

Matthew 24

'Preterists' teach that all prophecy has been fulfilled in the **PAST.**

Matthew chapter 24 is their foundation which they use to say that **the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ was exclusively the burning with fire and the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem in 70 A.D.**

Thus they do not look for

a future, visible, bodily return of Jesus Christ

nor of a resurrection of the dead

nor the present earth and outer space being set on fire

nor a final judgment.

Preterists think that Jesus' prophecy about the temple had to be the 'physical, literal, earthly' temple in Jerusalem thus, their '70 A.D.' belief:

Matt 24:1-2 And Jesus went out, and departed from **the temple:** and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of **the temple.**

2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

Another mis-conception about the temple had been made at an earlier time, as well, just after Jesus cast the money-changers out of the temple for selling merchandise in God's house (John 2:12-22, Isa 56:5-11, Psa 69:9):

John 2:18-21 Then answered the Jews and said unto him,

What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

19 Jesus answered and said unto them, **Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**

20 Then said the Jews, **Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?**

21 **But he spake of the temple of his body.**

The point is Jesus did not always speak in 'physical, literal' terms like people thought. He told a woman of Samaria that whoever drinks of the water He gives will never thirst again; it is 'living' water (John 4:7-15).

Jesus said that He Is the 'bread' of life, and whoever comes to Him and believes on Him will never hunger (John 6:35,41,48,51).

Jesus said to labour for the 'meat' that endures unto everlasting life, not what perishes (John 6:27).

Jesus' disciples asked Him some questions when they were alone with Him. They wanted to know about the timing of the coming destruction and the signal of His return and the end of the age.

Matt 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, **when** shall these things be? and **what** shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Dispensationalists also mis-interpret this chapter of Matthew 24. They assign the budding of the fig tree as Israel becoming a nation again in 1948. They think the people that were 'alive' at that time in 1948 will be the same group of people who see the 2nd return of Jesus Christ. Like Preterism, that belief is also wrongly-hinged on the word 'generation':

Matt 24:32-34 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

34 Verily I say unto you, **This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.**

There are 3 Greek words <gennema>, <genos>, and <genea> that are translated 'generation' whose 'root' refers to 'family' or 'kindred'.

Though many today think of a 'generation' as the people who 'lived at the same time' like 'over a 20, 30, or 40 year life span' we need to examine the verses, to determine if this definition applies, because the word 'generation' can be: 1) physical, like a bloodline of descendents in a family;

an offspring, progeny, children, or ancestors

2) spiritual, like a chain of evil people

3) spiritual, like a remnant of godly seed.

To put Matt 24 in CONTEXT Jesus had already been talking about 'this generation' which was a 'generation of poisonous snakes':

Matt 23:27-36 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

29 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

30 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

31 Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

32 Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

33 **Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers,** (Matt 3:7, Luke 3:7, Psa 140:1-3) **how can ye escape the damnation of hell?**

34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

36 Verily I say unto you,

All these things shall come upon this generation.

Is it logical to apply the Preterist or Dispensationalist definition of 'generation', (which is, 'all the people who were alive at that time') to Jesus' words in Matt 23:36? NO! Jesus was clearly describing **the family of Satan,** **a 'generation' of vipers and serpents** headed for damnation in hell. Ever since the garden of Eden, there have been 2 separate 'seed' lines

2 different 'generations'.

Gen 3:14-15 And the LORD God said unto **the serpent,** Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

15 And I will put enmity between thee and **the woman,** and between **thy seed and her seed;** it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The seed of the serpent are the children of the devil (John 8:44).

The seed of the woman was Christ (Isa 7:14, Matt 1:23-25, Gal 4:4).

All who are in Him are a godly seed (Mal 2:15) the sons/children of God:

1 John 3:10 In this **the children of God** are manifest, and **the children of the devil:** whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

Those 2 'generations' families seeds children are contrasted:

Matt 13:38 The field is the world; **the good seed** are **the children of the kingdom;** but **the tares** are **the children of the wicked one;**

The words of Jesus Christ show **the wicked 'generation':**

Luke 11:29 And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, **This is an evil generation:** they seek a sign (1 Cor 1:22); and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet.

The words of God through Peter show the elect 'generation':

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, (also 2 Thess 2:13) a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

There is the evil generation of Satan; there is the chosen generation of God.

Jesus made many statements about and to this sinful 'generation'

(Matt 11:16, 12:34,39,41,42,45, 16:4, 17:17, 23:33,36, 24:34).

Surely no one thinks that God will charge 'this generation' of

'all the people living on earth at the same time Christ lived on earth'

with the death of all the prophets from the beginning of time:

Luke 11:49-51 Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute:

50 That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation;

51 From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple:

verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.

Were the apostles and the other believers, that we alive when Jesus spoke those words, part of that 'generation' of whom He spoke? NO!

So who was responsible for killing God's prophets? It was the family of Satan who were of the evil 'generation' regardless of when they lived.

'This generation' represents the adulterous 'generation' the faithless and perverse 'generation' (Luke 9:41) the crooked 'generation' (Deut 32:5):

Deut 32:20 And he said, I will hide my face from them,

I will see what their end shall be:

for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith.

Jesus connected this shameful 'generation' with the judgment that will ultimately happen at the end of the world, when He comes:

Mark 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. (Matt 10:33; 2 Tim 2:12; Rom 9:33, 10:11; 1 John 2:28)

The Greek word <genea> that is translated 'nation' in Phil 2:15, is the same word that is translated 'generation' in Matt 24. Again we can see the untoward 'generation' that will exist in the world until the day of Christ:

Phil 2:14-16 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:
 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;
 16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

The 'day of Christ' is the same 'day' as the 'day of the LORD' the 'day of God'. It will come at the culmination of this world when Jesus appears the **2nd** time (Heb 9:28). It will not be a 'secret' or 'spiritual' appearing:

Rev 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

EVERYONE on earth will SEE the Lord Jesus when He comes from heaven:

Matt 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Both Matt 23:36, and Matt 24:34, teach that, in the end of time,

Jesus will come and bring His righteous judgment (Matt 24:3).

Jesus warned His disciples about future deception of a previous coming:

Matt 24:25-27 Behold, I have told you before.

26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

At Jesus' ascension into heaven 2 angels told His disciples that

He would come back in the same way that He left. That was visible:

Acts 1:9-11 And when he had spoken these things,

while they beheld, he was taken up;

and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Paul preached about 'a day' when God will judge all men not just Israel.

When the Lord comes, it will be the time of judgment for everyone:

1 Cor 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time,
until the Lord come, (Acts 17:31)

who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness,
and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts:
and then shall every man have praise of God.

The scriptures teach that other cities not just Israel will be also judged in 'that day'. Tyre and Sidon and Sodom were not judged in 70 A.D.:

Matt 11:22 But I say unto you (Chorazin and Bethsaida), It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.

Matt 11:24 But I say unto you (Capernaum), That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

Preterists force themselves to redefine the word 'resurrection'

and say it is not a 'theological' word. They shift the focus from 'resurrection' to say Christ was a 'champion' that was 'vindicated' and they diminish His 'bodily' rise from the dead.

Yet Jesus Himself appeared to His disciples after His resurrection:

Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. (also John 20:20,25,27; Acts 1:3, Luke 24:23, Col 2:9)

We will also experience a 'bodily' resurrection like Jesus' resurrection when He comes:

Phil 3:20-21 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

When Jesus comes, we will get an 'eternal' body made like His:

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Paul warned about **deception of a previous resurrection:**

2 Tim 2:15-18 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

17 And their word will eat as doth a canker:
of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

Our resurrection is linked to His resurrection:

1 Cor 6:14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.

1 Cor 15:16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

1 Cor 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Preterists argue that all of Matthew 24 is about 70 A.D. They think:

- that Christ 'spiritually' came then to judge Israel
- that the 'generation' that would not pass until all the events in Matthew 24 were fulfilled was ALL the people who were alive on earth in 70 A.D.
- that they had a 'spiritual' resurrection (not a 'bodily' one, like Christ did)
- that God created a 'spiritual' new earth, where there is no law and no sin.

Those imaginations are delirious! They should cast them down (2 Cor 10:5).

Preterists are denying reality to think all this already happened in 70 A.D.:

Rev 21:1-4 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;

and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"