

Dominionism

Revelation 2:1 “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

Revelation 2:2 ‘I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;

Revelation 2:3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary.

2 Peter 2:1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

2 Peter 2:2 Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;

2 Peter 2:3 and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Deuteronomy 18:15 “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.

Deuteronomy 18:16 This is according to all that you asked of the Lord your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, let me not see this great fire anymore, or I will die.’

Deuteronomy 18:17 The Lord said to me, ‘They have spoken well.

Deuteronomy 18:18 I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

Deuteronomy 18:19 It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.

Dominionism

2 Peter 2:1-3/Revelation 2:1-3/Deuteronomy 18:15-22

Deuteronomy 18:20 But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'

Deuteronomy 18:21 You may say in your heart, 'How will we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?'

Deuteronomy 18:22 When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

The first question you may ask is “Why should there be a another whole lesson on the “New Apostolic Reformation (NAR)?” Why is that important? The easy answer is that it is in local churches. It is in politics. It is international. The “White House Faith Office” was established by Presidential Executive Order 14015 of February 14, 2025¹. Paula White-Cain was appointed as Special Government Employee and Senior Advisor of the newly created White House Faith Office². She shares many of the views of the NAR. There are others in the current administration that share her views. There are periodic media stories on the NAR and it's influence in government. It is both religious and

¹ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/02/18/2021-03424/establishment-of-the-white-house-office-of-faith--based-and-neighborhood-partnerships>

² <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/president-trump-announces-appointments-to-the-white-house-faith-office/> Also note that “special government employees are appointed for a limited time

Dominionism
2 Peter 2:1-3/Revelation 2:1-3/Deuteronomy 18:15-22

political, sometimes a dangerous combination. So, what are some of the components of the NAR theology?

Robby Dean identified three doctrinal aberrations:

1. Restoration of the Apostolic Office
2. Restoration of the Prophetic Office
3. Dominion Theology

Dominion Theology aberration is the topic for today's lesson.

Detour. First, let us review what our dispensational theology says. We need to know what we believe before we contrast that against dispensationalism.

Charles Ryrie wrote a book³ which is often used as a reference for what dispensationalism is. He states that there are three essential items that form the basis:

1. **Literal Interpretation.** An often quoted description of literal interpretation is called the "Golden Rule of Interpretation." David L. Cooper quotes it as "When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise."⁴

Many Christian theologians while saying they are taking most of the text literally will at times claim certain texts are clearly symbolic when the literal meaning makes perfect sense. An often pointed to text is in Revelations chapter 20, the reference to 1,000 years. They say this just means a long time. The literal interpretation is 1,000

3 Charles Caldwell Ryrie (2007). *Dispensationalism*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers. Note that he originally wrote the book under the title "Dispensationalism Today" He used these points in this order. In the latter book he reversed the order of points 1 and 2.

4 Cooper, D.L. (1958). *Messiah : His historical appearance*, v.5. page19

Dominionism

2 Peter 2:1-3/Revelation 2:1-3/Deuteronomy 18:15-22

years. It means 1,000 years. Hence the term Millennium. This is the Christian term often used of the “kingdom.” The Kingdom is promised throughout the Old Testament and the Gospels to Israel, not the Church. Christians, in resurrection bodies, will be present in the Millennium reigning with Jesus and being ministers under His command. Jesus brings in the Millennium, not believers.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

2. **The Church is different from Israel. Paul says in Ephesians 5:32**

Ephesians 3:2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace which was given to me for you;

Ephesians 3:3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.

Ephesians 3:4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

Ephesians 3:5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

Ephesians 3:6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

Ephesians 3:7 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.

Ephesians 5:32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

This means that prophecy directed toward Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the nation Israel does not apply to the Church. The Church is not an extension of Israel. The Church has not replaced Israel in God's plan. The Church is sometimes likened to a parenthesis in history. It is called a "mystery" because it was not revealed in the Old Testament.

3. **Purpose of History.** "No dispensationalist minimizes the importance of God's saving purpose in the world. But whether it is God's total purpose, or even His principle purpose, is open to question. The dispensationalist sees a broader purpose in God's program for the world than salvation and that purpose is His own glory. For the dispensationalist the glory of God is the governing principle and overall purpose, and the soteriological program is one of the principal means employed in bringing to pass the greatest demonstration of His own glory. Salvation is part and parcel of God's program, but it cannot be equated with the entire purpose itself. John F. Walvoord says it succinctly:

Dominionism
2 Peter 2:1-3/Revelation 2:1-3/Deuteronomy 18:15-22

“All the events of the created world are designed to manifest the glory of God. The error of the covenant theologians is that they combine all the many facets of divine purpose in the one objective of the fulfillment of the covenant of grace. From a logical standpoint this is the reductive error—the use of one aspect of the whole as the determining element.⁵”

Now that we are grounded in the basics of dispensationalism, we can proceed to identify what dominionism is and how the New Apostolic Reformation is using it today.

1. Description of Dominionism

The Wikipedia description is useful even if not acceptable to all.

“Dominion theology, also known as dominionism, is a group of Christian political ideologies that seek to institute a nation governed by Christians and based on their understandings of biblical law. Extents of rule and ways of acquiring governing authority are varied. For example, dominion theology can include theonomy but does not necessarily involve advocacy of adherence to the Mosaic Law as the basis of government. The label is primarily applied to groups of Christians in the United States.”

“Prominent adherents of those ideologies include Calvinist Christian reconstructionism, Charismatic and Pentecostal Kingdom Now theology, and the New Apostolic Reformation. Most of the contemporary movements that are labeled dominion theology arose in the 1970s from religious movements asserting aspects of Christian nationalism. Roman Catholic integralism is also sometimes considered to fall under the dominionist umbrella, but

5 Charles Caldwell Ryrie (2007). *Dispensationalism*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.

Dominionism
2 Peter 2:1-3/Revelation 2:1-3/Deuteronomy 18:15-22

the Catholic integralist movement is much older and theologically markedly different from Protestant dominionism since it is tied to the doctrine that the Catholic Church is the only true church.⁶

Where does this term “dominion” come from? It is a Biblical term.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

From Biblehub.com for “let them rule over.”

“Usage: The verb רָדָה (radah) is used in the context of dominion, rule, or subjugation. It often implies a form of control or authority over something or someone, sometimes with a connotation of force or oppression.

Context: רָדָה (radah) is a Hebrew verb that appears in various contexts throughout the Old Testament, often associated with the exercise of dominion or authority. It is used to describe the act of ruling or having dominion over creatures, people, or lands. The term can imply a benevolent rule, as seen in Genesis 1:26, where humanity is given dominion over the earth and its creatures: "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness, to rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, and over all the earth itself and every creature that crawls upon it.'"⁷ (BSB)

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominion_theology

⁷ <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/7287.htm>

Dominionism

2 Peter 2:1-3/Revelation 2:1-3/Deuteronomy 18:15-22

Genesis 1:27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

The term “rule over” can mean “have dominion over.” Merriam-Webster on-line says it can mean “sovereignty” or absolute ownership. Initially God gave the earth to Adam and Eve to have dominion over, to rule as sovereigns. At the fall, mankind lost dominion.

But, NAR says it has been restored by Jesus. Indeed, Jesus’ work on the cross, in addition to paying the price of sin/redemption, it also broke the Devil’s legal dominion over the earth. Yet, we see several New Testament passages that indicate that the Devil still has dominion. There is a difference between a legal decision and the implementation of that decision. For Christians, Jesus has won the battle, but for the purposes of the Angelic Conflict including the appeal trial of Satan, exercise of dominion has not been taken from the Devil. It is not the Christian responsibility to do this. That belongs to Jesus. He will apply it during the Millennial Kingdom.

Never the less, NAR uses Matthew chapter 28 to say that believers need to bring in the kingdom through their own efforts.

Dominionism

2 Peter 2:1-3/Revelation 2:1-3/Deuteronomy 18:15-22

Matthew 28:16 But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated.

Matthew 28:17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Matthew 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

According to Bill Johnson, “We have been given authority over this planet. It was first given to us in the commission God gave to mankind in Genesis (see Gen. 1:28-29) and was then restored to us by Jesus after His resurrection (see Matt 28:18).⁸”

Now let us look at dominion from the perspective of the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR). One of the more influential books written by one of their adherents is “Invading Babylon.” It has several chapters, each written by a different proponent of NAR dominionism. Most of the material I quote is from that book.

8 Wallnau, L. and Johnson, B. (2013). Invading Babylon. Destiny Image Publishers. page 20

Dominionism
2 Peter 2:1-3/Revelation 2:1-3/Deuteronomy 18:15-22

What is dominionism or dominion theology from the NAR perspective? “In simple terms, dominion theology is the idea that Christian believers are called to not only preach the Gospel and win converts to Christ but also to establish the Kingdom of God on the earth.”⁹

To get to this definition, the proponents appear to subscribe to “replacement theology.” This means that the promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob/Israel have been canceled and now apply to Christians instead. From our perspective, this impugns the character of God, specifically His faithfulness. He promised the kingdom to Israel, not the Church.

As a result, there are many promises in the Old Testament that NAR now applies to Christianity today. In particular, we will look at the “Seven Mountain Mandate.”

The identity of the Seven Mountains was obtained via dreams of Loren Cunningham and Bill Bright.

As expressed by Bill Johnson, these mountains are:

Business

Education

The Church

Family

Arts & Entertainment

Science & Medicine

Government

“The desire for Heaven is right and healthy, but it must not replace our commission: “Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt 6:10 NASB). We were not commissioned to look into the clouds for His coming (see Acts 1:11). We were commanded to “occupy”

⁹ Wallnau, L. and Johnson, B. (2013). *Invading Babylon*. Destiny Image Publishers. page 10

Dominionism
2 Peter 2:1-3/Revelation 2:1-3/Deuteronomy 18:15-22

until He comes (Luke 19:13 KJV). Occupy is a military term. And according to Kingdom values, occupation is always for the purpose of advancement.¹⁰”

This reference in Luke is to a parable taught by Jesus. The “occupy” is translated as “put this money to work” in the NIV. It is in reference to the servants putting money to work, not occupying the kingdom.

Here are some of the problems I see with the NAR. This is from my perspective based upon teachings at Spring Valley Bible Church.

1. Emphasis on money instead of emphasis on teaching and bringing baby believers to a mature status.

“The particular missing piece that I want to address in this chapter is money. I repeat, money! Trust me. We will not see measureable, sustained transformation of our cities or states or nations if those who are providing strategic leadership do not have access to large sums of money. Throughout human history, three things have contributed toward the reformation of society more than anything else, namely, violence, knowledge, and wealth. And the greatest of these is wealth!¹¹”

2. Emphasis on prophets as opposed to Bible teaching and the Holy Spirit for guidance.

“Listen to the prophets. Identify some who are respected and experienced prophets in the Body of Christ. Get as near to them as you can. If possible, become personal friends with them. Be on the alert for guidance that God may give to you through them. The Bible says, “... Believe in the Lord your God and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper” (2 Chron.

10 Wallnau, L. and Johnson, B. (2013). *Invading Babylon*. Destiny Image Publishers. page 33

11 Wallnau, L. and Johnson, B. (2013). *Invading Babylon*. Destiny Image Publishers. page 100

Dominionism
2 Peter 2:1-3/Revelation 2:1-3/Deuteronomy 18:15-22

20: 20). As I have discovered in my own personal life, prophets often hold the keys to prosperity for us.¹²”

What happened to listen to your pastor?

3. Abandoning literal interpretation when it is convenient.

Take for instance the 1,000 literal years in Revelation chapter 20. Or why should God go back on His word and abandon the nation of Israel? God is faithful to His promises. He will bless Israel in their kingdom during the Millennium.

4. Embracing “replacement theology.”

The kingdom belongs to Israel, not the Church.

5. The stated purpose of the Christian Church today, according to NAR, is to bring in the kingdom.

It sounds like an attempt through human effort to defeat Satan and take land for God and by so doing, bring in the kingdom.

“In simple terms, dominion theology is the idea that Christian believers are called to not only preach the Gospel and win converts to Christ but also to establish the Kingdom of God on the earth.¹³”

“The desire for Heaven is right and healthy, but it must not replace our commission: “Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt 6:10 NASB). We were not commissioned to look into the clouds for His coming (see Acts 1:11). We were commanded to “occupy” until He comes (Luke 19:13 KJV). Occupy is a military term. And according to Kingdom values, occupation is always for the purpose of advancement.¹⁴”

12 Wallnau, L. and Johnson, B. (2013). Invading Babylon. Destiny Image Publishers. page 115

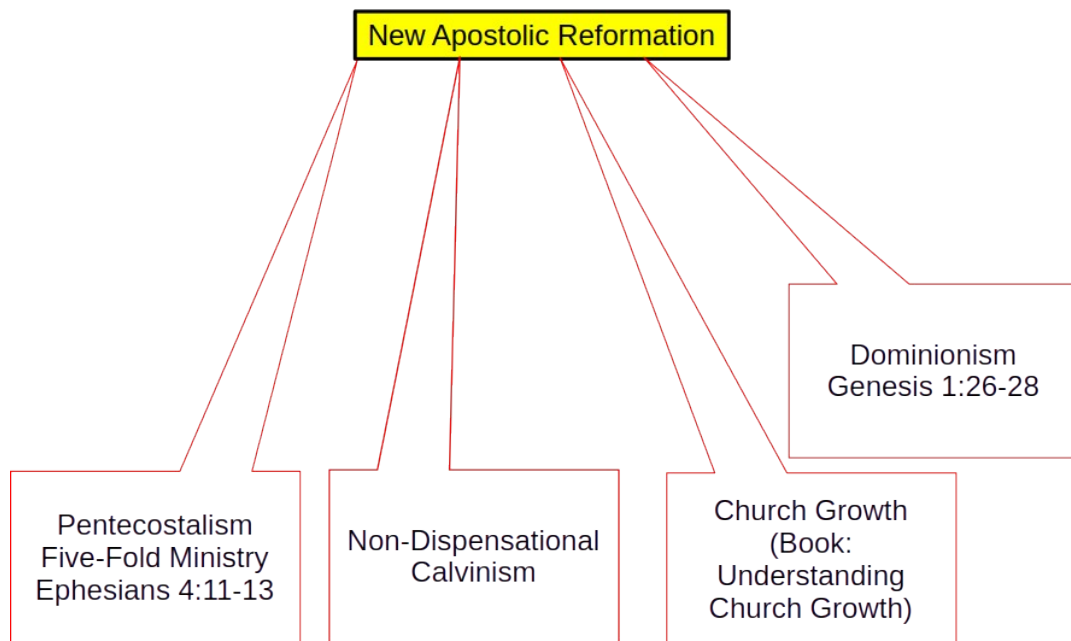
13 Wallnau, L. and Johnson, B. (2013). Invading Babylon. Destiny Image Publishers. page 10

14 Wallnau, L. and Johnson, B. (2013). Invading Babylon. Destiny Image Publishers. page 33

Dominionism
2 Peter 2:1-3/Revelation 2:1-3/Deuteronomy 18:15-22

Some extra background material.

“The New Apostolic Reformation, or “NAR” has taken key elements from other movements combining them into their theology. One of those elements is “dominionism.” That is the topic of this lesson. It is important to understand what this is since this will continue to show up in the news. There are those who will accuse the current administration of trying to set up a Christian nationalism or dominion.”



Some Components of NAR Theology

From Wikipedia:

“Dominion theology, also known as dominionism, is a group of Christian political ideologies that seek to institute a nation governed by Christians and based on their understandings of biblical law. Extents of rule and ways of acquiring governing authority are varied. For example, dominion theology can include theonomy but does not necessarily involve advocacy of adherence to the Mosaic Law as the basis of government.

Dominionism
2 Peter 2:1-3/Revelation 2:1-3/Deuteronomy 18:15-22

The label is primarily applied to groups of Christians in the United States.¹⁵

“The movement is believed by its followers to have begun in 1975 with a purported message from God delivered to evangelicals Loren Cunningham, Bill Bright, and Francis Schaeffer ordering them to invade the "seven spheres" of society identified as family, religion, education, media, entertainment, business, and government. The idea was not seriously considered until 2000 during a meeting between Cunningham and Lance Wallnau. The movement came to prominence after the 2013 publication of Wallnau's and Bill Johnson's *Invading Babylon: The 7 Mountain Mandate*.”

These include: family, religion, education, media, entertainment, business, and government.

¹⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominion_theology