

Biblical Philosophy of History

– Covenant Theology & Dispensationalism –

Man strives to develop an understanding of human history. He does so at great effort and even greater expense. Gaining this understanding is achievable because he likewise strives to document the events of his life and leaves behind both a written and unwritten record. The written record is intentional; perhaps due to the need for significance and being remembered. The unwritten record may be unintentional, and is discovered by the archeologist's spade, studied, and subsequently preserved in museums. The historian focuses on the written record and the archeologist on the unwritten one. The story of both is essential. The written record is often the product of the wealthy, ruling class, and perhaps

slanted in their favor. In contrast, the unwritten record documents the lives of the masses regardless of wealth, importance, or station in life. Man digs up what a previous culture left behind, and combined with its written record, he evaluates the people and events of the past. Man is seeking to understand a unified flow of history and ultimately gain meaning for life. This philosophy of history is inadequate.

Over the course of church history, Bible scholars have attempted to develop a biblical philosophy of history. The Bible deals with the issue of meaning of life—Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going? A biblical philosophy of history explains the existence of man and the relationship he has with God. ***Bible-believing scholars have developed two distinct approaches to expositing the Bible's philosophy of history—known as Covenant Theology and Dispensationalism.***

