

GENESIS TO REVELATION: Who's Really Being Literal?

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ON MAY 27TH, 2006, Gary DeMar and Tommy Ice met at *American Vision's Worldview Super Conference* for yet another debate on Bible prophecy. In his closing arguments, Tommy Ice attempted to make the case that Gary is inconsistent for holding to both a partial preterist position of eschatology and a global flood in Genesis.

Partial preterists believe that Jesus' prophecy in Matthew 24 was already fulfilled in the events leading up to and including the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. This view is based on the strict interpretation of Matthew 24:34 which states that all of these things Jesus predicts will

be accomplished within the current generation. Rather than a global, earth-burning judgment that dispensationalists read into this passage, partial preterists believe that Christ was ending the Old Covenant by destroying the city, temple, and sacrificial system.

According to Tommy, those who believe that the judgment predicted in Matthew 24 was a past and therefore *local* event are inconsistent if they believe the judgment by flood in Noah's day was a *global* event. The problem with his thinking is that partial preterists believe that the ramifications of the destruction of Jerusalem were, in fact, *global*. Con-


sider that the crucifixion of Jesus was also a local event with global ramifications. Tommy's argument holds no water, and I see no inconsistency in holding these two beliefs simultaneously. More importantly, I believe our interpretation is more honest with the text of Scripture.

Ironically, in making this claim of inconsistency, Tommy overlooks one of his biggest and most obvious inconsistencies: If Tommy and other dispensational pre-millennialists believe the days of creation are literal, why don't they interpret prophetic time texts literally as well? The following chart exposes this glaring inconsistency:

Partial Preterist/Creationist Position	Dispensational/Creationist Position
Literal Genesis account & Literal Time Texts on Bible Prophecy:	Literal Genesis account & Non-literal Time Texts on Bible Prophecy:
"Day" in Genesis 1 means a literal 24-hour day.	"Day" in Genesis 1 means a literal 24-hour day.
"This generation" means the generation to whom Jesus was speaking. (Matt. 24:34)	"This generation" actually means some distant future generation. (Matt. 24:34)
"Shortly" means the event will happen shortly. (Rev. 1:1)	"Shortly" means the event could happen at any time. (Rev. 1:1)
"Near" means the event is near. (Rev. 1:3)	"Near" means the event will be near for some distant future generation. (Rev. 1:3)

Of course, one should not be woodenly literal when approaching every passage of Scripture. In John 6:35, Jesus states "...I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." Yet nobody believes that Jesus is claiming to be a loaf of bread in this passage. We should always consider the cultural and grammatical context, compare Scripture with Scripture, and pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance.

At *American Vision*, we take the words of scripture at face value. I challenge our brothers and sisters in Christ to do the same. If we cannot trust that Jesus meant what He said in Matthew 24:34, how can we trust

the rest of His teaching? Thankfully, we *can* trust what Jesus said in Matthew 24:34, and history confirms that His predictions happened exactly as He promised. The time has come to call Christians back to the authority of God's word in this area. Perhaps once Christians recognize the correct timing of the Great Tribulation and the Last Days, they will begin to plan for tomorrow. This means looking beyond our generation to the lives of our children's children. The implications of multi-generational vision are vast. It changes the way we look at finances, education, missions, and more. A proper understanding of eschatology is fundamental to restoring America's biblical foundation. 

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the generation
that sees
these signs

Prophetic Time Texts Requiring Literal Interpretation

Matthew 10:22-23	2 Thessalonians 2:6	James 5:9	Revelation 11:14
Matthew 16:27-28	2 Thessalonians 2:7	1 Peter 1:20	Revelation 17:8
Matthew 26:64	Philippians 4:5	1 Peter 4:7	Revelation 22:7
John 21:21-22	Hebrews 9:26	1 Peter 5:4	Revelation 22:10
Romans 13:11	Hebrews 10:25	1 John 2:18	Revelation 22:12
Romans 13:12	Hebrews 10:37	Revelation 1:1	Revelation 22:20
Romans 16:20	James 5:7	Revelation 1:3	
1 Corinthians 10:11	James 5:8	Revelation 3:10	

UPCOMING Events

October 28, 2006:

Nashville, TN
Prophecy Question & Answer
Hank Hanegraaff, Gary DeMar
(800) 628-9460 x 209
(See Ad on Page 8)

November 9-12, 2006:

Sandestin, Florida
Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort
Family Advance Conference
Gary DeMar, Gregg Strawbridge
www.TrinValp.com or call
850-678-0060 to register

February 23-24, 2007:

Tualatin, OR
Restoring Northwest America Conference
www.restoreamerica.org

May 30-June 2, 2007:

Ridgecrest (Asheville), NC
Worldview Super Conference II
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www.worldviewsuperconference.com
(See Ad on Page 8)

June 23-30, 2007:

Hawaiian Cruise
Hosted by Coral Ridge Ministries aboard
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Dr. D. James Kennedy, Dr. Gary Cass,
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