



# Paradise Restored: A Biblical Theology of Dominion

*David H. Chilton*

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Does the Bible teach Christians to expect victory or defeat in this world? In this powerful book, David Chilton sets forth extensive biblical evidence for the historic Christian view known as postmillennialism - the teaching that, before the Second Coming of Christ, the world will be successfully evangelized and discipled to Christianity. The author emphasized that our view of the future is inescapably bound up with our view of Jesus Christ. The fact that Jesus is now King of kings and Lord of lords means that His Gospel must be victorious: The Holy Spirit will bring the water of life to the ends of the earth. The Christian message is one of Hope: Pentecost was just the beginning.

## Paradise Restored: A Biblical Theology of Dominion Details

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Author : David H. Chilton

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## **From Reader Review Paradise Restored: A Biblical Theology of Dominion for online ebook**

### **Douglas Wilson says**

Excellent.

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### **Ken says**

Over the past two decades I have purchased about 20 copies of this book and given them to friends. This book was a watershed in my life that delivered me from the bondage of pessimilennialism.

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### **Sarah says**

This was one of my dad's favorites and now it's one of mine too. What a hopeful, optimistic, exciting, and biblical look at the future of the world! Spurgeon, quoted in the book, says it so well, "I myself believe that King Jesus will reign, and the idols be utterly abolished; but I expect the same power which turned the world upside down once will still continue to do it. The Holy Ghost would never suffer the imputation to rest upon His holy name that He was not able to convert the world."

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### **Caleb Powers says**

I adored this book. So much fun to read. So filled with Biblical hope. So consistent in its argumentation and its exegesis. Highly recommended to both current postmillenials and those who are skeptical about the eschatological system.

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### **Father Steve says**

Best book out there on understanding the dominion eschatology.

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### **Michael says**

Very good introduction to Post-Millennial eschatology. Highlights the importance of using the Bible to interpret the Bible. A bit reactionary at times being written in the heyday of Hal Lindsey & the other Dispensational Premillennialists but as much is to be expected.

I recommend this book to anyone interested in a solid approach to the Biblical narrative, particularly as it pertains to the interpretive principles of Biblical prophecy and Biblical eschatology.

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### **Benjamin Alexander says**

David Chilton is the best guy on all things eschatological

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### **Heather Denigan says**

I have a new pet peeve: the use of "obviously" in argument. If your premises lead obviously to your conclusion, you have no need to point out your own obviousness. To do so insults your reader. Chilton uses "obviously" with tedious frequency.

I had expected an academic or theological work with a side of snark. Chilton reverses the formula and majors on snark and belittling rather than research, or Bible for that matter. How do I make persuasive case for postmillennialism to my conscientious pre-mil friends? Chilton isn't much help. Or if he does get around to being helpful, I didn't have stomach to wade through the muck to get there.

Chilton is known as one of the most brilliant minds of reformed theology. I'm disappointed in him.

Note: I grew up post-mil, but amongst some pessimistic and depressed post-mils. (I know, right?) I've been looking for a solid explanation of post-mil theology to help along a solidly optimistic theology.

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### **Christopher says**

Buy it, read it, read it again and again and then buy it for every Christian you know!!! Seriously a great book and an easy read too! The Preface stated that it was not too often you would read a Theological Treatise and consider it a "page turner" but stated this book was and RIGHT they were!!!

If you have ever wondered about what mankind lost in its rebellion to God in the Garden of Eden and wondered how God is working through that and all through history, then this is your book! It delves into all sorts of great things with a solid citing of Scripture to illustrate the message overall.

After reading this book I can say all the more God is truly good!!!

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### **David Carraway says**

I thought this was a great book. Chilton starts with a description of Eden and goes on to show how it's theme runs throughout the whole of the Bible. This book really opened up my eyes to allot of things in the Bible I use to just read over and thought had no significance. He ends this book with a defense for the millennial view known as Postmillennialism. He shows the reader from Scripture that Christ's kingdom is not a political future kingdom but is here now and that his kingdom will continue to expand until the whole earth is full of the knowledge and glory of the LORD as the water covers the sea. (Isaiah 11:9; Habakkuk 2:14)

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## **Argin Gerigorian says**

David Chilton is a very good writer. This is his third book I've read and he never disappoints.

He is a humorous author but has his theology aright! In this work he tries to bring out the entire teaching of the Bible on the topic of "Dominion".

He starts the book in the garden, highlights many things unseen to most interpreters and proceeds forward the writing about the kingdom and what that means.

Outside of Chilton's "interpretive maximalism" which is, in short, deriving the maximum meaning any specific verse has to offer. The danger with this can be to read into the text anything you wish. Chilton (as far as I remember) had the tendency to do that, but it was still appealing to me, because it made so much sense.

All in all the book is good, get it!

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## **Andrew Emery says**

Great introduction to a biblical theology from a postmil perspective. Touches on many major themes that are traced through the Bible. Chilton shows how the goal of history is not heaven when we die, but creation redeemed and Paradise restores. He Also gives an introduction on how to read prophecy and a short but useful introduction to the book of Revelation. Short and easy to read chapters make this a go to for the less academic among us.

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## **Suzannah says**

This was the first theological work I ever read. I was 12 years old and had already absorbed a premillennial eschatology from the Christian culture surrounding me. This book exploded that pessimistic vision of the future, and built in its place a deep gladness and hope. What I learned in this book continues to be one of my most precious possessions: as anyone can tell you who has even had a flirtation with postmillennialism, it's a *deeply* attractive doctrine.

Granted, one is easily convinced at 12, so I was interested to see how *Paradise Restored* would live up to a re-read many years later. The answer is: extremely well. Using a hermeneutic that relies on Scripture to interpret Scripture, Chilton builds a systematic, Biblically-grounded case for why the church can expect to triumph in history. If you only ever read one book on postmillennialism (*and you should*, given how many great men from BB Warfield to [I believe] St Augustine have espoused it), this is the book to read.

My only real complaint with *Paradise Restored* is that it isn't about twice as long; there is in fact far *more* that could be said in arguing a postmillennial eschatology than Chilton says in this book. But it's a fantastic introduction to the eschatology of hope, and I thoroughly enjoyed re-reading it.

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## **Jeremy says**

Plug for this book here. PDF here.

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## **John says**

This is one of those books that is totally convincing--not due to the persuasiveness of the author and his arguments, but because part of you is already persuaded and just needed to make the paradigm shift in your thinking and reject the predominant beliefs.

I don't mean to discredit Chilton. He is a good, engaging writer. He does use persuasive arguments, but I think he would affirm that the Bible is very clear in teaching dominion and postmillennial eschatology. Most Christians just need to hear a biblical perspective to reject current evangelical teachings on the matter.

For example, all Christians are familiar with the Great Commission. But how many of us actually believe God will fulfill it? Jesus says, "disciple all the nations..." but how many of us interpret the command to mean a part of all nations, or try to, or whatever else we believe it to be, rather than expect that God will do it? Do we truly believe God's when he says of his word that "it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."? If God wills that we make disciples of all nations, won't he ensure that he accomplishes it? Why would we expect less?

Chilton argues that long ago, the church gave up the postmillennial Hope during the rise of theological liberalism. These liberals "taught that progress was 'natural' rather than ethical. In reaction to these enemies of Biblical Christianity, many evangelical Christians despaired of seeing victory for the gospel. They gave up hope. Like Peter walking on the Sea of Galilee, they looked at 'nature' rather than at the Lord Jesus Christ; like the Israelites on the border of Canaan, they looked at the 'giants in the land' instead of trusting the infallible promises of God: they were filled with fear, and took flight. They began to listen to false prophets of despair who taught that the Church is doomed to failure, and that it is 'unspiritual' for Christians to seek dominion over civilization. They then demonstrated a major principle of life: If you believe that you will lose, you probably will lose." p. 232-233

This interpretive system has been pervasive throughout the last century, and is it any surprise that we Christians find ourselves culturally irrelevant?

This is an outstanding book. It is exhilarating to truly understand postmillennial theology. As Chilton says, we are already ruling with Christ. This is His kingdom and we need not fear principalities and powers. We ought not cower in fear that the world is getting worse, for that is to deny the power of the Gospel. If Christ is truly king, truly ascendant, the world ought, and is to be getting better. Satan is defeated! Let us live in the power of King Jesus!

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