

The AD 70  
Doctrine  
Realized Eschatology

By Morris G. Bowers

*Doctrinal Implications of  
Preterist Eschatology  
(versus what the Holy Spirit has  
revealed in the Bible)*

© 2009 Spiritbuilding Publishing. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the publisher.

Published by  
Spiritbuilding Publishing  
15591 N. State Rd. 9  
Summitville, IN 46070

Spiritual “equipment” for the contest of life.  
Printed in the United States of America

Bowers, Morris G.  
The AD 70 Doctrine: Realized Eschatology

*The New King James Version*, © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.  
Used by permission. All rights reserved. *The New American Standard Bible*, ©1960-1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.  
Used by permission.

***Young’s Literal Translation:*** The Bible text designated YLT is from the 1898 *Young’s Literal Translation* by Robert Young who also compiled Young’s Analytical Concordance. This is an extremely literal translation that attempts to preserve the tense and word usage as found in the original Greek and Hebrew writings. The text was scanned from a reprint of the 1898 edition as published by Baker Book House, Grand Rapids Michigan. The book is still in print and may be ordered from Baker Book House. Obvious errors in spelling or inconsistent spellings of the same word were corrected in the computer edition of the text.

**Publisher**

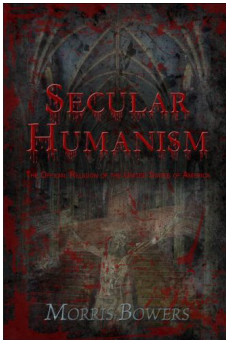
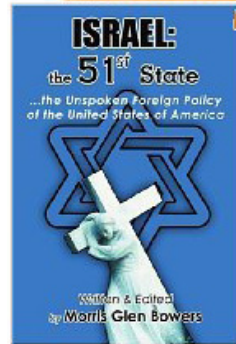
*Gospel Themes Press*  
2028 South Austin Street Suite 906  
Amarillo, TX 79109-1960, USA



[www.spiritbuilding.com](http://www.spiritbuilding.com)

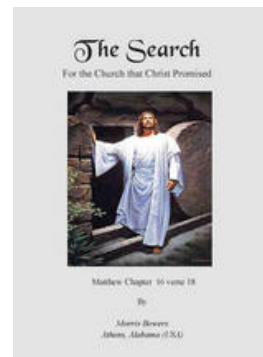
## Also by Morris G. Bowers

ISRAEL the 51<sup>st</sup> State...the Unspoken Foreign Policy of the United State of America, published by iUniverse, 2005, [www.iuniverse.com](http://www.iuniverse.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



Secular Humanism...the Official Religion of the United States of America, published by .PublishAmerica, Baltimore, 2007, [www.PublishAmerica.com](http://www.PublishAmerica.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

The Search...for the Church that Christ Built, Matthew 16:18, Published by Sable Publishing House, London, England, 2008, [www.Sable-Publishing-House.com](http://www.Sable-Publishing-House.com), [www.amazon.uk.com](http://www.amazon.uk.com)



To my Mother and Father, (deceased)  
The nicest, smartest, and most moral parents possible!

---

---

## Table of Contents

---

---

	<u>PAGE</u>
Preface	1
Introduction	5
Chapter 1 - Reviewing The Parousia	8
Chapter 2 - The Second Coming of Christ, the Resurrection and the Judgment--Their Timing and Nature	22
Chapter 3 - Doctrinal Implications of Preterist Eschatology	35
Chapter 4 - Matthew 24 Explained	48
Chapter 5 - The Preterist View Heresy	67
Chapter 6 - The A.D. 70 System of Kingism (The Church)	100
Chapter 7 - The Second Coming of Christ: Did it Already Occur?	120
Chapter 8 - Haunting Questions Regarding Realized Eschatology and the A.D. 70 Doctrine	138
Chapter 9 - The Judge of All	151
End Notes and Additional Info	160

### **Important Note:**

**Articles in this manuscript come from a number of different sources. In order to faithfully preserve the article, punctuation and much of the formatting has been left as is. Even when we wished to correct it, the formatting has been faithfully reproduced. Spiritbuilding publishing accepts no responsibility for these reproduced errors.**

---

Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as  
when they do it from a religious conviction.

- Blaise Pascal

---

---

---

## Preface

---

---

Every generation faces the challenge to understand and apply the Bible for themselves. No one should blindly accept what previous generations have taught just because of past practices. Those who know the Lord will learn to search “the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11). Those who refuse to examine past practices by an open Bible are indeed caught up in a loyalty to a human tradition above God (Matthew 15:8-9). It is my goal for this book to encourage such a discussion.

Also with every generation, a movement arises that carries the banner of opposing the plain and simple teachings of the “God Breathed” Scripture that we have revealed in the Bible and having the desire to see “radical” changes within the church. There is a real danger for those who seek reform to actually form a human movement with human loyalties that are forming new human traditions to contrast with the practices they oppose. When this happens you will often find a group of doctrinal positions taken that will define the new movement. There then will be an effort made to line people up through name-calling, peer-pressure, and other carnal weapons. When this occurs, pride, bitterness, and a desire for control of others motivate these “reformers.” Division occurs in these settings and another sect is born. Please carefully look into your heart and of those who are seeking reform to be sure that you have a heart of love and an open Bible rather than the “win at all costs” attitude of one who will slander and destroy others just to add another slave to a new human movement (Galatians 4:17-20; 2 Peter 2:19).

The above theory is not a new or fresh approach to Scripture, but is actually a retelling of an old error. In 1883, Dr. A. Wilford Hall wrote a book entitled, *Universalism Against Itself*. The author noted, “Universalism teaches that this important event (the coming of Christ) took place at the destruction of Jerusalem, 2000 years ago. This position is taken in order to avoid, if possible, the admission of a future general judgment, which every where stands closely connected with the second coming of Christ” (p. 91). In fact, in the 1930’s, C.H. Dodd taught a similar error (the final events were all fulfilled in the personal ministry of Jesus) and gave it the name, “Realized Eschatology.”

Because there are some passages in which Jesus is described as “coming” in a local or physical judgment upon Jerusalem (*Matthew 24:1-34*), some erroneously contend that all New Testament references to the “coming” of Christ in judgment must allude to the destruction of Jerusalem. This contention ignores the fact that the Scriptures portray Jesus as “coming” in a number of different senses. 1. Jesus “came” to earth as a human being (*Luke 19:10*). 2. He “came” when the church was established on Pentecost (*Matthew 16:28; Mark 9:1*). 3. He “comes” to discipline congregations that are no longer faithful (*Revelation 2:5*). 4. In addition, He has promised to “come” in a universal judgment (*Matthew 25:31-32*).

This book is simply an appeal to God fearing people to hold fast to the word of God as it is written, to be not led away by human theories that contradict God’s word or distort it. It is God breathed!

### **Did all of these things happen in AD 70?**

1. Acts 1:11, “and they also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.” NASB
2. John 5:28-29, “Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.” NASB
3. 2 Peter 3:10-13, “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.” NASB
4. Revelation 22:12-14, “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.”<sup>1</sup> NASB



Radical preterism (also known as “realized eschatology” or the “A.D. 70 doctrine”) is so “off the wall”—biblically speaking—that one wonders how anyone ever falls for it. But they do. And as exasperating as it is, the doctrine needs to be addressed from time to time. One writer, in reviewing the A.D. 70 heresy, recently quipped that dealing with preterism is like cleaning the kitty litter box; one hates to fool with it, but it has to be done. He can just be thankful that cats aren’t larger than they are.

Preterists strive for consistency in their view of Bible prophecy. The goal is admirable. But when a series of propositions is linked, and they are grounded on the same faulty foundation, when one of them topples—like dominos in a line—they all fall. So it is with the A.D. 70 theory.

Here is the problem. In studying the New Testament material relative to the “coming” of Christ, preterists note that:

1. There are passages which seem to speak of the nearness of the Lord’s coming—from a first-century vantage point (cf. James 5:8);
2. They observe that there are texts which indicate a “coming” in connection with the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 (cf. Matthew 24:30);
3. Combining these, they conclude that the Savior’s “second coming” must have transpired in A.D. 70; and
4. Furthermore, since the Scriptures are clear as to the fact that the resurrection of the dead, the judgment day, and the end of the world will all occur on the day the Lord returns, the advocates of realized eschatology are forced to “spiritualize” these several happenings, contending that all will take place at the same time. In this “interpretive” process, a whole host of biblical terms must be redefined in order to make them fit the scheme.

And so, while preterists attempt to be consistent, it is nonetheless a sad reality that they are consistently wrong!

---

<sup>1</sup> Olan Hicks, *The AD 70 Theory of Last Things*

A major fallacy of the preterist mentality is a failure to recognize the elasticity of chronological jargon within the context of biblical prophecy. It is a rather common trait in prophetic language that an event, while literally in the remote future, may be described as near. The purpose in this sort of language is to emphasize the certainty of the prophecy's fulfillment.

There are numerous prophecies of this nature, including passages like James 5:8—"the coming of the Lord is at hand." James could not have been predicting the literally imminent return of the Savior, for such knowledge was not made available to the Lord's penmen. Not even Jesus himself knew of the time of His return to earth (Matthew 24:36, "*But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.*")<sup>2</sup>

There are serious problems with the teaching of this doctrine. A few are mentioned below and we will examine these and more as we develop this document.

1. Baptism is paralleled to the resurrection of Christ (*Romans 6:3-5*), but seeing that the resurrection is supposedly past, does baptism have any validity?
2. The Lord's Supper was to be observed *until He comes* (*1 Corinthians 11:26*), but if *He has come*, then where is the authority to continue to partake?
3. Jesus said concerning the resurrection of the dead that they, "*neither marry, nor are given in marriage*" (*Luke 20:35*). If the resurrection has already happened, then Christians do not have the right to marry.
4. Jesus also noted that after the resurrection, "*neither can they die anymore*" (*Luke 20:35*). If this is not literal, then it is spiritual, and if that is the case then the A.D. 70 advocates have Jesus teaching that no Christian can fall away after the destruction of Jerusalem. In closing, these people have joined Hymenaeus and Philetus in affirming that the resurrection is past already (*2 Timothy 2:16-19*).<sup>3</sup>

As we continue our search and exposure of this false doctrine that has up

---

<sup>2</sup> Jackson, Wayne. 2005. *The A. D. 70 Theory*. Stockton, CA: Christian Courier Publications and Sproul, R. C. 1999. *The Christian News*, June 7.

<sup>3</sup> Mark Dunagan/Beaverton Church of Christ/503-644-9017

set so many Christians lately, I will do my best to give you book, chapter, and verse for everything that I say about their teaching. I have given all diligence to let Scripture interpret Scripture, and at the same time avoid any misuse of Scripture. Some prophecies are admittedly difficult, but allowing the Scriptures to naturally unfold their meaning, I believe I follow the safest approach in reaching truth. [emphasis mgb]

## Introduction

Because of the serious effect this heresy has had upon individuals and entire churches, it is necessary that it be exposed for what it is - *a perversion of the gospel of Christ. It is not a harmless, private conviction which can be held without hurting oneself and others, but a pernicious theory of error which engulfs the soul of men in destructive heresy.* “The time to inform our people on this subject is now, while it is a simple matter of teaching them on the issues involved. But if we wait, then we may awake one of these days to find ourselves fighting this issue in our own backyards and congregations . . .” I do not say this to criticize any brother, preacher, or church for becoming concerned now rather than sooner. I am pointing this out in an effort to convince any who may continue to be skeptics that we need for you to rise up and help face down this plague. The doctrine known primarily as the A.D. 70 doctrine is completely false from top to bottom. It denies the truth of God’s word and it damns the souls of those who embrace it. Furthermore, no congregation who loves and respects the truth and integrity of Scripture can in any way, shape, matter, or form offer, in the slightest, any fellowship to the doctrine or to those who hold to it.

### Changing the Lord’s Church

In order for change agents to accomplish their goals, they must deconstruct the language, motives, and parameters of the kingdom of Christ and convince others to incorporate their new reality.

They must change the thoughts of their brethren at their outset by altering the way Scripture is understood. Traditional hermeneutics must be discredited and replaced with a more malleable method. Once accom-

plished, the church can be steered toward their desired goal.

In the Garden of Eden, Satan approaches Eve and incites her to violate God's will by eating of the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He makes three propositions and convinces her to sin. Subsequently Adam sins and they are expelled from the Garden (Genesis 3).

"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field..." (Genesis 3:1, NKJV). Wisely, Satan presented truth to Eve interspersed with enough error to lead her astray. The right excised or added word can lead to wholly different results.

God said, "you shall surely die" (Genesis 2:17). Satan cooed that God said they would "not surely die" (Genesis 3:4). God meant spiritual death while Satan likely referred to physical death. His subtle change was designed to create doubt in the mind of Eve.

Satan's deception involved the following changes. First, he attacked the perception of what God said. Second, he altered the definitions of words. Third, he played on her vanity by insisting that God was trying to prevent her from attaining her fullest potential. In other words, God was scared of her innate freedom.

Change agents today do the same things as they seek to pull people away from truth. First, they attack the perception of what God's Word says. They constantly go back to the Restoration Movement and catalog any instance they can use to chip away at our heritage. If they believed or practiced something in the Restoration, then why don't we?

Second, change agents alter the definition of words. A Christian becomes just a person who is sincerely following Christ rather than what Scripture prescribes as a believer immersed for the remission of sins who is being obedient to Christ.

Baptism is altered until it is a shell of its scriptural definition. Church becomes much more expansive than what Christ began and salvation becomes much less than what Jesus desired.

Third, change agents play on the vanity of man to expand the borders of fellowship in the church. They belittle brethren for being narrow minded, selfish, exclusive, snobby, and legalistic for seeking to be in the sanctified

Church of Christ. Derisive laughter meets those who attempt to maintain the fellowship God desires. By playing on people's emotions and guilt, they hope to shame people into submission. Change agents must reorient people to a new reality where all the rules have changed. They are savvy enough to know that these changes will be painful and provoke opposition. Therefore, they are very patient in their efforts. That which is bearing fruit today was sown many years ago. Those who are evaluating their proposals need to see the dangers of their poison fruit.

So with that said, now I hope you can see that there is a desperate need to expose the AD 70 change agents for what they are—first cousins to the “snake” of the Garden of Eden. Like Satan, they express that God said they would “not surely die” (Genesis 3:4).<sup>4</sup>

(NOTE: I have used several sermons, debates, and essays published by other men. I make no apology. It was necessary due to the lack of knowledge that I possessed at the beginning of this exercise. I wanted to cover as many topics as possible so there is some overlap between articles. I now understand this heresy that is currently gaining steam among the Lord's church. It must be stopped. The eldership of the local assemblies of the Lord's church must keep men such as teach this heresy out of our pulpits. It is hard to believe that mature Christian men that have once believed can fall so low as to believe the teaching of the AD 70 doctrine. I pray for their souls!)

### **Hebrews 10:26-27, 31**

*“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fierceness of fire which shall devour the adversaries...(verse 31) It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”*

---

<sup>4</sup> Richard Mansel, managing editor, [http://www.forthright.net/editorial/lend\\_a\\_hand.html](http://www.forthright.net/editorial/lend_a_hand.html), <http://www.forthright.net>, Forthright Magazine, May 14, 2009 Edition