An urgent call

To the army of the Lord Jesus Christ

Y. Erasmus

Jan 2018
Contents

Internal and External locus of control.................................................................3
The sad reality..........................................................................................................3
The Principles of Hermeneutics.............................................................................3
Eschatology............................................................................................................4
Journey towards Truth............................................................................................5
Connecting some of the dots................................................................................12
  The expected Anti-Christ..................................................................................12
  The question to Jesus in Matthew 24, was it one or two questions?...............13
What is the role and place of the Jews within the context of our current age?.....14
Armageddon ..........................................................................................................28
Elijah......................................................................................................................53
The possible “catching up” by the saints in the 1st Century (1 Cor 15:51,52).......54
Daniel’s prophecies..............................................................................................54
Were all the prophecies in Revelation supposed to happen speedily?............55
The Elements Shall Melt with Fervent heat.......................................................57
Illustration of possible Eschatological positions..............................................57
Conclusion.............................................................................................................61
Internal and External locus of control

The world is divided by two groups of people, those with external locus of control and those with internal locus of control. Locus is defined as a position, point or place, or more specifically a location where something occurs. When we talk about control with regards to one’s locus, it can be defined as the power to determine outcomes by directly influencing actions, people and events.

People with External locus of control find themselves to be hopeless and defenseless by the hand they are dealt with in life because they feel they have no power to change anything. They take no responsibility for the way things are and to change anything, and with the hopelessness often comes anger resentment and hurt as being a victim of circumstances.

What we need are more people with Internal locus of control, people that can change the world to the glory of God. What we need most is anointed men and women of God, walking in the power of the Holy Spirit under the authority of God, that can take dominion (as per the Genesis 1:26 command) so that the earth can start looking like heaven, as per the very prayer that we were taught to pray to our Father in Heaven by the Lord Jesus Himself “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

The sad reality

The sad reality is that a very large group of the powerful warriors of the army of the Lord Jesus Christ has become hopeless and entrapped in a position of external locus of control. Even sadder it is, that the very reason for them moving into this position has been because of false teachings that have become widespread in churches, which I believe has been pushed by the enemy himself, in order to demobilize the church. With this I am not condemning the pastors and teachers that have promoted these teachings, because most of them I suppose really meant well and just wanted to pass on the knowledge that they have received, even in seminary school.
The Principles of Hermeneutics

Before going on to expose these false teachings, it is important to get back to the foundation first of how to divide the Word of God in the Bible correctly. It is not enough for a teaching to have a scriptural backing of some sort, but the principles of hermeneutics needs to be followed in order to allow for responsible Bible interpretation. For this purpose I want to borrow from an essay by Pastor Mark Driscoll who summarise the seven key principles so finely¹.

- Firstly it is important to listen for the Truth. He explains that even though we know that context is very important it still is not the most important and warns that we should not fall into the trap of postmodern thinking that truth is no longer objective, but relative and that truth can be made whatever we want it to be. “Truth, Biblical Truth, is truth that corresponds with reality. Biblical authors never wrote the Bible for readers to twist the Scriptures into what suite them. They had very specific meanings that they wanted us to grasp and it is crucial to recognize Scripture to be God’s revelation of Himself to us so we can get to know Him.”

- Secondly we need to look at context. We need to consider the original context (the cultural setting of the Bible). We also need to consider the immediate context of a passage and not to read a verse in isolation without looking at the scripture before and after, the chapter before and after, the entire book as well as the context of the entire Old and New Testament.

- Scripture needs to interpret Scripture. We cannot use world events as a basis to explain the Bible. We need to use the bible to explain the Bible.

- We need to read from the text and not into the text. We should not read the bible from our pre-conceived ideas.

- We should trust the clarity of Scripture. “Expect Scripture to be clear. Theologians call this principle the perspicuity of Scripture which means that the Bible is clear when it comes to letting us know about essential, important teachings.”

- The sixth principle is to recognize the literal and figurative language. We can make the mistake of taking literal language for figurative language and also we can make the mistake of taking figurative language for literal language.

- The seventh principle is to handle interpretation disagreements wisely. With regards to primary doctrines essential to the Christian faith, such as the message of salvation, the Deity of Christ and salvation by faith in Christ, there should be no tolerance for disagreeing doctrines, but with regards to secondary doctrines, we should allow room for disagreements as we all are in different places in our journey with the Lord.

¹ www.markdriscoll.org/7-key-principles-for-interpreting-the-bible
Eschatology

The interpretation of Scripture with regards to end-time teachings can be complex when dealing with the entire breadth of the spectrum. It is however not a primary doctrine that deals with the centrality and Deity of Jesus the Christ, or salvation by grace through faith that is not earned by good works (although a holy life and good works should be the outflow from a life that is truly saved by the indwelling Christ). The problem comes when people attach their entire worldview and expectancy of what the future holds, to a teaching of hopelessness, escapism and defeat, that pulls the life out of them and make them ineffective in the army of God in our current times. It is with this I have a problem, and of which I urgently want to call the army of the Lord Jesus Christ from, in order to mobilize those that are stuck in that place, into the excitement and hope of what the Lord Jesus calls his church to be a part of in this current times.

As I am writing this, it is the start of a whole new year, with wonderful exciting promises given by our Father, but when trying to share this excitement with some of my fellow believers, I am so saddened when I am confronted with the typical answer from those within the mind-set of typical mainstream Eschatology, that things must get worse and worse, because we are living in the end of days, and therefore they do not have much hope for this year or even for their own future.

The internet is buzzing with people campaigning for the Truth movement, wanting to “Drain the Swamp”, wanting to expose the “New World Order”, and keeping their eyes on Israel for any new events that could prove that we are moving now into the final stages before the expected “Anti-Christ person” would come to take his rule. It saddens me to see that on the one hand they put so much effort into understanding current world affairs, but instead of taking dominion and changing things, they use this knowledge/understanding simply to “prove” that the so called rapture is close now. Isn’t this double mindedness? On the one hand we believe ourselves to be the sons of the Almighty, Victorious God that overcame all the powers of darkness on the cross and gave us all authority to rule with Him in heavenly places, but on the other hand we believe that nothing can be done, and that the world falling into Satanic hands is the way God actually planned for it to happened and called for in His Word? It just does not tie up!

Journey towards Truth

Choosing this topic for the content of my PhD thesis submission is not something that was haphazardly selected. Rather it was a message birthed through the Holy Spirit more than a decade ago and that had grown inside of me through the years after much prayer, meditation on the Word, discussions with fellow believers, reading, listening and waiting on the Lord.

It is a message that I have for the church today, which I believe is not my message but His, and even though I do admit that I can still only see in part and that some of the pieces of the puzzle is not yet crystal clear, I am indeed convinced that the framework of my thought and the overall skeleton of how truth was brought together to me into a holistic God-honouring worldview, is birthed from Him.
I was brought up in a charismatic Church that held the conventional beliefs that most standard Pentecostal churches preach still today, especially also in the area of eschatology. I remember while I was still in school (which is many years ago, since I am in my 40’s as I am writing this) that we had a guest speaker explaining in so much detail how the rapture is to be expected soon, how a one world government is expected to take over. I was told about the mark of the beast that would be a computerized chip, the expected coming of Jesus on a cloud and the glorious millennium rule.

Most of the exposure I had back then was from those that promoted a pre-tribulation rapture view.

As a young child I wasn’t too scared, because at least I would be raptured before the worst comes, but what it did to me psychologically was very damaging. I had my whole life ahead of me, and yet I did not dream many dreams for the future. My only hope was to escape with the rest when the rapture comes. It was expected to happen any time soon (that was back in the 1980’s).

Today when I look back I wonder how different my life would have been if I knew then what I know now.

That was the background from which I came. The years obviously went on and I started growing more and more in the Lord. Since I can remember I had a passion to live entirely and completely for God.

When I was in my early thirties, I had a very significant dream, which I knew was from the Lord. I dreamed that I had taken in poison in, in the form of dangerous end time teachings that was not from God. The dream was to me a very clear message from the Holy Spirit speaking to me. It was from that time on that I became increasingly more interested in finding understanding in the area from God’s perspective and I started to listen broadly and longed for more and clearer understanding.

After this another very significant thing happened in my life. The Lord called me for a time to leave my corporate job and He sent me with an assignment to a group of people that was starting a movement under the Afrikaans people in my country that was gaining momentum at the time. The Holy Spirit told me clearly that He would show me things as I go and explore what they believe, and that what He shows me I had to proclaim from the rooftops.

At first I did not understand what was really wrong with the beliefs of the group. They seem to believe in the bible and to place much focus on Jesus. They were especially focussed on love. Love was their main theme, love and self-sacrifice and the gospel of John. They were also studying prophetic words that were supposedly uttered by Jesus himself and were written in the first person. Again, the message that came through in every part of their teachings was a message of love and instructions on how to love. They had a strong and continuous focus on love in this group! Because I myself am a giver and have been used to self-sacrificing and true compassion for my neighbour, having the love of Jesus poured out into my heart, I could at first see nothing wrong with this group.

I was crying out to the Lord Jesus to show me, if those books, that was supposedly His Words, if it was really from Him, because some of the things were so odd (there were lots about other planets and about reincarnation) which was foreign to me but for which I could
not find 100% biblical support to refute and say it is unscriptural. For me the answer was simple, if the book was from Jesus indeed, then I could bank on everything and then I had to change my beliefs to fit in. If the books were not from Jesus, then I was dealing with something from an occult nature, because the way the books were written was of such a high spiritual content, that I considered it highly unlikely to have come from a mere human being.

After I cried out to Jesus for understanding, He then visited me one night in a dream and gave me an answer that up to this day radically and fundamentally changed the way that I look at Truth. He said to me that the foundation of the books was wrong, that the starting point of the books was wrong and that they were not of Him.

I realized straight after, that the foundation had not been grace through faith, that the foundation had been a works-program, with an emphasis on love and that therefore it did not glorify the Lord. I recognized that I was dealing with another gospel of the type that Paul would have cursed.

The next day I met a radical Apostle of the Lord that came to me with the words: “the law came through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ”. He then added, the gospel of Jesus is not a gospel of love, it is from a God of love, but it is a gospel of Grace and of Truth. With these words he then not only confirmed to me what Jesus had told me the previous night in a dream, but he also confirmed what the foundations were, the starting point, which we should never deviate from, whether we share the gospel, or whether we look at doctrines, or whether we teach the principles of God, it should always come from the right foundation and the right starting point. I then did what the Lord instructed me, I exposed the errors of this group to them in person and on the internet and presented sound doctrine instead, after which the Lord did a great work towards setting some of the people free. To Him be all the glory.

I understand today that love is a fruit, and that even the most heroic works of self-centred human love, like giving everything that you have away for the poor, or sacrificing yourself up to the point of death, means nothing to God without His type of love (1 Corinthians 13). If we want to give His love, we need to receive it first, we cannot “work” it up. His love starts of as a work of grace. It needs to be cultivated from that basis of (starting with) faith in His gracious finished work, and from this base we are to add diligently virtue, then knowledge, then self-control, then perseverance, then godliness, then brotherly kindness; and only from there we can add the kind of Christ-like love, which is required in order for us not to be unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:5,6), the kind of knowledge that will allow us to partake in the divine nature and to escape the corruption that is in this world through lust (2 Peter 1:3,4). Today I can also see a link between this and Christ who wants to appear through us, which are elaborated on later on in this writing.

It is here where the idea of Christianity having layers of beliefs started surfacing in me and this later became a very important consideration when I found myself dealing with difficult concepts within Christianity.

The Lord wanted to deal with me and bring me truth about eschatology and the right way to view the world and God’s plan for our day and time, but He wanted to establish the mind of Christ in me in this regard, built upon the right foundations of beliefs, layer upon layer of sound doctrine that aligns to the message as well as the heart and nature of God as revealed to us in Scripture.
For a long time I focussed on basics first and that was then also the topic of my D.Min Dissertation, “Christianity: Layers of Beliefs”. Here I went right back to the importance of our mind-sets and beliefs, which forms the basis of the way we perceive God then also worship God as we see Him. I explained how a wrong understanding of who God is, would lead us to worship a construct of Him in our own minds that are not true, that is actually a form of idolatry. It all has to start with the glory of God taking centre stage, as we as well as the earth were created to reveal His glory and when we come from that base, we are aligned with heaven’s order of things. I went right back to explaining the importance of training our youth in Christian evidences, as so many gets snatched away by the enemy when they cannot defend their faith. I went in to the flaws of evolution theory and the strong scientific arguments for intelligent design. I prepared a strong case to show that the bible is the inspired Word of God and how science and the Word of God is aligned. Then I covered the proper way to interpret the Bible (the principles of hermeneutics) which is very important also later when we get to Eschatology. I also addressed typology in the Bible, how God speaks to us through pictures in the Old Testament that were fulfilled in Christ and how the Bible is an holistic book that pulls the same message like a golden threat through every book in the bile. The bible is not a disconnected book with loose parts thrown together, no, it is one marvellously integrated book that is totally interconnected from beginning to end. I then covered i) what the Gospel is, ii) the holiness of God, iii) the new covenant and then also what it means to iv) enter in to the rest of God. Only with these concepts firmly dealt with and covered in our mind-sets and beliefs in a God-honouring way, I propose, can we start looking at Eschatology and how to interpret the times that we are living in now.

Back now to the journey I went through after the Lord gave me the dream that I received poison in the form of harmful eschatological views that I had been exposed to (which was since my youth).

As I progressed in my journey, my understanding of different Eschatological schools of thought had expanded as I was listening broader and reading wider in this area, but still it was like having to deal with many loose puzzle pieces that did not really fit together and I still did not know how to bring it all together.

Some of these disconnected beliefs at that point were:

1) **The expected coming Anti-Christ:**

On the one hand I believe that when Jesus said that it was finished when he died on the cross, and that all of the forces of darkness were defeated then. Colossians 2:15 tells us that He disarmed the powers and authorities and made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. This did not correspond with the idea of a coming anti-Christ over which the church would have no authority and that Jesus had all along planned for to come and rule in the world. So why was the church at large expecting an Anti-Christ person to come and how should we interpret the intended New World Order that had been gaining so much ground over the last century?

2) **The end of the world in Matthew 24**

I also struggled at first to fit the prophecies of Matthew 24 together with all this. Was this chapter dealing with one or two questions to the Lord?
3) **Israel today**

To understand the place of the nation of Israel today was another challenge I was faced with.

4) **Armageddon and Elijah to come back to earth**

5) **Understanding the order of heavenly ordained events in context with the message and the order of the Jewish feasts:**

Aligning eschatology with the chronological order of events as we can see in the order of the Jewish feasts, which was a type and a shadow of what would be fulfilled in Christ, was something else that puzzled me. If Jesus had already came in 70AD to bring destruction and that were supposed to represent the feast of Trumpets, then where and how were the trumpets heard and by whom? Or was it only symbolically?

6) **1 Corinthians 15:52: “In the twinkling of an eye”**

Another critical thinker in the body of Christ once pointed out to me how Jesus prayed to the father in John 17:15 that the Father should not take His followers out of the world, but that He should keep them from the evil one. This verse was what led him to not receive the rapture theory and what he told me made a lot of sense to me.

I also got exposed to another radical teacher, who made a remarkable case when referring to the escape of Lot and of Noah, when times of tribulation or judgment came. He pointed out that it was the righteous people that remained and the ungodly that was taken out. He also disputed the rapture theory and based it on this reasoning.

So if there is no rapture, then how should we interpret 1 Cor 15:52?

7) **Understanding the timelines of Daniel's prophecies** was another piece of the puzzle to be fit.

8) **If prophecy had been fulfilled then why is the world in such a mess? Was the prophecies in Revelation all to happen speedily (as it said it would)?**

When I studied full Preterism, that propose that all Biblical prophecies have been fulfilled, some of the puzzle pieces started to fit, but not all of them. I could not at all relate to the idea that the Rock that hit the statue and filled the whole earth had already happened in our reality. The world is in a terrible state. If this is how it looks when all prophecies have been fulfilled then it seems to me that their literal understanding Scriptures lead them to deny the realities of what we are facing around us. I started to engage with Ed Stevens, who currently leads the International Preterist Association about my concerns. I proposed to him that if all prophecy has already been fulfilled then it would mean that the devil is already cast into the lake of fire and surely that cannot be? He answered me back that we may not understand it, but we simply have to believe God at His Word and because
in the book of Revelation it says that all those things would happen speedily it means that it actually did happen speedily after the prophecy was given and that means not 2000 years later but literally it would mean speedily and we simply need to literally take God at His Word. This I could not accept. It also did not make sense to me. I was challenged by Ed Stevens after my conversation with him. I honour him as a man that really takes God very seriously at the letter of His Word, but I was convinced that the man was missing something. I then started making a study of the concept of “speedily” in the book of Revelation and the Holy Spirit guided me to make a remarkable discovery which I will get back to later in this document.

9) The earth destroyed or to be destroyed by fire?

2 Peter 3:10 was another challenge to me. If the day of the Lord was in 70AD then how were the elements destroyed by fire then?

It was like no position made sense to me at that point. The traditional Futurist position as I had presented to since my school years were the poison the Lord showed me that I had been exposed to and which He wanted to clear me from. It had done damage to the way that I was beholding Him and the Lord wanted to heal that. The Full Preterist position however seemed like outright heresy. How can we believe that the devil is already in hell? There was no way I could agree with Ed Stevens on that, because to believe that would in my eyes belittle the great work of Jesus on the cross as if it did not achieve much at all. It would also present God in a very dishonouring way if we are to believe that what we are living in today is actually the dream that He had for us. It was therefore totally unacceptable. Partial Preterism was taking a bit here and a bit there but with no integration I perceived. For example, either the events in Revelation happened speedily as was prophesied, or it did not, how can we stand on the fence about this? Double mindedness is impurity according to the Word of God that causes us to be unstable (James 1:8) and therefore it was important to be sound in the way we see and view the world, and soundness in my world-view was exactly what I wanted for myself.

Time and again I went back to the basics and the starting point, the principle the Lord Jesus personally came to teach me, with regards to examining Truth and sound doctrine. Adhering to the principles of Hermeneutics became increasingly important to me as to keep checking myself that I do not go astray when exploring new territory. (See The Principles of Hermeneutics outlined earlier in this document)

I realized that even though it was challenging to integrate these nine points as listed above in a way that my mind-sets and beliefs would not allow for double-mindedness, it was important that I continue to pursue finding Truth from God’s perspective in this regard. Not only because of the dream that He gave me, and the calling that He placed upon my life to teach people, but also because the Word of God teaches us that doctrines are very important to God. In Titus 2:1 the apostle Paul instructed Titus “You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.” In Titus 1:9 Titus is asked to by sound doctrine convict those who contradict the Truth. In 2 Timothy 2:13 (AMP) Paul also instructed Timothy to hold fast to the pattern of wholesome and sound teaching, which he heard from Paul. Paul further instructed Timothy to identify myths and to resist it (1 Tim 4:7) after he called for Timothy to be nourished in good doctrine (1 Tim 4:6). Paul warned of a time coming when people will not endure sound doctrine (2 Tim 4:3,4) and that people would turn their ears away from the truth, rather
listening to fables. Was the rapture theory a fable? I had to find out. Paul warned in 1
Timothy 6:3 that if anyone teaches doctrines that are not in accord with godliness and that is
destitute of the truth, one should withdraw yourself from such. Scripture warns us about
doctrines of demons and we can see how huge organizations such as the Mormon church, the
Jehovah witnesses church, and the New Age movement, is built on such doctrines and had
been used significantly to seduce and destroy. To desire truth in the innermost being is a God
honouring desire and a noble quest (Psalm 51:6), and to do that is to desire also sound
document in the body of Christ.

Sound doctrine is important in many ways, but primarily one could say it is because
what we believe affects us and how we think and how we act and view the world. “Behaviour
is an extension of theology, and there is a direct correlation between what we think and how
we act”. Our duty is to deliver the message and not to change it. When we are called as
teachers we are to be especially careful not to bring an alternative message that presents God
in a way that He is not. It is understandable then that James warned (James 3:1) that not many
should become teachers, because those who teach will be judged more strictly. We need
teachers, and if a person is called to teach let him teach, but let us do that with referent fear of
the Lord, trembling at His Word, because we stand accountable to Him.

Finding revelation that would allow me to integrate all of the above mentioned nine
points in a way that will firstly promote a God honouring mind-set and will exalt the work of
Jesus on the cross, while then also considering the seven principles of proper hermeneutics
was the challenge I was faced with. I know that it is only the grace of God and the help of the
Holy Spirit that could work that.

I was challenged to think critically in order to find wholesome answers, because I
knew that the Holy Spirit would also engage my mind and my intellectual understanding in
the process of revealing Truth to me.

I interacted during this journey not only with proponents of the various eschatological
streams, such as Ed Stephens, president of the International Preterism Association, in order to
gain insight into their school of thought, but I also submitted my findings and discoveries to
prominent Prophetic or Apostolic leaders. All the time I stayed open to possible correction
from the body of Christ, because I believe that there is safety in submitting one to another, to
those that are mature in the faith, and to stay teachable with an attitude of humility.

One of the prominent keys that lead me to the way I perceive the coming of the Lord
today, happened during a time I was on a very serious fast. I was seeking the Lord with all
my heart and wanted to know Him more. During the time of that fasting, one morning in the
early hours of the night, the Lord gave me two prominent Scriptures, Psalm 24 and Luke
21:28. I immediately looked it up in my bible. This is the first time I connected the dots and
began to realize that we are the gates and that the Lord wants us who are the gates to lift up
our heads, because He, the King of glory, wants to come through us, the gates.

I had never seen that before in Scripture in all my life, neither had I learned about this
from anybody, but this understanding was given to me by the Holy Spirit during a time that I
just wanted to know and love Him more. My fast was not even about eschatology and He
thought it important to bring this revelation in the context of such an attitude of longing for
more of Him.

2 www.gotquestions.org/sound-doctrine.html
This revelation had thereafter been confirmed to me through internet reports that I read and others that have also received a similar kind of revelation from the Lord (even though it came through other scriptures to them). This discovery brought about a huge leap forward towards me eventually coining the term “Progressive Manifestationism” as an eschatological position, whereby I believe that the Lord Jesus, the King of Glory wants to come through those who went up to the holy hill, with clean hands, and who have their heads lifted up towards Him. We are the body of Christ on earth. He is no longer as in the days of His flesh. We are the Temple in whom He lives. He is not coming to rule from a physical Temple. It just made so much sense to me and so many other scriptures confirmed. It just seems impractical, come to think of it, that the precious Lord Jesus with whom our soul and spirit have such a personal and intimate relationship with now, will come in a physical body and rule in a physical temple where we will then only be able to see and commune with him every once in a while when we travel to Israel, standing in a long queue and waiting our turn. From this point onward things became all the more clear.

With this understanding in place, the basic structure of my thought pattern about the topic had been set, but it was only now a matter of tying in the nine puzzle pieces as discussed above, into a holistic understanding that brings Scripture together and let Scripture explain Scripture as per the principles of hermeneutics.
Connecting some of the dots

The expected Anti-Christ

As the blood of Jesus for the redemption of mankind is the core fundamental message that runs through the entire Bible, in shadow types in the Old Testament and in the explanation of its fulfilment in the New Testament, when considering the Hermeneutics principle of interpreting Scripture in context, it is concluded that any eschatological position that diminishes the victory on the cross 2000 years ago and the power of the blood of Jesus to overcome all forces of darkness, can by default not be considered as a potential truthful and sound teaching. In the early church, two thousand years ago, the spirit of the Anti-Christ was already prominent in the church (1 John 4:3) and the church was warned and taught how to test and overcome this spirit at that time already. We face the same spiritual battles still today. The spirit of the antichrist is not opposed to Jesus, but it is opposed to the manifested risen Christ and to the manifested Christ in us. Many Christians beliefs that the prophet Daniel spoke about the Anti-Christ to come, but Daniel did not even use the term Anti-Christ once in any of his prophecies. If we would interpret the prophecies of Daniel to mean that God intended for an anti-Christ person to come in the 21st century, over which the church would have no authority, we would be in error. Ironically to teach that would seem to support the spirit of the Anti-Christ and its doctrines rather than to assist believers to overcome it.

The other important Hermeneutics principle is that we should allow Scripture to interpret Scripture. People have for the last century, since the teaching of the coming anti-Christ became prominent in the church, been identifying one person after the other speculating whether he is going to be the anti-Christ, thereby trying to let external events and people interpret Scripture for them, rather than allowing Scripture inspired by the Holy Spirit to explain difficult Scriptures to us.

CRI explains the Anti-Christ as follows:

“So, who is the AntiChrist? Rather than joining the sensationalistic game of pin-the-tail-on-the-Antichrist, Christians need only go to Scripture to find the answer. The apostle John exposed the identity of antichrist when he wrote, “Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist – he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father, whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also” (1 John 2:22-23 NIV). In his second epistle, John gives a similar warning “Many deceivers who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist” (2 John 7 NIV). John did not reserve the title “antichrist” for any individual, rather he taught that anyone who denies the incarnation, messianic role, or deity of Jesus is the antichrist.

So who is the beast then that John spoke about?

An examination of the historical context in which John was writing reveals that John was appealing to a widely used method of associating each letter of the alphabet with a corresponding numerical value, a process known as “gematria”. When this method is used, the letters spells the name of the first-century Roman Emperor whom the great nineteenth-
century biblical scholar Milton Terry called the very incarnation of wickedness. He was Nero Caesar.

**The question to Jesus in Matthew 24, was it one or two questions?**

“Ignoring history causes us to fall into serious interpretation errors regarding “End of the World” prophecies. Jesus and the apostles uses the world “aion” when they referred to the end of “an era” [an age] and not the word “Kosmos”, which refers to “the world”. The Jewish Historian, Flavius Josephus lived in the first century throughout the end of the Old Testament Jewish age and he described what took place in great detail in his book “The Wars of the Jews”. ” - Ana Mendiz Farrell

I discovered that the prophecies of Matthew 24 which was about the signs that would take place during the destruction of the temple, was what was referred to also as the end of the era, the era of the first covenant, not to the end of the world when looking at the word used in the original Greek text.

Even if we understand the text correctly as meaning the end of an age, or the end of an era, (as is correctly translated in the NIV, the English Standard version, the Berean Study Bible, the Berean Literal Bible, the NAS, the HCS, the ISV, the NET, the Jubilee Bible 2000 and many other translations as well), then still we are faced with the two main theological streams. The one stream considers the question in Matthew 24 to be one question asked to Jesus and the other stream considers the question in Matthew 24 asked to Jesus to be two separate questions. The one question being about the time of the destruction of the Temple and the other about the end of the era/ age.

To test this, let’s go back to the principles of Hermeneutics. After listening for Truth and looking at the context and allowing Scripture to interpret Scripture, if there are still disputes among true believers that remain sensitive to the Holy Spirit, we should check that we are reading from the text and not into the text. Nowhere in the question or in the answering of the question in the remaining part of the chapter, is there an indication that Jesus is talking about two questions pertaining to two separate events and then answering two questions, the first couple of scriptures pertaining to the first question and the last couple of scriptures answering the second question. We would have to read into the text what we want to read if we are to interpret Matthew 24 as related to two separate events. It would seem that to consider Matthew 24 to relate to two separate events one would have to come from a pre-conceived idea that we are living past 70AD and we haven’t seen the end of the age in the way we expected to and therefore our pre-conception and interpretation of what is going on around us currently would likely have an influence to let some read two separate events and two questions into the text. The fifth principle, that Scripture is clear when it relates to essential teachings, would also lead us to see one question and one event here, not two.

By prayerfully and honestly using critical thought to understand Matthew 24 correctly and in line with the principles of Hermeneutics there is only one conclusion to be drawn, and that is that the end of the age and the destruction of the Jewish temple was referred to as one and the same thing and that Jesus was answering one question here.

In my research work I further proved that indeed all the prophecies of Matthew 24 was fulfilled at or before 70.AD, even the prophecy that the Gospel would be preached to the end of the earth, as can be seen when considering Colossians 1:6, Romans 10:18 as well as Acts 8:4.
What is the role and place of the Jews within the context of our current age?

To critically examine this, it is vitally important to answer first the following secondary questions:

- What is a Jew? Who are the chosen people of God and where are they positioned in terms of God’s covenant?
- Did the first covenant end, and if so when?
- What is the age that we are living in now?

In examining these questions, I have prepared the following alternative options by illustration, which appeared in my book “Fascinating end time Truths”.

God’s people and the two Covenants:

Who are God's people?

The Bible identifies the following groups of people:

- True Jews or True Israelites (Romans 2:28,29, John 1:47)
- Ethnic Israelites who are not True Israelites (Romans 9:6)
- Gentile Jews – Gentiles who dwelled with the Ethnic Jews who came under their covenant agreement with God and who partook in the requirements of that covenant (Numbers 15:14,15). Ruth would be such an example.
- Those who claim to be Jews but who are not Jews, but are of the synagogue of Satan (Rev 3:9)

We know that when a person dies, then His testament becomes relevant. Hebrews 9:17 confirms this in no uncertain terms. We therefore know that the New Covenant started when Jesus died. It is with regards to when the Old Covenant ended and who the groups of people are that these covenants pertain to, that some clarity is required.

Below are the options for interpretation.

Illustration 1: Ethic and True Jews
Illustration 2: Ethnic and The Church
Illustration 3: Ethic and The Church Awaiting Christ's Return
Illustration 4: True Jews of the New Covenant
In order to identify the model (see Illustration 1-5), that most closely resembles what is taught in the bible; we firstly need to find biblical definitions for some of the words used.

- What is the Old Covenant?
- What is the New Covenant?
- What is a True Jew?
- What is an Ethnic Jew?
- What about the ten tribes of Israel who is not considered Jews, do they still have any covenant with God?

The definitions arrived at were as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition/ Description taking Scripture into account</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Covenant</td>
<td>According to Dictionary.com, a covenant is an agreement, usually formal, between two or more persons to do or not do something specified. Law (in the covenant) is an incidental clause in such an agreement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Covenant</td>
<td>According to Dictionarry.com the Old Covenant with the Israelites is described as:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“the agreement between God and the ancient Israelites, in which God promised to protect them if they kept His law and were faithful to Him.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>The following Scriptures would help us to answer this question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exodus 34:28 (NKJV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deut 4:13 (NKJV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord. And he rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient”. And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, “This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exodus 24:44-8 (NKJV)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                    | “Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the
**Conclusion from the above definition/s:**

We can conclude from the above Scriptures that the laws which were the conditions of the Old Covenant had the Ten Commandments at their core, but that they did not only include the Ten Commandments. We can see that the Old Covenant specifically also included directions for the Tabernacle.

**New Covenant**

Grace Communion International put it beautifully. The New Covenant is described as follows:

> ‘At its core, the new covenant is Jesus Christ. He embodies everything the new covenant is. He is the Word of God and the Son of God, made human for us. He is the Message of God, the Mind of God, the Meaning of God, made flesh for us to see and to know and love. In himself, he enables us to be friends with God. In Jesus Christ, God has given us a new basis for our relationship with God. This is the covenant God has given; we respond to Christ with either yes or no.

You may ask, How can Jesus – a person – be an agreement? In a prophecy about Christ Isaiah 42:6 says that the Messiah, or Christ, would be made a covenant. The Bible calls Jesus a mediator, a go-between. A mediator’s purpose is to get two parties to relate positively to each other. His work is what causes the barriers to come down and the relationship to bear positive fruit. Jesus was the greatest diplomat, a brilliant negotiator and the greatest human being. He was not only able to represent both parties, he was able to be both parties...Just as his death counts for all humanity, so does his perfect response.

How does Jesus accomplish this? Romans 5:8-10 puts it like this: Christ died for us, and because of his death we are now justified before God, saved from any fear of punishment and being reconciled to God as one of his dearly loved children. Through the death and life of Christ, God has provided the one and only means by which we can be the faithful and loving friends and children he created us to be.

How should we respond to what Jesus has
done? We should turn away from self-reliance and put our confidence completely in Christ to wash us clean of sin, clothe us with righteousness and bring us into the family, the household, the kingdom of God. One way to describe it is that we quit doing things the devil’s way (relying on self) and do things God’s way. We stop building our own kingdom and accept the kingdom he has built for us. We accept the covenant-promise he has given us. That is how we can be in harmony and allegiance with him...At its core, the new covenant is the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

-Joseph Tkach from “The New Covenant in a Nutshell”

A True Jew

According to Rochel Chein from Chabad.org (a Jewish website) the term “Yehudi” or “Jew” came to refer to all the Israelites, regardless of their tribal ancestry, but there is also a deeper meaning to the name “Jew”.

“The first individual to be called a Jew (Yehudi) in the Scriptures was Mordecai, or Purim fame. “There was a man, a Yehudi, in Shashan the capital, whose name was Mordecai...a Yemini (Esther 2:5)...Yet he was called a Yehudi because he rejected idolatry – and anyone who rejects idolatry is called a Yehudi...The commentaries explain that the name Yehudah share the same root as the Hebrew word “hoda’ah”, which means acknowledgement or submission. One who acknowledges G-d’s existence and submits to His authority – to the extent that he is willing to sacrifice his life for the sanctification of His name – he is called a Yehudi. Hence Abraham is commonly referred to as “The First Jew”.”

If a True Jew, in the deeper sense of the word, then means somebody to serves God alone and who rejects idolatry of any kind, then we can better understand the following sayings of both Jesus and of Paul:

““For he is not a [real] Jew who is only one outwardly and publicly, nor is [true] circumcision something external and physical. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and [true] circumcision is of the heart, a spiritual and not a literal [matter]. His praise is not from men but from God.”

– Romans 2:28,29 (AMP)

“Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him and said concerning him, See! Here is an
| Israelite indeed [a true descendant of Jacob], in whom there is no guile nor deceit nor falsehood nor duplicity.”  
  John 1:47 (AMP) |
| “. . . For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:”  
  Romans 9:6 (KJV) |
| “For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”  
  Philippians 3:2 |

In Judaism, once a person was considered a Jew, he was always considered a Jew in terms of his people group, even if later he falls away from the faith. His falling away would make him however not a True Jew in the deeper sense of the word, but a Jew in terms of his previous association with a specific people group.

If a True Jew then has nothing to do with ethnic race, but with an inner condition that is pleasing to God, then certainly the followers of Jesus today, who are faithful followers of Him, can be considered True Jews, in the deeper sense of the word.

In that case if would not matter if one is of an Ethnic Jewish origin, of from the lost tribes of Israel, of from a total Gentile race, the condition for a True Jew today, is whether one is in Christ Jesus, who is the only true mediator to God in the New Covenant.

In Daniel 9:4 it is said that God keeps covenant with them that love him. When we love Jesus, we love God (John 14:23). No person that rejects Jesus Christ can be said to truly love God.

| Ethnical Jews and Ethnical Israel |
| An ethnic Israelite is a physical descendant of Jacob. The Bible relates that the population of Israel was exiled, leaving only the Tribe of Judah, the Tribe of Simeon (absorbed into Judah), the tribe of Benjamin and the people of the Tribe of Levi who lived among them of the original Israelite tribes in the southern Kingdom of Judah. Much speculation exists as to the “lost tribes” and who and where their offspring are today.

As for those Jewish people from the tribes Judah, Benjamin and Levi that were still active with regards to the first Covenant when Jesus came, it is believed by some Historians that they are actually not a people group anymore today. |
Even though the topic is very controversial, and people tend to “see” what they want to see, there are Scientists doing DNA tests have concluded that there are no such people left today. It is said that there has been such inter-marriage of races that the strongest DNA tie to the original Jews/Israelites is found in the Lemba tribe in South Africa. Even they have only a very small percentage of pure Jewish/Israelite blood.

Some sources say that the claimed Jews living in Israel today seem to have a very poor ethnic relation to the original Jews.

Below are some of the quotations from Marrs’s book:

“Dr. Eran Elhaik, geneticist researcher at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, found that today’s “Jews” originated from Khazaria and not Israel. They are not the seed of Abraham.”

“David Ben Gurion (Polish name, David Grun) came from Poland to become Israel's first Prime Minister in 1948. He was a Khazar. Benjamin Netanyahu is Israel's first Prime Minister born in Israel, but his father was born in Poland and is a Khazar.”

“Theodor Herzi called the “Founder of Israel”, believed there was no pure Jewish race”

- Quotes from Texe Marrs, DNA Science and the Jewish Bloodline

Conclusion from the above definition/s:

The Bible warns us in 1 Timothy 1:4 not to fall prey to “fables” and “endless genealogies”. God does not differentiate between ethnic Jews and ethnic Gentiles in the New Covenant. We can see this in Galatians 3:28 (NIV)

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 3:28 (NIV)

God wanted to shine His light to all people in all the world through the people of Israel (Isaiah 60:3). Jonah preached to Gentile Nineveh (Jonah 3:10). All the families of the earth were to be blessed through Abraham (Gen 12:1-3). Gentiles among the Israeli people were also commanded to enter the Sabbath rest (Ex 20:10). All nations were to come before God and worship Him (Psalm 86:9).

“And if a stranger dwells with you, or whoever
is among you throughout your generation, and would present an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the Lord, just as you do, so shall he do. One ordinance shall be for you of the assembly and for the stranger who dwells with you, an ordinance forever throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the stranger be before the Lord.“
Numbers 15:14,15 (NKJV)

God is not racist.

After clarifying on the definitions, the following questions were answered and clear answers from the Bible were found:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Underlying Question</th>
<th>Answers from the Bible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Is there actual proof in the Bible that Paul and the other apostles participated in such Jewish rituals after the crucifixion of Jesus. The answer found was yes. (See source ecclesia.org) | • In Acts 18:19-21 Paul was preaching God’s Truth to some people. They asked him to stay longer and to keep preaching the Word of God. Paul refused, and said that he must, by all means, keep the feasts that were about to take place in Jerusalem. (He returned to them in Acts 19:1 after attending the feast.) We know that Paul was sent to the Gentiles and that He was passionate about preaching the Gospel, why would he be willing to stop preaching in order to keep the feasts if the Old Covenant was not applicable to him anymore? Surely it would not even have been mentioned in Scripture if it was of no significance.  

“And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews. When they desired him to tarry longer with them, he consented not; But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.”  
Acts 18:19-21 (KJV)  

• In Acts 20:16 Paul hastened to be in Jerusalem the day of Pentecost

“For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: |

| 4 www.ecclesia.org/truth/covenants.html |
for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.”
Acts 20:16 (KJV)

Paul preached that religious festivals were merely a shadow of the things that were to come. Why would he then preach that to the Gentile believers and then hasten to attend the feasts himself, if it was not that the Old Covenant was still relevant to him, an ethnic Jew.

“Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.”
Col 2:16,17 (NIV)

• Paul participated in the “day of purification” (Acts 21:26). This purification was “according to the law of Moses” (Luke 2:22), and it involved sacrificing animals (Numbers 19:9,17).

“And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished…”
Luke 2:22 (KJV)

“Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them.”
Acts 21:26 (KJV)

“And a man that is clean shall gather up of the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of separation: it is a purification for sin….And for an unclean person they shall take of the ashes of the burnt heifer of purification for sin, and running water shall be put thereto in a vessel.”
Numbers 19:9,17 (KJV)

Surely Jesus had at that stage when Paul did the purification, already atoned for the sin of all believers, then why would Paul as an ethnic Jew still need to adhere to the purification rituals if it was not that the Old
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Covenant was still binding on him?</strong></th>
<th>There are more examples available in Scripture, but the above examples are considered adequate to prove the point.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conclusion from the above:</strong></td>
<td>If we look at Hebrews 8:13 it says that the Old Covenant was “ready to vanish away”. It does not say that it had already vanished away at that stage. We can thus safely conclude that it did not vanish away at the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, and we also know that it is not still in effect today for there are no more Ethnic Jews and no Levitical priesthood anymore.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By prayerfully and critically examining the various definitions and studying what the Bible has to say about these terms, strong arguments were provided to prove that Illustration 1 from the images inserted above was found to be the most accurate one and that the era for the Ethnical Jews and the Old covenant (which was ready to vanish away during Paul’s days), came to an end in 70A.D. during the destruction of Jerusalem.

**Armageddon**

Looking at the sixth principle of Hermeneutics, which is to correctly discern when the Bible is using literal and when figurative language, is vital when we consider apocalyptic events. When considering the second principle, which is the importance of context and the third principle which is to let Scripture interpret Scripture, it would therefore be sensible to study the apocalyptic language used in the new testament in the context of how it was used in the Old Testament and to derive meanings in context, allowing Scripture to explain Scripture.

After considering *A Document That Will Help You Understand The Prophetic Symbols And Apocalyptic Language Of The Bible By Comparing Symbols From Old And New Testament Prophecies* showing throughout the Bible apocalyptic language used, the meaning and it’s fulfilment, it was concluded that the Apocalyptic language used in the book of Revelation were to be taken figuratively and not literally. Below is the analyses done by Garganta and his conclusions drawn. Everyone may not agree with every conclusion drawn but Garganta did a great work to helps us with modern Western mindsets to understand Apocalyptic Language better, the way that the audience would more likely have understood it when Jesus addressed them in their time.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heaven and Earth</td>
<td>Heavens: Religious or political authorities, Earth: The place or nation involved in the prophecy</td>
<td>Isaiah 24:1-5 (NIV) “See, the Lord is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it; he will ruin its face and scatter its inhabitants…The earth will be completely laid waste…The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant”</td>
<td>Matthew 24:29-35 “…The stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven, and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>This passage applied to the coming attack of the Assyrians over the Jewish people.</td>
<td>This passage refers to the judgment against the Jewish people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Isaiah 1:2 (NIV) “Hear, O heavens! Listen, O earth!…”</td>
<td>“The STARS that fall from HEAVEN are symbolic of the leaders and high priests of that decayed nation. Their powers were ‘shaken’ indeed, by the appearance of the power of God, the SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN, in the form of the Roman army. That great destroying force appeared in HEAVEN, that is, God brought its might to bear directly against the Jewish national powers in Jerusalem. These men were the HEAVENS symbolized here. HEAVEN and EARTH passed away in great violence in AD 70.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>This vision was given as a warning to the nation of Judah, and not to all of humanity.</td>
<td>Romans 9:27-28 (NIV) “Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved. For the Lord will carry out his sentence on earth with speed and finality.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Isaiah 34:1-8 (NIV) “..Hearken, ye people; let the earth hear…All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll…”</td>
<td>Here the symbol of the earth is in reference to the Jewish nation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment… For it is the day of the Lord’s vengeance.”

This passage was given with regards to the destruction of Edom coming (Idumea). The prophecies were not intended for people groups from other lands.

Jeremiah 22:29 (NIV) “O earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord.”

This prophetic warning is for the nation of Judah to repent from their idolatry or to face destruction.

Jeremiah 51:25 (NIV) “I am against you, O destroying mountain, you who destroy the whole earth, declares the Lord”

This is a warning to the nation of Babylon which God would destroy by bringing the

“The Lord did carry out his sentence with speed and finality. He carried it out on EARTH – the place of the people involved with the prophecy. The EARTH was the Jewish nation.”

Romans 10:18 (NIV) “their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.”

The message of the gospel was preached into all the earth by the time Paul wrote this letter and so the old testament prophecy was fulfilled ((Psalm 19:4). The earth here is symbolic of the people involved in this prophecy – the Jews, who were scattered all over the Roman empire by the time of Christ. In Acts 2:5 we see that all the Jews heard the great sermon in his own particular language and so the message was heard and taken back to their separate regions, spreading to the ends of the Jewish world.

Revelation 1:7 “Behold, he cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him; and all the kindred of the earth shall wail because of him.”

“The old EARTH and HEAVEN are the Jewish peoples and their errant leaders. They were replaced in the favour and sight of God by the new holy people, those who follow and accept his Son. In this passage, the KINDREDS were the Jewish tribes, the once set-aside people of God, depicted as kindred because of the strict law against Jews marrying Gentiles…They wailed because of Christ’s coming, for that

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verse</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amos 5:7</td>
<td>“Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micah 1:2-3</td>
<td>“Hear, O peoples, all of you, listen, O earth and all who are in it, that the Sovereign Lord may witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple. Look! The Lord...comes down and treads the high places of the earth.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zephaniah 1:2-3</td>
<td>“I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth, declares the Lord...The wicked will have only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coming meant their utter destruction by the Roman invasion. Every Jewish eye “saw” this great event, because they were all caught up in it.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World</th>
<th>People of the nation involved in the prophecy</th>
<th>Isaiah 13:11 “And I will punish the world for their evil”</th>
<th>Revelation 3:10 (NIV) “Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.” (NIV)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In this context the world is the evil Babylonian people.</td>
<td>God is here speaking to the congregation of Philadelphia who had to endure persecution at the hand of the Jews.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“They would be spared from the “hour of trial” – the war actions that would soon be taking place in Judea. The peoples of that land, the Jews were the WORLD who would experience God’s great trial. Those who lived on that EARTH...would be tested by their heeding or ignoring of the warning signs prophesied by Jesus (Matthew 24 etc.)”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heaven</th>
<th>Earthly authorities losing dominion of power</th>
<th>Isaiah 34:2-4 “…The indignation of the Lord is upon all nations… The mountains shall be melted with their blood, and the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a</th>
<th>Revelation 6:13-14 “And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>s rolled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>togethe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r like a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scroll</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

scroll, and all their host shall fall down, as...a falling fig from the fig tree.”

This prophecy applies to the downfall of the land of Edom (Idumea) as seen in verse 5. They were symbolized as a “host” like the host of stars in the sky, which would “fall down” like a fig falling from a tree. This host was also the host of “heaven”, which symbolized their leaders and authority. They would be “rolled together like a scroll”, thereby losing their dominion, their nation and their power and so their book was “closed”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The day of the Lord</th>
<th>Destructio n of a nation by the power of God working through human armies.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isaiah 13:6,9 (NIV)</td>
<td>“Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty…” See, the day of the lord is coming – a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger – to make the land desolate and destroy the sinner within it.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“It signifies a spiritual coming of God in power, but manifested in physical human”</td>
<td>This is a warning prophecy against the land of Babylon. Their destruction was foretold here. They would be destroyed by the Medes (verse 17).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here, the stars of heaven are the people who hold the authority in the nation of Judea. These leaders lost their dominion, as well as their power as they were shaken by the Lord. Their scroll was rolled up together, their dominion was over.

“All of the references to a DAY OF THE LORD in the New Testament refer to the same event – God’s final destruction of the Jewish nation in AD. 70, through the agency of the Roman armies.”

Scriptures were this term was used includes:

- Acts 2:20 (NIV) “The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon into blood; before the great and notable day of the Lord come.”

1 Thessalonians 5:2 (NIV) “For you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.”
| armies. ”10 | This same pattern is followed each time the Day of the Lord is mentioned, relating to a nations punishment by the Lord.  
Ezekiel 13:5 “in the battle of the day of the Lord.”  
This was foretelling the destruction of Jerusalem in 587 BC because of their great sin.  
Ezekiel 30:2-4 (NIV) “Wail and say, Alas for that day! For the day is near, the day of the Lord is near – a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations. A sword will come against Egypt”  
Here the day of the Lord was prophesied with regards to the destruction of Egypt, which occurred in 572 BC. God would destroy them by Nebuchadnezzar, as | Revelation6:17; 16:14-15 |

---


Amos 5:18 (NIV) “Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord! Why do you long for the day of the Lord? That day will be darkened, not light”.

Here Amos prophecy to the north kingdom of Israel. Israel was taken captive by the Assyrians in 721 BC (40 years later, within one generation).

Obadiah also prophesied the day of the Lord with regards to the judgment that would come to the land of Edom (Obadiah 15) and Zephaniah with regards to Jerusalem receiving the judgment of God by the hands of the Babylonians (Zeph 1:14).

| Trumpe | Consolidation of Gods people. | Isaiah 27:13 “And in that day a great trumpet will sound. Those who were perishing in Assyria and those who were exiled in Egypt will come and worship the Lord on the holy mountain of Jerusalem”. |
| Trumpe | This was a symbolic form of God’s call | Matthew 24:31 “And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet.” |
| 1 Corinthians 15:52 (NIV) “at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound.” |
| 1 Thessalonians 4:16 (NIV) “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with |
to his people, to consolidate their spiritual forces in allegiance to him and against their common enemy (which in the times of the New Testament were the unbelieving and persecuting Jewish leaders)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun and moon darkened or turned into blood</th>
<th>The ones who were perishing here were the Jewish people who had at that stage been in captivity for 70 years. The trumpet was a symbolic blow, calling the people that God chose to be brought back together to their true home.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isaiah 13:9-11 (NIV) “See, the day of the Lord is coming – a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger – to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light. I will punish the world for its evil.”</td>
<td>In the New Testament we find three prophecies of the same event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acts 2:20 “The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come.”</td>
<td>Matthew 24:29 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revelation 6:12 (NIV) “I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole darkness of a nation distress, sorrow and desolation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“All of these verses use the TRUMPET symbol as the call to action for the Christian believers. The upcoming war events were truly about to occur, and they were to be alert and ready for the final battle – the Spiritual battle of God against the unbelievers and the physical battle of Rome against the persecuting Jewish nation.”  

who were conquered by the Medes (verse 17).

“The imagery of the STARS WILL NOT SHOW THEIR LIGHT, the SUN DARKENED, and MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, simply reflects the great distress, despair and desolation of the Babylonians when this terrible thing happened to them. It was if the “sun went down on their nation,” as we might say it today.” 13

Isaiah 5:30 “And in that day they shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea. And if one look unto the land, behold darkness and sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof.”

Here there is a warning of the Assyrian attack and destruction of Israel in 721 B.C. They were taken into captivity by the Assyrians.

Ezekiel 30:18, 32:7-8” “At Tehaphnehes also the day shall be darkened, when I shall moon turned blood red.”

These three prophecies related to the destruction of the Jewish nation in AD. 70.

break there the yokes of Egypt: and the pomp of their strength shall cease in her: as for her, a cloud shall cover her, and her daughters shall go into captivity.” And when I shall put thee [Pharaoh] out, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light. All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over thee, and set darkness upon thy land, saith the Lord God.”

This prophecy was given concerning Egypt who would be destroyed by the Babylonians (Ezekiel 30:10) in 572 B.C.

Amos 8:9 (NIV) “in that day, declares the Sovereign Lord, I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight”

This prophecy was given with regards to Israel who would be destroyed and the people taken captive by the Assyrians (Amos 6:14; 5:27).
Zephaniah also gave a similar prophecy to Judah in Zephaniah 1:14-15.

| Shaking, Trembling or Earthquake | The power of God manifested in attacking human armies | Jeremiah 51:29 “For the land shall tremble and sorrow: for every purpose of the Lord shall be performed against Babylon, to make the land of Babylon a desolation without an inhabitant.”

This prophecy was given with regards to Babylon, who would symbolically tremble as the Lord brings about destruction of the land.

Ezekiel 38:19-20 “Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel…and all…that are upon the face of the earth shall shake at my presence.”

This passage is believed to refer to the Roman invasion in AD 70.

Revelation 16:18 (NIV) “Then there came…a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on the earth, so tremendous was the quake.”

Those on the “earth” here refer to the Jewish nation in Palestine, and the earthquake refer to the power and the presence of God that would be working through the Roman army.

“Israel and Judah had been taken captive and Jerusalem destroyed before, but never had God completely abandoned them. This was to be their final and total destruction – a religious, and political EARTHQUAKE that would literally remove them from their land.”

| Sea or Waters | A multitude or a nation of people | Isaiah 5:30 “And in that day they shall roar against them like the

Revelation 4:6 (NIV) “…before the throne, there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal…”

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>roaring of the sea.”</th>
<th>It could be interpreted as the sea of God’s own people, like glass (smooth, peaceful).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This symbol it is showing the great number and strength of the Assyrian soldiers.</td>
<td>Revelation 8:8 (NIV) “…something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaiah 18:12 “Woe to the multitude of many people, which make a noise like the noise of the seas; and to the rushing of the nations, that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters!”</td>
<td>“The “huge mountain was a symbol for the Roman empire, and when that empire was “thrown into the sea”, it simply signifies that God was causing the Roman army to come into conflict with the peoples of Palestine, who were the SEA here. That this was an action of war is indicated by the imagery of the SEA (the people involved) turning into blood.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multitudes of people are referred to here.</td>
<td>Revelation 21:1 (NIV) “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremiah 51:42 “The sea is come up upon Babylon: she is covered with the multitude of the waves thereof.”</td>
<td>“After the old Jewish Law had been fulfilled, and the faithful remnant, the Christian believers, had been secured, then the old unbelieving nation of Judaism was utterly destroyed in the war. The Jewish nation ceased to exist as it did in Biblical times. The SEA of the Jewish people “was no longer.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here the great number of the armies of the Medes that overcame Babylon is referred to.</td>
<td>“Dr Eran Elhaik, geneticist researcher at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, found...”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


that today’s “Jews” originated from Khazaria and not Israel. They are not the seed of Abraham.” (Marrs, DNA Science and the Jewish Bloodline, July, 2013, Loc 384)

“David Ben Gurion (Polish name, David Grun) came from Poland to become Israel’s first Prime Minister in 1948. He was a Khazar. Benjamin Netanyahu is Israel’s first Prime Minister born in Israel, but his father was born in Poland and is a Khazar.” (Marrs, DNA Science and the Jewish Bloodline, July, 2013, Loc 333)

“Theodor Herzl called the “Founder of Israel”, believed there was no pure Jewish race” (Marrs, DNA Science and the Jewish Bloodline, July, 2013, Loc 634)

| Harlot, Whore or Prostitute | A nations unfaithfulness or apostasy to God | Isaiah 1:21 (NIV) “See how the faithful city has become a harlot! She once was full of justice; righteousness used to dwell in her – but now murderers”

The Jewish nation was no longer faithful to God and they committed spiritual fornication, whoredom.

Ezekiel 16:14-15 (NIV) “And your fame spread among the nations on account of your beauty, because the splendour I had given you made your beauty perfect, declares the Sovereign

Revelation17:1-5 (NIV) “I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute… With her, the kings of the earth committed adultery. I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast. This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES.”

Revelation18:3,9 and 19:2 speaks of the same.

Here, the prostitute is Jerusalem who had rejected Christ

“In their passion for being like the other nations around them, the Jews debased themselves and entered into unfitting practices of idolatry, business, and hedonism that drew them farther and farther from God and his righteousness.
Lord. But you trusted in your beauty and used your fame to become a prostitute. You lavished your favours on anyone who passed by and your beauty became his.”

God is speaking here to Jerusalem who became a spiritual prostitute because of her detestable practices.

The same applies to Hosea 1:2 and Nahum 3:4, but with regards to the city of Nineveh. God had turned against them (Nahum 3:5)

Once that nation became a persecuting enemy of his remnant people, it had to finally be destroyed. Revelation is the picture of that destruction and the resulting victory of the Christian believers. It brings the Christians from the darkness of persecution and tribulation to the point where God tells them (ch 18:20): “Rejoice over her, O heavens! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her by the way she treated you.” [NIV]”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eagle</th>
<th>Swift judgment and consequen ce through earthly armies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 24:28 “For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathering together.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here the eagles refers to the Roman army. They would be the instruments to bring swift judgment upon the spiritually dead Jewish people.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Jeremiah 48:40; 49:22 (NIV) “Look! An eagle is swooping down, spreading its wings over Moah.” “Look! An eagle will soar and swoop down, spreading its wings over Brozrah.” |
| Here the eagle refers to the king of Babylon who was used by God to bring punishment to various nations including Moab and Edom. |

| Hosea 8:1 “He shall |

come as an eagle against the house of the Lord.”

Here the eagle refers to the Assyrian army that would bring swift judgment to Israel.

Habbakuk 1:8 “Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves. They shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat.”

The horsemen here is the armies of Chaldea (Babylon).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carcass</th>
<th>A nation that is spiritually dead and militantly defeated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isaiah 5:25 “Therefore is the anger of the Lord kindled against his people and the hills did tremble and their carcasses were torn.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The carcasses refers to those who are spiritually dead because of their sin.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaiah 14:19 “But thou art cast out of thy grave like A carcass trodden under foot.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 24:28 “For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathering together.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Jewish nation were spiritually dead and defeated.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Mountains, cover us! Hills, fall on us”</td>
<td>Desperation for protection from destruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hosea 10:8 (NIV)“The high places of wickedness will be destroyed – it is the sin of Israel. Thorns and thistles will grow up and cover their altars. Then they will say to the mountains, Cover us! And to the hills, Fall on us.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This prophecy refer to the sin of the north kingdom of Israel that would be judged by God through the Assyrian nation in 721 B.C.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“The phrases are symbolic of the people of Israel becoming frantic and desperate as they see the invaders approaching. In their panic, they would wish to be delivered by any means, even (poetically speaking) to the point of asking the mountains and hills to swallow them up in order to avoid the oncoming destruction.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Luke 23:30 (NIV) “Then they will say to the mountains, Fall on us! and to the hills, Cover us!” |
| This prophecy refers to the Jewish people that would be pleading for deliverance from the Roman siege and the destruction that came just 38 years later. |
| Revelation 6:15-17 (NIV) “Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!” (NIV) |
| This prophecy also refer to the Roman siege of the Jewish people and how desperate they would be for escape. The city was sealed up and no one could get out. Only those who listened to the warnings of Jesus and fled the city when they saw the warning signs without even going back into their houses to get a coat, were saved from the terrible fate that came to the Jewish nation. |
| Fire | The power of the Word of God | Jeremiah 23:29 (NIV) “Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord.” Ezekiel 10:2 “Go in between the wheels and fill thine hand with coals of fire from between the cherubims and scatter them over the city.” | Hebrews 12:29 “For our God is a consuming fire.” The word is like fire (Jeremiah 23:29) and the Word is God (John 1:1) Revelation 8:5 (NIV) “Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth.” The fire, originates from God. It is He who caused the destruction to come upon the Jewish nation. Revelation 14:9-10 “If any man worship the beast the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.” “Anyone who aligned themselves with the “beast” (which was the unbelieving and persecuting powers of Judea or Rome), would be “tormented” with the fire of God manifested in the war actions of AD. 67-70. God does not stand and gloat over lost sinners as they are tormented. In fact, the torment of lost sinners is their removal from the presence of God, Here, however, the subjects of torment are in the presence of God and the Lamb (Christ) because these symbols represent the specific events of the Roman-Jewish war and the destruction of those people who were persecuting the new Christian church.” |


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mounta in</th>
<th>An earthly nation opposed to God</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeremiah 51:25 (NIV) “I am against you, O destroying mountain, you who destroy the whole earth, declares the Lord. I will stretch out my hand against you, roll you off the cliffs, and make you a burned-out mountain.”</td>
<td>Revelation 6:14; 16:20 “The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here it was Jerusalem that was destroyed</td>
<td>Revelation 8:8 (NIV) “The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This chapter is a prophecy with regards to the downfall of the Babylonian empire, which are symbolized as a “mountain”,

Micah 1:3-5 (NIV)
“Look! The Lord is coming from his dwelling place…and treads the high places of the earth. The mountains melt beneath him. All this is because of the sins of the house of Israel. What is Judah’s high place? Is it not Jerusalem?”

Here the mountain refers to Jerusalem that is opposed to God through their idolatry. Jerusalem would “melt”, they would be reduced from glory and greatness by conquering pagan armies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pit or Abyss</th>
<th>The destruction of</th>
<th>Ezekiel 26:20 (NIV)</th>
<th>Revelation 9:1-2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“Then I will bring you down with those who”</td>
<td>“and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth; and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood…”

Here the mountain was the Roman Empire that was “thrown into the sea”, meaning it was caused by God to invade the people (sea) who were the subjects of the prophecy.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>nations by violence</th>
<th>go down to the pit and you will not return or take your place in the land of the living.”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This prophecy is aimed at the state of Tyre (Tyrus).</td>
<td>Ezekiel 31:14-16 (NIV) “They are all destined for death…with those who go down to the pit. I made the nations tremble at the sound of its fall when I brought it down to the grave with those who go down to the pit.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This prophecy was brought concerning Assyria</td>
<td>Ezekiel 32:18-30 (NIV) “Wail for the hordes of Egypt and consign to the earth below both her and the daughters of mighty nations, with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“This “star” was the Roman authority (personified by the Emperor Nero), which fell from “heaven to earth” – that is: from the place of Roman authority to the nation involved in the prophecy, which is Judea. The Roman authority, or “star” was given the “key of the pit” meaning that they were given the power and impetus to come against the Jewish nation and destroy it. That evil nation was then symbolically cast into the PIT of destruction, divinely determined. The “smoke” was symbolic of the battle action and eventual destruction of the city and the land – a smoke of utter ruin.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

| Smoke | Desolation and Destruction | Isaiah 34:10 (NIV) “[Edom’s] smoke will rise forever. From generation to generation it will lie desolate.”
This prophecy was concerning Edom and the desolation of that land is symbolized by an eternal “smoke”. (The land is desolate and destroyed even today).

Isaiah 14:31 “Thou, whole Palestina, art dissolved: for there shall come from the north a smoke..”

Revelation 9:1-2 and Revelation 14:11, 15:8
The smoke in Revelation is symbolic of the destruction and desolation of the city of Jerusalem and the nation of Judaism.

“It becomes plain that this is the correct interpretation of the symbol when we read in verse 3 that “locusts came down out of the SMOKE” – these were “locusts” that (v7-10) “looked like horses prepared for battle.” with “human faces” and “breast plates of iron” and the “thunder of many horses and chariots rushing into battle.”


The destruction of the land of Palestina, pictured as smoke coming from the north, would come by means of the Babylonian armies.

| Locusts | Invading and attacking armies | Joel 1:4-6; 2:4-5 (NIV) “What the locust swarm has left the great locusts have eaten; what the great locusts have left the young locusts have eaten…A nation has invaded my land, powerful and without number.” It is believed that locusts here is a symbol of the Roman armies that would invade Judea. | Revelation 9:3-10 (NIV) “And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth. The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. Their hair was like women’s hair and their teeth were like lions teeth. They had breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. They had power to torment people for five months.” The locusts were the Roman army here. “Five months was the exact length of time involved in the siege of Jerusalem by the Romans under Titus.” |
| Wormwood | Bitter effects of bad judgments | Amos 5:7 “Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth.” “Wormwood is an aromatic plant whose juices are extremely bitter. It is used here to symbolize the bitter effects of the evil | Revelation 8:10-11 (NIV) “a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.” Water refers to a people or nation. Here the waters are the Jews who had rejected Christ. Their bad judgment are repaid by |

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark or seal in foreheads</th>
<th>Indication of righteousness or of unrighteousness</th>
<th>Ezekiel 9:3-6 (NIV)</th>
<th>Revelation 7:3; 9:4; 13:16-17 “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“Then the Lord said to him, Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it. As I listened, he said to the others, Follow him through the city and kill, without showing pity or compassion. Slaughter old men, young men and maidens, women and children, but do not touch anyone who has the mark.”</td>
<td>Here the seal on the foreheads was for the righteous.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>This was judgment on the people of God through the Babylonian armies. The people whose lives were spared were those who had the “mark of righteousness”.</td>
<td>Revelation 13:16-17 (NIV) “[The Beast] also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so no one could buy or sell anything unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Here, the followers of the beast, are marked in the spiritual realm as being unrighteous.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Elijah

Jesus told his followers that Elijah had already come (past tense) and they did not recognize him (Matthew 17:12). When the promise of a son was given to John the Baptist’s father, Zechariah, it was then already prophesied before John the Baptist’s birth, that he would come in the spirit and power of Elijah, and that he would turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just.

The possible “catching up” by the saints in the 1st Century (1 Cor 15:51,52)

Having progressed in understanding with the first 5 “puzzle pieces”, note was then taken of the events described by the historian Josephus during 70 AD.

“Besides these [signs], a few days after that feast, on the one-and-twentieth day of the month Artemisius, [Jyar] a certain prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared; I suppose the account of it would seem to be a fable, were it not related by those that saw it, and were not the events that followed it of so considerable a nature as to deserve such signals; for, before sun-setting, chariots and troops of solders in the armour were seen running about among the clouds, and surrounding of cities. Moreover, at the feast which we call Pentecost, as the priests were going by night into the inner [court of the] temple, as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that, in the first place, they felt a quaking, and heard a great noise, and after that they heard a sound of a great multitude, saying, “Let us remove hence.” (Josephus, Jewish Wars, VI-V-3)

Tacitius was a Roman historian that documented the following:

“In the sky appeared a vision of armies in conflict, of glittering armour. A sudden lightning flash from the cloud lit up the Temple. The doors of the holy place abruptly opened, a superhuman voice was heard to declare that the gods were leaving it, and in the same instant came the rushing tumult of their departure. Few people placed a sinister interpretation upon this. The majority were convinced that the ancient scriptures of their priests alluded to the present as the very time when the Orient would triumph and from Judea would go forth men destined to rule the world.” (Histories, Book 5, v 13)

Daniel’s prophecies:

When I looked at the prophecy of the 70 prophetic weeks of Daniel that expired the same time that the apostle Paul started to bring the message to the Gentiles, I could not understand how the teachers I was exposed to could propose that somehow God intended for us to interpret the 70 prophetic weeks as being broken, and for the first of the 490 years less seven to have a chronological sequence, but then for the last 7 years of the prophetic weeks to only happen 2000 years later.
When considering the fourth principle of Hermeneutics, which is to read from the text and not into the text, there was no room left to consider a possibility that the author meant for us to understand that between the 69th and the 70th week there would be a 2000 year gap.

We know that the prophecy started when the order was given for Jerusalem to be rebuilt, theologians are in agreement about that. We also agree that the 3 and a half years after which Messiah would be cut off was speaking about the crucifixion. It made no sense for me that there would be a gap and the only sensible explanation to me was in accordance to the image prepared by a proponent of a 70AD fulfilment of Matthew 24.  

Below is a chart prepared by one of the proponents of a 70AD fulfillment.

![Chart](chart.png)

Were all the prophecies in Revelation supposed to happen speedily?

The following were my discoveries and conclusions that were drawn in this regard:

The Full Preterists point out that all that was predicted in Revelation is stated to happen soon. A consistent interpretation is called upon. In an attempt to always be consistent in their interpretation of Scripture, they do not consider Partial Preterism as an option, but they attempt to submit to the Bible at face value and not to read their own ideas into it.

This loyalty to God’s Word is honorable, yet I do not see a contradiction here. Whenever we read Scripture in a way that does not bring glory to God, we need to look deeper. No true interpretation of Scripture would ever bring dishonor to His name and no true interpretation of Scripture would ever water down the awesome and powerful work that Jesus has done on the cross to deliver and free us entirely from sin and the destruction that sin brings.

Let's look at those Scriptures that would be used by Full Preterists to support their argument. They are found in Revelation 1 and 22.

Let's first look at Revelation 1

25 njkprojects.blogspot.com
Rev 1:1-3 (AMP)

1 [THIS IS] the revelation of Jesus Christ [His unveiling of the divine mysteries]. God gave it to Him to disclose and make known to His bond servants certain things which must shortly and speedily come to pass in their entirety. And He sent and communicated it through His angel (messenger) to His bond servant John, 2 Who has testified to and vouched for all that he saw [in his visions], the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed (happy, to be envied) is the man who reads aloud [in the assemblies] the word of this prophecy; and blessed (happy, to be envied) are those who hear [it read] and who keep themselves true to the things which are written in it [heeding them and laying them to heart], for the time [for them to be fulfilled] is near.

Note the difference here:

- "God gave it to Him to disclose and make known to His bond servants certain things which must shortly and speedily come to pass"
- With regards to "the words of this prophecy", "the time" (for the words of this prophecy to be fulfilled) is near.

It can thus be seen that the time of the fulfilment of the word of the prophecy in the book of Revelation is near. It can also however be seen that certain things, have been disclosed only to His bond servants, as the things that must shortly and speedily come to pass.

- The Greek word translated as near (G1451 in Strong's concordance) comes from the root word G43. It refers to "anything closely unfolding" or to the "inner angle of the arm" as something is brought close so it can be looked upon more clearly. This root word is used only once in Scripture and that is in Luke 2:28, where Simeon took Jesus as a baby into his arms to look upon him.
- The Greek word translated as "shortly and speedily" is G1722, meaning a "fixed position in time" as well as G5034, meaning "quickness, speed".

Let's look at Revelation 22 (AMP)

"6...And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent His messenger (angel) to make known and exhibit to His servants what must soon come to pass. 7 And behold, I am coming speedily.... 10...Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book...the period of their fulfilment is near. 12 Behold, I am coming soon,...20... [Surely] I am coming quickly (swiftly, speedily)...."

When carefully looking at Revelation 1 and 22, one can see that there are certain things that He wants His bond servants to know about, that would happen soon. When carefully looking at the text, one can clearly see that the event that applies to a speedy fulfilment is His coming. He clearly states that. Every time that Jesus speaks about His coming, it is indicated to happen speedily, but when He speaks about the prophecy in the book of Revelation, he mentions that the fulfilment of it is near. Again the same Greek word G1451 is used as in Revelation 1:3.
It can thus safely be concluded that Jesus meant for us to understand that His coming, specifically, would be speedily, in reference to time, but that the prophecies in the book of Revelation would unfold to us, as they are brought near in focus.

Interpreting the coming of Jesus in judgment of the Jewish nation as prophesied in Matthew 24 to be an historic event that happened in 70 AD, but then seeing the New Jerusalem and the rule of Christ on earth unfolding, is therefore a precise and consistent interpretation of Scripture.

**The Elements Shall Melt with Fervent heat**

Don. K. Preston seems to interpret the text of 2 Peter 3 figuratively and he sees it in context with the Transfiguration vision. Considering the above, this seems to me to be the only option left in order for all of the above puzzle pieces to fit.

“Far too often in popular discussions of 2 Peter 3, the previous chapter is virtually ignored. Yet, the discussion of chapter 3 is the continuation of Peter’s discussion from chapter 1 onward. Peter’s entire epistle is for the purpose of refuting those who were denying the parousia of Christ. Chapter 2 is no exception to that theme and purpose. With that in mind, when we see what Peter says in 2 Peter 2:1-3, we are forced to conclude that if in fact chapter 3 is a continuing discussion of the issues of chapter 2, then chapter 3 cannot be referent to an end time event.”

**Illustration of possible Eschatological positions**
Illustration 1

Christ Crucified  \hspace{1cm} \text{New Covenant}

- Time of suffering and persecution of the New Testament church
- The present age during the N.T. writings.

- Christ came 70 AD
- A time of reign and overcoming for the Church of Jesus Christ
- The future age after the N.T. writings

- The book of Revelation already fulfilled (Full Preterism)
Illustration 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Christ Crucified</th>
<th>New Covenant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time of suffering and persecution of the New Testament church</td>
<td>The present age during the N.T writings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

70 AD

A future age after the N.T writings

Christ returns literally after 2000 AD

Jesus Christ reigns on earth in a physical body (Futurism)
Illustration 3

Christ Crucified | New Covenant
---|---

Time of suffering and persecution of the New Testament church | The present age during the N.T writings.

Christ came 70 AD

A time of reign and overcoming for the Church of Jesus Christ

A future age after the N.T writings

Individual believers to know Him in His death and resurrection.
Christ formed and then revealed through them.
Being transformed as we behold Him from one degree of glory to another

Christ Jesus comes progressively. He manifests Himself through those believers in whom He has been formed (Gal 4:19)
The book of Revelation - progressively being fulfilled (Progressive Manifestationism)

Note: Progressive fulfillment not of the judgments that already came (speedily) in the 1st Century, but of the rule and reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on a transformed earth, that is to be unfolded, as the Rock that the prophet Daniel prophesied about fills the whole earth.
Apart from Illustration 1 to 4 there is also alternative Eschatological positions currently held in the body of Christ, namely

- **Idealism** – This is a Spiritualistic or Symbolic approach of interpretation. It consider the events of Revelation to be neither past nor future, but purely symbolic, dealing with the ongoing struggle and ultimate triumph of good over evil.

- **Historicism** – It sees the book of Revelation to progressively unfold during our history, connecting different historic events and people to different passages in Scripture.

**Conclusion**

Although I personally support the position of either Illustration 3 or 4 in the previous section, I do not see an alarming danger in the Idealism or Historicism method of interpretation. I do however have a huge concern with Futurism as it is preached in many
churches today, or in Full Preterism, as neither of those two positions gives hope, and both Futurism and Full Preterism promotes a position of passivity in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, which we as believers cannot afford in this critical day that we are in. It promotes a mentality of external locus of control, where we tend to sit back and leave everything up to God, and we are not encouraged to play our part to change the world.

In the prophecy of Daniel, the rock filled the whole earth. We are to play a part in making that happen. It is the will of God to fill the whole earth with the revelation of the glory of the Lord. It is the will of God for us to be co-workers with the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the will of our Father for us to overcome by faith in His promises.

Yes, we are already healed, by His stripes we were healed 2000 years ago. But no, we may not necessarily see the manifestation of our healing yet, we need to press in for that. And that does not only apply to the healing of our physical bodies, it applies to the healing of everything that is so broken in our world.

We find ourselves within this tension between the "already" and the “not yet”, and this we need to work out. Positionally we have everything, it is already fulfilled and when Jesus said on the cross that “it is finished”, it really was finished, and the battle has been won. But in terms of our manifested reality, we need to co-labour with Christ to make this our experiential reality.

Some things we may labour for all our lives, and die still not seeing the promises fulfilled, but at least then we will still die as one of the faith heroes of Hebrews 11:13, that did not see in their lives the manifestation of the things that were promised, but because they lived by faith, pressing in towards, they still died as heroes, for without faith it is impossible to please God. Their faith lives paved a way for next generations to enter in what they could not, and as we press in by faith we will continue to progress towards a fuller and fuller measure of the manifested Christ, having His rule and reign in this life through His beloved.

Do we not see in the Bible that Jesus sat down at the right hand of the Father (Hebrews 10:11-14) and now Jesus waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. Who is He waiting for to do this? He is waiting for His body of believers of cause. He is waiting for you and me in whom the resurrected Christ resides, we who are the very temple of the Holy Spirit. It is for this purpose that he has given us (Luke 10:19) authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the powers of the enemy! Nothing will harm us. He promised. But we need to move out and take the ground.

His original command in Genesis 1 for His people to have dominion still remains. We are co-workers (1Cor 3:9) in God’s service we are God’s field, His building. Nothing will be impossible for us, if we only believe (Mark 9:23). But we will not be able to believe the way we ought to if we are double minded in our expectation, for then we will doubt and that will make us like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed in the wind (James 1:6). It is for this reason that we single mindedly need to focus on the goal. And the goal should always be for the glory of God, the Kingdom of God to be manifested in and through and around us and throughout all the earth. The Kingdom of God is within, but the Kingdom of God is also the rule of God, the reign of God in the greater cosmos, because God wants to bring everything together under the authority of Christ – everything in heaven and on earth (Ephesians 1:10) and we, His church, has an active role to play.
Therefore, considering that we are surrounded with such a great cloud of witnesses that are cheering us on (Hebrews 12:1), let us set aside every weight, including all doctrines that pulls us into passivity or escapism mentality, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Let us take hands and let us change the world under the leadership of our Commander and Chief, Jesus Christ. There is lots of work to be done and each of us has a unique role to play, as our functions in the body of Christ differ. Together we who have been raised up with Christ and are seated with him in heavenly realms (Ephesians 2:6) can do it, because there has been no better time than now for the church of the Lord Jesus Christ to rise up and to enforce the Kingdom of heaven on to earth (Matt 11:12). If we do this, the gates of hell will not prevail against us (Matthew 16:18). Love conquers all, it overcomes and the world will become the beautiful place that Jesus paid the price for it to be. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me (Philippians 4:13).

"whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's." 1 Corinthians 3:22-23 ESV