

# Kingdom Benefits from the Preterist Position

## Do You Believe?

Are you fully convinced that the Kingdom is here NOW, although not fully manifested? If your answer is, “No”, then your stumbling block is probably the Bible. This is because you interpret the Bible through the foundation of the bible teaching you've received, including your understanding of the 'Kingdom Now'. A straightforward reading of the Bible by a new believer would not cause them any hang-ups with the concept of 'Kingdom Now' because that's simply what the NT teaches. Even if you have a Kingdom worldview, your underlying theologies (i.e. your Bible beliefs) moderate your Kingdom worldview without you knowing it. This is an example of believing a 'truth' instead of knowing what the reality is.

So, Bible teaching can lead us into error. This is why we have denominations because they separate themselves from the 'erroneous' beliefs of the others. However, all Protestant denominations differ in only a few tenets which they believe are vital 'truths'. The other denominations see these 'truths' as error and sometimes call them heresies.

One such perceived heresy is 'Kingdom Now'.

## Eschatology

Eschatology (the study of End Times) is a case where our belief influences our full acceptance of 'Kingdom Now'.

There are 3 main views of end-time Bible prophecy:

- Futurist – all prophecy is fulfilled at the end
- Preterist – prophecy was fulfilled in the past (in 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD)
- Historist – prophecy plays out over history

Each of these stances towards biblical prophecy can't be correct – they can't all be the reality. However, each is believed to be the 'truth' by their proponents. Actually, we won't find out the reality of Bible prophecy until it is fulfilled, or until our sovereign King advises us on these matters.

Most believers today are Futurists, whereas, those in the past were Preterist. This change in posture is thanks to Scofield's Bible of 1909 and the 'Tim LaHayes' of the last 40 years who have adamantly promoted their view.

Preterists believe that the Olivet Discourse was a warning to the first church of the destruction of Jerusalem, not a prophetic message about the end of things. They also believe that Revelation was an epistle to the 1<sup>st</sup> church in the Middle East and Asia Minor warning them of the same event, not a prophetic vision of the end of things.

Within the Preterist view there are 2 camps:

- Full-Preterist – believe all biblical prophecy has been fulfilled
- Partial-Preterist – believe most biblical prophecy has been fulfilled, but some aren't yet

Both the Futurists and Full-Preterists must justify every scripture so that it aligns with their position. This forces them to mangle verses and sequences of text so that they no longer mean what they were intended to convey. The partial position allows the fulfilled to be so and the future prophecies to be forthcoming. The Partial Preterist isn't a soft position between two extremes, but a position that takes into account the context of all scripture.

## Spiritual Outcomes

The destruction of Jerusalem and the disbursal of the Jews as outlined by Jesus in the Olivet Discourse hid some important spiritual realities. These are:

1. The destruction of Jerusalem was a result of the nation's transgressions in the same way the 2 previous destructions were (Assyrian and Babylonian exiles).
2. The destruction of the temple signalled the end of Judaism.
3. The destruction of the temple and the sacking of Jerusalem signalled the end of the Old Covenant.
4. The destruction of the temple signalled the inauguration of the New Covenant which had been set 40 years earlier by the sacrificial blood of Jesus.<sup>1</sup>
5. The destruction of Jerusalem signified God 'writing off' the Jews as his chosen people because they broke covenant too many times and killed Father's messenger to them (their Messiah).
6. The destruction of Jerusalem heralded the shift of 'God's people' from the Jews to the *ekklesia*.
7. The removal of the Jews (the Diaspora) from their holy city and their territory was the physical evidence that the Jews no longer had any rights to their spiritual homeland (the Promised Land). The land literally 'spewed them out of its mouth'.<sup>2</sup>

These outcomes were the fulfilment of the many warnings given by the OT prophets to the Jews.

## The Kingdom Today

**(A) The Kingdom is on Earth NOW.** It formally came in when Jesus sat on his throne in Heaven and once the Old Covenant was annulled in 70AD.

**(B) The Kingdom on Earth is ours,** not the Jews'. The Jews (Israelis) are at enmity with God now. They are 'pagans' and must come back into the Kingdom through Jesus 'the door'.

This means that Israeli-focussed Christianity ('Christian Zionism') and the Zionist move to resettle the Jewish homeland are NOT Kingdom initiatives. God has permitted these, but for a very different purpose than what it appears.

**(C) We are definitely in the New Covenant.** There is no need for legalism, Torah-keeping or any form of religion. We are free.

## Conclusion

You have the liberty to choose: Futurist prophecy or Preterist fulfilment

You also free to choose either: End-time prophecy, historic prophecy, unfolding prophecy, or cyclical prophecy.

However, the Futurist position leaves you here:

- Everything is left to the last days
- You can't live in the full reality of the Kingdom NOW because it's in the future
- You don't know for sure that the Old Covenant has ceased

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1 – See Matthew 26:28

2 – Leviticus 18:25, 28; 20:22

The Futurist position also leaves you here:

- You are very likely to become enamoured with pagan Israel, &
- You will never be free to live in the liberty of the Kingdom that Paul wrote about.

Think through what I've presented. Don't write it off. Don't say, "But...", and defend your pet theology on biblical prophecy. Don't start defending your stance. Be prepared to change. You are not rejecting the Bible, only your interpretation of it. Defending your position is irrelevant.

Today, our King is looking for those who are searching for reality, not truth based in knowledge.

It's your choice: Kingdom NOW and Freedom NOW, or bondage to the fear of the future and subjection to religion & legalism.

**Can you see now how your eschatology, along with your theologies, affects what you're able to completely believe?**

**So, let go of your pet eschatology & theologies and focus on the King and The Kingdom.**

Laurence

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