

The Speculators of Prophecy [concluded]

by Bill Crews

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1. Most of the prophecies in the Old Testament found their fulfillment in the histories of Israel and other nations who came in contact with Israel. The bondage in Egypt, the conquest and settlement of Canaan, the Assyrian captivity, the Babylonian captivity, the restoration of the Israelites to their land, and the historical period between the testaments are all dealt with in Old Testament prophecies.
2. Many other Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in the ministry of John the Baptist, the ministry of Christ, and the beginning and early history of the church (which is the kingdom of Christ).
3. The 24th chapter of Matthew concerns primarily the destruction of Jerusalem (which came to a climax A.D. 70) and *secondarily* the second coming of Christ. Nearly all present-day speculators misapply the things spoken by Jesus about the destruction of Jerusalem to the second coming of Christ.
4. The revelation of Jesus to John was written to the seven churches of Asia and is to be understood from their viewpoint. They were under severe persecution; their suffering would worsen. They needed encouragement; they needed to know that God was aware, cared and would deal with their tormentors. To view the book as either a *preview of history* from the first century down to the end of time or as *primarily a depiction of events that would transpire right before the end of time* is to **miss** the whole purpose of the book.

Some common mistakes made by so-called experts in Bible prophecy:

1. To take **fulfilled prophecy** (either fulfilled in the historical period of the Old Testament, the period between the Testaments, or the New Testament) and treat it as unfulfilled.
2. To apply **prophecies in the Old Testament** about the first coming of Christ to the second coming of Christ.
3. To make **the kingdom and kingship of Christ** *material*; to insist that old national Israel was to be brought back into existence and that the Messiah would reign from Jerusalem.
4. *To maintain that some prophecies were not fulfilled* when they were supposed to be fulfilled (such as the establishment of Messiah's kingdom in the days of the kings of the fourth -- Roman -- kingdom, Dan. 2).
5. *To engage in speculation and showmanship* by declaring that current events are always the subject of Bible prophecy.
6. *To insist that the end is near, that Christ is about to come, that we are definitely living in "the end times."*

Editor's Note: This is an excellent summary of the errors of prophetic speculators. I strongly advise you to study this article, clip it, and keep it where you can find it when needed.

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