

What is Preterism?

Preterists believe the events described in the Book of Revelation, and by Jesus in Matt. 24, have already occurred, and we are now living in the Kingdom Age. The Book of Revelation is a pretty good description of what happened to the Jews, prior to and during the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, which was prophesied by Jesus. Most of the Christians had escaped and left Jerusalem due to persecution by the Jews. The symbolism is there to disguise the underlying truth from the Roman authorities who were still persecuting the Christians. Gehenna, or "Hell," was the garbage dump outside of Jerusalem where literally thousands of bodies were burned after one of the greatest massacres of ancient times. Babylon was symbolic of Rome. The desecration of the temple and the abominations that occurred there actually did happen. The writer of Revelation wrote after those events. He was describing the past, not the future, and believed himself to be living in the Kingdom Age in the New Heaven and New Earth. Symbolically, the murderers and sinners are still outside the gates of the Heavenly City and not being let in (see Rev. 22:14-17). The New Jerusalem is not a physical city, but a spiritual one. Jesus said, "my Kingdom is not of this world." Makes good sense to me.