

Preterism: The Future is the Past

Eschatology: Study of God
 Developing People in His Image

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Preter... What?!

- **Preterism** is a view in Christian eschatology which holds that some or all of the biblical prophecies concerning the *Last Days* refer to events which took place in the first century after Christ's death, especially the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.
- The term preterism comes from Latin *praeter*, (*past*) since this view deems most or all biblical prophecies as already fulfilled. (<http://www.britannica.com/Preterism>)

What! Me Worry?



Partial Preterism

- Older of the two views holds that certain prophecies were fulfilled in the past (our past), about 70 A.D.
 - The *last days* refer to last days of the Mosaic Covenant
 - Christ punished those who rejected the New Covenant
 - However, the *last day* refers to Christ’s future coming
- Partial Preterists hold to the *orthodox* creeds of the church

Full Preterism

- They view ALL prophecies as fulfilled in the past (our past)
 - Nearly all prophecies must be allegorically explained
 - The resurrected dead receive *spiritual* bodies – heaven
- Partial Preterists reject Full Preterism
- Full Preterism is logical inference from a Partial view

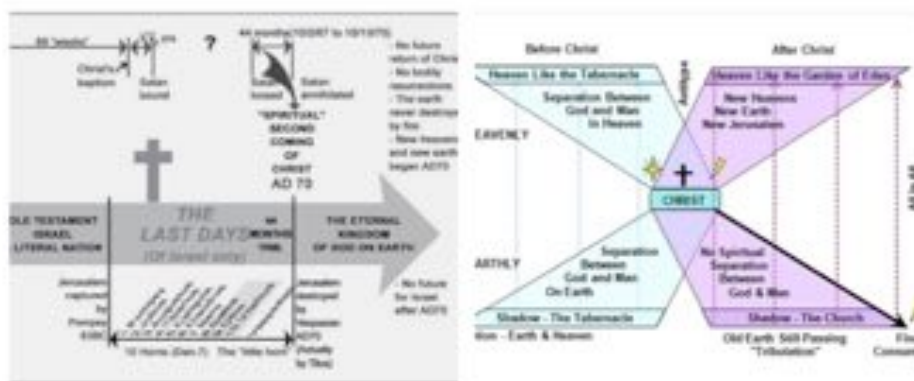
Where Does This Go?

- Preterism is based upon Christian Gnosticism
- Partial Preterists (Covenant Theology) usu. hold to either:
 - Amillennialism
 - Postmillennialism
- Full Preterists are logically Universalists since there can be no lost people since 70 A.D. when Christ’s work of redemption was totally completed (Pantelism)

What's the Problem?

- Preterists are, knowingly or unknowingly, Gnostic
- Mixing the philosophy of man with God's word
 - May start at conservative point but end up where?
 - What is the biblical dividing line between the Partial and Full views?

What, Me Worry?



Hermeneutical Clarification

- From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. (Mt 24:32-35 ESVST)
- Interpretation relies upon the supplied metaphor, fig tree

Christ's Meaning

- This generation are those who see the events Christ is discussing
 - This does not refer to those of Christ's time
 - This does not refer to an abstract or spiritualized group but to those who do witness actual events
- This generation is judged: the sheep entering the Millennial Kingdom and the goats entering Hell

Has this Occurred?

- Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way. *For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed*, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. (2

Why Do You Believe?

- For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. *Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.* (2 Th 2:7-12 ESVST)

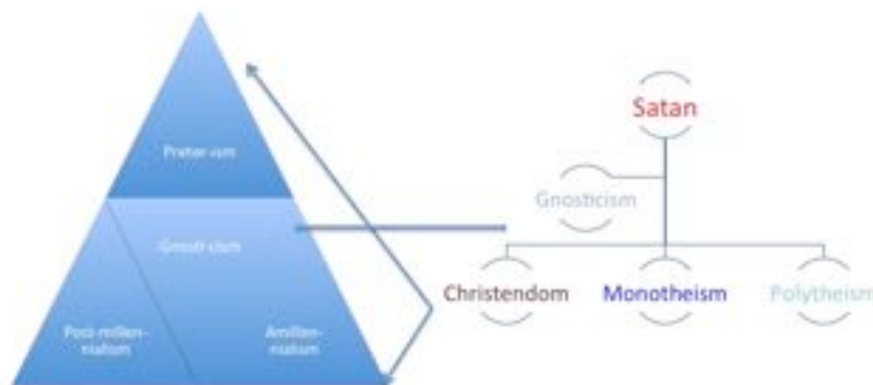
Famous Partial Preterists

- John Calvin
- Martin Luther
- Jonathon Edwards
- C. H. Spurgeon
- Alfred Edersheim
- R.C. Sproul
- John Piper <http://preteristarchive.com/PartialPreterism/index.html>

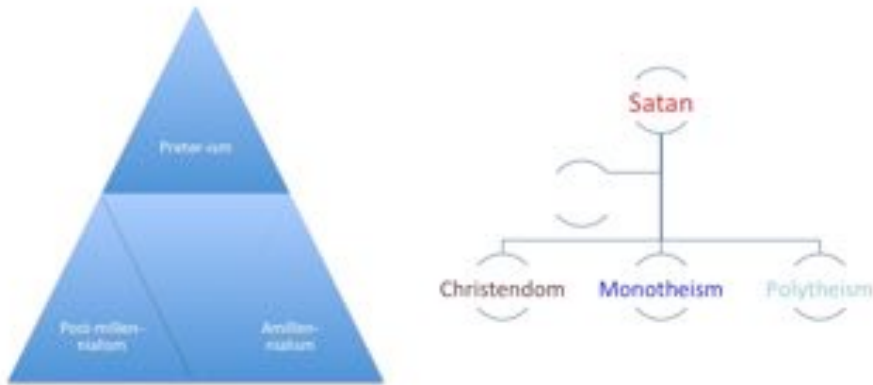
Trap of Orthodoxy

- Authorized or generally accepted theory, doctrine, or practice
 - Authorized or accepted by whom?
 - Did Jesus meet the test of orthodoxy?
- Orthodoxy is a logical fallacy as it is apart from Bible
- Bible (*proper hermeneutics*) is *only* source of *authenticity*

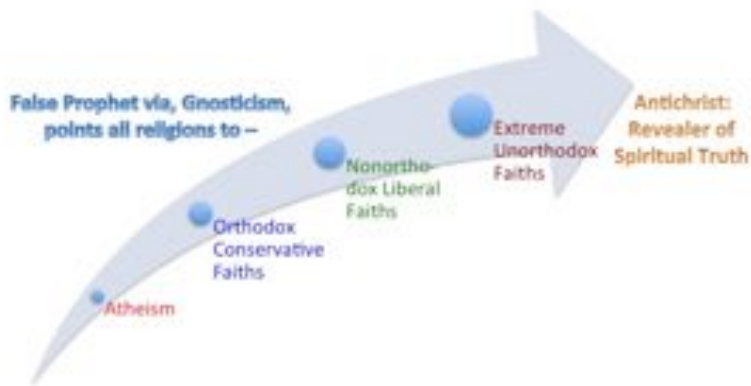
Root of All Religions



Root of All Religions?



Gnosticism is the Source



Gnosticism Feeds 'Em All

