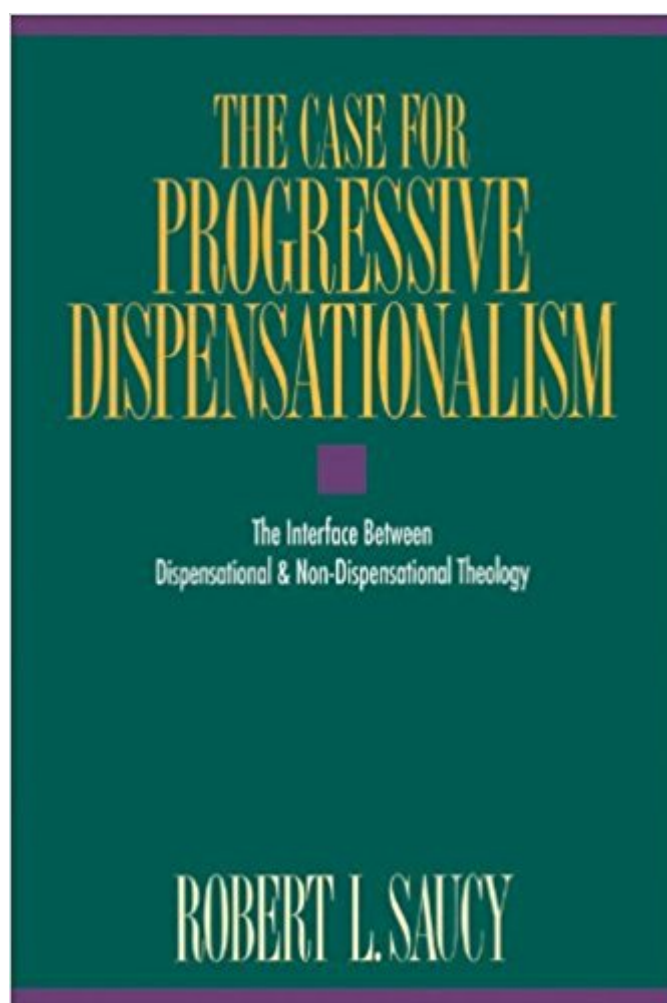




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The Case For Progressive Dispensationalism: The Interface Between Dispensational And Non-Dispensational Theology



Synopsis

Debate abounds on the future of Israel and Israel's relation to the church, not only between dispensationalists and non-dispensationalists, but among dispensationalists themselves. In the past that debate has sometimes been acrimonious, and proponents of the differing viewpoints have found little common ground. In recent years, however, views have been modified and developed so that the dialogue is increasingly by cooperation and a mutual exploration of diverse ideas. The Case for Progressive Dispensationalism is intended to enlighten the debate in that same irenic spirit. The book is solidly dispensational in perspective in affirming that the Old Testament prophecies are completely fulfilled in the future, that the nation of Israel has a prophetic future, and that Israel is not the church. Dr. Saucy departs from classic dispensationalism, however, in showing that (1) the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy begins in the present church age, and (2) the church is not a parenthesis in God's program but represents a continuity with the Old Testament messianic program. This modified dispensationalism seeks to satisfy many of the objections of non-dispensational approaches to eschatology while retaining the crucial elements of biblical interpretation that characterize dispensational thought.

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Customer Reviews

Good summary of the progressive interpretation. Not a sequential commentary; so it's good to know Biblical prophecy and the traditional dispensationalist viewpoint BEFORE reading this book.

Can't get rid of annoying Kindle pop-up making me review this book, and the Kindle software won't let me get around doing this. What nonsense. Was this a choice made by the author to force readers to promote his book? "20 words or more required." Really?

In great shape. Thank you!

Progressive Dispensationalism (abbreviated "PD") is a paradigm (model) useful for interpreting Scripture. It is in most ways similar to traditional Dispensationalism because it recognizes a special future for genetic Israel in the future Millennial Kingdom. PD has a number of proponents, all with their unique twists. Saucy's version of PD is probably the closest to the traditional Dispensational viewpoint. Saucy, like other PDs, sees a limited fulfillment of Old Testament Millennial prophecies in the church. Saucy writes, "...the present age is only the inauguration and partial fulfillment of the prophecies." Early on, Saucy argues that the literal tabernacle (for example) was a type fulfilled in Christ. The literal then the spiritual. OT prophecy regarding the Kingdom Age is the mirror image: some of them, at least, are first fulfilled spiritually in the church and then literally as promised to Israel during the Millennium. A spiritual application does not preclude a literal fulfillment. Saucy then demonstrates that this is how the NT authors quote the OT prophecies of the conversion of the gentiles (and apply them to the church). Whether it be the End Time prophecy of Joel quoted in Acts 2, or the New Covenant, the NT authors' use of the OT is problematic with Traditional Dispensationalism. The problem evaporates when a PD hermeneutic is applied. Yet the NT authors expected a literal fulfillment of the prophecies given to Israel, terminology unchanged (thus exposing the problem with Covenant and replacement viewpoints). Again, the problem is solved with a PD hermeneutic. Besides its 12 chapters, the book is divided into 4 main sections: Introduction, The Present Age and Old Testament Prophecy, The Church in Salvation History, and The Place of Israel. All in all, a fine work worth reading (for the theologian, pastor, or layman who has serious

interest in this area). This is a theological book and written in a style that will be cozy for theologians and Bible students, but probably a stretch for the average layman. From my own perspective, I think a Messianic Jewish perspective adds a richness to these sorts of discussions that is absent from more mainstream evangelical scholarship. Still, a top-notch work. Highly recommended, especially for those few nasty dispensationalists who try to characterize PD as Covenant Theology (not true).

With all the emphasis that John MacArthur and Fred Malone [opposing views] are making concerning progressive dispensationalism (JM's view) and covenantalism (FM's view) it would be good for us to understand the 'update' that has occurred. The following review comments create great expectations for what we can learn: "For those who want a clear and scholarly presentation of this 'newer' type of dispensationalism (i.e., progressive dispensationalism) that has gained much ground within conservative evangelical circles should look to this book. Saucy's book is filled with the desire to be faithful to the Scriptures and to uphold God's glory." "Particularly useful is Saucy's examination of Romans 11. He makes a convincing case why Paul was referring to national Israel rather than 'spiritual' or 'remnant' Israel in the passage. Also, Saucy's discussion of why Israel must still have a role to play in God's revelatory and salvific program is convincing (God still needs Israel to carry out His revelatory and salvific purposes). Overall, this book is a good starter for those seminarians who want a good understanding of this developing system." "For that reason, I have purchased this book.

The Bible interprets the Bible and when it is allowed to as it does in this book the case for progressive dispensationalism is proven, Alas many trees and much ink has been wasted to try to prove him wrong.

One of the best and most comprehensive treatments of progressive dispensationalism on the market.

Obviously written by a seminary professor for his peers or students as the target audience. So long as you fall into either category, I'm sure it's a wonderful book. As a well-read, forty year old Christian with an extensive apologetics library, I am not likely to finish this book. It is extremely dry and highly technical. I have ordered Blaising and Bock's book on the same subject which I hope to find much more approachable.

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