

QUESTION: I had always heard of a Pre-Tribulation rapture but couldn't understand where people were finding it in the Bible. And how about Preterism? Why anyone would think that Revelation was fulfilled by 70AD? Isn't it generally thought that Revelations was written after 70AD?

ANSWER: I just have to smile, it wouldn't have been much of a prophecy if it was fulfilled before it was written, now would it? So you are right. It can be shown with some certainty that Revelation was written between 95 and 105 A.D.

And it's important to understand the origin of these views and the reason why they were brought into the Church. During the Reformation, the Catholic Church commissioned two Jesuit priests to develop doctrines that would keep the reformers from identifying the Roman Church as the "Whore of Babylon" of Revelation 17.

1541AD: The Futurist View, i.e., Dispensationalism, was brought into the church by the Jesuit priest, Ribera. His view claimed that Revelation would not be fulfilled until the end of the Christian Era. Ribera's view taught a rebuilt Babylon, a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, the restoration of animal sacrifices and a coming Antichrist. Sound familiar? It should, Ribera was the father of the widely accepted eschatology of Dallas Theological Seminary, Moody Bible Institute and most televangelists including Van Empe, Hinn, Lindsey et-al.

1614AD: The Preterist View was created by a Jesuit priest named Alcazar. His view claimed that the Olivet Discourse and the book of Revelation were fulfilled by the fall of Jerusalem in 70AD. Praterism, as it is called, spawned "Replacement Theology" (the idea that God broke covenant with the physical Seed of Abraham during the Christian Era and that the Gentile Church is all of Israel that remains). Despite the evidence of their own eyes, this dubious view is still accepted by many evangelical churches, primarily Presbyterians.

Both views were initiated by Jesuits to derail the Reformation, nevertheless, both views are now considered acceptable doctrine in most Protestant churches. Neither fit history and both go against Scripture.

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