

Introduction

- I've created a cheatsheet with definitions for you.
- Preterism comes from the Latin word praeter meaning "past"
- Preterism, Historicism, Futurism, and Idealism are big picture interpretations.
- These are categories that can help you understand and evaluate different passages.
- All of these are Biblical and orthodox positions Christians can hold.

Key Question

- Every position is wrestling with a key question in an attempt to explain all of the tension and issues in interpreting Revelation.
- No single position perfectly answers every question in a satisfactory way.
- We have to find an interpretation that solves most of our questions.
- Preterism is trying to explain how Christ's prophecies in the Olivet discourse came to pass "in this generation."

Textual Basis

- Preterism believes Revelation 1-19 and most of the end times prophecies were literally fulfilled in the 1st century.
- They take each of these to literally mean the fulfillment is soon.
- "The things which must shortly take place" (Rev 1:1)
- "Things which must shortly take place" (Rev 22:6)
- "The time is near" (Rev. 1:3)
- "The time is at hand" (Rev 22:10)
- "Write the things that are about to take place" (Rev 1:19)
- "The hour of trial... is about to come upon the whole world" (Rev 3:10)
- They will differ on the particulars and which prophecies have been fulfilled and which are yet to come. However, the thrust remains fulfilled in the 1st century.

Destruction of Jerusalem

- The period of war and destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD is typically viewed as the tribulation and persecution that was warned.
- The Roman Iron Eagle was carried into the holy of holies.
- This is usually identified as the abomination of desolation.
- The anti-Christ is identified as one of the Roman Emperors, typically Nero.
- Babylon is either Rome or Israel because they are portrayed often as unfaithful prostitute in the Old Testament prophets.
- Sometimes it can hard to decipher or interpret how they might interpret every single prophecy or place in Revelation.

Full-Preterism

- This is an extreme version of Preterism that few hold.
- It believes every prophecy in the Bible has already been fulfilled.
- This includes the 2nd coming of Christ, the resurrection, and judgment.
- This view is unbiblical and heretical.
- We should rightly resist full-preterism, while not unfairly attacking partial preterism.
- Christians should believe the best and judge people by extremists.

Arguments in Favor

- It is the only position to take Christ's words consistently literally.
- It does seem to have predicted what would take place in the 1st century.
- The context and original audience would have found it deeply applicable.
- This time period would have been apocalyptic for Christians and Jews.
- It argues for the earliest date of Revelation.

Arguments Against

- No one in the early church held this belief.
- The earliest appearance is close to 1500 years later.
- Dual-fulfillment is possible and doesn't require only one fulfillment.
- The best evidence points to the book being written after 70 AD.
- It is hard to imagine gentile Christians caring about the destruction of Jerusalem.
- Full-preterism is heresy.

Application

- I think it is right that at least some of what Jesus prophesied took place in the 1st century.
- It seems unlikely that the prophecies only speak to the 1st century.
- We can appreciate other Christians dedication to take God's word literally.