

# Postmillennialism – Gary North

“If dispensational theology were still strong and healthy, it might be able to delay the looming transformation of the dispensational movement. But it is not healthy. Theologically speaking, meaning as a coherent system, dispensational theology is dead. Its brain wave signal has gone flat. It has now assumed room temperature. RIP. It was not killed by its theological opponents. Its defenders killed it by a thousand qualifications. They revised it into oblivion. Like a man peeling an onion, dispensational theologians kept slicing away the system’s embarrassing visible layers until there was nothing left. The last remaining layer was removed by H. Wayne House and Thomas Ice in their 1988 book, *Dominion Theology: Blessing or Curse?* As an intellectual system, dispensationalism never had much of a life. From the beginning, its theological critics had the better arguments, from George Bush in the 1840’s to Oswald T. Allis’s classic study, *Prophecy and the Church*, published in 1945. But the critics never had many followers. Furthermore, the critics were trained theologians, and dispensationalists have never paid much attention to trained theologians. Besides, there were not very many critics. Because dispensationalists had no self-consciously scholarly theology to defend and no institutions of somewhat higher learning until well into the twentieth century, their critics thought that they could safely ignore the dispensational movement. They always aimed their published analyses at the academic Christian community. They thought they could call a halt to the spread of dispensationalism through an appeal to the Scriptures and an appeal to the scholarly Christian community. They were wrong. Theirs was a strategic error; popular mass movements are not directly affected by such narrow intellectual challenges. Indirectly over time, yes, but not directly. Few people adopt or abandon their theological views by reading heavily footnoted and carefully argued scholarly books. Thus, the appeal of dispensational theology was not undermined by its theological opponents; instead, it collapsed of its own weight. Like a former athlete who dies of a heart attack at age 52 from obesity and lack of exercise, so did dispensational theology depart from this earthly veil of tears. Dispensational theologians got out of shape, and were totally unprepared for the killer marathon of 1988.”

— Gary North, *House Divided: The Break-Up of Dispensational Theology*, (Institute for Christian Economics, Tyler, Texas, 1989), xx.

“P.S. Neither Dr. Bahnsen nor Dr. Gentry is responsible for my “unchristian, offensive, insensitive, uncharitable, confrontational, argumentative, arrogant, unscholarly” style, as it has been described on occasion. They are both certified for seminary employment. As for me, I prefer off-campus bonfires.”

— Gary North, *House Divided: The Break-Up of Dispensational Theology*, (Institute for Christian Economics, Tyler, Texas, 1989), xlvi.