



The Sword & The Plow

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A RATIONAL PRETERIST RESPONSE TO WAYNE JACKSON'S: 'THE MENACE OF RADICAL PRETERISM.'

Or,

WHEN WAS ALL SCRIPTURE FULFILLED?

Morry Lee.

*"Christianity is not above thought. Christianity must prove that it is in agreement with the Laws of Thought."
A. Schweitzer*

SOME TIME AGO the Christian Courier editor Wayne Jackson wrote a pretty slanted article ('The Menace of Radical Preterism.'¹) against, what he

called, 'Radical' Preterism.² He used some rather emotive and pretty unkind images to convey his 'anti-Radical Preterist' bias. He said Preterism was so...

¹ Undated article at <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/91-menace-of-radical-preterism-the>

² **Preter** means 'past.' Its antonym is 'future.' Preterism is the idea that all End-time prophecy was fulfilled in the first century in Jesus' own generation.

“‘off the wall’ (biblically speaking) that one wonders how anyone ever falls for it? A major fallacy; How can clear passages ...be ignored? Advocates of this bizarre dogma... 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.”

This stuff is not logically helpful. The article was long on rhetoric and short on argument. So, just what is it Editor Jackson so violently opposes?

Essentially, at its bare bones, he objects to the ‘*bizarre*’ notion that ***ALL scripture was fulfilled in Jesus’ own generation in the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.***

That’s it – ALL of it.

This cuts to the very heart of the ***Preterism vs. Futurism*** debate. You may ignore most everything else. Was ***all*** scripture fulfilled in Jesus’ contemporary generation? Fulfilment is the essential issue which subsumes every particular argument. If ALL scripture was *fulfilled* in Jesus’ generation, then ALL scripture must be *explained* in Jesus’ generation.

Our esteemed Editor hates this idea. He calls this idea a ‘menace.’ He is indignant that some Christians propose it. He is offended that other Christians believe it. He is offended by everybody who teaches it. He is offended I teach it! But aside from his conversation, is Wayne Jackson correct? Let’s simplify things before we have a closer look.

Most simply, the matter can be resolved in ***only three*** easy choices; ALL, SOME, or NONE. The options look like this.

#1. **ALL** scripture was fulfilled in Jesus’ . (A *Preterist* model)

#2. **SOME** scripture was fulfilled in Jesus’ generation, but SOME is in our future. (Hybrid *Partial-Futurist* model)

#3. **NO** scripture was fulfilled in Jesus’ generation. (A *Fully-Futurist* model.)

Jackson eliminates option #3 as too extreme. He rightly surmises that ***SOME*** things *promised* to people in a first century book must *apply* to people in the first century – so he eliminates ***NONE***. He holds to position #2, ***SOME*** scripture was fulfilled in the first century. Thus the whole force of friend Jackson’s righteous rhetoric is ratcheted up against those who deny his own (#2) view and believe #1, because he knows, logically that if ***ALL*** fulfilment was in *that generation*, then it must be explained then...and his theory can’t do that, so he believes it’s ***heresy***³ to affirm #1.

‘*How can anyone ever fall for it?*’ ‘*Bizarre.*’ ‘*Exasperating.*’

So how did we all ‘fall for it?’ How can sincere readers of scripture be so wilful as to enrage our Editor by believing ALL? So let us reason together, and measure the relation between observation, theory, and belief.⁴ Is Jackson’s theory founded on the solid rock of biblical observation, or is it just puff and blow?

³ ***Heresy.*** ‘A religious opinion contrary to church dogma.’ (Webster.) ‘An opinion that stands in opposition to a catholic or orthodox standard of Christian belief; what is accepted.’ (Oxford.) Eg. “*The Copernican astronomy is damnable heresy.*” 1627

⁴ ‘***Measuring the relation between Observation, Theory, and Belief***’ is the rationale of the Australian Association for the Rational Study of Prophecy.

ISSUE: Was; #1. ALL, #2. SOME, or #3. NO scripture to be fulfilled in Jesus' generation?

RULE: True statements correspond to facts in the same terms – our statements must look like the facts they try to explain.⁵ This is the rule used in medicine, law, and science. A statement may be true or false. *True statements correspond to observable facts (Jesus' testimony) in the same words.* It is worth quoting Alexander Campbell on this comparison of observation and fact.

*"All revealed religion is based on facts. Testimony has respect to facts only; and if that testimony is to be credible, it must be confirmed. These points ... deserve some consideration. By 'facts' we always mean something said or done [an act]. The works and words of God, (things done or spoken by God) are those facts which are laid down and exhibited in the Bible as the foundation of all faith, hope, love, piety, and humanity. All true and useful knowledge is an acquaintance with [these] facts; and all true science is acquired from the observation and comparison of facts."*⁶

Which testimony reflects Jesus' words? ALL, SOME, or NO fulfilment in Jesus' generation?

BIBLE FACTS: Which is seen in scripture?

Mtt 23:36 *Truly I say to YOU, ALL THESE THINGS shall come upon THIS GENERATION*

Mtt 24:34 *THIS GENERATION shall not pass away till ALL THESE THINGS [signs⁷]TAKE PLACE*

Mtt 26:64 *YOU [people] shall SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS*

Mk 13:30 *THIS GENERATION will not pass till ALL FULFILLED*

Lk 18:31 *We go up to Jerusalem and...ALL THINGS written by prophets may be ACCOMPLISHED*

Lk 21:22 *THESE are the days of vengeance when ALL THINGS WRITTEN FULFILLED*

Lk 21:32 *THIS GENERATION will not pass till ALL THINGS OCCUR*

Acts 3:24 *ALL PROPHETS from Samuel foretold THESE DAYS*

1 Cor 10:11 *They were written for OUR instruction, upon whom the ENDS OF THE AGES have come*

Hebrews 1:2 *In THESE LAST DAYS*

Hebrews 10:37 *In a LITTLE WHILE the COMING ONE shall come and NOT DELAY*

James 5:7-8 *[You people] Be patient..the COMING (parousia) of the Lord is NEAR...*

James 5:9 *The JUDGE IS STANDING RIGHT AT THE DOOR.*

1 Pet 4:7 *The end of ALL THINGS IS AT HAND*

⁵ In Law, Medicine, and Science, the only objective test of truth is a correspondence between statement and fact in the same terms. See Science: Conjectures and Refutations. Popper, K.R. p.232

⁶ In Religion. Alexander Campbell. The Christian System, p. 90.

⁷ Article 'All thirty signs of Matthew 24 Fulfilled in the first century.' The article may be found at https://www.academia.edu/10550719/ALL_THIRTY_SIGNS_OF_MATTHEW_24_FULFILLED_IN_THE_FIRST_CENTURY

Rev 22:10 Do **NOT SEAL UP PROPHECY**
[Revelation] – the **TIME IS NEAR.**

APPLY RULE TO FACT: The Preterist statement is #1. *ALL scripture was to be fulfilled in Jesus own generation.* What does Matthew and Mark’s evidence say?

“THIS GENERATION shall not pass away till ALL THESE THINGS [signs ⁸] TAKE PLACE.”
Jesus. Mtt 24:34; Mk 13:30.

Wayne Jackson calls this ‘**heresy.**’ He declares in banner headlines that Radical Preterism, (ie. ALL) is a ‘**Menace.**’ Following are seven rational arguments to rebut Jackson’s contentions.

1. *Rebuttal from Correspondence.*
2. *Rebuttal from Theoretical Principles.*
3. *Rebuttal from a State of Affairs.*
4. *Rebuttal from Methodological Principles.*
5. *Rebuttal from Three Laws of Thought.*
6. *Rebuttal exposing Jackson’s Circular Reasoning.*
7. *Rebuttal from the Simplicity Principle.*

1. Rebuttal of Jackson from Correspondence.

Jackson’s statement is ALL SCRIPTURE was NOT to be FULFILLED in Jesus’ generation. The rule is *true statements correspond to observable fact in the same words.* Jesus said in Mtt 24:34; Mk 13:30 says;
‘ALL WILL BE FULFILLED IN THIS GENERATION.’

⁸ **The word ‘things’** here functions as a pronoun. (A word that stands in place of a noun.) The context begins in Mtt 24:3 with the questions; “*When will these THINGS . (Greek tauta estai) be, and what will be the SIGN of your coming and the end of the age?*” Thirty one verses later in Mtt 24:34 Jesus speaks of the fulfilment of ‘ALL THINGS.’ (*panta tauta*) Approximately thirty signs are listed between 24:3 and 24:34 which precede the end of the age.

His statement does not correspond in the same terms. We conclude therefore his statement is untrue.

Jackson’s model *takes from Jesus’ His very own words!* He denies ALL was to be fulfilled in that generation. Jesus said “ALL.” Jackson’s implies ‘SOME.’ Who is right? Where is a ‘*Thus saith the Lord*’ for this theory?’ What saith scripture? Did Jesus go to Jerusalem so SOME things may be accomplished, or did He go to *Jerusalem so...*

ALL THINGS may be ACCOMPLISHED.” Lk 18:31

Jackson’s denies these words. The rule is; true beliefs correspond to observable fact *in the same words.* We know;

Every word of God is pure; He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him.” Prov 30:5

To our Editor every word of God is pure...*except ‘ALL.’* He has a phobia about ALL. He declares war on ‘**ALL FULFILLED IN THIS GENERATION.**’ He declares it impure. He calls it a ‘**menace.**’ He asks; **“How can clear passages ...be ignored?”**

He may well ask ‘**How?**’ So do we! If ignoring clear facts obscures the pure word of God, Jackson’s theory flat-out denies it.

But only three options logically exist in that generation, and ALL excludes SOME and NONE. By the rule of correspondence therefore only a conclusion of ALL is required.

Again, were ALL, SOME or NO things accomplished in *Jesus’ days of Vengeance?* What is seen? Of his own generation Jesus said;
THESE are the days of vengeance when ALL THINGS WRITTEN FULFILLED. Lk 21:22

Again our Editor denies Jesus' own words. Did Jesus make a mistake when He promised to 'fulfill ALL things written in those days.' He calls Jesus' own words, "**A major fallacy.**" I learnt at Sunday school "The bible tells us so." But Editor Jackson declaims; 'It is NOT so.' Why can't he give Jesus back His own words? Who to believe, Jesus or Jackson?

What is observed in ALL is a correspondence between *first century statement (Preterism ALL) and first century fact (Jesus ALL) in the same terms.*

In other words, 'Jesus fulfilled all promises to the people to whom He gave those promises.' Jackson is unmoved by this reasoning from the natural first century context. He grumbles about

"Advocates of this bizarre dogma...the A.D. 70 heresy.."

and denies clear passages because, a) his theory can't explain it in the first century, and b) his '*Literal-so-still-Future-to-me*' theory requires the universe to end for him.

This first point is simple correspondence to observable fact; ALL scripture was to be fulfilled in that generation. The next issue raises a question as to the nature of Mr. Jackson's *methodology*.

2. Rebuttal of Jackson from Methodological Principles.

A theory is merely an explanation of facts. Where there are no facts to explain, no theory is needed. Reliable theories especially explain the relations *between* facts without denying them. Here is an easy-to-remember sketch of theory-making in three letters, *S.A.P.*

A reliable theory has three parts following the acronym *S.A.P.* A good theory is *Suggested* by facts, it *Answers* more and more facts, and then it *Predicts* unknown facts. As *sap* is the lifeblood of a living tree, so the *S.A.P.* of facts is the lifeblood of a reliable theory. Facts flow throughout a living theory. True theories are always accountable only to the facts. Firstly S -

SUGGESTED by facts means an hypothesis should *look like, or resemble* the facts it is trying to explain. Let's take the easy example of a tree on a distant hill. Imagine we two pedestrians see it from a distance. Distantly the tree-top *looks like a* Gum tree canopy. The leaves *appear to be* Gum tree leaves; we *observe* the same structure, shape and color. These initial *observations* suggest the hypothesis; 'It might be a Gum tree.' This observational process is called *saving the appearances of the facts*. Secondly A -;

We observe this statement then ANSWERS more and more facts. A reliable theory should *unite* more and more facts under the same simple premise. It continues to *answer* a wide variety of facts. It *explains* and *organises* more answers to more questions. On getting closer we observe a Gum tree trunk, Gum tree bark, Gum tree branches, and Gum tree nuts at the base of the tree. We see a koala bear eating the Eucalypt leaves. The suggestion of a Gum tree uniformly *answers all* these facts. It seems to *explain all* available facts. It *combines them* into a unity and *makes sense* of the data very simply. Now we have a *Provisional Theory* to test. The next stage is the most difficult stage, and usually final proof of a theory. Thirdly P -

A good theory must PREDICT the unseen and unknown. If our explanation is correct, our tree must have Gum tree roots! The third bit is like a crossword puzzle. If you have

the two *down*-words correct, you can almost guess the missing *across*-word. We excavate a hole and analyze a piece of buried tree root in the lab. Aha! It's a Gum tree root. We conclude our theory with confidence. **It's a Gum tree.**

In constructing our S.A.P. theory we never altered the facts. Our inferences were always accountable only to the facts; our reason was limited only to explaining *the relations between* facts, *leaves, trunk, nuts and root* like this:

Fact 1 | ← → | Facts 2- 3 | ← → | Fact 4|

Suggests Gum / Answers Gum / Predicts Gum.

Conclusion - Therefore it's a Gum tree.

The simple mnemonic S.A.P. is basic to all factual explanations. A reliable theory neither adds nor subtracts to the facts. It merely observes and explains the relations *between* facts. As sap is the lifeblood of a living tree in the natural world, so facts are the lifeblood of a living theory in the intellectual world.

Oppositely a poor theory is not suggested by fact, does not answer the facts, and predicts no facts. Fictions ignore, deny, or reason away real facts, and invent 'special rules,' (ie. plausible excuses) for its defense. Now to apply this to our friend Jackson. His view breaks all three rules of a reliable theory.

He denies the fact ALL. (SOME is not suggested by *any* biblical fact. **Strike 1.**) His view fails to answer or explains *any* time fact. (**Strike 2.**) Finally it fails to predict *any* testable fact. (**Strike 3. You know what happens then.**)

Worse yet, his hypothetical future second coming functions only to dismiss bible facts and conveniently shuffle the fulfillment off

into the safe and secure future that we cannot observe or test.

But where are the 2000 year time facts he implies? There are none. Instead, his mind-spinning logic denies the very facts it should be trying to explain. In fact, it doesn't even get as far as observation, the very first step of a reliable theory. This is methodologically absurd. It is poor logic and worse religion. The rule is; "*When our theories do not fit the facts, our theories, not facts, must change.*"⁹

If ANY prophecy of the temple was fulfilled in Jesus' generation, then ALL must be fulfilled. That is the full import of Jesus' testimony.

A time theory that's not suggested by time facts, denies time facts and predicts none, can only be ignored.¹⁰ Our Editor must reconsider his time theory in the light of the bible's chronological facts.

Next, consider his view against *the Laws of Thought, the expression of the necessary mode of working of the human mind.*¹¹

3. Rebuttal of Jackson from Three Laws of Thought.

In their classic Introduction to Logic and Scientific Method, Morris Cohen and Ernest Nagel describe three Laws of Thought, in particular; *the principle of identity, the principle of contradiction, and the principle*

⁹ *The Simplicity of Science.* Beck, Stanley M. Penguin. 1962

¹⁰ *Introduction to Logic and Scientific Method.* Cohen, M. and Nagel, E. Routledge and Keegan. 1961

¹¹ *We are all Scientists.* Huxley, T. p. 16 In Treasury of Science. Shapley. Ed.

of excluded middle. These sound unfamiliar, but they are really very basic.

Firstly the principle of identity says simply ‘whatever is, is.’ Not hard. If a thing is A, then it is A. If a proposition is true then it is true. The Preterist case Jesus says A is A;

“*TRULY THIS GENERATION shall not pass away till ALL THESE THINGS [signs] TAKE PLACE.*”
Mtt 24:34

Friend Jackson would affirm with us Jesus tells the truth. Jesus said: “Truly, ALL fulfillment in this generation.” (Ie. “Truly A is true,” then A is true.)

Our friend denies this ‘Preterist’ conclusion. His confused view implies only SOME (signs) were fulfilled in Jesus’ own generation. Why?

Jesus said; “ALL A [signs] would be fulfilled before this [contemporary] generation passes away is A.” Our Editor says A is NOT A. he calls it a **’bizarre dogma.’** But ALL is still ALL.

He transgresses *the first law of thought, the principle of identity.* ALL promises were fulfilled to the people to whom are identified in the first century.

Secondly, the principle of contradiction excludes a thing from both being A and not being A. No proposition can contradict itself and be both true and false. I cannot be false for them but true for us at the same time. Jesus said;

“*TRULY THIS GENERATION shall not pass away till ALL THESE THINGS [signs] TAKE PLACE.*”
Mtt 24:34

Futurism contradicts itself by saying; (1) Jesus keeps His promises, then (2) denies

He kept ALL His promises in that generation. Both statements cannot be true.

Either ALL SCRIPTURES *were* fulfilled or they *were not.* ALL in Matthew 24:34 cannot be **true for Jackson** 2015, but **false for them** in AD 30. Our editor cannot deny ALL promises were NOT fulfilled then, but say Jesus NEVER breaks promises.

Either Jesus (ALL) is right and the Editor (SOME) wrong, or Jesus was wrong and the Editor right. Who is contradicting whom here?

Jackson’s Futurism transgresses our second law of thought, the principle of contradiction: is Jesus or Jackson right?.

Thirdly, the principle of excluded middle says a thing is either A or not A. Any proposition may be either true or false, but not both. Jesus says;

“*TRULY THIS GENERATION shall not pass away till ALL THESE THINGS [signs] TAKE PLACE.*”
Mtt 24:34

Futurism holds that Jesus *did not* FULFILL ALL THINGS IN HIS GENERATION. But it also holds that Jesus did not lie or break His promise.

The *principle of excluded middle* says a thing cannot **both be** A and **not be** A. Any proposition is either true or false. Either Jesus DID fulfill ALL things in that generation or he DID NOT. One cannot have ones’ chocolate sponge-cake and eat it at the same time, which is what our Editor wishes to do.

We must question him, on what basis can Jesus’ promises fail in the first century, but succeed for us in the light of that failure? Either ALL Jesus’ word failed or it did not, *but not both.*

This transgresses our third law of thought, the principle of excluded middle. It is dizzying.

But on the other hand a Preterist model gives back to Jesus His own words; ALL things fulfilled in that generation. (Mtt 24:34.) This is consistent with all three principles of; *identity*, (A=A) *non-contradiction*, (A is not contradicted) and *excluded middle*, (A is only A). The logic of what the Editor dismally calls a ‘Menace’ holds because Jesus’ words hold. This only proves that;

‘Logic is inexorable. Logic can only fail when units of meaning [fact] fail, and no unit has failed yet.’¹²

This is because a first century model corresponds with a first century fulfilment of ALL THINGS in the same terms.

Next, a past model implies that end-times is a singular event in the first century, *The Day of the Lord*.¹³ If this is so, *the evidence should show definite evidence of a first century state of affairs. Is an End-time state of affairs present in scripture?*

4. Rebuttal of Jackson from a State of Affairs.

I like CSI shows on TV. They tell us every accident or crime scene is a unified event containing unique facts of; time, place, identity, materials, motive etc.

No two events are exactly the same as no two people are exactly the same. Unique facts determine what *is* the case and what is *not* the case. All the evidence combines together in a state of affairs. A crime scene, accident, theft, plane crash or war is a

combination of objects or things.¹⁴ In the same way we can determine a biblical End-time state of affairs.

Consider another detail of an ALL fulfillment in the *days of vengeance* in that generation.

*“THESE are the days of vengeance when **ALL THINGS WRITTEN FULFILLED.**”* Lk 21:22

The principle in crime scene or an historical /biblical scene is that;

In logic nothing is accidental: if a thing can occur in a [biblical] state of affairs, the possibility of the [biblical] state of affairs must be written into the thing itself.¹⁵

What is a biblical state of affairs? Matthew and Luke record an ALL fulfilment in their contemporary context;

*‘Verily, **this generation**’ will not pass away until ALL THESE THINGS FULFILLED.’* Mtt 24:34

‘This generation’ is equal to Luke’s *days of vengeance*;

‘These days of vengeance when ALL THINGS FULFILLED.’ Lk 21:22

What is equal to the same thing is equal to each other. Matthew and Luke record ALL THINGS FULFILLED in a state of affairs; ***those days of vengeance in that generation in the first century.*** Witnesses Matthew and Luke are both in agreement.

Let’s make it harder and add more detail. Historically the destruction of the Holy City and end of Mosaic age occurred in AD 70. This constitutes an historical End-time state

¹² **Logic.** Jacque Futrille. 1875-1912

¹³ **Day** of the Lord.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Day_of_the_Lord

¹⁴ **Tractatus** Logico Philosophicus. 1.12; 2.01 adapted

¹⁵ **Tractatus** 2.012 adapted

of affairs. Luke records the prophecy the *Holy City Jerusalem was to be surrounded and trampled underfoot by the Gentiles.*

“And Jerusalem will be surrounded and trampled underfoot by the Gentiles...” Lk 21:20; 24b

When was this fulfilled? All historical authorities (Secular, Jewish, Roman, and Christian.¹⁶) testify this was fulfilled in AD 70 in horrific detail. Luke mirrors John’s prophecy in Revelation 11.

“..and they [Gentiles] will tread the Holy City [only ever Jerusalem in scripture]underfoot for forty two months.” Rev 11:2

In CSI facts fit together organically from the crime, so;

*In a [biblical] state of affairs [biblical] objects fit into one another like the links of a chain.*¹⁷

So the links in our End-time chain are; (1) *the destruction of the Holy City*, (2) *the Olivet prophesy of thirty signs*, (3) *the promise that ALL things would be fulfilled*, in (4) *these days of vengeance.*

These relations stand in determinate relation to one another, like the smoking gun next to a body at a murder scene, for;

*In a [biblical] state of affairs [biblical] objects stand in a determinate relation to one another.*¹⁸

¹⁶ **Jerusalem** trampled AD 70. Historical authorities.
Secular:
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Jerusalem_\(AD_70\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Jerusalem_(AD_70))
Jewish:
<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/revolt.html>
Josephus’ Wars:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Jewish%E2%80%93Roman_War
Christian:
http://biblehub.com/library/schaff/history_of_the_christian_church_volume_i/section_38_the_jewish_war.htm

¹⁷ **Tractatus** 2.03 adapted

¹⁸ **Tractatus** 2.031 adapted

The evidence for this fulfilment is both logically consistent and corresponds to facts in the same terms. From this determinate relation we conclude a definite structure for the End-time, for;

*the determinate way in which [biblical] objects are connected in a [biblical]state of affairs is the [biblical]structure of the state of affairs.*¹⁹

So what does a picture of the biblical structure of End-times look like so far? A model based on observation looks like this.



|← 40 Years →|

The model says; *the Holy city and its Mosaic temple was surrounded and trampled underfoot at the end of the Mosaic age, forty years after Jesus’ prophecy, and in the same generation as the days of vengeance.*

Preterists call this event a divine fulfillment of Jesus’ testimony. Our Editor calls it ‘*a menace.*’ Perhaps he missed the logic of a first century state of affairs -

ALL prophecy was to be fulfilled in Jesus generation. (Mtt 24:34; Mk 13:30)

ALL prophecy included the **trampling of the Holy City Jerusalem in AD 70.** (Lk 21; Rev 11)

Therefore giving Jesus His own words; **Jesus fulfilled ALL prophecy in the**

¹⁹ **Tractatus** 2.032 adapted

destruction of the Holy City in that generation.

Jackson's key concept here is of a partial (denies ALL) relation or dependence between facts. He tries to tell us that a given hypothetically-future fulfillment (Φ) is grounds to *deny A and affirm B* (which is part of A). That is to say he believes:

- 1) that hypothetical (Φ) is a more fundamental fact than observable A, and,
- (2) B holds in virtue of (Φ) based on his own tradition and personal say-so.

In effect, he believes his hypothetical future second coming (Φ 2000 years future) is a more fundamental fact than Jesus' *'at hand'* prophecy of the destruction of the Holy City in AD 70. Thus he can deny ALL and affirm a partial dependence on scripture to maintain a 'literal' fiction. (Φ) This totally destroys the unity of a first century state of affairs without offering a single observable fact.

Bewildering. It is plain ALL is a more fundamental concept than a part, and the Jerusalem prophecy is part of the greater fulfillment of ALL prophecy.

In Preterism the major premise (general idea) is that ALL prophecy was fulfilled in a first century state of affairs – an event. The minor prophecy (particular idea) is the trampling of the HOLY CITY fulfilled in part a first century state of affairs. If any PART was fulfilled, then ALL had to be fulfilled in those days.

This first-century state of affairs is supported by; Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Our Editor hates this idea;

"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."

Nope. No compelling logic there. Our Editor must wish these inconvenient passages might disappear from scripture to save his theory. But let us go on.

In saying NOT ALL prophecy was fulfilled, he implies SOME prophets foretold a MODERN state of affairs 2000 years later. Again, sadly for his theory, there were NO prophets from Samuel who DID NOT foretell *those days of vengeance in that generation* because;

"ALL PROPHEETS from Samuel foretold ***THESE DAYS.***" Acts 3:24

Could our Editor gently explain which prophet *failed* to foretell a fulfillment in Jesus' generation? Luke said ALL prophets (every single one of them) foretold His days. Who to believe, inspired Luke or our Editor's denials?

He denies 'ALL' was fulfilled in Luke's days. He denies Luke's 'these days' relate to the end of the Mosaic age. (AD 70) He denies they are the same 'these days' of Jesus at the destruction of Jerusalem. (AD 70) He denies ALL the prophets foretold Luke's days of vengeance. He denies ALL prophecy was fulfilled.

All this denying makes simple observation pretty confusing, nay, impossible. His statements of denial have no probative force nor foundation in any biblical time fact.

But perhaps this just a nasty *Preterist plot* to peeve Futurists? Sorry, these ideas were written 2000 years ago in a first century state of affairs. The principle is;

*If [biblical] things can occur in a [biblical] state of affairs, this possibility must be in them from the beginning.*²⁰

And if these things aren't an organic part of the nature of biblical End-times, how did they get in there unless;

*...these [biblical] possibilities must be part of the nature of the object. A new possibility cannot be discovered later.*²¹

Our Editor wants desperately to discover a new *possibility* of a future coming in our future. It's quite impossible, for;

*Nothing in the province of logic can be merely possible. Logic deals with every possibility and all possibilities are its facts.*²²

With no actual *existing facts* our Editor is a bit like Sisyphus, whom the gods condemned to eternally push a huge stone up a hill, but when he got to the top it rolled back down again every time. The absence of facts does not make things impossible, but it renders them unworthy of rational belief.

The principle in Law is *he who affirms bears the burden of proof*. It means if you say it's true, you have the duty to bear witness of its existence. Our Editor cannot do this. Our measuring rule is a correspondence with the facts in the same words. Only ALL corresponds to bible facts in the same terms.

Personally I grew up hoping in a future second coming. In my 40's a study of Matthew 24 connected the end of the temple to the end of the Mosaic age and coming in clouds in the first century. Later I found the Holy City of Revelation 11 matched Jerusalem in the same terms, and

disappeared in the same generation under the same circumstances.

At first Preterism seemed very strange and unfamiliar to me because it worked by observation. It didn't fit the well-worn and comfortable picture I carried in my head.

I had to learn not to impose my mental picture of a second coming, (my theory) on the facts and learn to practice actually *seeing* the scriptures and testing meanings. (The biblical facts.) This was hard at first. One thing that helped me was to keep working with facts that *seemed clear* to me, and *suspend my judgment on things not presently understood*. This helped a lot in being accountable only to the scriptures.

From a state of affairs in the first century let us next consider the argument from consistency.

5. Rebuttal of Jackson from Consistency.

Consistency and *Correspondence* are sometimes confused by Preterist critics. They say Preterists are *artificially consistent* with first century time facts, as if consistency was faking it somehow, or a substitute for true facts. Let us clarify the issue.

Consistency has to do with *logical connectedness*. Some things may appear consistent by imposing a mere logical unity. (Like tying a dog and cat by their tails. Together? sure, but it's an artificial unity.)

Correspondence has to do with *facts*. All true theories are both *logically consistent and correspond to facts* in the same terms. Jesus' Olivet prophesy (Matthew 23:33 to 24:34) contains these end-time elements: *the prophecy of the end of Jerusalem, the temple, the conclusion of the age, and a*

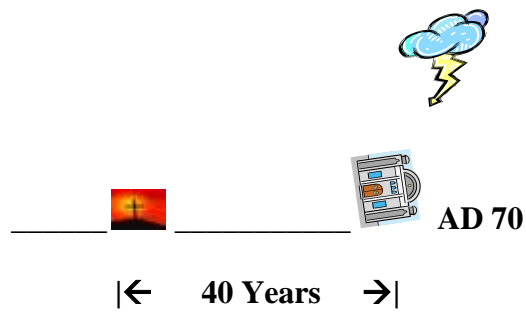
²⁰ **Tractatus** 2.0121 adapted.

²¹ **Tractatus** 2.0123 adapted

fulfillment of ALL prophetic signs in this (Jesus' own) generation.

Observing only biblical *time facts* produces the following model.

DIAGRAM. FIRSTCENTURY MODEL.



"This generation shall not pass away until all these things [signs] are fulfilled." Matt 24:34

Now, if ALL THINGS, (the Preterist hypothesis) were fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem, then all other end-time elements *should also carry the same time signature* – that is, ALL other end-time events should correspond *chronologically* to the same period.

New question. Is there first century chronological evidence in diverse End-time elements? In other words, do other end time elements or events, (eg. *The Last days, a parousia coming in clouds, a judge, and judgment, the end of all things, the unsealing of all prophecy*) carry the same first-century time signature?

Consider the consistency of the following seven end- time elements:

#1 Ends of the Ages in that generation-

1 Cor 10:11 *They were written for OUR instruction, upon whom the ENDS OF THE AGES have come.*

#2 Last Days in that Generation-

Hebrews 1:2 In **THESE LAST DAYS**

#3 Come and Not Delay in a little while-

Hebrews 10:37 *In a LITTLE WHILE the COMING ONE shall come and NOT DELAY*

#4 Coming Near in that Generation-

James 5:7-8 [You] Be patient..the **COMING (parousia)** of the Lord is **NEAR..**

#5 Judge/Judgement ready in that Generation

James 5:9 The **JUDGE IS STANDING RIGHT AT THE DOOR.**

#6 End of ALL THINGS that Generation-

1 Pet 4:7 The end of **ALL THINGS IS AT HAND**

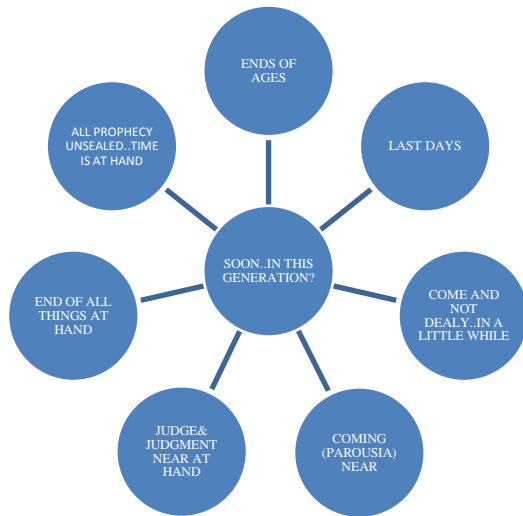
#7 ALL prophecy Unsealed – time Near in that Generation-

Rev 22:10 Do **NOT SEAL UP PROPHECY** [Revelation] – the **TIME IS NEAR.**

A reliable explanation is logically consistent and corresponds to facts. Here the evidence shows consistency across a sample of seven prophetic promises – all were present in Jesus' own generation. These promises were made to people in that generation, in a context of the disappearance of the Mosaic age in AD 70. The fulfilment of ALL promises was: *'near, soon, at hand, in a little while, shortly to come to pass.'*

What is time period is common to these seven promises of End time? They were all present in Jesus' generation.

RADIAL DIAGRAM. SEVEN²³ END-TIME ELEMENTS PRESENT IN JESUS GENERATION.



RULE

All reliable knowledge is founded on fact, and true knowledge is a comparison with facts. All statements of true knowledge correspond to facts in the same terms. If all elements *present* in the first century then all elements must be *explained* in the first century.

So what happened forty years after Jesus’ prophesy of the Jerusalem temple at the end of the Mosaic age? History vindicates Jesus’ Matthew 24 testimony in chilling detail.

THAT GENERATION IN HISTORY. AD 70.

“Caesar gave orders that they should now demolish the entire city and temple...but for the rest of the wall, it was so thoroughly laid even with the ground by those that dug it up to the foundation, that there was

left nothing to make those that came thither believe it had ever been inhabited. Wars 7:1:1,3 p.750-751

“This was the end to which Jerusalem came to by the madness of those who were for innovations; a city otherwise of great magnificence, and of mighty fame among all mankind. Wars 7:1:4 p.751

REASONING

Major Premise: Jesus foretold ALL prophecy would be FULFILLED in the first century GENERATION.

Minor Premise: The PROPHETIC ELEMENTS of; *The Last days, a parousia coming in clouds, a judge, and judgment, the end of all things, the unsealing of all prophecy* ALL PRESENT in the same time frame.

Conclusion: Therefore *the Last days, a parousia coming in clouds, a judge, and judgment, the end of all things, the unsealing of all prophecy* were FULFILLED in the FIRST CENTURY GENERATION.

LOGICAL FORM

The logical form is:

All A was fulfilled in that generation

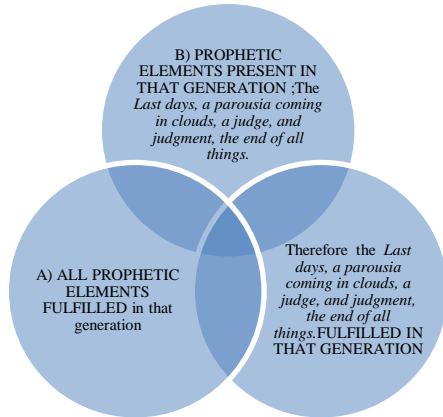
All B are elements (parts) of A.

Therefore ALL B were fulfilled in that generation

VENN DEMONSTRATION

The logical and factual import of Jesus’ plain and clear statements demonstrate overlapping relations of; **Fulfillment, Prophecy, This generation,** and may be demonstrated by a Venn diagram.

²³ For a comparison of Twenty End-time Categories fulfilled in AD 70 see our academia.edu site. https://www.academia.edu/9192787/WHEN_WAS_THE_END_TIME_A_FIRST_CENTURY_STATE_OF_AFFAIRS_IN_TWENTY_CATEGORIES



On the other hand Futurism contradicts observation at each point, and, with the *same first century* facts, creates another set of circumstances 2000 years away, but with no 2000 year evidence. It says;

NOT ALL A fulfilled in that generation
But ALL B are parts of A

Therefore NOT ALL B fulfilled in that generation, but will be fulfilled in another generation 2000 years away.

Now consider Editor Jackson’s evidence for this assertion.

- Time evidence? – Nil
- Cause of failure? – Nil
- Testability? – Nil
- Logical consistency? –Nil
- Correspondence to facts? –Nil.

This doesn’t look good for Jesus’ testimony. Futurism takes away from Jesus’ His own words, and what He ‘*Truly*’ promised. Preterism gives Jesus back His words and shows consistency in logic, and corresponds to facts in; time, fulfillment, observation, and organization.

Mtt 23:36 ***Truly I say to YOU, ALL THESE THINGS shall come upon THIS GENERATION***

Mtt 24:34 ***THIS GENERATION shall not pass away till ALL THESE THINGS [signs]TAKE PLACE***

Mk 13:30 ***THIS GENERATION will not pass till ALL FULFILLED***

Lk 18:31 ***We’re going to Jerusalem so...ALL THINGS may be ACCOMPLISHED***

Lk 21:22 ***THESE are the days of vengeance when ALL THINGS WRITTEN FULFILLED***

Lk 21:32 ***THIS GENERATION will not pass till ALL THINGS OCCUR***

Acts 3:24 ***ALL PROPHETS from Samuel foretold THESE DAYS***

1 Cor 10:11 ***They were written for OUR instruction, upon whom the ENDS OF THE AGES have come.***

As the reader knows, formal Logic only works on *necessary* relations between factual propositions, but cannot account for what mere mental constructs. People are free to believe anything. But a fact doesn’t cease to be a fact because it can’t be explained. A logical proposition isn’t less valid because it doesn’t satisfy our psychological discomfort, and ALL is not false because Futurism can’t explain it *literally, personally, visibly and physically* back there.²⁴ A Preterist model ‘*can explain it back there.*’

So this begs the question. If Jesus said ALL prophecy would be fulfilled in His own generation, how does Jackson obtain his conclusion? The answer to this curious

²⁴ **The terms ‘literally, personally, visibly and physically’** do not appear anywhere in the bible, hence they are fictions. Authority: Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance.

question is more curious, *by circular reasoning.*

6. Rebuttal of Jackson 's Fallacy of Circular Reasoning.

Futurism is based on circular reasoning by assuming a start point of literalism.²⁵ The thinking goes: *'If it is literal, and it can't be explained in the past, therefore it must be future.'*

But his view isn't simple either. It has five definite mental steps: *assume it's literal, conclude, conjecture, deduce, then finally, back to assuming 'it's literal.'* Please step through it with me.

- STEP #1. ASSUME - "ITS LITERAL /Personal /Physical/Visible."
- STEP #2. QUALIFY - "I can't explain it."
- STEP #3. DEDUCE- "Not in Jesus' Generation."
- STEP #4. NEW HYPOTHESIS- "It must be Future to US." [ie.Twenty-first century]"
- STEP #5 WHY? – GO BACK TO STEP #1 "IT'S LITERAL."

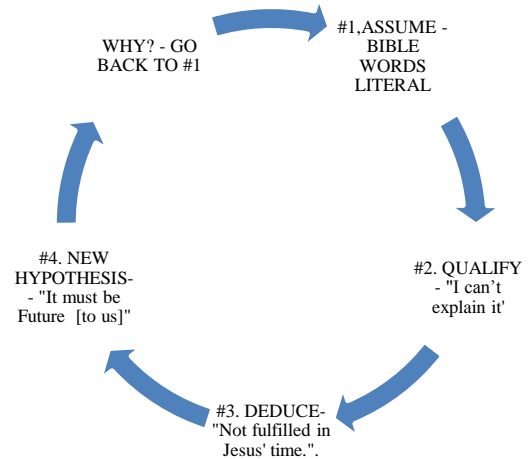
'Literal' has been the reasoning of Futurists in every generation for 1800 years. This is why *'The End of the World'* has been around for nearly two millennia. Why did nations war, martyrs burned, the hopeless suicided, witches were drowned, fences built, crusaders sailed, and civilizations clashed – because it was *'literal-therefore-future.'*

This is nearly the same mental process flat-earth people used to prove the earth was the

centre of the universe. By assuming the sun moved they inferred wrongly that the earth was fixed. This tiny mistake retarded the progress of science by 1300 years until Copernicus. Unbelievable.

The circular reasoning of Futurism may be diagrammed as follows.

DIAGRAM. THE FALLACY OF FUTURISM'S CIRCULAR REASONING



This commits the fallacy of *Circulus in demonstrando*.²⁶ It invents a start point then finally returns to it to prove the argument. In effect *it makes the first assumption the final proof* – it's circular.

Here the start point of the *Literal therefore Future* circle is the Futurist assumption, 'Biblical language has *only literal*, and not *biblical meanings*.' Jesus is coming in our future because it's literal. The logical form is;

X is FUTURE because **Y is literal**.

Y is LITERAL because **X is future**.

Just like;

X(Earth) is STATIONARY because **Y Sun moves**

²⁵ **Literalism** is the idea that Jesus return is literal, personal, physical, visible, or concrete and tangible. None of these terms appear in scripture. Authority: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance.

²⁶ **Circular** reasoning.
<http://www.logicallyfallacious.com/index.php/logical-fallacies/67-circular-reasoning>

Y(Sun) MOVES because X Earth is stationary

In this case the start point of the *Literal-therefore -Future* reasoning is our Editor's assumption that end-time language has *literal* and not *biblical meanings*. The logical form is;

Because Jesus' coming is LITERAL its FUTURE.
Because it's FUTURE the coming is LITERAL.

That is *too* simple. The literal assumption completely ignores the time facts and context of Jesus' prophecy, as well as the biblical meanings of a '*coming in clouds*'²⁷ in that generation. It also seems ignorant of; Jesus' parables,²⁸ His figurative use of language,²⁹ and also over 500 chapters of figurative language in every chapter of every book of every poet and prophet from Job to Malachi, through Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, and Revelation 1-22!³⁰ (Must be literal?)

Oppositely Preterism is a genuine time theory based on observable meanings from biblical usage that unite more and more facts under the same simple premise in the first century. So how does Futurism stack up as a theory? On closer inspection we find Jackson's view is based on circular reasoning and has many, many fatal flaws;

- . no 2000 year time facts

²⁷ **Clouds-** bible slideshow.

https://www.academia.edu/10822724/SEMANTICS_OF_PROPHETIC_LANGUAGE_-_CLOUDS

²⁸ **Jesus' 45 Parables** <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parable>

²⁹ **Figures 25** "These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but will tell you plainly of the Father. ²⁶"In that day you will ask in My name...²⁹His disciples said, "Lo, now You are speaking plainly and are not using a figure of speech."

³⁰ **Apocalyptic** language. I estimate on count that about 520 chapters of a total 1,189 (over 40%) contain at least some figurative language.

- . no reason for a delay
- . no reason why Jesus didn't come in His own generation
- . no biblical evidence for 'literal' terms like: '*physically, visibly, personally*'
- . no plural Second '*comings*' or '*gaps*'.

Its' obstacles to rational belief are that it's a *time theory* based on a *literal* assumption that:

- . has no time facts to support it
- . denies time facts
- . cannot be observed
- . cannot be tested
- . cannot be falsified
- . cannot be proven
- . but is believed with 100% certainty.

Further, Futurism is:

- . not simple
- . not explanatory
- . not unified
- . not causal
- . not systematic
- . not logical, and after 2000 years
- . has failed in every single generation.

In effect *Futurism is conjoined to Literalism*, a de facto union with no legitimate time facts. Without *Literalism*, *Twenty-first century Futurism has no place in a first century book*. Without *Futurism*, *Literalism is a hope with no place to hide*. Both are wedded for mutual convenience, but it's not a marriage made in the garden of heaven.

Futurism's original sin was to ignore time facts and make words '*Only Literal*' after its own image. Imagination then sewed the fig leaves of *Literalism and Futurism* together to hide their individual nakedness. Both lack any factual foundation in observation. Neither can explain why Jesus broke His

promise, but both imply it. And what about the children of this union?

The offspring of Literal-Futurism have been 1800 years of: wars, dogmatism, misused authority, torture, suicide, murder, 30,000 divisions, sectarianism, cultism, superstition, manipulation, confusion, terror, and religious manipulation, and countless hundreds of thousands of failed prophecies.³¹ *By their fruits ye shall know them.*

The only divinely enjoined marriage in scripture is ***biblical meanings married to biblical time facts in that generation.*** Whatever Preterism means, Jesus' testimony is our hope.

"For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Rev 19:10

We can sum up the circular reasoning rebuttal most simply by pointing out there are only two kinds of evidence – just two: *Time* facts and *Descriptive* facts.

In making end-time terms *literal* Jackson's circular reasoning creates *two insoluble End-time problems from one event*: a

1. *First century time theory* with **NO DESCRIPTIVE FACTS**, and,
2. *A Twenty-first century descriptive theory* with **NO TIME FACTS**.

Futurism denies Jesus' fulfillment to first century people then living because *'it's literal,'* but it can't provide twenty-first century time facts for its *'literal'* theory.

There aren't two end-times problems here but only one *'second coming.'* A *'literal'* assumption forces the reader to deny the

Lord Jesus His own words because it *'can't* explain it back there.'

On the other hand Preterism gives *bible meanings to bible words in one event in that generation.* That's it! These meanings are found in Old Testament *usage.* (*Usage makes meaning* is a simple lexicographical principle.)

So our Editor's literal assumption is really quite a complex and circular mental process of five steps. This in turn leads to a theory that is vague, non-factual, and logically unsuccessful. *All this goes against the principle of simplicity called Occam's Razor.*

7. Rebuttal of Jackson from the Simplicity Principle.

The simplicity principle in scientific reasoning gets rid of unnecessary objects. *'Occam's Razor'*³² states that among competing hypotheses, the one with the fewest assumptions should be selected.

Most basically, it says; *'the simplest explanation is usually the correct one.'* Or put another way, no more meanings are to be admitted for true ones than can be proved - a claim without a fact is unnecessary and unwarranted.

Friend Jackson denies ALL prophecy was fulfilled in that generation. His problems begin when he implies a complicated still-future fulfillment, which in turn requires:

- . *another literal* fulfillment of
- . *another* End-time prophecy at
- . *another century*
- . *2000 years off* ...with NO biblical fact AT ALL.

³¹ **Fruits** of Futurism.
https://www.academia.edu/7592573/THE_FRUITS_OF_DOOMSDAY_-_1000_AD_to_about_2000_AD

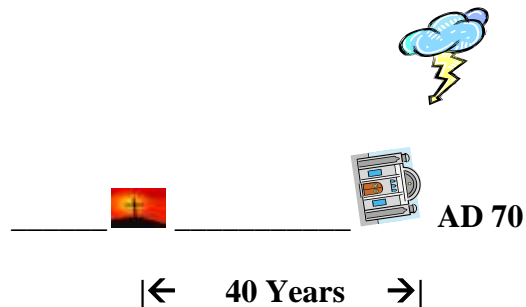
³² **Occam's Razor.**
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Occam%27s_razor

Not simple, but his headaches are all his own creation. They began by denying the fact of ALL. His yet-future view has no single piece of chronological evidence. The End-time is a singular state of affairs, the Day of the Lord, promised to one specific generation, with a promised fulfillment before they died.

Applying Occam's razor to Futurism requires we cut off SOME and NONE, for which there is no proof. This gets rid of an *ad hoc* and hypothetical still-future fulfillment. The simplest basis consistent with observation is not friend Jackson's favorite passage, but it still says;

'ALL the promises made to first century people were fulfilled in their lifetimes in that generation...' Mtt 24:34

which is merely the natural and covenantal context of the first century. Observation reveals this simple model.



In terms of an explanation we only have two do-able choices in which to explain ALL prophecy. A simple analogy might be that of two buckets, A and B. One is first century bucket A, and the other is twenty-first century bucket B. ALL SCRIPTURE must fit into one or the other, but not both.

Either ALL scriptures was fulfilled in Jesus first century generation, (Bucket A) or ALL scriptures will be fulfilled in our twenty-first century generation. (Bucket B) SOME and

NONE are not observable options. The choice looks like this.

ALL SCRIPTURE FULFILLED WHEN?

**Preterist.
First Century**



Bucket A.

**Futurist.
Twenty- First Century**



Bucket B.

Only a first century Preterist model meets the rational criteria of; observation, corresponds to the facts in the same terms, is logically consistent across all authors, unifies more facts in one event, promises a single time frame for fulfillment, and is founded on the Laws of Thought and Scientific method. So logically ALL the facts must fit into the first century... somehow.



Bucket A.

But is it Certain?

For me Preterism took away certainty, just as Copernicanism took away 'Centre-of-the-universe-certainty' for Renaissance man. It meant we are not the centre of a tiny universe.

Truth is not a matter of taste, of personal preference or psychological comfort. It's a matter of cold impartial observation, of logical reflection, of permitting Jesus to speak in *His own* words and allow Him *His own* testimony and facts, as Campbell said;

"Testimony has respect to facts only; and if that testimony is be credible, it must be confirmed."

The events of AD 70 confirm the testimony of Jesus and the words of the Holy Spirit,

however not all can be explained yet. Whatever Preterism means, Jesus' testimony is our Eternal Hope.

"For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Rev 19:10

In life, to expect absolute certainty is a sign of immaturity. Over time we have adjusted to Copernicanism and probability. I recall the wise words of Elton Trueblood.

*"The idea that absolute proof is not part of man's lot is a sobering reflection...but it is not particularly disturbing as long as we find ways to increase probability. To know that probability is the guide of life is to know something very important."*³³

CONCLUSION.

Was **ALL SCRIPTURE FULFILLED** in Jesus' contemporary generation? This issue cuts to the very heart of the present *Preterism vs. Futurism* debate. It claims precedence over every particular argument.

Whether Jackson or I *like* our answers is not the point. If Jesus says **ALL** was to be *fulfilled* in that generation, then we must try to *explain ALL* of it in that generation, and not blindly deny what we are presently ignorant of. Every word of God is pure.

Futurist theory denies **ALL** because it has no first-century explanatory power, and because it turns its back to the natural context to gaze off 2000 years into our own future. But a first century model *can explain* it back there.

The three possible options for prophetic fulfilment are; **ALL**, **SOME** or **NONE**. This is all the difference between Preterism and Futurism.

If **ALL** scripture was *fulfilled* in Jesus' generation, then **ALL** scripture must be *explained* in Jesus' generation. **ALL** prophecy *must fit biblically somehow*, and this deserves our serious focus. This is new and strange to many of us, but logic does not fail, because no fact has failed.

Is this **ALL** fulfilment an accident? Is it a trick, or is the possibility really present in scripture? Analytic Philosophy tells us;

*It would seem to be a sort of accident, if it turned out that a situation would fit a [biblical] thing that could already exist entirely on its own. If [biblical] things can occur in [biblical] states of affairs, this possibility must be in them from the beginning.*³⁴

Could it be true? Let Jesus Himself decide the matter in His own words;

"THIS GENERATION shall not pass away till ALL THESE THINGS [signs ³⁵] TAKE PLACE." Mtt 24:34.

Denying **ALL** simply cannot explain scripture. In fact our Editor avoids quoting Matthew 24:34 in his article because, well, ***"How can clear passages ...be ignored?"***

That's a little dishonest. Sweeping evidence under the carpet is not very sporting or candid, and Judges especially take a rather dim view of it in the law. Honesty requires we be up front when dealing with facts.

All observation is either for or against a thing. Here all observation across the inspired: Jesus, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James and Peter all uniformly demonstrates:

³⁴ **Tractatus** Logico Philosophicus modified. 2.0121 Wittgenstein, L.

³⁵ **'Thirty Signs** of Mtt 24 Fulfilled in AD 70.' https://www.academia.edu/10550719/ALL_THIRTY_SIGNS_OF_MATTHEW_24_FULFILLED_IN_THE_FIRST_CENTURY

³³ **Probability.** Philosophy of Religion. Trueblood, E. 1985

- 1) All SCRIPTURE was to be fulfilled in THAT GENERATION.
- 2) ALL PROPHETIC ELEMENTS were present at the end of the Mosaic age in Mosaic Jerusalem.
- 3) That FULFILLMENT is recorded in history of Jerusalem's destruction in Josephus' WARS. (AD 75)

Jackson's unjustified antipathy toward Preterism suggests some strong irrational prejudice. Editor Jackson sniffs at 'ALL.'³⁶ He casually tells us ALL is so;

"'off the wall' (biblically speaking) that one wonders how anyone ever falls for it?"
In reply, we believe Jesus fell for it first.

"THIS GENERATION shall not pass away till ALL THESE THINGS [signs] TAKE PLACE."
Mtt 24:34.

My admonition to our Editor is that of Jesus to Saul of Tarsus; *"It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks."*³⁷ Facts are eternal. We can do nothing *against* the truth, but only for it.³⁸

I will close with four remarks .

Firstly, Editor Jackson is guilty of deliberate obscurantism,³⁹ the practice of deliberately darkening (making obscure) a thing he does not understand. He does this by ignoring clear passages of scripture and denying others in preference for a comfortable but groundless theory.

³⁶ **To admit** SOME fulfillment in the first century means our Editor is a *somewhat* Preterist at least.

³⁷ **Saul.** Acts 9:5

³⁸ **Truth.** 2 Cor 13:8

³⁹ **Obscurantism.** See article at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obscurantism>

Secondly, Preterism is not a 'dogma' as Jackson claims, but merely historically and theologically attested. It's a first century model based on observation and the notion that all the promises given to people in the first century were fulfilled to them – Jesus kept His promise to return in clouds.

Preterism attempts to unify a great mass of end-time information in one event. This is an enormous claim, but the natural context gives it great explanatory power. There are no experts in what is still yet a very immature field.

Thirdly, the present 30,000 divisions of Christianity⁴⁰ suggest personal experience fails to account for all truth because it 'only sees one side of a thing.'

The two main errors of modern prophets are, (1) *to make biblical meanings only literal.* And (2) *to detach End-time ideas from the whole event.* An old Buddhist parable has relevance to present End-time quarrels in Jesus name.

The parable tells of a group of blind men who touched an elephant to learn what it was like. Each one felt only one part, the side, trunk or tusk. When they compared notes they learnt they were in complete disagreement.⁴¹ Buddha replied with a rhyme.

*"O how they cling and wrangle, some who claim,
For preacher and monk the honored name!
For, quarreling, each to his view they cling.
Such folk see only one side of a thing."*⁴²

⁴⁰ **Divisions.** <http://www.philvaz.com/apologetics/a106.htm>

⁴¹ **Blind men.**
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blind_men_and_an_elephant

⁴² **Rhyme.**
<http://www.cs.princeton.edu/~rywang/berkeley/258/parable.html>

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*The measurement of the relation between Observation,
Theory, and Belief.*

A recent impartial study across twenty End-time elements demonstrates clearly a uniform first century time signature combines all elements in a single first century state of affairs in AD 70.⁴³

Lastly, Mister Jackson attempts to separate an *historical* fulfillment in the first century from a *prophetic and personal* fulfillment in his own twenty-first century. His theory *literally reads himself into the ancient biblical data*, which I believe, lies at the root of his denial. Nevertheless,

“THIS GENERATION shall not pass away till ALL THESE THINGS [signs]TAKE PLACE.” Mtt 24:34

His theory needs to be reconsidered starting with observation. In this respect Dr. Stanley M. Beck’s words are worth bearing in mind; *“When theories do not fit the facts, our theories, not facts, must change.”*

Additionally, I would like to refer Editor Jackson to a document titled NINETY-FIVE THESES AGAINST A FUTURIST APOCALYPTIC at our academic.edu site here.

https://www.academia.edu/11662946/NINETY-FIVE_THESES_AGAINST_A_YET-FUTURE_APOCALYPTIC

-ooOOoo-

Morrison Lee.
Founder.



The Australian Association for the
Rational Study of Prophecy

⁴³ **Twenty End-time Elements** observed. Paper at Academia.edu.

https://www.academia.edu/9192787/WHEN_WAS_THE_END_TIME_A_FIRST_CENTURY_STATE_OF_AFFAIRS_IN_TWENTY_CATEGORIES

