



Why I Believe that the Lord Returned in AD70

A concise overview of my personal belief concerning the timing of the second coming, the resurrection, the kingdom, the judgement, and the end.



Introduction

- ▶ Unfortunately, I am all too aware of the backlash and trouble that this subject causes. It has caused many good men and women **on both sides** of the issue to fall into the sins of pride, deceit, gossip, backbiting, and many other terrible things.
- ▶ Despite all of this, I feel it necessary to define, explain, and present, to the best of my abilities, a short discourse on **how** I came to these views and **why** I continue to hold them.
- ▶ I hope that, whoever you are or whatever your beliefs may be, you will find this presentation to be useful in some way.
- ▶ If I have the truth, and I believe strongly that I do, I hope this video will encourage you or help you to get there. If I do not, I hope you will help me by discussing these things with me **in a Christ like manner.**



How I Came to this View

A quick summary of my studies from February 2015 to December 2015



Before it All Began

- ▶ Before February 2015, which is the date that I consider the time when I began to look into these things, there were some views that I already held that have some commonalities with the fulfilled view (also called the “preterist” view).
- ▶ I believed that the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit lasted from AD30 to AD70, and, therefore, all scripture was given prior to the fall of Jerusalem.
- ▶ I believed that Revelation had been fulfilled in its entirety in AD70. I have held this view since my teenage years thanks to a very good Bible class teacher that I had.
- ▶ So one could argue that I had begun my journey before February 2015 because so many start this study without those principles, but it wasn't until February 2015 that I began to see a picture unfold before my eyes.

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Hired by the Piedmont church of Christ

- Towards the end of the year 2014, I was offered a preaching position at the Piedmont church of Christ – the congregation that I grew up in.
- This was the first preaching job that I had that required office hours (and that was able to support me full time), so I had plenty of time on my hands to study the Bible.
- In February, my fiancée (now wife) Laura Rogers and I decided to read a book through together: Woods-Franklin Debate 1974.
- In the opening speech, Brother Guy N Woods affirmed that the “last days” were not the Christian age as a whole, but were concerning the end of the Jewish state.
- Although I had read that book many times, I had never thought about that!

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The Last Days

- To put it frankly, I was shocked. I asked Laura to read it again.
- Although I was shocked, I was also intrigued. It had the ring of truth to it even though it was not something that I had ever been taught.
- So, I began to study every reference in the KJV to the last days, latter days, last times, and latter times.
- **Keep in mind that during this time I had never heard of the fulfilled view before!**
- After studying all of those passages (around 30), I came to the same conclusion that Brother Woods did: the last days referred to the end of Old Covenant Israel!
- But there was one problem! 2 Peter 3!



A Strange Accusation

- After coming to the conclusions that I did about the last days (except for 2 Peter 3 of course), I began to ask around to different preachers to get their ideas on the subject.
- In fact, I was so thrilled with what I was seeing, that I thought it good to try and write a short publication on the topic of the timing of the last days.
- One of the preachers (who was **not** a preterist!) that I talked to asked me if I was a “preterist.” I had no idea what he meant by that, so I asked him.
- He briefly explained to the me the position, and I thought it was ridiculous – so ridiculous, in fact, that I was going to disprove it.
- The more I tried to fight the view, however, the more I started to suspect that it was true!



Passages that I Lost the Battle On

- ▶ The more I tried to refute preterism, the more I began to suspect it was true.
- ▶ One by one, my future interpretation of passages began to fall before my eyes.
- ▶ James 5:8, for instance, was one that I saw concerning the fall of Jerusalem almost instantly. In fact, the person that showed me the truth on that particular text is now, sadly, someone who is opposed to me the most!
- ▶ After studying Luke 17, I saw that Matthew 24 was a unified discourse that did not need separating.
- ▶ At a small gospel meeting at a country congregation, I was listening to the preacher speak of the end times, and I realized that passages like the parable of the wheat and tares in Matthew 13 and John 5:28-29 were past.

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Sermon Series on Daniel

- ▶ Another huge thing that happened in my journey towards preterism occurred while I was preaching a series of lessons on Daniel.
- ▶ I was using Rex Turner's commentary to assist me in the historical background for each chapter.
- ▶ Throughout the entire series agreed with him on all of the major ideas in the various prophecies; however, when it came to Daniel 12, I quickly realized that a future interpretation just couldn't hold water.
- ▶ So, on the Sunday night that I had scheduled to preach on Daniel 12, I gave a preterist interpretation on that subject.
- ▶ The timeline here is foggy, but I believe this was before I had ever read a preterist article or watched a video in favor of the view.



Studying the Critics

- After seeing what I did, I began to watch videos by Don Preston and read a few articles as well. The position, in my mind, grew more and more viable.
- After all of this, I was getting desperate, so I began to search for the best of the best material that was against the AD70 position.
- I read Wayne Jackson's book and a few articles. Ultimately, I'm sad to say, I was displeased because of the mass misrepresentation that seemed to exist.
- So, finally, I found a group of lectures that claimed to defeat once and for all the AD70, Realized Eschatology view.
- As I watched, I was basically screaming at my computer because of the, in my view, pitiful defense of a future second coming of Christ.



A New Day

- After being disappointed by the misrepresentation, poisoning of the well, and bad exegesis, I gave up on finding anyone who could defeat the view, so I decided that I would have to do it.
- At this point, I saw virtually every passage as being fulfilled except for one: 1 Corinthians 15. Even 1 Thessalonians **could** be applied to AD70 in my mind because of the overwhelming amount of similarities between Matthew 24 and Paul's teaching that was "by the word of the Lord."
- As I was reading through the text, I came across verse 54 which says, "... then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory.""
- "Where is this saying found?" My center column reference took me to Isaiah 25:8. I got on the floor and prayed through tears. I was a preterist.



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Some simple passages that I would like to share concerning my view.



What We Will Study

1. When did Jesus say He would return?
2. When did the apostles say that He would return?
3. What does the Bible say is the timeframe for all scripture to be fulfilled?

Hopefully, our material that we present will be simple to follow. We are not going to spend time answering arguments or trying to answer every question (and there will be many!). Our purpose is to simple present the view.



If You Get One, You Get Them All

- ▶ Why aren't we studying the timing of the judgement or the resurrection?
- ▶ The reason for this is simple. The second coming of Jesus, as most Christians will agree, coincides with the timing of the judgement and the resurrection.
- ▶ All we have to do, therefore, is to show that one had a first century fulfilment, and the rest will come along with that.
- ▶ In this presentation, we are not concerned with the **nature** or the **manner** in which these things would be fulfilled. We are only concerned with the **timing** of these events.
- ▶ Regardless of what you may think about the **nature** of the resurrection, the day of the Lord, and the day of judgement, I hope that you can see the force of our presentation on the timing of those things.



When Did Jesus Say He Would Return?

- ▶ “For **the Son of Man will come** in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here **who shall not taste death till they see** the Son of Man **coming in His kingdom**”” (Matthew 16:27-28.)
- ▶ “Then **they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud** with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, **because your redemption draws near.**” Then He spoke to them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, **know that the kingdom of God is near.** Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation** will by no means pass away **till all things take place**” (Luke 21:27-32).



When Did the Apostles Say that He Would Return?

- ▶ “Behold, I tell you a mystery: **We shall not all sleep**, but we shall all be changed” (1Corinthians 15:51).
- ▶ “For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that **we who are alive and remain** until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep” (1Thessalonians 4:15).
- ▶ “For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: “For yet a **little while**, and he who is coming will come and **will not tarry**”” (Hebrews 10:36-37).
- ▶ “You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for **the coming of the Lord is at hand**. Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, **the Judge is standing at the door!**” (James 5:8-9).



When Did the Apostles Say that He Would Return? (Revelation)

- “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which **must shortly take place**. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John” (Revelation 1:1)
- “Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; **for the time is near**” (Revelation 1:3).
- “And he said to me, “**Do not seal** the words of the prophecy of this book, for **the time is at hand**” (Revelation 22:10).
- “Behold, **I am coming quickly!** Blessed *is* he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book” (Revelation 22:7, 12, 20).
- Does “at hand” mean 2000 years? Does “quickly” mean two millennia?



What Does the Bible Say is the Timeframe for All Scripture to Be Fulfilled?

- Some questions:
 - Does the Old Testament predict the second coming of Christ? (Daniel 7:9-10)
 - Does the Old Testament predict the resurrection? (Isaiah 25:8; Daniel 12:2)
- “For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, **one jot or one tittle** will by **no means pass from the law** till all is fulfilled” (Matthew 5:18).
- “Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. **For** these are the days of vengeance, **that all things which are written may be fulfilled**” (Luke 21:21-22).
- Again, “Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place” (Luke 21:32).



Summary

- Regardless of what you may think of the **nature** of the Second Coming of Christ, Jesus promised to return on the clouds within that first century generation.
- The apostles, who were inspired by the Holy Spirit, said that some would still be alive at the Second Coming. In fact, it was “at hand” and would take place in “a little while.”
- All things written (including Old Testament passages about the second coming and resurrection) were to be fulfilled within that generation at the time of the fall of Jerusalem.
- Many questions can be asked and many verses can be discussed, but, for now, did Jesus not promise to come on the clouds with power and great glory in the lifetime of His contemporaries?