

THE NEW THEOLOGIES

All these new theologies which have arisen in the second half of the 20th century are essentially postmillennialist.

In the last 45 years traditional Postmillennialism has been supplemented by a number of "new theologies". These have almost exclusively arisen within the Pentecostal or Charismatic wings of the church and are mostly the result of "prophetic revelation" rather than simply new exegesis of scripture.

Dominionism - most of the new theologies subscribe in some way to the basic tenets of what is called "Dominionism". These are: "taking back the kingdom", "no Rapture", "no hope for Israel", "no millennium", "no anti-Christ", "the failure of the church until now to carry out the Great Commission". Great emphasis is placed on the authority of "apostles and prophets" within the church.

The Latter Rain Movement - this combined the fervour of Pentecostalism with the teaching that the church was on the brink of a worldwide revival which would result in a victorious church "without spot or wrinkle" and that the saints (or a number of them called "overcomers") would attain to perfection.

Manifest Sons of God - this grew out of Latter Rain and added the teaching that Sonship (which included the idea of immortality) comes through receiving higher revelation.

Restorationism - focuses on the teaching that the church has not functioned as God planned since the 1st century. Therefore it must be "restored" to its original purpose which is seen as "taking dominion" over the nations by establishing, during the physical absence of Jesus, the visible Kingdom of God on earth.

Reconstructionism - is generally not Charismatic, describing itself as a fundamentalist or evangelical movement. Its basic is that of **Covenant Theology**, ie that God does everything in relation to covenants he has established with his creation and he does nothing outside these covenants. It holds a high view of the Law, as it is contained in both the Old and New Testaments, which it sees as being always applicable to all mankind, whether believers or non-believers. It believes that the responsibility of all true Christians is to work towards the taking over of all human institutions in order to bring mankind into submission to God's Law ("the complete social transformation of the world"). In this way the Kingdom of God on earth will be established before the Second Coming of Jesus.

All these contemporary eschatologies, and Postmillennialism in general, see no particular or specific future for Israel or the Jewish nation. Generally they hold that all unfulfilled biblical prophecy will be fulfilled in the church, ie the church has replaced Israel and there is no restoration of Israel.

Premillennialism on the other hand generally holds to a restored Israel (albeit in different ways) and sees an ongoing distinction between Israel and the church.