**Unveiling Revelation**

**Part 3- Preterism and Matthew 24**

As we unveil Revelation, we need to spend time understanding what is believed and shed light to ideas that are in mainstream Christianity, and ask the Holy Spirit what is right?

One very popular theology is a **Preterist** ideology, (remember that is a belief that all end time events were fulfilled in 70 AD, and normally what accompanies that is that the church has taken the place of Israel and has absorbed all of the promises God made them, this is ***replacement theology***.

One of the main points used to prove this point is Matthew CH. 24

Remember based on last sermon, there is a proper view.

Too *Optimistic* of a view and you ignore the events John, Daniel, Zecheriah and others talk about of events that will take place to set the stage for Jesus’ return.

Too *Pessimistic* of a view, and it leads to giving up, spiritually, and not caring.

Too *vague* of a view leaves us unprepared of what the Spirit is doing. The Father has clearly laid out a series of prophecies to prepare our hearts.

Matthew 24 is a profound endtime prophecy and it has major consequences if believed inaccurately.

*NT Wright* who is a renowned theologian alive today says this in his book ***“Who is Jesus”***

*“When the Jewish writer spoke about the Sun and the moon being darkened, when they spoke of a son of man coming on the clouds they meant this in a metaphorical way.*

*It is flagrantly absurd to think Jesus would envision Himself or anyone else literally flying around in midair on an actual cloud”*

This was in direct reference to Matthew 24.

In his book “Jesus and the Victory of God” he says this..

*“the coming of the Son of Man does not refer to the second coming in the modern scholarly and popular sense of a human figure traveling downwards toward the earth on actual clouds. The coming of the Son of Man is just good first century metaphorical language.*

He later argues that the idea of Jesus coming on the clouds really means that Jesus went away on the cloud at the end of the Jewish age when the privileges, identity and destiny of Israel were stripped away from her and applied and attributed and bestowed upon the new true Israel, the Church

Its needless to say NT Wright is a replacement theologian.

This is such a destructive teaching because its foundational bedrock is based on the idea that God does not honor His promises.

This ideology has become so prevalent in seminary today because the notion of Matthew 24 and 25 has been sold and bought as metaphorical.

So I want to present a seven reasons why Matthew 24 is speaking to us about a condition for the future.

1. **Reason 1**

Because of the question that provoked the answer of His second coming, the coming on the clouds and the Abomination Desolation, the gathering of the Saints…all this was the answer given to the question the disciples asked Jesus in the beginning of Matthew 24

***“Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” (Mt 24:3)***

Jesus is simply answering the question, and tell them. The idea that shortly after Jesus answers their question, gets Crucified, dies, resurrects, ascends, then comes back 40 years later in 70AD, strips Israel of its identity and returns back to heaven.

It takes linguistic gymnastics to make this work. Not to mention that of He did return, why are we still here with sickness, sorrow and pain…and how do you explain Israel becoming a nation again after 2,000 years.

It leaves a lot of questions unanswered and theological gymnastics to explain this.

NT Wright dodges this in his books saying that Jesus was not referring to the end of the age, but an end to the Jewish age.

1. **Reason 2**

Because of the grammatical integrity of Matthew 24.

Jesus uses statements like “These things” and “those days”

***6You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. (V.6)***

***22Unless those days had been cut short…(V22)***

The way Jesus describes these thing and those days you will find that the birth pains of verses 4-8 are connected to the social pressures of verse 9-14 which are connected grammatically and chronologically to the abomination desolation in verse 15.

Which sets in motion the Great tribulation in verse 21 that culminates with the return of Jesus in verses 29-31 and the gathering of the saints.

So when Jesus says

***34Truly I say to you, this [***[***x***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+24&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23992x)***]generation will not pass away until all these things take place. (v.34)***

What Jesus is building here is that all these things are inseparably connected together. We cannot pull them apart.

Meaning that the Abomination of desolation leading to the final tribulation cannot be separated anymore than the abomination of desolation leading to the second coming of Jesus and the gathering of the saints.

If grammar and language means anything, you have to acknowledge that the events from verses 15-31 happen in one generation, in one lifetime, during the Great Tribulation because the scriptures supports this.

Or you can spiritualize and make metaphor out of the whole passage and say that the destruction of the temple in V/15 was literal, but the second coming and gathering of the saints in verses 29-31 is figurative and metaphorical, therefore absurd to take it literal.

So my question is how do you or anyone distinguish what is literal and what is metaphorical?

Where do you draw the line?

Interesting enough Jesus does not use a single symbol or analogy like He has done in parables.

1. **Reason 3**

Because of the Second Coming

When Jesus mentions the Abomination of Desolation, He mentions it in context to the end of the age and His coming.

***15“Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place***

***29“But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from [***[***r***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+24&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23987r)***]the sky, and the powers of [***[***s***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+24&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23987s)***]the heavens will be shaken. 30And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. 31And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His [***[***t***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+24&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23989t)***]elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.***

Remember the key question asked

***“Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” (Mt 24:3)***

And Jesus put the primary event, the primary sign of His return is the Abomination Desolation.

There is only one sign is the abomination that leads to desolation that impacts Jerusalem, Judea and the surrounding wilderness nations that sets in motion a time of tribulation

and He says this ***29“But immediately after the tribulation of those days ….*** He is coming. Jesus is specifically stating that at the end of those days He is coming back.

So How are we to believe that V.15 happened in 70AD, and V.29-31 happens in the future, when one generation will see it all?

Some preterist will tell you He was talking to the disciples, and when Jesus says **“This generation”** was not in reference to some future people but to the Apostles.

But here Jesus says this Abomination the leads to desolation will lead to His Second coming, and that it will be seen by one generation.

This leads back to a grammar issue. because in Matthew 23, Jesus exposes Pharisees and tells them the eight woes and He tells them ***36Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. (Mt 23:36)***

In context Jesus is rebuking the Pharisees and teeing them that that generation will see these woes,

In Matthew 24, Jesus is answering the question of His Return and clearly points to events that still need to take place.

1. **Reason 4**

Because the Gathering of the Saints

In preterist ideology, they use the Book of Acts and how the Apostles, went out and were added to themselves thousands daily.

The issue here lies in the words **“four corners of the earth”,** this term here is not applied equally in the bible. It depends on how its used.

For example when used for the census to bring the new born King to Bethlehem to be killed by Herod, the decree did not go all over the earth, it went throughout the Jewish world.

When Satan tempted Jesus with power to rule over the whole earth, he was literally talking the whole earth not just Judea.

But here you cannot separate that the gathering of the saints is connected to the second coming which is connected to the abomination desolation.

This is a gathering that has not happened because those other events have not happened.

yes was Israel judged in 70AD, yes, but not the nations. In Mt 25: 32 ***32All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; 33and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.***

This has not happened yet….

1. **Reason 5**

Because of the resurrection of the Dead

Jesus quotes Daniel 12: 1-3 when he says

***21For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. (Mt 24:21)***

Where Daniel is having an encounter with an Angel that tells Daniel in those days of the abomination desolation there will be a great trouble such as never been since the world began nor will ever be.

And he says this… In those days fear not Daniel because your people will be delivered and many in the dust of the earth will rise in resurrection.

***2Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. (Dan 12:2)***

Which means this Jesus is quoting Daniel 12 connecting an unprecedented crisis this world has never seen culminating in the literal and physical resurrection of the dead.

Once again where do we draw the line from literal and metaphorical. Jesus said the gathering of the saints at the end, and quotes from Daniel 12 which the angel Michael says the resurrection of the dead.

The idea of the resurrection is called a maturing element

***1 Now is the time for us to progress beyond the basic message of Christ  and advance into perfection. The foundation has already been laid for us to build upon: turning away from our dead works  to embrace faith in God, 2 teaching about different baptisms,  impartation by the laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 So with God’s enablement  we will move on to deeper truths. (Heb 6:1-3)***

1. ***Reason 6***

Because of the deliverance of Israel

***And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation,***

***Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, (Dan 12:1)***

***7Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob’s trouble,***

***But he shall be saved out of it. (Jer 30:7)***

Who is Jacob? Jacob is Israel…..Jacob’s trouble is Israels trouble

***8 And it shall come to pass in all the land,”Says the Lord,“That  two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one–third shall be left in it: 9 I will bring the one–third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, ‘This is My people’ ;And each one will say, ‘The Lord  is my God.’ ” (Zech 13:8,9)***

***30And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, (Mt 24:30)***

This is a quote from Zech 12

***10“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. 11 In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, (Zech 12:10)***

This is very important to understand. The events of 70AD brought about the judgement on national Israel, the scattering of national Israel, and carnage on national Israel.

It did not bring about the redemption and restoration the deliverance of national Israel.

70AD fulfilled the exact opposite what the prophetic texts say about Israel and the end times.

This is why we must know these things because today, we have a recognized, Jerusalem centered Israel in the world. The stage is set for the prophetic to take place.

Israel is the lynchpin to all this, without the deliverance of Israel you have no fulfillment of the abomination that causes desolation.

Matthew 24 in no way shape or form occurred in 70AD. It is absolute lunacy and scary to think that.

1. **Reason 7**

Because of the global dimensions of Matthew 24

Jesus mentions nations, or earth or in that same meaning, 10 times. The events Jesus talks about are Global in nature.

Corona virus was global, the Ukraine war is having global ramifications present and future.

70 AD although was horrible was limited in nature.

It was a limited campaign compared to other Roman Empire conquest.

70 AD in Israel was not known around the world, eventually other found out especially as Jews were displaced.

In Verse 7 Jesus says ***For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom***

In Verse 9 Jesus says ***you will be hated by all nations because of My name.*** If all nations hate you, that means that all nations must know His name. Which means the gospel would have spread beyond Judea and to the ends of the earth. Folks we are there!

What happened in the 1st century was not that. Although the Apostles gave it an awesome jump start, their ministry did not touch the whole earth.

So we end where we began, with the question,

***“Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” (Mt 24:3)***

The disciples asked when will the end come, and Jesus says when the gospel of the kingdom is proclaimed to all nations then the end will come.

And after all nations deliver you up to tribulation and attempt to kill you, then the end will come.

Lastly is MT 25: 32

***32All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; 33and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.***

Is prophecy yet fulfilled. It describes Jesus sitting on an actual Throne, in actual Jerusalem, having inaugurated an actual government and judging all nations of the earth.

So I leave you with this last question, can someone explain to me how and why we are to believe that in 70AD Jesus came and judged all the nations?

How was Israel was redeemed in 70AD?

How all the saints were gathered in Jesus in 70AD?

How Jesus came back in 70AD?

How we are to separate chronologically bound passages in Mt 24 that are dependent on one another that Jesus grammatically did Himself and said not to separate?

If someone can answer those questions and the Holy Spirit convicts me of hard heartedness, then I will humble myself and reconsider

Otherwise, as the parable of the fig tree in MT 24 states, and the parable of the ten virgins in Mt 25 explains,

we are to prepare our hearts for a future time of birth pains, a future abomination of desolation, that sets in motion a future time of unequaled tribulation, that sets the stage for an actual return of Jesus to gather His elect, deliver Israel, raise the dead, judge the nations, bring the present evil age to an end and in all His Glory, restore all things to the way it was intended, that’s our inheritance.

Beshem Yeshua, Maranatha