

Are the Preterists Right After All?

West Michigan Grace Bible Conference

Oct. 20-22

Theme: The Protestant Revolution: Analyzing the
Impact of History's Greatest Revival Since Paul

Introduction

- Matthew 24:34—the passage that this verse is found in is commonly referred to as the Olivet Discourse. The context covers an extended time that includes the 70th week of Daniel (tribulation) until the 2nd coming of Christ.
 - Matthew 24:4-8—“beginning of sorrows”
 - Matthew 24:15—“abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet.” This occurs in the midst or middle of the week according to Daniel 9:27.
 - Matthew 24:29-31—immediately after the tribulation Jesus Christ will return bodily back to earth.
- Matthew 24:34—in the context Jesus is saying that the current generation i.e., the one he had been addressing for almost 3 years would not pass until they had seen all the things fulfilled in the passage.

Outline

- What is Preterism?
- When and why was Preterism taught in church history?
- What is the scriptural answer to Preterism?
- Concluding thoughts

What Preterism?

- The title Preterism is derived from the Latin word *preter* which means past. Preterism claims that all Biblical prophecy including the events described by Christ in the Olivet Discourse as well as by John in the book of Revelation have already been fulfilled. There are two basic forms of Preterism: moderate (partial) and extreme (full).
- *Moderate Preterism*—holds that that the resurrection and the Second Coming are future, but that all the other prophecies made in Matthew 24-25 and in Revelation 6-18 were fulfilled in the first century, with the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.
- *Extreme (Full) Preterism*—maintains that all New Testament predictions are past, including those about the resurrection and the Second Coming, which likewise occurred during the first century.
- Read from the Preterist.org website.

When & Why Was Preterism Taught?

Alcazar a Jesuit Monk invented the Preterist position that everything was fulfilled in 70 A.D. in order to escape the Protestant teaching that the Pope was the AC



In the 16th Century the Protestant Reformers viewed the Pope/Papacy as the Anti-Christ. Modern writes state that the Futurist interpretation of Revelation was invented by Jesuit Monks to relieve the Papacy of this Protestant stigma.

Jesuits Monks Ribera and/or Lacunza are said to have invented the Futurist position to escape the Protestant teaching that the Pope was the AC. This argument is used as a means of discrediting Dispensationalism and JND

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Two-Stage Pre-conflagration Rapture

Stage One: “Rapture of the Saints to meet the Lord in the Clouds. . . That they may be preserved from the Conflagration of the Earth.”

Stage Two: The Lord Returns with his saints to a New Earth to set up his Kingdom

Saints on earth and Persecuted by the Anti-Christ Tribulation



**2 Peter 3:10
Conflagration
Earth
Destroyed by
Fire**



**New
Earth**



Millennium

Joseph Mede—*The Complete Works of Joseph Mede*, 1665.

Increase Mather—*A Dissertation Concerning the Future Conversion of the Jewish Nation*, 1709.

Cotton Mather—*The Threefold Paradise of Cotton Mather, An Edition of Triparadisus*, 1729.

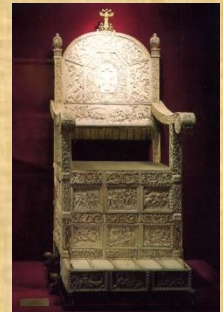
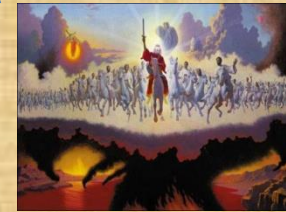
Two Stage Pre-1260 Days Rapture

Stage One: Saints taken to heaven before the 1260 days i.e., Mid-Trib. Rapture

Stage Two: Christ return to earth in judgment to make war on the AC

“... and the living changed at Christ’s ” appearing in the air” (1 Thes. iv, 17); and this will be about three years and a half before the millennium. . .”

**1260 Days/42 Months
“The struggling of Antichrist towards the mastery of the world and his assumption of Godhead will also precede the millennium. . .
Destroyed at Christ’s coming to reign”**



Millennium

Morgan Edwards—Two Academical Exercises on Subject Bearing the Following Titles: Millennium, Last-novelties, 1788.

Lacunza's Two Stage, Post-1260 Days, Pre-45 Days, Pre-conflagration Rapture



Stage One: Saints Raptured after 1260 days of tribulation i.e., Post-Tribulation Rapture. Saints in heaven and return with Christ to a new Earth after 45 days.

Stage Two: The Lord Returns with his saints to a New Earth to set up his Kingdom

Saints on earth and Persecuted by the Anti-Christ Tribulation/1260 days

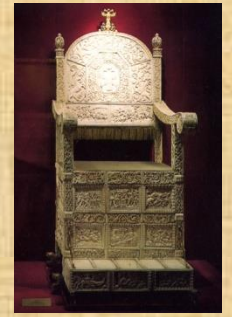
45 Days



2 Peter 3:10
Conflagration
Earth
Destroyed by
Fire



New
Earth



Millennium

Manuel de Lacunza—*The Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty*, 1790.

TIME PAST

Ephesians 2:11, 12

"For Us"
II Tim. 3:16

BUT NOW

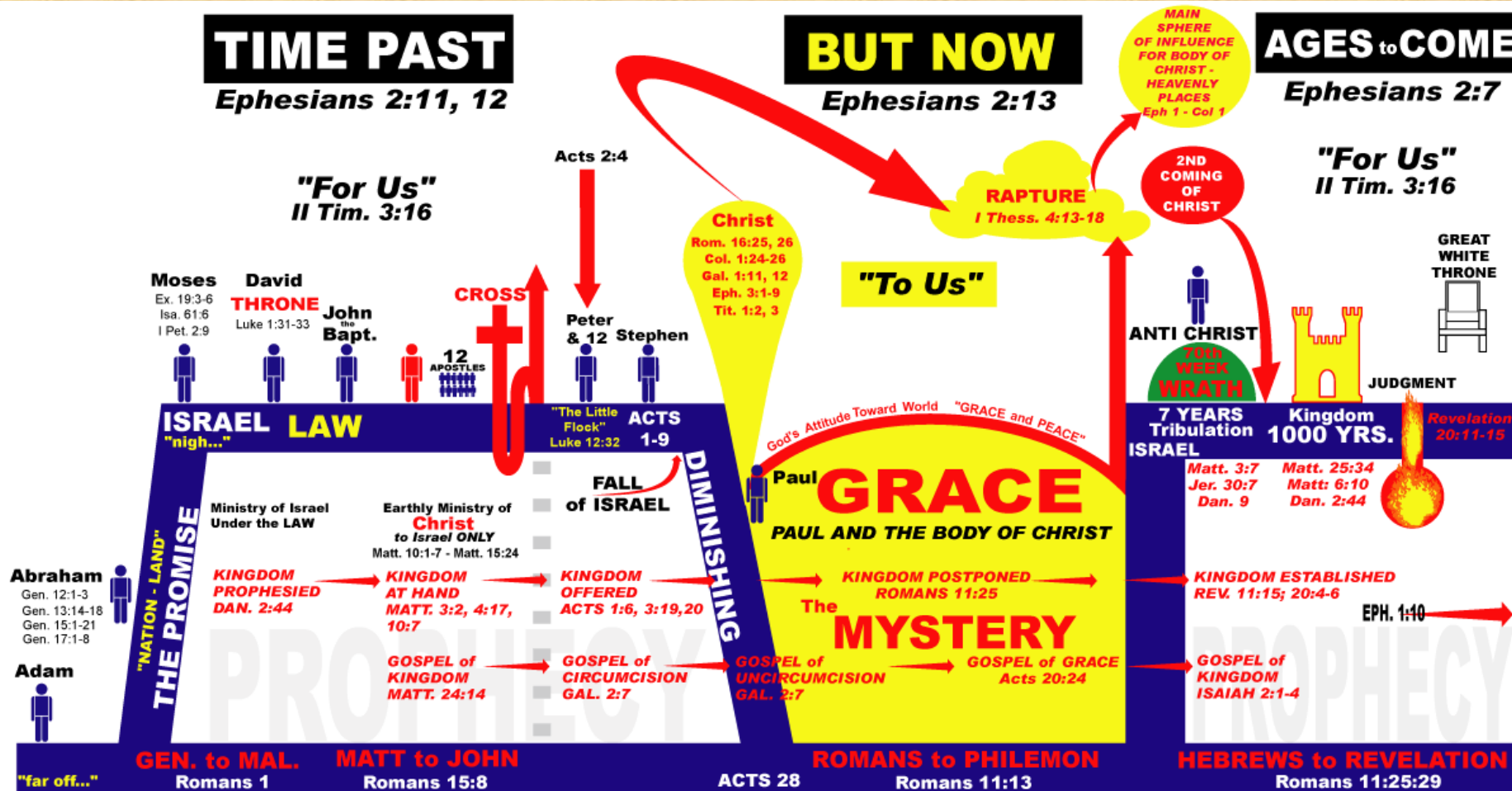
Ephesians 2:13

"To Us"

AGES to COME

Ephesians 2:7

"For Us"
II Tim. 3:16



GENTILES

MATT - King
MARK - Servant
LUKE - Man
JOHN - God

CROSS **CHURCH** **COMING** **CONGREGATION**

ROMANS EPHESIANS THESSALONIANS TIMOTHY
CORINTHIANS PHILIPPIANS TITUS
GALATIANS COLOSSIANS PHILEMON

FAITH **LOVE** **HOPE** **FELLOWSHIP**



Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

II Timothy 2:15