

DISPENSATIONALISM - EDITOR RESPONDS

I stated in my last newsletter in response to a letter in our “We Get Letters” section that “I was saved in 1969, read all the commentaries by J. Vernon McGee, Clarence Larkin, M. R. DeHaan, Dr. Harry Ironside, et al and hundreds (plural) of books on prophecy and I was a dispensationalist for about 10 years, with a few reservations about what they taught. I continued to study, now I don’t see any gap between the 69th and 70th week of Daniel (certainly not 21 centuries). Ezekiel’s temple is not some future physical temple. Jesus and all God’s people are and will be the New Jerusalem Temple. The ‘great tribulation’ Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24 happened in the 1st century. I don’t believe hardly anything dispensationalists teach about prophecy anymore. The second advent of Christ (Coming of Christ) is future and could happen at any time, as is the resurrection for all the dead, the Final Judgment and the New Heavens and New Earth.” Good Christians can disagree with me. That’s fine.

Since then I have been labeled a preterist. One man called and said if I was correct that made him sad as he was looking forward to the rapture and the slaughter of 2 million Jews in a great battle, etc.

This is a (**non-essential**) doctrine among Christians, but important. I can’t answer all your questions in a newsletter. You’ll have to study the Bible (all of it) yourself and look at all views. I am not a preterist. Preterists say all New Testament prophecy refers to 70 A.D. For example, preterists claim every verse in Matthew 24 refers to 70 A.D. I agree with **partial** preterist Ken Gentry that most of it does but not all of it. Preterists believe II Peter 3:10 refers to 70 A.D. I do not. As context shows, this is a cosmic and future event. A good cross reference to this verse is Hebrews chapter 1 verses 10-12. Jesus did not just create Israel or the Roman Empire. He created the entire universe as the Bible teaches and when He returns He will “fold them up—creation will perish” as some versions say. This is future. Preterists believe we are now living in the new heavens and new earth! I do not! Here are a couple of points to think about: In Daniel chapter 2 the great image representing the kingdoms is destroyed by Christ when He came the first time. He destroyed the statue which represents the kingdoms of the world which existed when Israel was a nation --- until the new covenant. The Kingdom of God was not “postponed” because some of the Jewish people rejected Jesus Christ! Where does it say the “10 toes” survived for 21 or more centuries? At any rate the chapter itself only mentions 4 nations/kingdoms.

Also I find it “strange” now, that as some teach, Jesus will come and rule in the flesh over the earth for 1,000 years and then He/God would allow Satan to overthrow, or almost overthrow, this kingdom **ruled** physically by Christ. I believe the “communion” service Jesus instituted for the church will last until the New Heavens and New Earth—not until some temporary kingdom on earth which Satan almost reconquers! See Matthew chapter 26, Luke chapter 22, I Corinthians chapter 11. Don’t stick to a “preconceived system”. Dispensationalists and some Preterists make that error. It doesn’t matter if the entire New Testament was written before 70 A.D. or not. If it was, that does not “prove” **all** prophecies about the coming of Christ happened in 70 A.D. I refer you to our book list on our website www.mission.org/jesuspeople and www.SCP.org for their Journals which have good articles about prophecy. Ungodly men today are trying to “Rule the world” and until Jesus comes we should be aware of and against any anti-christ ruler or system. **Any government that attempts to take away God given freedoms is to be considered dangerous.**

When the New Testament says a certain Old Testament prophecy is spiritual or symbolic, not literal; or that the Old Testament prophecy has been fulfilled, I believe it. It would take a 2000 page book to give you all my views on prophecy. You’ll have to study for yourself. Just like I have and I continue to do. In closing, I just hope you aren’t getting your **prophecy doctrines** from John Hagee, Jack Van Impe, **et al**. And note I am a strong supporter of the National of Israel. They have a legal right to their nation, which even the United Nations originally recognized, and they certainly have the right to defend themselves.

But each one in his own order: Christ the first fruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming. Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. [I Corinthians 15:23-24 NKJV] Read each book of the Bible I quoted from for yourself.

Tom Adcock