

End Times Views of the Church ...

Christian

Eschatology

Truths Inherent With Biblical Prophecy

- Remember it's all about ... Jesus Christ.
- Recognize all bible prophecy either directly or indirectly leads to Christ's coming to earth.
- Realize hundreds of old testament prophecies were literally fulfilled by Jesus in His first coming.
- Remainder of prophecy will be fulfilled just as literally & culminate in *His second coming.

When discussing prophecy & eschatology

It's good to remember ...

- Scripture has much to say on the subject ... (1/3)
 - *Whole body of scripture must be considered ... together.*
- Salvation's rarely at issue, rather our Lord's return.
 - *We should know the truth well enough to recognize & resist error.*
- Sound doctrine is good medicine for spiritual health.
 - *With conjectural views the results will always be inherently flawed.*
- So, let's look at the different views within the church.

It's fairly safe to say ...

we relate to time in 1 of 4 ways ...

- Past
- Present
- Future
- Timeless

Today, there are also four views held by ... “mainstream evangelicals”

- Idealism
- Historicism
- Futurism
- Preterism

Timing of these four views ... coincides with the way we see time ...

- Idealism ... Timeless
- Historicism ... Present
- Futurism ... Future
- Preterism ... Past

Idealism ... Timeless

- Literal interpretation is impossible.
- Life principles taught by prophetic passages.
- Liberal scholars attracted to this position.
- Least attention of the four views.

Historicism ... Present

- Prophecy being fulfilled within the church age.
- People, events, time frames seen in symbolism.
- Primary view for most of the church age.
- Popular in “Seventh Day Adventist” churches.

Before we move on ...

consider these two statements:

- "About the *Time of the End*, a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the Prophecies, and insist upon their *literal* interpretation, in the midst of much clamor and opposition" - Sir Isaac Newton ... 1700 AD
- "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the *time of the end* ; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."
Daniel 12:4 ... 600 BC

Futurism ... Future

- Dominate view of today's mainstream, events such as:
- *Bodily resurrection of believer's ... 1Cor. 15:35-58*
- *Rapture of the church ... 1 Thess. 4:13-18*
- *Seven year tribulation period ... Rev. 6 -18*
- *Bodily return of Christ to earth ... Rev. 19:11-21*
- *Christ millennial reign on earth ... Rev. 20: 1-6*
- *New City of Jerusalem ... Rev. 21*
- Destined to find their literal fulfillment in the future.

Futurist ... Tend to be

- Predominately Literal ... (Interpretation)
- Pro ... (Israel ... God's People)
- Pre -Tribulationist ... (Rapture)
 - Church removed before the Tribulation.
- Pre - Millennialist ... (Second Coming)
 - Christ returns prior to His 1000 year reign.

Preterism ... Past

- Seen advancing in the last 10 -15 years.
- Sees most, if not all prophecy fulfilled in the past.
- Sites the Destruction of Jerusalem (70 AD) as the fulfillment of many prophetic passages including Matthew 24 & large portions of the Revelation.
- Several notable evangelicals affirm this view:
 - R.C. Sproul ... Ligonier Ministries, Renewing Your Mind Radio Program
 - Kenneth L. Gentry Jr. ... Reformed Presbyterian Church General Assembly
 - Gary DeMar ... President of American Vision, Author, Presbyterian Church
 - David Chilton (Deceased) ... Reformed Pastor, Author

Preterism Exist on 3 Levels

- Mild ... Revelation fulfilled in first “3” centuries.
 - *Enemies of the church, Israel & Rome, destroyed by God.*
- Partial ... Most prophecy fulfilled in 70 AD.
 - *Expect a future bodily resurrection & second coming.****
- Extreme ... All prophecy fulfilled in 70 AD.
 - *Entertain neither of the above as future.*

Preterist Tend to be ...

- Inconsistent ... (Interpretation)
 - One passage taken literally & another spiritual.
- Israel ... (Rejected)
 - Opposite of Romans 11, Israel assimilated into church.
- No Tribulation ... (Daniel 9:27, Rev. 6-18)
 - Occurred 70 AD ... (*Spiritual 2nd* Coming was Rome)
- Post Millennialist ... (Second Coming)
 - Only Partial Preterism ... “Christ returns after 1000 yrs”.

Problems of Preterism

■ Diminishes the Hope of the Church

- Dominion Theology ... (Ecumenism) ... Matthew 7: 21-23
- Dramatically alters the future of the church.

■ Denies the Restoration of Israel

- Replacement Theology ... may promote Anti-Semitism
- Rejects ... “Christ’s Millennial Reign” ... as literal & future.

Recognizing Preterism

- This Generation ... In Matthew 24:34
 - *Context is found in verses 1-3.*
- Third (Ezekiel's) Temple ... Not to be !!!
 - *Christ work of the cross ... blasphemed.*
- Timing of Revelation ... Before or After 70 AD
 - *Crucial for the Preterist view to exist.*
- Theology ... Replaces Israel with the church
 - *Curses on Israel, while the church gets the blessings.*

Good Reads

- <http://www.raptureready.com/featured/price/15rp.pdf>
 - Excellent for a better basic understanding of Preterism ...
 - Dr. Randall Price ... Liberty University ... 7 Pages
 - Recommended
- <http://www.idolphin.org/preterism-ice.html>
 - Much more in depth study of Preterism ...
 - Dr. Thomas Ice ... Liberty University ...35 Pages