

We sometimes think a view is wrong, but don't know how to disprove it. This study may help with one such view.

Preterism was conceived in 1614AD by a Jesuit priest named Alcazar. His view claims that Jesus' Olivette Discourse and the book of Revelation were fulfilled by the fall of Jerusalem in 70AD.

But Preterism has a problem: The generally accepted date for the penning of Revelation is circa 97-105AD, determined by internal textual evidence and church records.

Those records state that John was banished to the Isle of Patmos in 97AD and probably penned Revelation about two years later (99AD). [Thielman van Braght, Martyrs Mirror (1659AD) is one readily available authority].

In any case, no serious conservative scholar argues that Revelation was penned earlier than the fall of Jerusalem (70AD), and therein lies the textual problem for Preterism . . .

Rev 1:19 "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter."

"hast seen" -- Past Tense -- events that had taken place prior to John's time.

"the things which are" -- Present Tense -- events that were taking place during John's time

"and the things which shall be hereafter" -- Future Tense -- events that were future to when Revelation was penned.

So Revelation contains events that are FUTURE to the time it was written, i.e. events that happen later than 99AD.

Ergo: Revelation is NOT fulfilled by 70AD as the Preterists suppose. But that is not the only verse that makes Preterism questionable . . .

Luke 21:24 And they (the Jews) shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

So what is this "time of the Gentiles?" When Jesus spoke those words (in 32- 34AD), Jerusalem had been under the control of various Gentile governments for about 638 years.

But the Jews troubled their foreign rulers with revolt after revolt, so in 70AD Titus the Roman general destroyed Jerusalem and burned the 2nd temple to the ground.

"And they (the Jews) shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations," the 70AD destruction of the city and the Gentile domination to follow that event.

Look at the tense of the verb "shall be" led away captive. "Shall be" is future to 70AD when the temple would be destroyed.

After Titus destroyed Jerusalem, the Jews lost all control of their homeland and were dispersed among the nations. They remained dispersed throughout the world until this very century.

As a matter of historic record, Gentiles ruled Jerusalem through the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th centuries. The 11th and 12th century crusaders were also Gentiles.

Gentiles continued to rule Jerusalem through the 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, right on up until 1967AD. Throughout the whole Christian Era, Gentiles have always ruled Jerusalem.

“And Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles . . . until .” As a matter of historic reality, the city of Jerusalem did not again come under Jewish control until after the Six-Day War, June 6th, 1967, “until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”

The only people who are not Gentiles are Jews, and as of June 6th, 1967, the Jews again govern Jerusalem, for the first time in 2573 years. Like it or not, that is reality:

Over in the Holy Land is a nation called Israel. It is filled with a people called Jews, many of whom are looking for their Messiah. Those people again ruling in their own land fit that Luk 21:24 prophecy right to the letter.

Before the Six-Day War, we could argue about what the Lord meant by the “time of the Gentiles,” but not anymore. From our vantage point in history, we can now see the Jews in control of Jerusalem with our own eyes.

Consequently, it is apparent that the Lord was naming the total time of Gentile rule of His Holy City as “the time of the Gentiles.”

Gentiles will never again rule Jerusalem, and God’s eyes are again focused on the physical seed of Abraham who have returned to their promised land and now control the Holy City.

Now there is an end-time doctrine around called "Replacement Theology." It holds that the Church was adopted into Israel, and as a result, God is finished with the physical seed of Abraham.

You truly have to do away with a lot of Scripture to believe it . . .

Gen 7:7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Lev 26:33-45 (excerpts) "I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you . . . And they that are left of you shall pine away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands . . .

"And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them: for I am the LORD their God . . .

But I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the heathen, that I might be their God: I am the LORD."

Jer 31:35-36 "Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name . . .

"if those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever."

So the Bible states that Israel, past, present and future is a nation before God.

All the above verses are in the Old Testament, to the PHYSICAL seed of Abraham. If God does not keep the promises He made to them, then he broke His everlasting covenant with the people to whom those verses were written.

That is so important I am going to say it again . . .

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End of study

The room is now open for discussion