**Bible Prophecy**

 **“What’s Happening Now Ministries J.R.J.”**

We have a serious problem in the local Church today, 2013, when it comes to the correct interpretation of Bible Prophecy. We can point to a number of causes why, people are easily being misled because they are not grounded on sound Biblical teachings on how to interpret Bible prophecy. Pastors are not teaching Bible prophecy to their congregations because they are not well trained themselves nor willing to learn. It starts from the ground up the foundation. **“Psa 11:3, If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”** We can see the results from this lack of knowledge in our immoral society today and in our politics. (I will explain).

The foundation that I’m specifically pointing to is one which the Bible is almost 31% filled with, that being Bible prophecy. For the Liberal Church, Roman Catholic Church, and sad to say many Pastors, they are teaching a false doctrine, a belief called **Preterism**, when it comes to end time prophecy,(A Latin word which means, **past**). They believe that all the prophecy found in the book of Revelation has already come to pass. Some even take it as far as believing the Second Coming of Jesus Christ has already taken place. Now think on that for a minute. By believing that our Lord has already come, and that the Great Tribulation already took place with the destruction of Jerusalem 70 A.D., this means to the Preterist that things are getting **better** not worst. This means that man not God can pass laws in congress thinking they can make our society better. Hence, all the social programs, war on drugs, war on terror, war on poverty, war on education, war on Christianity, war on the dollar, war on health care, war on unborn babies, war on freedom, etc., etc… They believe that the government is in total control not God. As a matter of fact this government has been removing God from every point of life since the removal of prayer in our public schools, while allowing all other cults and faiths (Muslims) to prosper, including the Roman Catholic Church with its liberal bent. If you try and bring this argument to the Preterist they will scoff bitterly at you, all the while they unknowingly are part of end time prophecy themselves **(2 Thess. 2:3 “the falling away”)**

**Well known and long established End Time doctrines have been under attack.**

The Pre-tribulation Rapture doctrine (not theory)

The Second Coming (a literal belief)

The literal 1,000 year Millennium

The date of the writing of the Book of Revelation 95 A.D. verses 70 A.D.

**Church History, Historical facts and Biblical Internal evidence is on our side overwhelmingly.**

I will lay out for you the External and Internal evidence for our belief in contrast showing you the Preterist External and Internal evidence side by side.

First I need to give you a fuller understanding of what Preterism is and what they believe.

**Kenneth Gentry**, a constructionist preterist, defines his view as follows:

The term “preterism” is based on the Latin preter, which means “past.” Preterism refers to that understanding of certain eschatological passages which holds that they have already some to fulfillment..).

 The preterist approach teaches, for example, that many of the prophecies of Revelation and the first portion of the Olivet Discourse have already been fulfilled. Matthew 24: 1-34 (and parallels) in the Olivet discourse was fulfilled in the events surrounding the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. In Revelation, most of the prophecies before Revelation 20 find fulfillment in the fall of Jerusalem (A.D. 7**) (Kenneth Gentry, He shall have Dominion: A Post-millennial Ecology (Tyler, TX: Institute for Christian Economics, 1992). P-159.)**

**Preterist Gary DeMar says, “A preterist is someone who believes that certain prophecies have been fulfilled, that is their fulfillment is in the past.**

Now I gave you his opinion because as we all know not everyone agrees with each other on everything even within the Preterist family you have differing beliefs and viewpoints. You have Mild Preterism, Moderate or Partial Preterism, and Extreme Preterism. Mr. Hank Hanegraff is a Partial Preterist. Now he will fight you tooth and nail on that because he doesn’t want to be labeled as such, but his beliefs fit that description and as hard as he tries to refute that, that’s what he is. He claims that he is one who uses proper Hermeneutics and Exegetical means to interpret the Bible, and when pushed for that explanation, his face turns an array of colors. He is a very difficult man to deal with. But make no mistake about it he is a Partial Preterist whether he agrees or not with that label. You see he doesn’t like being labeled but his entire ministry is all about labeling differing cults as such. So I guess he thinks that being labeled carries a certain negative connotation. I watched his three hour long debate with Mark Hitchcock on “the Dating the Book of Revelation” and it got rather heated. Mark Hitchcock presented and defended our belief which is labeled “Futurism.” (Those who see predictive Bible prophecy as still being future. Futurists see eschatology passages being fulfilled during a future time, primarily during the 17th week of Daniel, at the second coming of Christ, and during the millennium. While all dispensationalist are futurist, not all futurist are dispensationalist. Futurists are also the most literal in their interpretation of prophecy passages). Mark Hitchcock did a great job and won that debate hands down, that was the overwhelming opinion of those who were there. .

Let me give you what Dr. Tenney says: **“The more literal an interpretation that one adopts, the more strongly will he be construed to be a futurist. The object like a burring mountain cast into the sea (Revelation 8:8) , the opening of the bottomless pit (9:2), and many other episodes must be interpreted symbolically if they are to be taken as applying to current or past history. If they are yet to come, they may be a more accurate description of actual phenomena than most expositors have realized, for the physical and psychical researches of recent years have opened to the mind of man worlds that in John’s time were completely unknown.”** (Tenney, Interpreting Revelation, pp..142-43)

 **Now for a realization and the implication that Preterism plays on Bible Prophecy** and why we as Futurist must be armed to defend what we believe. The following list is not by any means the end all list for Preterist Heretical beliefs.

The events I’m going to list here taken from the Bible are ones the Preterist claim to have already taken place.

I have not made these up out of thin air you can find them all over the **“Internet”** and in a Book written by **“Chilton, Paradise Restored.”**

**The Great tribulation**, took place in the Fall of Israel. It is not found in any future even.

**The Falling Away**, already happened in the first century. So we should have no reason to expect an increase in apostasy as we move further into the future. We should expect the *increasing Christianization of the world.*

**The Last Days**, this is a period of time between Christ’s Advent and the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70,,, the last days of Israel.

**The Antichrist**, is only a term used by John to describe the widespread apostasy of the Christian church prior to the Fall of Jerusalem. In general an apostate system can be called ‘antichrist’; but the world does not refer to him as some future Fuhrer. Some preterist (Hank Hanegraff) believe that Nero was the Antichrist.

**The Rapture**, is “the catching up” of the living saints to meet the Lord in the air**. (Sounds good so far but..)** They teach that the Bible doesn’t have any separation between the second coming and the Rapture, they are simply different events of the last day.

**The Second Coming**, coinciding with the Rapture and the Resurrection, will take place at the end of the Millennium, when history is sealed at the Judgment.

**The Beast** of Revelation was a symbol of both Nero in particular and the Roman Empire in general.

**The False Prophet**, of Revelation was none other than the leadership of apostate Israel, who rejected Christ and worshiped the Best.

**The Great Harlot of Revelation** was, Jerusalem which had always been…falling into apostasy and persecuting the prophets,, which had ceased to be the City of God.

**The Millennium,** is the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, which He established at His first Advent. Now what that means is that when our Lord came the first time, He established His Kingdom, the 1,000 year reign. We are now living in His Kingdom. It ends at His Second Coming.

**The New Creation** has already begun. They claim that the Bible describes our salvation in Christ, both now and in eternity, as a new heaven and a new earth.

**The New Israel**, is the Church…. Something that Hank Hanegraff is in favor of….. and that my Brothers and Sisters is known as Replacement Theology. The Roman Catholic Church also believes the same way good old Hank Hanegraff believes and he claims he is in total opposition to Rome and her demonic teachings.

**The New Jerusalem**, the City of God , is the Church, now and forever.

**Armageddon**, was for St. John a symbol of defeat and desolation, a “waterloo” signifying the defeat of those set themselves against God, who obey false prophets instead of the true…. There never was nor will there ever be a a literal “Battle of Armageddon, for there is no such place.

As I said there are more issues than the ones I have presented here but these give you a real picture of whom we are dealing with today in 2013.

**If you are ever in a situation that the above is presented to you could you refute it?**

**I believe** most of you would perk up if you heard someone teaching that the Rapture is at the end of the Great tribulation and not before. But as far as the other events if you aren’t that informed than you need to be. If you are in a Church that’s not teaching you correctly than why are you still there? Find a Church that is teaching correct Doctrine, don’t continue to feed false teachers spewing their false doctrines.

**When should a student of the Bible refer to the Greek or Hebrew?**

Whenever the Greek or Hebrew magnifies and supports the King James English readings than you should use it. But never use the Greek or Hebrew when you plan or correcting the King James English Bible as those supposed Bible Scholars and Pastors whose aim is only impress you with their knowledge of Hebrew and Greek. They set themselves up to be the final authority over God’s word instead of the Holy Spirit. (2 Tim. 3:16)

Let me give you an example:

Let’s deal with the Book of Revelation. I’m going to show you a few verses with a specific Greek word that gives the English word a fuller meaning that’s lost if the English word is not expounded on. This is a form of “word” study.

Revelation 1:1 “……which must **shortly** come to pass…” Now the **Preterist** will use that verse and that word, **“shortly”,** to prove that the events that were about to follow was going to happen very, very soon, shortly.

Are they right in teaching that? How can we know the truth here? Well we always use scripture with scripture to tell us what the true understanding of the text is saying. **(Isa. 28:10, 13)** We certainly can do this here using the English text, but for argument sake let’s see what the Greek words for **“Shortly”** means here and in other verses.

1. The events “must shortly **(tachos)** take place.” (1:1). Notice the Greek word **“tachos”** that’s highlighted. Notice how it is spelled.
2. “For the time is near **(eggus)** (1:3) Notice the word near is spelled differently than the above word **“shortly”.**
3. “I am coming to you **quickly (tachus). (2:16)** compare that to the first verses word “shortly” they are the same they are spelled differently.
4. I am coming quickly **(tachus)** (3:11)
5. The third woe is coming quickly **(tachus)** (11:14)
6. The things which must shortly **(tachos)** take place. (22:6)
7. Behold, I am coming quickly **(tachus)** (22:7)
8. For the time is near **(eggus)** (22:10)
9. Behold I am coming quickly **(tachus)** (22:12)

And one more. Yes I am coming quickly **(tachus**) (22:20).

Now with the way Preterist interpret the bible they use these verses as **“time Text”** according to Dr. DeMar. It is a faulty system of interpretation set up by Preterist to determine time lines of prophetic events.

There is much that can be said here, but allow me to begin by using the English text. Rev. 1:19 “ Write the things which thou **hast seen**, and the things **which are**, and the things which shall be **hereafter;”**

This is the Lord Jesus Christ instructing John on what was to be written. If John is writing in A.D. 95 (which I believe to be correct) he is not at liberty to write about the past, because he is commanded to write about what you just seen, write the things that are present, and write the things in the future. That was a commandment from our Lord Jesus Christ, the Risen Saviour. If John was to write anything contrary to what our Lord commanded he would have been in serious trouble and would have went against what our Lord commanded him to write. This is what the Preterist what you to believe, they are trying to tell you that John was to write about History not future events. That’s why John never mentions the destruction of Jerusalem. Why would the destruction of Jerusalem be in the Book of Revelation? Aren’t there many prophecies that have already come to pass found in the Old Testament, which John never writes about. This was the Revelation of Jesus Christ which He gave to John to write about….. John saw the Saviour, John was now going to write which thou **“hast seen”, “which are”, and “hereafter.”**

Now let’s take another look at the first verse and that word **“tachos”**

**1.**The Revelation concerns *future events*, events that are yet to happen in the end time. The events had not yet happened when Jesus Christ gave the revelation.

**2.**The early believers had looked for these events to take place very soon. The idea is shortly, swiftly, speedily—in their lifetime. This means that the early believers were expecting the Lord to return in their lifetime. They were doing exactly what Christ had told them to do: to look and watch for His return.

"Watch therefore**: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come" (**[**Matthew 24:42**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+24%3A42)**).**

"Therefore **be** ye also **ready:** for **in such an hour** as ye think not the Son of man cometh**" (**[**Matthew 24:44**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+24%3A44)**).**

**"Watch therefore,** for **ye know neither the day nor the hour** wherein the Son of man cometh" **(**[**Matthew 25:13**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+25%3A13)**).**

To apply a different meaning to the word, **“Shortly, tachos”,** would be in direct contradiction to scripture. But that’s not all..

**Romans 16:17-20 (KJV) Paul speaking:**
17 (KJV)  Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.
18  For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.
19  For your obedience is come abroad unto all *men*. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.
20  And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet **shortly**. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen. “ … please notice the word “SHORTLY” in the last verse. It is the very same Greek word used in Revelation 1:1. **“Tachos”.** We all know that this event hasn’t happened yet.

**Luke 18:8 (KJV)**
8 (KJV) “ I tell you that he will avenge them **speedily**. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”…. notice the word “speedily” it is the same Greek word **“tachos”** .. question, did this happen yet?

The only reason I showed the Greek word usage here is because I know the arguments they present and it is always good to have an answer for them before they present them. I know how they think…. You must get into their minds in order to have an honest and hard hitting debate with facts on the table.

**Acts 12:7 (KJV)**
7 (KJV)  “And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *him*, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up **quickly** **(tachos).** And his chains fell off from *his* hands.

We see the same Greek word being used here and this event happened in time, exactly after the Angel mad his declaration. We also have a qualifying clause **“and his chains fell off his hands.”** That tells us that this event took place right then…. We do not have such qualifying clauses in any of the other situations.

 **Acts 22:18-21 (KJV)**
18 (KJV)  “And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee **quickly (tachos)**out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me.
19  And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee:
20  And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him.
21  And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.”

We once again have the use of the same Greek word with a qualifying resolution to the meaning of this word , **“quickly.”** Verse 21 tells us Paul should depart and we know that he did.

Now I gave you all of the New Testament verses with the word, **tachos** in it. Not one of them would indicate to us the Lord has already Came back, that the Great tribulation has already taken place, and we aren’t living in the Kingdom of God now. I use the **“Englishman’s Greek Concordance New Testament”** for years now. It gives you every single Greek word found in the NT, how it’s used, when, and where.

**Now let’s take a look at the External Evidence:**

**The first witness for the late date: Hegesippus.., C.A. 110-180 Wrote Memoirs (5 treatises)** born bout 15 years after the Book of Revelation was written. Hegerippus is one of the sources that Eusebius, the father of the Church history, used to formulate his opinion that John was banished to Patmos under the emperor Domitian, who was the roman emperor from A.D. 81-96. So this is the first witness after the Book of Revelation was written.

“Exhibit A “ for the late Date \_ Irenacus 120-202 A.D.

Bishop of Lyon, Southern France

Born and Raised in Smyrna, a Biblical location for one of the Revelation Church’s

Discipled by Polycarp who was a disciple of John who wrote the Book of Revelation.

Wrote against Heresies in A.D. 180

Now this is the statement of Irenacus , when he was talking about 666 and the Antichrist

 Date of the Book of Revelation **“ We will not, however incur the risk of pronouncing positively as to the name of the Antichrist: for if it were necessary that his name should be distinctly revealed in this present age (time) it would have been announced by him who beheld the apocalyptic version. For that was seen no very long time since, but almost in our day, towards the end of Domitian’s reign.”**

What a powerful witness we have here… written in 170 A.D. Irenacus who grew up in Smyrna – who knew Polycarp, who knew the Apostle John – who wrote the apocalyptic vision which was at Domitian’s reign not Nero’s.

I have much more to write in greater detail but for now let me give you the list that supports our Futurist beliefs. \

Clement of Alexandria (150-215) A.D.

Tertullian (160-220) A.D.

Origen (185-253) take notice that these are early Roman Catholic Church Fathers, which tells you that Rome changed late on. I have many more names I could add to this Roman Catholic list.

DioCassues (150-235)

Victorinus (300 A.D.)

Eusebius (260-340)

Jerome (340-419)

Sulpicius Severus (400 A.D.)

Orosius (400 A.D.)

Primasius (540 A.D.)

Andres of Cappadocia (600 A.D.)

The Acts of John (650 A.D.) Veneable Bede (700 A.D.)

**Now for the early date and all the external witnesses they have to present:**

The first witness for the 65 A.D. date is **a one liner supper scription found in a Syriac Version of the N.T. (508 & 616 A.D.)** The very next witness **“Arethas (850-900 A.D.) & Finally a man Theopolac, 1800’s.** That’s it with the exception of a **Roman Catholic . Dean Farrar was a Preterist and most scholars know that this school was founded by a Jesuit Priest in Spain (1614), to offset the growing Biblical knowledge that came from the publication of the A.V. 1611 English Bible.** That’s it !! You can put them all on the head of a needle. As they continue to preach “Peace on earth good will to Men”. When we know for over 2,000 years now there has not been any peace at all. We still hear the cries coming from our own White house, seeking peace in Israel when we know there will not be any peace until our Lord returns.

Much more to follow..

God Bless to all my Brother and Sisters in Christ Jesus. Bro. Jim Pro. 3:5-6