

Realized Eschatology: 70 AD Doctrine

(Part I)

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **Jn. 8:32** know the truth, truth makes us free

- knowing the truth is the only way to be free from the slavery of false teachers and false doctrines

- **illus.: Mt. Dora congregation, and Web Harris**

- history regarding realized eschatology

- **what has happened to Web:** stopped believing Jesus is God's son, no longer has anything to do with the church

- **what happened to members:** some studied the truth and were strengthened, some stumbled have still have not returned to the Lord

- study of the truth, diligent, was the only way to avoid becoming ensnared by a false teacher, false doctrine

- **importance of this study for us:**

- **Heb. 12:15** to make sure none of us come short of the grace of God by believing the 70 AD doctrine

- **churches dividing today** over the issue, so we **must be on guard**

- **illus.: visiting with family Beth lived with** shortly after becoming a Christian, the man told me that churches of Christ are dividing in Alabama over this issue

➤ **What is Realized Eschatology?**

- “realized eschatology” means the fulfillment of final things – e.g., final judgment already taken place
 - also called
 - **70 AD Doctrine** (more info below)
 - **Fulfilled Eschatology, Covenant Eschatology, Transmillennialism, Preterism** (Full Preterism vs. Partial Preterism), **Kingism** (Max King Doctrine)

- - **the doctrine dates back to the 17th century**
 - **first systematic Preterist exposition** of prophecy was written by the **Luis De Alcasar** during the Counter Reformation
 - **Preterism used to the benefit of the Roman Catholic Church**, in an effort to prove that the Roman Catholic Church wasn't the persecutors of the church prophesied of in the book of Revelation, as the book is interpreted by some
 - **note / beware:** some proponents of Preterism allege that it is the position held in the 1st century of Christians, which is expected

- - **Max King preached this doctrine in churches of Christ**, and wrote a **book** (The Spirit Of Prophecy) on the doctrine in the **early 1970's**
 - **the falseness of this doctrine has been preached about** and written about by brethren over the years
 - **Harry Osborne** preached a sermon on it in 2002 that looks very good from the slides (ReasonForHope.org)
 - **with the recent increased interest among churches of Christ**, and subsequent divisions that are occurring, it's good for us to investigate this doctrine, study, learn why it is false

- - **70 AD doctrine:** this term often used by Christians for realized eschatology
 - **all end time prophesies fulfilled at destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD**
 - e.g., the final coming of Christ, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment, the end of the world
 - all Bible prophesy has been fulfilled – none yet to be fulfilled today
 - ties **all** prophesy in the book of Revelation to 70 AD, and **all relating prophesy in Daniel to 70 AD**
 - i.e., equates prophesy of destruction of Jerusalem by Jesus with end time prophesy in Revelation and Daniel - destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD

- **The perversity of realized eschatology** – not just difference of opinion, but results in damnation
 - realized eschatology results in people turning away from God – weapon of Satan, doctrine of demons
 - **2 Th. 2:1-2** brethren are shaken and falling away as a result – Thessalonians
 - we must take time to study because there are churches splitting over the issue today, and brethren losing their souls as a result

- - people who teach the doctrine are accursed, and people who believe and turn from God are lost
 - **Gal. 1:8-9** brethren teaching the doctrine are accursed
 - **Gal. 1:6; 5:4** brethren who believe it desert God - so they're severed from Christ and fall from grace

- - sin / false doctrines resulting from realized eschatology – areas brethren have stumbled
 - **note:** not know if Max King taught all doctrines resulting from 70 AD doctrine, but they are conclusions brethren make from the doctrine, resulting in falling away

- We shouldn't observe the Lord's Supper today
 - **1 Cor. 11:26** false doctrine: since Jesus has come, and we are to only observe the Lord's Supper till He comes, we are not to observe today – incorrect on several levels, including the word "until"
 - **1 Cor. 11:27-32** result of obeying false doctrine: spiritual weakness and death (sleep), condemned (vs. 30, 32)

- - Jesus doesn't rule over God's kingdom today
 - **1 Cor. 15:24, 28** false doctrine: end has already come, so Jesus has handed the kingdom over to the Father and He no longer reigns – don't obey Jesus today – incorrect on several levels

- - Since Jesus doesn't rule over the kingdom, the gospel isn't in effect for us today
 - not saved by obeying the gospel – not saved by being baptized for forgiveness of sins

- - Since Jesus doesn't rule over the kingdom: – removes obedience to Jesus and terms of salvation
 - we don't assemble with saints – disobey God by not assembling with saints, not go to church
 - we don't live under the law of Christ – disobey Christ
 - we don't have to obey the word of God – disobey the word

- - Since the judgment has already passed, we are not judged in the future – no judgment, removes fear

- realized eschatology is an extremely perverse doctrine
 - results in sin in many areas
 - destroys fundamental beliefs essential to salvation

➤ **Immediate contradictions to Scripture show the absurdity of realized eschatology**

- usually find that false doctrines are absurd on the surface, when if examine them with the **simple truth** of the gospel – **problem is that some people unwilling to accept simple truth**

- **illus.: baby is born in sin**, inherits the sin of Adam

- **Ezek. 18:4, 20** don't inherit anyone's sin

- **illus.: don't have to be baptized to be saved**

- **Mk. 16:16** Jesus, believe and baptized, saved – **1 Pet. 3:16**

- **illus.: God predestined some people to be lost in hell**, and there's nothing they can do about it

- **1 Tim. 2:4** God desires all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth

- **immediate contradictions to realized eschatology, showing all prophesy has not been fulfilled**, and therefore we **understand 70 AD doctrine is a false doctrine**

➤ - **Jn. 5:28-29** **bodies (people) still in graves**, still adding bodies, exhume bodies sometimes

- all prophesy not fulfilled – 70 AD doctrine false

➤ - **1 Th. 4:15-17** **Christians living on earth have not risen up** to meet the Lord in the air

- all prophesy not fulfilled – 70 AD doctrine false

➤ - **1 Cor. 15:24** **all authority and rule and power have not been abolished**, evidenced by men ruling over world **nations** – **thus Christ has not handed over the kingdom to God**

- all prophesy not fulfilled – 70 AD doctrine false

➤ - **1 Cor. 15:54-57** **there is still sin and death** in the world

- all prophesy not fulfilled – 70 AD doctrine false

➤ - **Heb. 12:27-29** **the last shaking of kingdoms has not occurred**, because **world kingdoms** are still in existence – **illus.: USA**

- all prophesy not fulfilled – 70 AD doctrine false

➤ - **2 Pet. 3:6-7, 10** **earth has not been destroyed with fire** – **text: physical destruction, like flood**

- all prophesy not fulfilled – 70 AD doctrine false

- **Why are these contradictions dismissed by people who believe realized eschatology?**

- **Max King developed a hermeneutic** to support his doctrine, which categorizes these things as happening **spiritually rather than literally**

- **more about this in the next lesson**

- **end Part I**

- **stop here, not want to cover too much at a time**, so can digest what we study as we go

- **future lessons examine important components of the 70 AD**, so when we hear them we understand

- **inv.:** the end has not come, Jesus is still ruling over the kingdom, so you can still be saved by obeying Him