revelation, etc.). 	 √ I. <u>Sola Scriptura</u> ("by the Scriptures alone") √ A. The Bible <u>is</u> the Word and words of God. √ B. All Scripture is inspired by God and thus <i>wholly</i> inerrant, infallible, sufficient and authoritative. ⊗ C. Revised "literal" hermeneutic that allows for a more consistent historical-literary interpretation of Scripture. ⊗ D. New Testament (NT) does <u>not</u> have interpretive priority over the Old Testament (OT). ○ E. Now-Not-Yet' understanding of NT Prophecy & redemptive history [not consistent] ⊗ F. Literal understanding of apocalyptic prophecy (i.e. Revelation, etc.). 	 √ I. <u>Sola Scriptura</u> ("by the Scriptures alone") √ A. The Bible <u>is</u> the Word and words of God. √ B. All Scripture is inspired by God and thus <i>wholly</i> inerrant, infallible, sufficient and authoritative. √ C. Christocentric Hermeneutic that interprets <u>all</u> Scripture in light of Christ (directly, typologically, or prepares way for Him) √ D. New Testament (NT) has interpretive priority over the Old Testament (OT) due to NT being the <u>final</u> revelation of God. √ F. Non-literal interpretation of apocalyptic prophecy, where <i>clearer</i> passages of Scripture interpret of <i>less clear</i> passages.
	G. "Sequential" understanding of Revelation & Olivet Discourse.	G. "Sequential" understanding of Revelation & Olivet Discourse.	✓ G. Recapitulation necessary to understand NT Prophecy
	Trinitarian Theology Arminian Soteriology (OR varying degrees of Calvinism) A. Five Points of Arminianism (although most hold to Perseverance of Saints) B. Regeneration follows faith. C. God limits His sovereignty to give man free will. D. Dual Imputation of Righteousness indispensable to biblical Gospel. E. Good works will always result from genuine faith. "Classic" Dispensational Theology A. Redemptive history divided into 7 distinct dispensations : Innocence, Conscience, Civil Government, Promise	 √ II. Trinitarian Theology ※ III. Arminian Soteriology (OR varying degrees of Calvinism) ※ A. Five Points of Arminianism (although most hold to Perseverance of Saints) ※ B. Regeneration follows faith. ※ C. God limits His sovereignty to give man free will. √ D. Dual Imputation of Righteousness <u>indispensable</u> to biblical Gospel. √ √ E. Good works will <u>always</u> result from genuine faith. ※ IV. "Progressive "Dispensational Theology ※ A. Redemptive history divided into 4 primary dispensations : Patriarchal, Mosaic, Ecclesial (i.e. Church Age), and 	 √ II. <u>Trinitarian Theology</u> √ III. <u>Calvinistic Soteriology</u> √ A. Five Points of Calvinism (i.e. Doctrines of Grace) √ B. Regeneration precedes faith. √ C. God's <i>absolute</i> sovereignty in <u>all</u> things. √ D. Dual Imputation of Righteousness <u>indispensable</u> to biblical Gospel. √ E. Good works will <u>always</u> result from genuine faith. √ IV. <u>New Covenant Theology</u> (Theology of the New Covenant (NC)) √ A. Redemptive history divided into 3 ages : world that was (pre-Flood; 2 Pet. 3:6), world that now is (2 Pet. 3:7), world to
8000000000000000000000000000000000000	 Initiation of the second sec	 Patharcha, Mosar, Ecclesia (i.e. chirch Age), and Zionic (i.e. earthly, future millennium + eternal state) B. Two successive New Covenant dispensations: Ecclesial & Zionic C. One people of God with dual application to Church & future redeemed Israel (i.e. distinction less pronounced, but still intact) J. OT & NT saints all saved by grace through faith in Christ. E. Israel = Israel (always) F. Israel ≠ type of Church; Church ≠ eschatological Israel) G. Church has <u>not</u> replaced, fulfilled, or superseded Israel. H. Church Age ≠ (merely) parenthesis in redemptive history. Fulfillment of OT promises inaugurated at Christ's First Coming (for Church), yet await total fulfillment in Millennium. 	 (pre-riod); 2 Pet. 3:6), world that how is (2 Pet. 3:7), world to come (2 Pet. 3:13); also 2 primary covenant eras : Old & New. ✓ B. New Covenant Age = interadvent period ✓ C. One redemptive plan to secure salvation of the elect, i.e., the one people of God. ✓ D. OT & NT saints all saved by grace through faith in Christ. ✓ E. Israel ≠ Israel (always); interpretation depends on context. ✓ F. Israel = type of Church; Church = eschatological Israel) ✓ G. Church has typologically fulfilled Israel (as the eschatological Israel) ✓ H. Church Age is <u>not</u> a parenthesis. NC Age inaugurated at Christ's First Coming & consummated at His Second Coming. Likewise, Fulfillment of OT promises inaugurated at Christ's First Coming, awaiting total fulfillment at His Second Coming.
	 I. Christ's <i>current</i> heavenly reign at the Father's Right Hand is <u>not</u> in fulfillment of Davidic Covenant. (Only Millennium). J. Body of Christ = the Church 	 I. Christ's <i>current</i> heavenly reign at the Father's Right Hand inaugurates fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant (i.e. throne, kingdom) <i>but</i> awaits total fulfillment in earthly Millennium. Body of Christ = Church + future redeemed <i>national</i> Israel + millennial saints 	 √ I. Christ's <i>current</i> heavenly reign at the Father's Right Hand <u>is</u> the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant which stands <i>totally</i> fulfilled at Christ's Second Coming (<i>not</i> after). √ J. Church = the Body of Christ
 ✓ ✓ 	 K. Church <i>not</i> revealed in the Old Testament. L. New Covenant made <i>with</i> Israel, but inaugurated for Church. M. <i>Only</i> select OT saints had the Spirit prior to Pentecost. N. Church = the Body of Christ <i>first</i> constituted at Pentecost via Spirit Baptism. Spirit Baptism ends at the Rapture of the Church. Consists of believing Jews & Gentiles during the Church Age. 	 K. Church <i>not</i> revealed in the Old Testament. L. New Covenant made <i>with</i> Israel, but inaugurated for Church. √ M. <i>Only</i> select OT saints had the Spirit prior to Pentecost. N. Church = the Body of Christ <i>first</i> constituted at Pentecost via Spirit Baptism. Spirit Baptism ends at the Rapture of the Church. Consists of believing Jews & Gentiles during the Church Age. 	 √ K. Church <i>typified</i> in OT as the eschatological Israel. √ L. New Covenant made <i>with</i> the Church via the Resurrected Christ. √ M. <i>Only</i> select OT saints had the Spirit prior to Pentecost. √ N. Church = the Body of Christ <i>first</i> constituted at Pentecost via Spirit Baptism. Spirit baptism was <i>accomplished</i> at Pentecost with its Apostolic extensions (Acts 8, 11, & 19; its <i>application</i> continues. Consists of elect of all time.
√ 1	 0. Specific commandments from the Ten Commandments <i>only</i> apply to NC believer if repeated in the New Testament. P. OT Scriptures are <i>profitable & authoritative</i> for NC believer as they reveal Christ but are <u>no</u> longer covenantally binding since Old Covenant has been fulfilled by Christ & thereby abrogated. Q. Some may hold to pre-fall "Edenic" / post-fall "Adamic" Covenants 	 O. Specific commandments from the Ten Commandments only apply to NC believer if repeated in the New Testament. √ P. OT Scriptures are <i>profitable & authoritative</i> for NC believer as they reveal Christ but are <u>no</u> longer covenantally binding since Old Covenant has been fulfilled by Christ & thereby abrogated. O. Q. Some may hold to pre-fall "Edenic" / post-fall "Adamic" Covenants 	 √ 0. The Ten Commandments apply to the NC believer who is under the Law of Christ, <u>not</u> under the Law of Moses. √ P. OT Scriptures are <i>profitable & authoritative</i> for NC believer as they reveal Christ but are <u>no</u> longer covenantally binding since Old Covenant has been fulfilled by Christ & thereby abrogated. √ Q. Hold to pre-fall / post-fall covenants given to Adam (but <u>not</u> like CT)

Page 2 of 2

$(\sqrt{)}$ indicates that New Covenant Theology generally agrees with Dispensational Theology regarding this distinctive.	(°) indicates that New Covenant Theology <u>partially</u> agrees with Dispensational Theology regarding this distinctive.	(Ø) indicates that New Covenant Theology <u>disagrees</u> with Dispensational Theology regarding this distinctive.
DISPENSATION	AL THEOLOGY (DT)	NEW COVENANT THEOLOGY (NCT)
CLASSIC DISPENSATIONALISM	PROGRESSIVE DISPENSATIONALISM	(as defined by Providence Theological Institute)
 V. <u>Church Issues</u> A. Two Ordinances: Baptism & Lord's Supper B. Sign of New Covenant: Baptism C. Baptism for Believers <i>Only</i> (<i>credobaptism</i>) D. Baptism by Immersion E. Baptism = Symbol of salvation; important as act of obedience F. Lord's Supper = Mere Remembrance G. Mixture of cessation / non-cessation of <i>miraculous</i> spiritual gifts VI. <u>Church Government</u> A. (Typically) Plurality of Elders <i>or</i> Single Elder / Rule by Deacons 	 V. <u>Church Issues</u> √ A. Two Ordinances: Baptism & Lord's Supper ⊗ B. Sign of New Covenant: Baptism √ C. Baptism for Believers <i>Only</i> (<i>credobaptism</i>) √ D. Baptism by Immersion √ E. Baptism = Symbol of salvation; important as act of obedience ⊗ F. Lord's Supper = Mere Remembrance ○ G. Mixture of cessation / non-cessation of <i>miraculous</i> spiritual gifts VI. <u>Church Government</u> ○ A. (Typically) Plurality of Elders <i>or</i> Single Elder / Rule by Deacons 	 V. <u>Church Issues</u> A. Two Ordinances: Baptism & Lord's Supper J. Sign of New Covenant: Cup of Lord's Supper (Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:2) V. C. Baptism for Believers <i>Only</i> V. Baptism by Immersion V. E. Baptism = Symbol of salvation; important as act of obedience V. Church Government V. Church Government V. A. Plurality of Elders
B. Local Autonomy of Congregations	B. Local Autonomy of Congregations	B. Local Autonomy of Congregations
VII. Christian Liberty & Total Liberty of Conscience	$\sqrt{VII. Christian Liberty & Total Liberty of Conscience}$	$\sqrt{VII. Christian Liberty & Total Liberty of Conscience}$
 VIII. <u>Government Relations</u> A. Separation of Church and State B. Voluntarily involvement of Church members in political activities IX. <u>Eschatology</u> A. Visible, Bodily, <i>Two</i> -Stage Return of Christ: (1) Rapture of Church; (2) Second Coming (i.e. glorious appearing); timing of Rapture varies: pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation, pre-wrath, or post-tribulation, etc. 	 VIII. <u>Government Relations</u> √ A. Separation of Church and State √ B. Voluntarily involvement of Church members in political activities IX. <u>Eschatology</u> ⊗ A. Visible, Bodily, <i>Two</i> -Stage Return of Christ: (1) Rapture of Church; (2) Second Coming (i.e. glorious appearing); timing of Rapture varies: pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation, pre-wrath, or post-tribulation, etc. 	VIII. Government Relations √ A. Separation of Church and State √ B. Voluntarily involvement of Church members in political activities IX. Eschatology √ √ A. Visible, Bodily, One-Stage Return of Christ at End of NC Age.
B. Daniel's 70th Week = <i>literal</i> , seven-year period between Rapture & Second Coming; also, referred to as Tribulation Period	 B. Daniel's 70th Week = <i>literal</i>, seven-year period between Rapture & Second Coming; also, referred to as Tribulation Period 	✓ B. Daniel's 70th Week = <i>either</i> (1) <i>already</i> fulfilled in 1st century at Christ's First Coming (& after), <i>or</i> (2) <i>symbolic</i> of entire NC age between Christ's First & Second Comings (i.e., Ultimate Jubilee).
C. Antichrist = future <i>individual</i> who is Christ's chief human enemy	O C. Antichrist = future <i>individual</i> who is Christ's chief human enemy	C. Varying positions on identity of the Antichrist - <i>all</i> which identify the Antichrist with an end-time apostate one-world government.
 D. Rebuilt Jewish Temple (as the Temple of God) in the Tribulation Period and the Millennium with reconstituted sacrificial system (for some, memorial sacrifics; for others, semi-efficacious ones) 	 D. Rebuilt Jewish Temple (as the Temple of God) in the Tribulation Period and the Millennium with reconstituted sacrificial system (for some, memorial sacrifics; for others, semi-efficacious ones) 	 √ D. Temple = type of Christ (i.e., the Ultimate Temple of God), the Church, and the individual NC believer. Even if Jewish Temple is rebuilt before End of Age, <i>not</i> a <i>temple of God</i>.
E. Future salvation of "all Israel" & total reconstitution/restoration of Israel as a national entity at/just before Christ's Return.	 E. Future salvation of "all Israel" & total reconstitution/restoration of Israel as a national entity at/just before Christ's Return. 	 E. Massive, future end-time ingathering of <i>elect</i>, ethnic Israel into the Church. Israel has <i>no</i> future <i>apart</i> from the Church.
F. Bodily Resurrection of Just & Unjust for Day of Judgment after 1,000 year period.	 F. Bodily Resurrection of Just & Unjust for Day of Judgment after 1,000 year period. 	✓ F. Bodily Resurrection of Just & Unjust for the Day of Judgment at End of NC Age.
 G. Millennium = future, <i>literal</i>, thousand-year reign of Christ from Jerusalem on David's Throne in fulfillment of OT promises of the Abrahamic & Davidic covenants H. Eternal New Heavens & Earth for Elect; eternal Hell for Non-Elect. 	 ⊗ G. Millennium = future, <i>literal</i>, thousand-year reign of Christ from Jerusalem on David's Throne in fulfillment of OT promises of the Abrahamic & Davidic covenants (though already inaugurated) √ H. Eternal New Heavens & Earth for Elect; eternal Hell for Non-Elect. 	 √ G. No Future Millennium; Millennium = Inter-Advent period (specifically between the Christ's Ascension & Second Coming) during which Christ is reigning in heaven with His saints. √ H. Eternal New Heavens & Earth for Elect: eternal Hell for Non-Elect.

The consistent Christocentric interpretation of the OT in light of the NT (Luke 24:27, 44; Rom. 10:4; 2 Cor. 1:20) which results in the following theological distinctives: (1) the plan of God : one plan of redemption, centered in Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:10; 2 Cor. 1:20; Col. 1:18), implemented according to the God's eternal purpose (Eph. 1:11; 3:11; 2 Tim. 1:9), and securing the salvation of God's elect (Rom. 8:28-32); (2) the biblical covenants : the covenants of Scripture progressively unfold God's kingdom purpose (Matt. 6:10) in history, culminating in the New Covenant; (3) the Old Covenant: the conditional (Exod. 19:5-6) treaty which God established with the ethnic descendants of Jacob at Mount Sinai – a covenant which formed the nation of Israel as a geopolitical entity, the sign of which was the Sabbath (Exod. 31:15-17), which was temporary in terms of its purpose and duration (Heb. 8:7-13), and which was superseded by the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-33); (4) the New Covenant : the promised everlasting covenant (Heb. 13:20) established by Christ Jesus (Luke 22:20; Dan. 9:26-27) that fulfills all preceding biblical covenants - a covenant in which all believers have full forgiveness of sins (Jer. 31:34), are permanently indwelt by the Spirit (Ezek. 36:25-27; Eph. 1:13-14), and are empowered by the Spirit to please God (Jer. 31:31-33; Phil. 2:12-13); (5) the people of God : all God's elect, comprised of believing Jews and Gentiles (Eph. 2:15), first formed as the body of Christ, which is the Church, at Pentecost (Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-41), not before (John 7:39; 17:21; Col. 1:26-27; Heb. 11:39-40), as one corporate spiritual body in New Covenant union with Christ (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 2:19-21; Col. 1:18, 24); (6) the nation of Israel : the ethnic descendants of acob (Gen. 28:13-15) formed into a geopolitical entity at Sinai via the Old Covenant (Exod. 19:5-6), comprised of both believers and unbelievers (1 Cor. 10:1-5; Heb. 3:16-4:2), typological of Christ (Hos. 11:1; Matt. 2:15) and His Church (Exod. 19:5-6; 1 Pet 2:9), the believing remnant (Rom. 9:27; 11:5) of which was transformed into the Church at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-10,41), and which awaits consummation at a future spiritual restoration (Amos 9:8) in the form of a massive, end-time ingathering of elect ews into the Church at Christ's Parousia (Rom. 11:12, 15, 25-27); (7) the law of God : the two greatest commandments - love of God and neighbor (Matt. 22:36-40) - constitute God's absolute or innate law, which is righteous, unchanging, and instinctively known by man (Rom. 2:14-15) created in God's image (Gen. 1:27), and of which each system of covenantal law is a temporary, historical outworking (Heb. 7:12) in accordance with God's eternal purpose (Eph. 1:11; 3:11; 2 Tim. 1:9); (8) the Law of Moses the covenantal outworking of God's absolute law under the Old Covenant - the exhaustive, indivisible ([as. 2:10; Gal. 5:3] legal code, summed up in the Ten Commandments (Exod. 34:28), covenantally binding upon the nation of Israel (Exod. 19:5-6; 24:3) temporary in its duration (Heb. 7:11-12; Col. 2:14), and fulfilled in Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:4; Matt. 5:17-18; Col. 2:16-17); (9) the Law of Christ : the covenantal outworking of God's absolute law under the New Covenant – the gracious law of the New Covenant (Rom. 6:14), which is covenantally binding upon the Church (1 Cor. 9:20-21) and consists of the law of love (Matt. 5:44; Gal. 6:2; Jas. 2:8; Rom. 13:8-10), the example of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 13:34; Phil. 2:4-12), Christ's commands and teaching (Matt. 28:20; 2 Pet. 3:2), the commands and teachings of the New Testament (2 Pet. 3:2; Eph. 2:20; Jude 1:17; 1 John 5:3), and all Scripture interpreted in light of Jesus Christ (Matt. 5:17-18; Luke 24:27,44; 2 Tim. 3:16-17); (10) the Kingdom of God: the everlasting reign of God over the universe and His people, progressively unfolded via the biblical covenants – ultimately realized in the messianic reign of Jesus Christ in heaven with His saints (Heb. 1:1-4; Rev. 20:4; Eph. 2:6), that was eschatologically inaugurated at His ascension (Dan. 7:13-14) in fulfillment of the biblical covenants (2 Sam. 7:12-16; Acts 2:25-36), is advanced through the Spirit-empowered preaching of the Gospel (Acts 1:7-8), and will be consummated in the new heavens and new earth at the Second Coming when Christ subdues all His enemies (1 Cor. 15:24-28).