

Summary of Western Theological Frameworks			
Category	Catholic Theology	Lutheran Theology	Reformed/Covenant Theology
View of History (Redemptive History)	History guided by divine providence; salvation history through covenants and Church	History as God's redemptive work; Law and Gospel dialectic	Structured around two or three overarching covenants
Israel and the Church	Church fulfills Israel's role; universal mission	Church as true Israel; spiritual fulfillment of promises	Church is the "new Israel"
Biblical Interpretation	Multilayered (literal, allegorical, moral, anagogical)	Christocentric; Law and Gospel lens, historical-grammatical	Typological, Christ-centered (Biblical interpretation subject to a framework of the theological covenants of redemption, works, & grace)
Eschatology (End Times)	Amillennial; focus on Christ's return, final judgment	Amillennial; emphasis on Christ's return, no detailed timeline	Amillennial or Postmillennial
Covenant Emphasis	Covenants fulfilled in Christ; Church as new covenant community	Covenant of grace through Christ; Law/Gospel distinction	Strong covenantal framework, often understood as the theological covenants of redemption, works, & grace
Law of Moses	Moral law binding; ceremonial law fulfilled in Christ	Moral law guides Christian life; ceremonial law fulfilled	Moral law still applies
Sacraments / Ordinances	Seven sacraments as channels of grace	Two sacraments (Baptism, Eucharist) as means of grace	Sacraments as means of grace
Main Proponents	Augustine, Aquinas, Roman Catholicism	Martin Luther, Philipp Melanchthon, Concordia theologians	John Calvin, Westminster divines, R.C. Sproul
Common Denominations / Movements	Roman Catholic Church, some Anglicans (Anglo-Catholic)	Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, ELCA, WELS, other Lutheran bodies	Reformed churches (PCA, OPC, URC, CRC), some Anglicans

Category	Arminian/Wesleyan Theology	Dispensationalism	Pentecostal/Charismatic Theology
View of History (Redemptive History)	God's redemptive work through grace, emphasizing human response and sanctification	Divided into distinct dispensations (usually 7)	God's redemptive work through Spirit outpouring and revivals
Israel and the Church	Church as the new Israel, fulfilling covenant promises	Sharp distinction; two separate plans	Varies; often Church fulfills Israel or distinct plans
Biblical Interpretation	Christ-centered, practical, emphasizing moral application	Literal, especially with prophecy; some historical-grammatical approach	Literal or practical, Spirit-led application
Eschatology (End Times)	Typically amillennial or postmillennial; some premillennial	Premillennial, pre-tribulation rapture	Often premillennial, some amillennial/postmillennial
Covenant Emphasis	Focus on grace and New Covenant; less on theological covenants	Focus on dispensations, not covenants	Minimal; prioritizes Spirit empowerment over covenants
Law of Moses	Not binding for Christians	Not binding; New Testament ethics prioritized	Not binding; New Testament ethics prioritized
Sacraments / Ordinances	Two sacraments (Baptism, Eucharist) as means of grace	Symbolic ordinances	Baptism and communion as symbolic ordinances; some emphasize Spirit baptism
Main Proponents	Jacobus Arminius, John Wesley, modern Methodist theologians	John Nelson Darby, Scofield, Dallas Seminary	William Seymour, Aimee Semple McPherson, some modern Neo-Charismatics
Common Denominations / Movements	United Methodist Church, Wesleyan Church, Church of the Nazarene, some Anglicans	Independent Bible churches, some Baptists, Calvary Chapel	Assemblies of God, Foursquare Church, Vineyard, charismatic non-denominational churches
Category	Progressive Dispensationalism	New Covenant Theology	Jewish Cruciform Apocalypticism
View of History (Redemptive History)	Similar to traditional dispensationalism but sees more continuity	Emphasizes the New Covenant as the fulfillment of the Old	History is linear and climactic; shaped by Jewish apocalyptic narrative
Israel and the Church	Partial overlap; Israel still significant	Church fulfills Israel's promises	Israel and the Church are unified in God's redemptive plan
Biblical Interpretation	Literal-grammatical with typology	Christocentric fulfillment	Historical-grammatical; rooted in 1st-century Jewish context
Eschatology (End Times)	Premillennial, not necessarily pre-trib	Generally Amillennial, some Premillennial	Futurist Premillennialism; post-trib or pre-wrath rapture; emphasis on Israel, Day of the Lord
Covenant Emphasis	Recognizes both covenants and dispensations	New Covenant replaces Mosaic Covenant	Abrahamic and Davidic covenants still active and future-fulfilling in Christ
Law of Moses	Some continuity via typology	Old Covenant abolished	Torah remains eschatologically relevant; being fulfilled & not discarded
Sacraments / Ordinances	Mixed views	Symbolic ordinances	Believer's baptism and communion; not ritualistic but covenantal; newer theological system with potentially mixed views
Main Proponents	Craig Blaising, Darrell Bock	John Reisinger, Tom Wells	John P. Harrigan, Joel Richardson
Common Denominations / Movements	Evangelical Free Church, some SBC, large evangelical churches	Some Reformed Baptist and Evangelical churches	First Fruits of Zion, Emmaus Table, select house churches, missions-focused movements