

“SAYING THAT THE RESURRECTION IS ALREADY PAST”

INTRODUCTION

A. Revelation 1:1, 3

Many fail to realize that the Revelation pertained to events near at hand when it was written, namely the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman army in A.D. 70. That topic deserves a thorough treatment, and we have spent time on it before, but it is not our subject herein.

B. 2nd Timothy 2:16-18

Sadly, some who accept the early fulfillment of that prophecy have taken that A.D. 70 date and run with it to applications never intended by the Holy Spirit. The A.D. 70 Theory – also known as “Full Preterism,” “Realized Eschatology,” or the “Max King Doctrine” – teaches that all Bible prophecy was fulfilled in or by A.D. 70, including the resurrection and judgment. Just because some major prophecy was fulfilled in the first century, it does not follow that all of it was.

I. IF CHRIST ALREADY CAME, THE LORD’S SUPPER IS A RELIC OF A BYGONE ERA

A. 1st Corinthians 11:23-26

The Lord’s Supper is a proclamation of Christ’s death *“till He comes.”* If that happened already, then there is no need to keep breaking this bread.

B. Acts 20:7

Breaking bread is the primary purpose for assembling.

C. Hebrews 10:24-25

The notion Christ has already come would do away with gathering the saints, not just because the Lord’s Supper’s purpose is over and gone, but also because the exhortation it provides is only useful while the “Day” is *“approaching.”* If the Day is past, then assembling is useless.

II. IF THE RESURRECTION IS PAST, MARRIAGE IS NULL

A. Matthew 22:30

Marriage does not transcend the resurrection.

B. Hebrews 13:4; 1st Corinthians 6:18

Yet, marriage is still honorable and fornication is still sinful.

III. IF THE RESURRECTION IS PAST, DEATH IS IMPOSSIBLE

A. Luke 20:34-36

Not only will marriage terminate at the resurrection, but so, too, will death.

B. 1st Corinthians 15:35-58

When mortality ceases, spiritual bodies will replace natural ones. On average, 150,000 people die every day on this planet.

IV. IF THE RESURRECTION IS PAST, BAPTISM IS IRRELEVANT

A. Romans 6:3-5

Baptism is a burial of the old man of sin to unite with Christ's death in order to be like Him in the resurrection.

B. 1st Corinthians 15:29

Baptism is focused on the hope of the resurrection. If the resurrection already occurred, then baptism is moot.

V. IF THE JUDGMENT IS PAST, THE UNIVERSE SHOULD BE, TOO

A. John 6:40; 12:48

Jesus spoke of a "last day" on which there will be a resurrection and judgment.

B. 2nd Peter 3:7-13

When comes the judgment, the material realm will cease:

1. *"The heavens will pass away" (10)*
2. *"The elements will melt with fervent heat" (10 & 12)*
3. *"The earth and the works that are in it will be burned up" (10)*

4. *“All these things will be dissolved” (11), “The heavens will be dissolved, being on fire” (12)*

CONCLUSION

A. Ephesians 4:4-6; Romans 8:24

There is only one hope and, for hope to be hope, it must be set on that which is invisible and intangible. The A.D. 70 Theory gives one hope to a very specific generation, those who lived between A.D. 33 and A.D. 70, while leaving all who follow utterly bereft of hope.

B. 1st Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

It is, emphatically, a comfort to Christians to know the order of events in the last day and to be aware that none shall be left out.