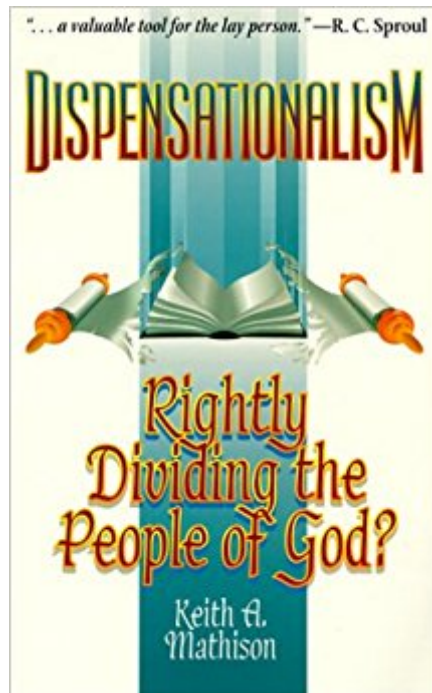




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Dispensationalism: Rightly Dividing The People Of God?



Synopsis

This concise examination of dispensationalism dispels much current confusion by clarifying the most central and problematic teachings of dispensationalists in the light of Scripture and historic Reformed theology.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A clear introduction to the essential issues that divide dispensational theology from the classical Reformed orthodoxy. . . . a valuable tool for the lay person." --R. C. Sproul
"The reviewer has read a number of books on this theme . . . none more lucid and helpful than this." --The Banner of Truth
"Those who follow Reformed theology will appreciate the author's careful and clear presentation; those who believe in classical dispensationalism will not agree. . . . Yet both groups will gain new insight into the Word." --Pulpit Helps

Keith A. Mathison (MA, Reformed Theological Seminary; PhD, Whitefield Theological Seminary) is professor of systematic theology at Reformation Bible College in Sanford, Florida. He is the author of *Dispensationalism: Rightly Dividing the People of God?* and *Postmillennialism: An Eschatology of Hope*, among other works.

Great book to learn the basic teachings of Dispensationalism. Not extensive and to-the-point. Great resource. Hate this book's title, though. It sounds like the author's foaming at the mouth in hatred for Dispensationalism, and that's not the tenor of the book. I wish they'd retitl it.

Keith Mathison raises the question of whether or not dispensationalism is an accurate way to interpret the Bible. He makes some good points: a. Dispensationalism's anthropology depicts saved human people who have a civil war going on inside of themselves with the new nature versus the sin nature and the system doesn't seem to allow for consistently victorious living in this life (although, Galatians 5:16-18 does seem to capture what dispensationalists are trying to say). Mathison also points out how there is only one people of God according to the New Testament (as opposed to dispensationalism's teaching that there are two peoples), and he makes his strongest case from Romans 11:11-24, where he shows that the one olive tree represents the one people of faith. Keith also correctly identifies how most dispensationalists are more Arminian than Calvinist. However, he errs in his faulty definition of Arminianism, preferring to identify it with Semi-Pelagianism. I get ticked when Reformed people do this, because Arminius believed in the total depravity of man and the complete inability of humanity to lift a hand or a foot toward their own salvation apart from the prevenient grace of God. Mathison does a better job of critiquing dispensational ecclesiology than he does with dispensational eschatology. For example, when discussing the rapture, he never brings up John 14, which clearly teaches that Christ is coming back to take believers with Him to the Father's house. Moreover, Mathison completely sidesteps the passages of scripture which teach that the Lord could come back at any time (Luke 12:35-48; James 5:7-10, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2, etc). In addition, his teaching about the millennium in Revelation 20 just doesn't make any sense of the text, the premillennial interpretation is much to be preferred, in my opinion. Keith does a good job of avoiding ad hominem argumentation, but he totally misunderstands and misrepresents Arminianism, and he fails to grasp dispensational eschatology as well as he should have. 3 stars.

This book should be in everyone's library!

A general account of the errors which sum up the heresy Dispensationalism. A must read for those caught in the web of silly Biblical nonsense pumped out daily on so called Christian Radio and TV. Well written on the level where a lay person can understand.

thanks

So - I suppose a number of things have changed in the almost 20 years since this book was written.

I attend what I would call a "dispensational" church, but MOST of the doctrine espoused as being "dispensational" in this book is not to be found anywhere within our church. The main point of dispensationalism, the separation of Israel and the Church are taught, but I would have a hard time finding the additional doctrines of salvation, regeneration, and kingdom that Mathison indicates are tenets of the dispensational church. Personally I agree that the separation of "true Israel" and the "true church" are in error, and I agree with the doctrines of the reformed theology regarding election, regeneration, etc. However, I think Mathison's denigration of premillennialism does not ring true. I don't see evidence in this world of Satan being bound and held captive in the Abyss. I think the tribulation and Millennium are still to occur, and that we will get to see it all!

This book, while it is very challenging, is much worth the read. Having been brought up with a Dispensational background, I found that Keith Mathison identified with Dispensational beliefs very well and was able to articulate how and why Dispensationalist have dropped the ball on some very key doctrines of the Church. I would highly recommend this book to anyone seeking the truth of the Scriptures.

Very good book. I was looking into is Dispensationalist theology biblical, after being taught this without even knowing that this was a modern teaching since the late 1800's. Actually I thought it was the only way to look at the end times. After much study I'm leaning with the Amillennial way of understanding Rev 20. It was an awesome study for the last few months, and I learned much. Jimmy from NJ

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