

Notes from Pre-Trib Conference in Dallas, December 1-3, 2014

Consistent Futurism

- I. Is Bible prophecy being fulfilled?
 - a. This might make some people mad because they've been listening to prophecy propaganda, but NO
 - i. The Harbinger
 - ii. The Blood Moons
 - iii. The Bible Code
 - b. There's a lot of money to be made on selling these types of books
 - c. They appeal to people's desire to know secrets about the future
- II. Four Approaches to Bible Prophecy
 - a. Preterism
 - i. Past Fulfillment
 1. Extreme (Consistent)
 - a. All prophecy fulfilled in and around AD70 DOJ
 - b. We now live in the NH and NE
 - c. No future second Coming
 - d. Christ came symbolically through the Roman Armies
 - e. Hyper-literal reading of Matt 24:34
 2. Moderate
 - a. Most prophecy fulfilled in and around AD70 DOJ
 - b. Future Second Coming
 - c. R. C. Sproul
 - d. Book of Revelation must be written pre-AD70 (Hanegraff, Gentry)
 3. Mild
 - a. First half of Revelation fulfilled
 - b. Second half of Revelation still future
 - c. Original preterism by RC to deny that Pope was anti-Christ
 - ii. Present Fulfillment
 - iii. Seal, Trumpet and Bowl judgments fulfilled during last 2,000 years
 - iv. Joachim de Fiore, Martin Luther popularized (liked the idea that the Pope could be identified with the anti-Christ, it preached!)
 - b. Historicism
 - i. Present Fulfillment
 - ii. Seal, Trumpet and Bowl judgments fulfilled during last 2,000 years
 - iii. Joachim de Fiore, Martin Luther popularized (liked the idea that the Pope could be identified with the anti-Christ, it preached!)
 - iv. Allegorical interpretation loosely associating events with Scripture
 1. Rev 17-18 - Babylon is Rome (historicist interpretation based on Sybylline Oracles from the 2nd century AD)
 2. Matt 24:4-8 - Being fulfilled now (another historicist interpretation). If you hold this you are blending historicism with futurism. You're not being consistent.
 - a. These events parallel the first six seals
 - b. These events are the beginning of birth pangs metaphor from Deut 4:30) (cf Jer 30:6-7; 1 Thess 5:2-3), ISRAEL not the

CHURCH. Once birth pangs begin not long before you have a baby. Birth pangs are the seven years of Dan 9:27

3. Matt 24:32 – fig tree blossoms interpreted as the State of Israel 1948, a generation in Matt 24:34 interpreted as 40 years (historicist interpretation). Didn't pan out in 1988, reconfigured. Didn't work out; reconfigured. Now generation interpreted as 100 years and fig tree blossoms as Palestinian Mandate in 1922 so 2022 is Second Coming and 2015 for Rapture. Won't work out. Never does.
 - a. Fig tree blossoms refer to "these things" described in Matt 22:4-28. All these things will signal that He is there, right at the door
 - b. The generation that sees these things will not pass away until all has come to pass. They will occur very quickly.
 4. Dan 8:14 - 2,300 evenings and mornings symbolic as years (Seventh Day Adventists do not believe Jesus entered Holy of Holies in heaven until 1844 (Seventh day Adventists are historicists)
 - v. Date-Setters historically historicists and not futurists. Some futurists have been date-setters because they borrowed historicist interpretations or employed allegorical method of interpretation.
- c. Idealism
- i. Timeless
 - ii. We win (well, yes, we do, but it's a little more involved than that)
 - iii. Revelation is a compilation of over 500 allusions to the OT. If all we get out of it is we win we don't really understand the OT.
- d. Consistent Futurism
- i. All prophecy related to second coming is yet future, has not been fulfilled
 - ii. Prophecy is not being fulfilled
 - iii. Prophecy relates to Israel and her Covenants, not the Church
 - iv. The Church is a Mystery (not revealed in the OT, unrelated to OT prophecy)
 - v. America not in prophecy
 1. 2 Chron 7:14 "If my people who are called by My name...repent I will restore them." Israel not America. This is a form of replacement theology
 2. Lev 26 and Deut 28 – Cycles of discipline are for Israel not America or the Church. This is a form of replacement theology
 - vi. Luke 21:20-24 - prophecy of Jerusalem's destruction during Church Age because of transition from Israel to Church and it had to happen sometime.
 - vii. Ezek 37 early stages being fulfilled, not has been but being fulfilled since the late 1800's when Jews began making Aliyah. Sped up when State of Israel established in 1948. It's continued in Operation Solomon, et. Al, so it is a prophecy that is in the process of being fulfilled and it is setting the stage. Two regatherings; one in preparation in unbelief, another yet entirely future in belief
 - viii. What is happening now is what we call stage-setting. The stage is being set for prophecy to be fulfilled

1. Israel being declared a State in 1948 is not a prophecy being fulfilled but did set the stage for increased Aliyah so prophecy can be fulfilled.
 2. Jerusalem coming under Israeli sovereignty in 1967 is not a prophecy being fulfilled but did set the stage for the Temple to be rebuilt so prophecy can be fulfilled. These are historically necessary and do signal that things are ramping up but we don't know how long these things must go on or what other stage-setting must occur. Certainly we cannot set dates. The most we can say is that we are closer today than we were yesterday.
- ix. Israel's prophecies mostly relate to the 70th week of Daniel, not the Church, bringing prophecy other than the rapture into the Church is a threat to imminency
- III. Basic problem hermeneutical
- a. Before we talk about an idea we have to establish the meaning of the text in context
 - i. E.g. Matt 24:32 fig tree
 - ii. E.g. Matt 24:4-8 wars and rumors of wars
 - iii. It is futile to speculate before establishing the meaning of the text. People like to speculate. It is speculation only and almost entirely futile!
 - b. Double fulfillment or double reference
 - i. Double fulfillment means one text can have multiple fulfillments (famous example is Isa 7 but this has been shown to be better explained by double reference)
 - ii. Double reference means one text can have two prophecies butted up against one another but in hindsight separated by a gap of time (e.g. Luke 4:18-19 quotation of Isa 61:1-2; Zech 9:9-10; Micah 5:2-5)
 - iii. A text has only a single meaning, not double meaning, thus no double fulfillment or partial fulfillment, those terms betray a problem in interpretation (e.g. Acts 2:17 often referred to as a partial fulfillment of Joel 2:28-32). Actually nothing in Joel 2:28-32 was fulfilled but something like Joel 2:28-32 took place in that a pouring out of the Spirit took place and that explained tongues which Joel did not predict at all. Joel 2 to be fulfilled at Second Coming...
- IV. Three Important Distinctions
- a. Facts – Jesus coming for Church, Jesus coming to Israel, Jesus establishing kingdom
 - b. Assumptions – 666 will be tattooed on people's foreheads, Anti-Christ will establish a peace treaty with Israel, Russia will invade Israel. These things may be true but they are interpretations
 - c. Speculations – Small devices implanted in people's hands or foreheads is the mark of the beast, blood moons, rapture to fulfill Rosh Hoshanah, et. Al...these are not even interpretations of the text. What about coincidences? Koenig argues that when America makes a negative political decision toward Israel we are always struck by a hurricane or some other catastrophe. Coincidences may mean something but what they mean is not clear! We really need to be into the text to establish primary fact interpretations and not be playing loosely, it leads to speculation and mockery by unbelievers
- V. Case Study: Are we in Last Days?

- a. Israel: Deut 4:30;31:29; Jer 30:24; 48:47; Dan 2:28 (Tribulation)
 - b. Church: 1 Tim 4:1; 2 Tim 3; Heb 1:2; James 5:3; 2 Pet 3:3; 1 Pet 1:20; Jude 18; 1 Pet 1:5; 1 John 2:18 (Church Age heading toward apostasy)
- VI. God presently hiding His face from Israel
- a. Deut 32:20; Isaiah 1:15; Isa 59:2; Ezek 39:29 he will turn His face toward them again

What about coincidences that seem to line up to prophecies?

Connection of Israel's prophecies and America??? No.

Cycles of judgment? Divine discipline? No. Every nation goes down in a similar pattern.