

BIBLE PROPHECY IN HISTORY

From the early Church fathers to the Reformation, the generally accepted view of Bible prophecy was “linear historic,” that Revelation was in the process of being fulfilled throughout the Christian Era. But in the 16th and 17th centuries, two new views of Bible prophecy were devised by Jesuit priests to stop the Reformers from teaching that the Catholic Church hierarchy was probably the “whore of Babylon” of Revelation 17:3-6.

(Jesuit No. 1) In 1591AD, the Jesuit Ribera invented the Futurist View. He claimed that Revelation would not be fulfilled until the end of the Christian Era. Ribera taught a rebuilt Babylon, a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem and an end-time Antichrist, etc., etc. Sound familiar? It should, Ribera is the father of the prophetic views taught by such notables as Tim LaHaye, Hal Lindsey, Jack Van Impe and Benny Hinn.

(Jesuit No. 2) The Reformers didn't buy Ribera's attempt at creative theology so in 1614AD, the Jesuit Alcazar came up with an even more dubious view. He claimed that the book of Revelation was fulfilled by 70AD with the fall of Jerusalem. Preterism, as the view is called, endorses Replacement Theology: a belief that God is totally finished with the physical descendants of Abraham and that the Church is the only Israel of the Christian Era. A cerebral doctrine, perhaps, but the new nation of Israel in the Holy Land makes the view untenable.

BIBLE PROPHECY AND THE CHURCH

Obviously, those early Jesuits had a doctrinal axe to grind and the Reformers knew it, so one wonders why so many Protestant churches endorse 400 year old Jesuit doctrines that don't fit today's reality. For example, during the 80's, the Cold War was just inches from running hot and the Church's prophetic leaders were trumpeting – in unison – that the USSR was the final enemy of the Church. The Seven Year Great Tribulation was supposedly about to begin, and Antichrist? Oh, he was lurking out there, too, just itching to take over the world. As their story went, Antichrist had to be the Pope or maybe one of those godless leaders from the USSR.

BIBLE PROPHECY AND THE TRIBULATION

Well guess what, it looks like they were barking up the wrong prophetic tree. Those prophetic hobnobs soon discovered they were wrong, but clung to their faulty doctrines anyway, and still do. Skolfield is the only Bible teacher we know of who had the Islamic World on his radar screen in the late 70's.

You see, something funny happened to Skolfield on his way to the Seven Year Tribulation. He discovered that all the Scriptures used to support that view were being fulfilled in the new nation of Israel! For instance: Daniel predicted the coming of Islam right to the year! Revelation predicted the founding of new Israel right to the year, 1948! Revelation further predicted that Jerusalem would again be under Jewish control, 1967!

Skolfield explained all this to over 150 pastors, only to be told, "Oh no, you've got it all wrong, The Tribulation will be here soon and so will the Antichrist. You'll see."

BIBLE PROPHECY AND ISLAM

Well, Skolfield never did see, and still doesn't. Nothing those notable prophecy teachers said was going to happen ever happened. Instead, we see Israel and the rest of the Middle East now centered on the world's stage just as the Bible said it would be. 9/11 was our wake-up call from hell and we can now see the final enemy of the Church and Israel: It's Islam and the murderous terrorists that religion supports!

Many are beginning to see our coming conflict with the Islamic world, but Skolfield has been warning us about it for over 25 years. Even today, some claim his prophetic conclusions were ridiculous even though everything he wrote about came true.

BIBLE PROPHECY AND PRETERISM

About Preterism, little more need be said. The existence of the new nation of Israel is that false doctrine's death-knell. Some still defend the view despite the irrefutable evidence of their own eyes: A new nation of Israel chock full of Jews is in the Holy Land right now, no waiting. The star of David flies over the battlements of Jerusalem once again, just like the Bible said it would.