

INC CORNERSTONE BIBLE INSTITUTE CONTEXT

by J. Joseph Charles

Preterism

What in the world is “preterism”? Before I seek to define it, may I simply say that this approach to Biblical prophecy is gaining momentum. What I have to say via this article is intended to serve as a warning to God’s people to be aware of a movement that is not Biblically accurate. The whole concept of preterism fits in well with the prevailing hermeneutic of our day. Human reasoning takes precedent over Biblical accuracy.

What then is preterism? A preterist will teach you that most of Biblical prophecy has already been fulfilled. The preterist says, for example, that the Lord Jesus Christ returned in 70 A.D. at the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans under Titus. A further area of teaching is that if there is a literal Kingdom, or, if you please, a Millennium at all, such a Millennium is happening presently. In other words, we are in the Millennium today. It has been suggested that there are various shades of preterism known as mild, moderate, and extreme. Consequently, there is disagreement even among preterists. There are many other features of preterism which space does not allow in this brief article. The basic problem in the whole system is an attempt to spiritualize Scripture rather than to interpret Scripture literally.

There are many hermeneutical problems with preterism, but I would

like to highlight just two:

1. In Acts 1:9-11 we read: “And, when He (Christ) had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in

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white apparel; who also said, you men of Galilee, why stand you gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven.”

Permit me to make a simple observation on these verses. Christ ascended visibly. They saw Him! He will descend in like manner, hence, visibly. There is no record of anyone seeing a visible Christ in 70 A.D.

2. Revelation 20:2 tells us that

“that old serpent, who is the devil and Satan,” is bound and cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years. The thousand years are literal years known as the Kingdom Age or the Millennium. If we are presently in the Millennium, as preterists teach, and Satan is bound, I would shudder to think what it would be like if he were suddenly let loose. Obviously, anyone who has any power of observation knows full well that Satan is very active in this present day.

Cornerstone stands on a literal interpretation of prophetic events. We believe that we are presently in the Church age, which is an unspecified period of time. This Church age will end with the rapture of the Church. The event of the rapture will set the stage for the coming on the scene of the antichrist (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). The antichrist will dominate the world scene for a period of seven years. The domination of the satanically controlled antichrist will be brought to an abrupt end with the visible, literal return of Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:11-15). This event will usher in the Kingdom Age or the Millennium (Revelation 20:4).

“Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” - Revelation 22:20

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