

## “End-Time Prophecies” Already Fulfilled

While I was in my teenage years in the 1930s, prophecies were not a big topic for study in our cotton-patch community. Preachers did often speak of the “falling away of the church” and how our Movement was a restoration of the one, true church. I learned well enough to repeat in my early preaching that the papacy and Rome led the church into apostasy, that Martin Luther tried to reform it resulting in denominationalism, and that we restored it. I had modest success in convincing others of that invalid viewpoint.

Sometimes efforts were made to explain Matthew 24. We understood that it was all fulfilled down through Verse 34 which included the great tribulation brought on during the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. I read Josephus’ account of that, but the remainder of the chapter and *Revelation* were still a mystery which was an engaging puzzle for those intrigued by religious puzzles.

Thus I became a “partial preterist.” That means that I believed some prophecies had been fulfilled. But everyone who believes in Jesus is a partial preterist!

After moving to Beaumont, Texas and before we married, Elma Lea and I and a few others drove over to Houston to hear Foy E. Wallace, Jr. lecture in the Music Hall in January 1945 on “Exposing Modern Millennial Theories.” Those lectures later were printed as the book, “God’s Prophetic Word.”

This brother was effective in presenting the case that most all prophecies in the old covenant Scriptures were related to the promises made to Abraham and to the Jews while in captivity and that all those prophecies were fulfilled. The “restoration” passages were all fulfilled when the Jews returned from Babylonian captivity. His presentation was convincing, and I think his arguments still stand. He saw absolutely no promise of a restoration of the Jews to Palestine and a restoration of the earthly kingdom. That kingdom was not God’s idea in the first place for it was born of rebellion. He did teach that the prophecies of a spiritual kingdom were fulfilled in the church.

I might not remember all his points correctly, but one thing has remained with me through the years. Brother Wallace indicated that the new heavens and new earth and holy city described in Revelation 21-22 related to the church rather than being a description of heaven as is commonly believed. I have always been convinced of the truth of his assessment in this regard. But I have never considered views of prophecy as vital issues over which we should divide.

He also convinced me that the “hope of Israel” was the hope of resurrection rather than hope of an earthly kingdom. These truths enabled me to write “The Hope of Israel,” “The Great Temptation of Jesus,” and “The Rich Man and Lazarus” as Chapters 20, 21, and 22 in *Free To Change*.” Then, too, before I began to read about realized

eschatology, I wrote "Some Questions About Revelation" (*Free To Accept*" Chapter 25) in which I suggested that it might all have been fulfilled already.

Nearly twenty years ago, I began to read claims that all prophecies have been fulfilled. That was too much for me! I "knew" that could not be true! Yet I continued to read writings on the subject that were sent to me. About ten years ago, George Clark, of Snyder, Texas sent me a copy of James Stuart Russell's *THE PAROUSIA*. Being a slow reader, I was intimidated by the 561-page book. After it stayed in the headboard of my bed for two or three years, I decided to give it a try. I quickly became amazed at what this man had written in 1878 in England. He gave me new light on most every page of the new covenant Scriptures. Even though I have yet to finish reading the book, and even though he may not be able to explain all details, I am convinced that his premise has been proven, that is, that all prophecies relating to the coming of Christ have been fulfilled.

Based on what I was beginning to understand, I wrote a number of articles about fulfilled prophecy for my Freedom's Ring email sendouts. You have responded to them favorably, though I am sure you have had sufficient cause for disagreement on particular points. Those articles may be accessed at my web site by clicking on NEWSLETTERS & ARTICLES, then scrolling down to the INDEX and selecting "Coming of the Lord."

All I have written in this sendout so far is to lead you to my most recent effort, a booklet titled, "*End-Time Prophecies*"- ALL FULFILLED! I have wanted to print a small introductory tract to send out without charge with book orders. So I set myself to that task about three weeks ago. My effort grew from the 10-12 pages that I intended to 38 pages! In it I have tried to give an overall view of the claims of fulfilled prophecy which would pique your interest toward further study of the subject.

At this size I can hardly send it to all without charge. I do not want to use the funds you send for my regular outreach for this. Postage for mailing a copy is 83-cents plus the envelope. I did the printing on my copier. A fairly neat "home made" job even if I "handled" each page with my own dirty little hands. So, if you order a copy, please include a bit to help with production costs. My thought is that some of you may want to use it to introduce others to the subject of fulfilled prophecies.

For you who are motivated for further study, I can supply James Stuart Russell's *THE PAROUSIA* for \$21.50 postage paid. Much other good reading on the subject is available but I only stock this one book.

I do not make this a divisive issue but I do think it will enhance your understanding of the Scriptures. []

(Cecil Hook; March 2005)

Talkin' Texas: Texas consists of 254 counties. Many, especially in the western plains are square about thirty miles by thirty miles in dimension.

