

PRETERISM: WERE ALL END-TIME PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN 70 AD

JAMIE MCNAB

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Millions believe in a coming Rapture. MOST believe it is IMMEDIATE and PRE-TRIB.

I discussed recently how **the Bible reveals otherwise**. **There will be ample warning** (such as the visible Abomination of Desolation)... and it will be AFTER THE TRIBULATION!

But not everyone believes in a Rapture. Many churchgoers don't even believe in such a thing as "end-time prophecy".

They believe that all "so-called" end-time prophecies were fulfilled long ago back in 70 AD.

Jesus' Olivet Prophecies were completely fulfilled when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD.

There are no future end-time prophecies. It's all historic.

The teaching is known as "Preterism" (meaning "past")

There will be no Millennium. We're already living in the New Heavens and New Earth! (See the chart at the end of the notes)

Matthew 24:32-34

32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

33 So you also, when you see all these things, **know that it is near — at the doors!**

34 Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.**

Jesus said the prophecies are near — will affect this generation. Hence ... 70 AD seems plausible? It can't be 2,000 years away ... they will argue!

Revelation 1:1-3

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants— **things which must shortly take place**. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; **for the time is near.**

Shortly take place —the time is near. **70 AD is near ... they say. 2,000+ years isn't!** (See the cartoon at the end of the notes)

They claim the so-called end-time prophecies were completely fulfilled in 70 AD. Titus and his armies destroyed Jerusalem ... set fire to the Temple —killed about 1 million Jews. Definitely an horrific episode in Jewish history!

But — is that it? Nothing in the future?

- **No Abomination of Desolation**
- **No Antichrist**
- **No Great Tribulation**
- **No Seals and Trumpets**
- **No Armageddon??**

I imagine that these folk are sincere — but think they're misunderstanding the Bible.

I think they must read plain texts in a very symbolic manner ... with lots of allegories and metaphors?

Let's read a selection of what seem to be end-time prophecies — consider whether they look like they were fulfilled in 70 AD.

Matthew 24:1-2

1 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.

2 And **Jesus said to them**, “**Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.**”

See! Fulfilled in 70 AD. Agreed. But ...

Matthew 24:14

14 **And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**

The Gospel to be preached to all nations ... in all of the world — fulfilled by 70 AD? I don't think so!

Matthew 24:15-16

15 “Therefore **when you see the abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, **standing in the holy place**”

(whoever reads, let him understand),

16 “**then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.**”

The Abomination of Desolation in the Holy Place (Daniel describes as the Temple).

Did that happen in 70 AD?

Preterists see Rome and the Emperor as the prophesied evil parties. But neither General Titus or his father ... Emperor Vespasian ... sat in the Temple as any sort of Abomination.

But nothing that can be construed as an Abomination of Desolation!

Compare:

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming (**PAROUSIA**) of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together (**EPISUNAGOGÉ**) to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, ***as though the day of Christ had come**.

(That's what Preterists say)

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; **for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,**

4 **who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**

The Man of Sin will sit in the Temple ... claiming to be God.

It didn't happen in 70 AD. Yet future?

*Note that some were teaching the Thessalonians that the prophesied events had already happened! (An early version of Preterism?)

Matthew 24:20-22

20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

21 For **then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.**

22 And **unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.**

The Great Tribulation unlike anything before. If not shortened ... no flesh would survive.

Did that happen by 70AD? Definitely a lot of famine ... disease and death during the Roman wars leading to 70 AD (1 million dead).

But was it the worst ever in man's history? What about World War I and World War II — atom bombs being dropped by the end of that war? Stalin's death total >20 million. Mao Tse 20–45 million.

What about the Black Death in Europe. Killed approximately 30%—50% of the entire population — estimated between 75 and 200 million Europeans dead (American Scientist Magazine: November/December 2014).

So much for Jesus' Olivet Prophecy.

What about the Book of Revelation? Was that all fulfilled by 70 AD too? That's the claim of Preterists.

Revelation 6:7-8

7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, **"Come and see."**

8 So I looked, and **behold, a pale horse**. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. **And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.**

Did all 4 Horsemen ride out by 70 AD? Was ¼ of the earth subject to death of the Green Horse? (I think that strongly points to Islam)

Revelation 6:12-16

12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and **behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.**

13 And **the stars of heaven fell to the earth**, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

14 Then **the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up**, and **every mountain and island was moved out of its place.**

15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, **hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,**

16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

- **Cosmic signs in 70 AD?** Possible — but not recorded. There have been cosmic signs in history. For example ... there was a significant meteorite storm in November 1833 which people thought might be the end of the world.
- **Every mountain and island moved out of place?**
- **The whole world hide in rocks and caves?**
- **Did the 7 Trumpet Plagues blow in 70 AD?**
 - I. **One-third of trees set on fire?**
 - II. **The sea become blood?**
 - III. **Rivers and springs of water become bitter as wormwood?**

Revelation 9:1-6

1 Then the fifth angel sounded: And **I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.**

2 And **he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace.** So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

3 Then **out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth.** And **to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.**

4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

5 And **they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.**

6 In those days **men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.**

Any historic reference to DEMONIC LOCUSTS who tormented men for 5 months ... who wanted to die but could not — happening by 70AD?

No! Because all of this is still future — in the end-time!

Revelation 9:13-19

13 Then **the sixth angel sounded**: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, **“Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”**

15 So **the four angels**, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, **were released to kill a third of mankind.**

16 **Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million**; I heard the number of them.

17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulphur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.

18 **By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed — by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.**

19 For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

Was there any army of 200 million in 70 AD following four fallen angels ... that killed one-third of mankind? The total world population at the time was estimated at only 190 million!

Revelation 11:3

3 And **I will give power to my two witnesses**, and **they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days**, clothed in sackcloth.”

The Two Witnesses!

Revelation 11:7-10

7 **When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.**

8 **And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt**, where also our Lord was crucified. (*Jerusalem*)

9 **Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.**

10 **And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.**

- **Did Two Prophetic Witnesses lie dead in Jerusalem for 3½ days around 70 AD?**
- **Did the whole world see their dead bodies? (Presumably with TV cameras and satellites?)**
- **Was there a Mark of The Beast enforced — without which no one could buy or sell?**
- **Did the whole world worship the Beast and his Image?**
- **Were the Seven Bowls of God's Wrath poured out?**
- **Rivers and springs turned to blood**
- **Great heat to scorch men**
- **Painful darkness — with men gnawing their tongues?**

Revelation 16:12-16

12 Then **the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up**, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

13 And **I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.**

14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, **which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.**

15 “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”

16 **And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.**

- **Was the River Euphrates dried up in 70 AD?**
- **Did the Battle of Armageddon take place?**

NO ... NO ...AND NO ! The prophecies of the Book of Revelation lie yet ahead of us — in the future! Not all fulfilled nearly 2,000 years ago!

Incidentally ... **the best historic evidence suggests that the Book of Revelation was written around 95 AD. And it's clearly prophecy — written 25 years after the events of 70 AD!**

Matthew 24:32-34

32 “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

33 So you also, **when you see all these things, know that it is near — at the doors!** (**JESUS IS TALKING ABOUT THE END-TIMES!**)

34 **Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.**

Which “generation” will not pass? **The generation that sees “all these things” — the Abomination of Desolation ... the Great Tribulation ... the Heavenly Signs.**

Jesus is not referring to the physical generation of His day ... in 30 AD. But the end-time generation. When the prophecies start to come to pass!

So — these prophesied events still lie ahead of us — in our future.

Let's remain watchful and alert!



