

THE CONTINUOUS HISTORIC INTERPRETATION VINDICATED

WHICH INTERPRETATION?

Saw in Part 1 that only the Bible contains prophecy – but how do we interpret it? At least 4 views around.

1. There is no such thing as prophecy – there is nothing to interpret, it is all coincidence.
This was covered in Part 1 there is plenty of evidence of fulfilled prophecy around today!
2. The Preterite view – most of Bible prophecy (particularly in **Revelation**) has already been fulfilled.
Saw in Part 1 that this was around in N.T. times (**2 Tim.2v16-18**) and was condemned by Paul.
This view is totally dependent on **Revelation** being written & in circulation in Judea before AD66.
The testimony of history is that Revelation was written at the end of the reign of Domitian i.e. AD96.
Read Horae Apocalypticae by Elliott - <https://archive.org/stream/horaeapocalyptic01elli#page/n4/mode/1up>
30 pages of evidence for the later date. The Preterite view lacks detail & some symbols just don't fit.
3. The Futurist view was also around it Bible times (**2 Pet.3v1-4** etc.) & was equally condemned.
It claims that everything in **Revelation** after the 4th seal in **ch.6** is still to be fulfilled.
All of these events will happen during a 3½ (or 7?) year period at the time of the coming of Christ.
Because all these things are future, this view cannot identify what the symbols portend. It is therefore of no practical help to believers to help them understand what God is doing in the world now – or what current events mean in the context of the return of Christ & the coming of the kingdom.
4. The Continuous Historic view – that God has revealed a continuous sequence of events from Bible times to the establishment of the Kingdom – so that his servants can know where they are in prophecy.

So, how has God worked in the past – can we find clues in already fulfilled prophecies which will help us to understand those prophecies which are yet to be fulfilled?

HOW TO INTERPRET PROPHECY

We need to realise that there are different kinds of prophecy in the Bible & which kind we may be looking at.

Jer.28 – in the temple, reign of Zedekiah, 2 prophets **v.1-4** the false message **v.12-14** the true word of Yahweh.

Then **v.15-17** – a prophecy fulfilled at the time – short term, no further application – but Jeremiah vindicated.

Ps.2 – no title, but written by David (**Acts 4v25**) **v.1-6** – there was a fulfilment at the beginning of the reign of David. Philistines against him, he took Zion & sat there as king, received the promise and then defeated all other nations.

Acts 4v24-28 – a 2nd (remarkable) fulfilment. **Rev.19v15 & 2v26-27** – a further fulfilment by Christ in the K'dom.

Here is a prophecy which has a triple fulfilment – each one verified by the testimony of Scripture itself.

Dan.2, 7 & 8 – are sequential prophecies and provide a framework into which other details can be fitted.

These prophecies are clearly Continuous and Historic, identifying Babylon, MedoPersia, Greece & Rome.

They then foretell further developments in the territory of Rome right through till the Latter Days.

Zech.14 – particularly **v3-4** – is a prophecy with one fulfilment – in the Latter Days – Olivet only splits once!

THE PROPHECY OF JOEL

Look now at 3 prophecies which I believe are Continuous & Historic. Compare Scripture with History step by step.

Joel 1 & the 1st ½ of **Ch.2** – a great invasion of Israel – is this by Assyrian or Babylon or Rome?

Clues? **2v15-20** – 1 a working temple, 2 a promise of blessing, 3 the northern army removed by the power of God.

This can only be the Assyrian invasion in the time of Hezekiah. Then **2v23-26** parallels **Is.37v30** fruitfulness.

2v.28 is quoted in **Acts 2v16ff** and applied by Peter to the Spirit Gifts at Pentecost. **2v32 = Rom.10v13**.

Thus these verses move us on in time to foretell the preaching of the gospel in the 1st Century.

v.30-31 is therefore the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in AD70, after which Israel went into long captivity.

3v1 is our times Judah in 1948 & Jerusalem in 1967 **v.4f** – see part 1 is also now being fulfilled.

v.2 is UN resolution 181 “The partition of Palestine” **v.12-14** is Armageddon language. **v.11b** is Christ & saints

v.17-18 is the Kingdom. Thus the prophecy of Joel is Continuous and Historic from Hezekiah to the Kingdom.

THE OLIVET PROPHECY

It has been suggested that that **Mt.24 & Mk.13** are about the future but **Lk.21** is a prophecy of AD 70.

If you analyse the prophecy – >40% of the words in **Lk** are same as **Mt / Mk**. 27 key phrases of **Mt & Mk** also occur in **Lk** + 5 more in **Mt** or **Mk** – it is the same prophecy, about the same sequence of events!

It has been suggested that the Pope on Temple Mount 12/5/09 fulfilled **Mk.13v14**? So who should flee, from what?

The whole of the Olivet prophecy is a sequence from Jesus day to the kingdom – take **Mt.24v6-21** notice the time words – Jesus was describing an unfolding sequence of events that they could follow and be ready at the right point.

Digression **v.21** – describes the greatest ever tribulation on the Jews – not the same as **Dan.12v1** Israel are saved!

Mt.24v.28 – the Roman eagles gathered around the carcass of the Jewish nation in AD70. Then we have the

tribulation which has fallen on the Jews since AD70, the final eclipse of the human government of Israel as foretold

in **Joel 3** followed by **v.30** – the return of Christ, fulfilment of **Zech.12**, **Dan.7** & **Dt.30** + the exhortation **watch**.

This prophecy, like the prophecy of **Joel** is Continuous and Historic – from the time of Jesus to the Kingdom.

2 THESSALONIANS 2v1-8

Widely quoted as predicting the rise of a future Antichrist at the time of the end. It contains 4 elements:

1. 1st an apostasy would come in the ecclesia – plenty of 1st Century evidence for this – **2 Tim.1v15 & 4v4**.
2. Then the removal of a restraining power – Tertullian, a Christian of Cathage 2nd / 3rd C, & a prolific writer – quotes **2 Thess.2** & says that the restraining power was the Pagan Roman Empire.

In AD312 that pagan power was overthrown by Constantine & the Empire became "Christian".

3. This enabled the power of the Bishop of Rome to grow. He claimed he is [Vicar of Christ, God on earth](#). Yet the Popes did not manifest the spirit of Christ – hence even Catholic Archbishops in the Middle Ages applied **2 Thess.2** to the Pope – so within the Church it was seen as prophetic of the Papacy.
4. Now yet to come is the day of the Lord & the destruction of the Man of Sin.

Thus this prophecy also is Continuous and Historic – dating from Paul's day to the future coming of Christ.

This how God has always worked through his prophets & this series will show the same pattern in **Revelation**.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

A unique book – **1v3** there is nothing else like this in Scripture – it promises blessing & rewards for the responsible.

22:14 – must keep **what** things? Many instructions in the book, many commandments, many warnings to saints.

Some may say: [Why is all this so important? Do we all have to believe the same thing? Can't we just ignore the book of Revelation & concentrate on following Jesus?](#) How do we answer these questions?

Rev.15:2-4 a prophecy about the Saints! (All expositors agree). Need to know the beast to be victorious over it!

Rev.18:4 – again about the Saints! (All agree). We need to know who the woman is before we can separate!

These & many other references show that a correct understanding of **Revelation** is vitally important.

Rev.16:15 – where does this illustration come from? **Ex.32** – Joshua watching faithfully & the ecclesia below sunk in idolatry. What should **we** be watching? – The context is God gathering the nations to

Armageddon – see Part 1!

What about the garments? **Rev.3:17-18** – Laodicea was therefore an ecclesia similar to that in the wilderness.

Rev.19v9 – will we be called to the Marriage Supper? Yes if we have followed the instructions in **v.7-8**.

We all have a work to do in making ourselves ready for the coming of the Lord – [what is involved?](#)

Ps.45 – a wedding Psalm with an exhortation to bride to be – **v.10-15** – an inward cleansing is required. The same Hebrew word is used of the cleansing of the temple in the days of Hezekiah in **2 Chron.29v16**.

Also Esther's preparations for her meeting with the King – all that oiling & scraping! We too need to be constantly active.

Rev.20:6 – the promise of being priests & kings. Who will receive this promise? **v.4** – those who have not worshipped the beast – so again, we must be able to identify it! Also, are we witnessing for Jesus? Are we holding forth the Word of God in this age? The new life is not just about being enlightened – there is a responsibility to enlighten others.

Rev.22:14 – contrast this with Adam in **Gen.3!** Note also the Genesis language in **Rev.20-22**.

We can only have a part in these things on the basis of a right understanding of this wonderful book.

22v.12. Let us occupy ourselves diligently in preparing to meet him at his coming.