

There is No Searching of His Understanding

by Jeremy James



For those who love God's Word, the continued refusal by the Wicked to acknowledge the peril they are in is inexplicable. Pride blinds the sharpest minds. So too does the great web of deception that the Enemy is using to keep hold of those who are enticed by his lies. Unless they turn to Jesus and ask for his assistance, their bondage will continue and they will leave this world under God's wrathful judgment.

They like to imagine that, by rejecting the Father and the Son, they are beyond the reach of His judgment. But they are deceived:

“Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?” (Isaiah 29:15)

The LORD has told mankind that every individual who has ever lived will face judgment. He has delegated this task to His Son, Jesus Christ. Though men may try to avoid His judgment by various means, there will be no escape. Everyone, without exception, will be held to account for what they did while here on earth:

“Though they dig into hell, thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven, thence will I bring them down: And though they hide themselves in the top of Carmel, I will search and take them out thence; and though they be hid from my sight in the bottom of the sea, thence will I command the serpent, and he shall bite them:”

(Amos 9:2-3)

The Enemy has tried over and over, through the many religions, philosophies and paths that he has created, to persuade mankind that our salvation depends on whether our ‘good’ deeds outweigh our ‘bad’ deeds, but this is a wicked lie! There is nothing that man can do to save himself. Eternal life depends entirely on what Christ did on our behalf on Calvary. If we accept the free gift of salvation while we are here on earth, and believe with our whole heart that Jesus Christ died in our place and rose again, then we are saved!

The Enemy loves to mock the gospel of salvation. Belief in Christ? *That’s too easy*, he snorts! The bishops in Rome and the karma-gurus in Asia, not to mention the vast throng of esoteric paths, all sneer at the very idea. *Anyone with an ounce of sense knows that eternal life is the most precious thing imaginable and that we must WORK for it, we must prove ourselves worthy.* But the Enemy is lying.

The Visions of Zechariah

In one of his visions, the prophet Zechariah relates how the Adversary stood in protest before the pre-incarnate Christ, alongside Joshua, the High Priest. Satan sternly objected to what Christ was about to do, but our Savior rebuked him! -

“And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?”

(Zechariah 3:1-2)



**Mosaic of the prophet
Zechariah in the
basilica of St Mark
in Venice.**

Satan knew that Jesus was about to anoint Joshua, thereby implying that, as High Priest, he was untainted by sin. In effect, Satan was saying, “You can’t do that! This guy is covered with sin!” And this was true. Joshua was just as sin-damaged as the rest of mankind. But Jesus rebuked the Adversary by saying that Joshua was “a brand plucked out of the fire”!

What did he mean by this? He was saying that the fire of God’s holy judgment would not fall upon Joshua because the LORD had provided a means to cleanse him. Here is how the Word of God describes that precious moment:

“Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. And he [i.e. the Lord] answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.” (Zechariah 3:3-4)

The Hebrew word for “filthy” in the above passage is *š’y* (H6674), meaning filthy like a soiled diaper. In other words, the High Priest was clad in soiled and smelly apparel. This meant he stank.

That is the nature of sin! We easily forget how repellent our iniquities are before God. When Jesus walked among us, he had to endure the stink of the sinners around him. Even in childhood he must have suffered greatly because of this.

In his vision, Zechariah beheld the scene where the Lord permitted the sins of the High Priest (“thine iniquity”) to pass from him. His filthy garment was taken away and a completely new one was given to him.



This scene is highly significant because it shows that, not only did the substitutionary atonement of Calvary take away our sins but it also took away our sin nature. This latter gift is bestowed upon us when, on the Last Day, we stand before the Lord and he gives us our new robe:

“And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.” (Revelation 19:8)

Christ will marry a bride who is impervious to temptation and unable to sin.

The professing church today would do well to reflect on this incredible truth. The Lamb of God took away the sins of the world AND made it possible for all believers to shed their sin nature. His triumph over the powers of darkness, over pride and rebellion, was complete. Redeemed man is even more beautiful in the eyes of God because of what Jesus achieved on our behalf on Calvary. Adam and Eve were indeed perfect, devoid of sin on the day they were created, but the Enemy beguiled them. This will no longer be possible in our eternal state.

There is no searching of His understanding! (Isaiah 40:28)

Navigating through a world filled with lies

This brings us to a matter that we have addressed many times in previous papers, namely the endless lies devised by the Adversary to deceive mankind.

It is absolutely essential in the time we are living to understand that Satan’s sin nature is now more potent and explosive than ever before. He has had six thousand years to work out the schemes and devices that he will use in the last days to lure as many souls as he can to perdition.



Humanly speaking, it is impossible for us to comprehend the scope and depth of his incredible intellect or to untangle more than a tiny fraction of what he is doing to enslave and destroy mankind. Nevertheless, we have the implied promise that Jesus made when he asked that we not be deceived as the End of Days approached. If we trust in him and his Word, living daily in the Spirit and using our discernment, we will be able to see enough of what the Enemy is doing to avoid his traps and snares:

“Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked; preserve me from the violent man; who have purposed to overthrow my goings. The proud have hid a snare for me, and cords; they have spread a net by the wayside; they have set gins [traps] for me. Selah.”

(Psalm 140:4-5)

The regions of the world formerly known as ‘Christendom’ are depressingly naive. Our grandparents had a good understanding of the hold that Satan exercises over mankind, but today’s generation do not. Millions of professing Christians – who ought to know better – are unable to see that Satan is still in the business of deceiving them.

Most of them imagine that the tricks he used over the past two thousand years are no longer effective in our modern, tech-savvy civilization. But they are wrong! As it happens those ‘old’ tricks are even more dangerous in an environment where the information exchange between people and groups is ten to a hundred times faster than in former times. The more we are bombarded by messages that eat away at our spirituality, the further we sink into a mental state that meekly accepts whatever we are told.

The vast majority of professing Christians lack spiritual discernment because their pastors – their shepherds! – suffer from the same deficiency. And this frightful deficiency exists because they no longer believe that they have an Enemy who hates them and is determined to destroy them.

Satan and his servants hate all true believers: **“...my soul loathed them, and their soul also abhorred me.” (Zechariah 11:8)**

Preterism

He has used a variety of ways to blind the masses to his existence and his goals, many of which we have examined in previous papers. The one we now wish to address is the approach to Bible prophecy that is usually called Preterism.

This is the view that a large number of Bible prophecies, which are normally categorized as ‘End Time’, have already been fulfilled, either through historical events or through their realization in the life and work of Christ. The proponents of this theory are notoriously reluctant to defend their position in detail and they routinely ignore any passage of Scripture that conflicts with their personal interpretation of a particular prophecy.



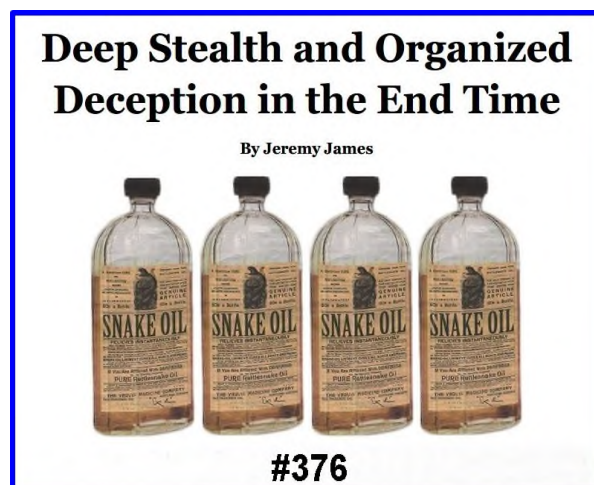
We have not addressed Preterism before because it is one of the most obvious lies told by those who hate Christianity. In a sense it is so ridiculous that only a person with a very poor knowledge of the Bible is likely to be taken in by it. Alas, the number in this category has grown enormously in recent years. Genuine believers, who have not yet acquired a solid grounding in God's Word, are vulnerable to well-aimed attacks based on Preterist conjecture.

We examined this attitude in an earlier paper (#371) where we discussed Replacement Theology, the view that the church has taken the place of Israel in God's promises:

One of the most extraordinary arguments against the continued recognition by God of the nation of Israel was put to me by a young Calvinist pastor. He said that, since it gave Israel a role in prophecy that has yet to be fulfilled, it diminished the greatness of Christ. Seemingly all prophecy must refer to Christ. As he put it, someone who believed in the future role of Israel was allowing their "eschatology" to limit their "Christology." Seminarians today are so heavily indoctrinated by Replacement Theology that, even with a sincere heart and a genuine desire to honor God's Word, they find it exceedingly difficult to escape the constraints imposed on them by their theological elders.

With one cunning stroke Replacement Theology removes from the Bible any passage that speaks of Israel as a nation in the End Time. This in turn obliterates any consistent or meaningful way to understand the vast number of prophetic passages pertaining to the End Time itself. From Satan's point of view, Replacement Theology is a fabulously productive lie. At least one third of the Bible becomes little more than a compilation of poetic or allegorical passages, to be interpreted or expounded according to one's preferred denominational bias.

Preterism is similar to Replacement Theology in that it takes a particular prophetic passage and treats it as though it could be understood in isolation from the rest of God's Word. It concedes that the passage is prophetic in that it points to a future historical event but then it ignores entirely the need to situate that event within a framework that accommodates all similar passages.

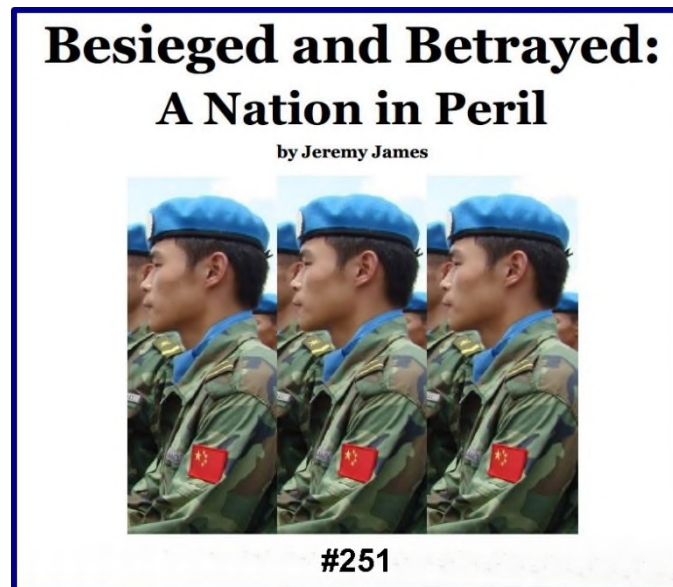


Those who distort true Biblical doctrine

It will help if we look at some examples. Before doing so we need to consider the attitude and motivation of those who devised or promoted these examples and who tried to convince professing believers that their understanding of the End Time was built on sand.

Preterism is a deliberate attempt to sabotage the plain meaning of God's Word. The organizations with the greatest interest in doing so are the Catholic Church and Freemasonry. We have shown elsewhere that they worked together to develop a counterfeit version of the Bible, a substantially complete manuscript, supposedly of considerable antiquity, which conflicted with the standard or Received Text – see our paper #376.

As we have shown in #410 and other papers, the Catholic Church has been controlled by practitioners of Kabbalah since the fifteenth century, while Freemasonry, which was formally established in 1717, is also based on Kabbalah. The top people in both organizations serve and worship the god of this world. They despise the Word of God and are doing all they can to obscure its true meaning, to pervert and corrupt important passages, and to frame a theology that diminishes the divinity of Christ.



The dark heart of these organizations poses a terrible threat to mankind. I grew up in the Catholic Church, so I knew from personal experience – and much suffering – how cleverly the Roman counterfeit has been designed to suppress the true Gospel. Freemasonry, on the other hand was still an unknown quantity to me until I had the encounter that I described originally in paper #251:

When I was in the New Age I flew to London in April, 1983, to attend a musical performance by a certain American guru. The concert was scheduled to take place in the Town Hall in Kensington. However, the custodians of the Town Hall decided at the last moment to cancel the concert. The organizer, a high-level Freemason, managed to get permission to have the concert held instead in the Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street in Holborn. When we all arrived at this imposing building, we were led up the steps into a large, dimly lit auditorium. The walls appeared to be black. It was hard to tell for sure because of the poor lighting. The atmosphere in the place was filled with a dark, deathly supernatural presence. Words like 'creepy' and 'strange' would not begin to describe the weight of evil that exuded from the walls. I doubt whether even one person present was not greatly relieved when the concert finally ended and we escaped into the street. Remember, I was not a Christian at the time, and yet the evil in that building was palpable.

As I said in that paper, "The people behind the coming New World Order worship and serve this supernatural darkness. The fallen angels that control them will stop at nothing to destroy humanity. They are now at the stage in their plan where, using advanced technology and cunningly contrived lies, they will lure entire nations into a devastating trap. Millions will die."

The Preterist Approach

The term *preterism* comes from the Latin prefix *praeter*, which denotes that something is 'past' or 'beyond'. Preterists believe that all of the prophecies of the Bible were fulfilled by 70 AD, the year that Rome sacked Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple, and completely overthrew the Jewish system of religion. That year, 70 AD, represents a deafening cessation of everything that went before it and the institution of an entirely new plan overseen by the successors of the Apostle Peter, whom they describe as the first bishop of Rome and *de jure* head of the church.

Obviously the church they had in mind was the Roman Catholic Church, while the so-called *apostolic succession* – the very foundation of its grandiose claims – is better known to the world as the Papacy.

It is generally accepted that the first systematic exposition of the Preterist position was written by Luis Del Alcázar, a Jesuit priest, and published posthumously in Antwerp in 1614. As a polemical work it was designed to refute the historicist interpretation of Bible prophecy which came to the fore during the Reformation.

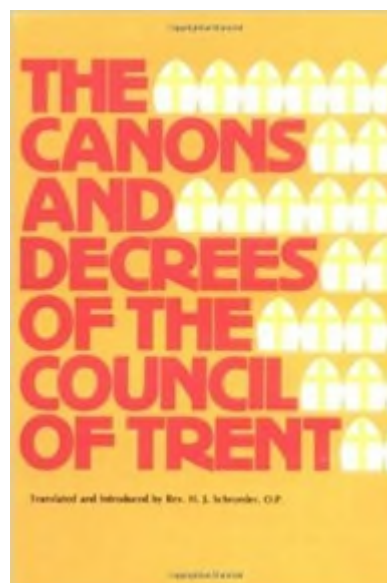
Preterism was therefore part of the theological arsenal that Rome was using to attack Biblical Christianity during the period known as the Counter-Reformation.

The book itself, about 900 pages in length, was called *Vestigatio arcani sensus in Apocalypsi*, or “An Investigation into the Hidden Meaning of the Apocalypse [Book of Revelation]”. The Reformation theologians had shown that Rome had suppressed or misrepresented countless passages in the Bible, including many of prophetic or End Time significance, in order to bolster its Dominionist theology. As far as the Papacy was concerned, Rome now ruled in the place of Christ and would fulfil the will of God on earth without the physical return of Christ. Luther and other champions of Biblical truth were showing, solely on the basis of God’s Word, that this claim was false. Worse still, they revealed that much of what Rome was doing was Antichrist in nature.

The Jesuits launch the Counter-Reformation

The Jesuits launched a counter-offensive, using a combination of military force, widespread persecution, and intense theological propaganda to defeat Protestantism. Between 1517 and 1649, much of Europe was convulsed by the wrath and brutality of Romanism. The Jesuits and the Dominicans played a lead role in fomenting this bloody turmoil.

Unable to crush the zeal of those who loved God’s Word, they made sure the conflict would continue indefinitely by organizing a landmark ecumenical council which rejected point-by-point every one of the claims made by Luther and his supporters. This council, known as the Council of Trent, ran from 1545 to 1563. Its decrees, which are still recognized in their totality today by the Catholic Church, constituted nothing less than a declaration of war on anyone whose interpretation of the Bible conflicted with the interpretation approved by the Pope. Furthermore, it presumed to have the authority to deal judicially with these ‘heretics’ and to impose severe sanctions if necessary. Imprisonment and torture were a universal threat.



The spirit of the Council of Trent is the spirit of Rome today. It hasn't changed and it never will. Its leaders draw their spiritual energy from the same dark supernatural source. Millions of Catholics around the world are being denied the true gospel – the message of salvation! – by the very organization that is supposed to provide them with spiritual guidance and instruction.

One often hears elderly Catholics claim that, despite its manifest defects and, in many instances, its gross abuses, the church of Rome must be the true church since it has survived for two thousand years. But this is nonsense. Buddhism has survived for longer than that. So too has Hinduism! And yet these religions are infested with demonism and devoid of truth. The longevity of the Roman Church says absolutely nothing about its standing before God or its true spiritual condition at this time.

The Antichrist Campaign

Preterism was, and continues to be, part of this Antichrist campaign. As a member of the Jesuit order, Luis Del Alcázar was setting the parameters of a strategy which, once implemented, would run and run. He knew that the particular preterist gloss that he placed on certain prophecies would not necessarily be accepted by all professing Christians. However, he must have recognized that his methodology was certain to provide the Roman Church with a powerful tool for generating an endless stream of mischievous associations between Bible prophecy and later historical events.



Luis Del Alcázar SJ

Del Alcázar argued that the Book of Revelation depicted the early struggles of the church in symbolic form and its eventual triumph over the combined opposition of Judaism, imperial Rome, and purveyors of heretical doctrine. For example, the Beast and related apocalyptic symbols were interpreted as references to the Roman Empire and the hostile Jewish diaspora, while Babylon itself was pagan Rome.

As he saw it, chapters 1-11 of the Book of Revelation were dealing with the persecution of Christians by the Jewish establishment and the consequent destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, while chapters 12-19 addressed the persecution of the church by imperial Rome. The latter chapters, 20-22, on the other hand, were seen as a testament in symbolic form to the rise and glory of the Roman Catholic Church.

Thus, in Del Alcázar's view, virtually all of the prophecies in the Book of Revelation had come to pass by the time Constantine became Emperor and declared Christianity to be the new official religion of the Empire. His main aim throughout was to refute any suggestion that the Papacy or the Catholic Church were connected with the Antichrist, as Reformation theologians were claiming.

Preterism was designed to cause confusion

The Preterists who succeeded Del Alcázar varied greatly in their interpretation of the many End Time prophecies in the Bible. If Preterism was designed to cause confusion among true believers, it was itself subject to many confusing claims and hypotheses by its later adherents. In the most extreme form of Preterism, it was claimed that Jesus returned to earth in 70 AD at the time Jerusalem was destroyed in order to carry out the final Judgment and to resurrect the dead. This version of the Second Coming is portrayed as a purely spiritual, non-physical return by Jesus.



The Siege and Destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD by David Roberts (1796-1864)

To anyone who loves God's Word, Preterism is a perverse exercise in contrarian thinking, an arrogant rejection of what the Bible plainly says and the substitution of conjecture and personal opinions disguised as legitimate expository scholarship. The consistency and rigor that this kind of work demands is completely absent. Instead we find imaginary connections, speculative analysis, sloppy or unconvincing historical citations, and an outrageous disregard for any passage of Scripture that conflicts with or casts doubt over the preterist position.

When Jesus gave his assessment of the Seven Churches in the Book of Revelation, he said the following to the church at Ephesus:

“I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:” (Revelation 2:2)

He was commending them for exposing the false apostles who had infiltrated the church and spread misleading, heretical doctrines. Jesus referred to these impostors as “liars” and implied that the leaders at Ephesus had denounced them in the same manner.

Men and women who profess to be experts in God’s Word but who nevertheless, against all counsel and advice, continue to spread false doctrine are liars. We cannot do as the Jesuits do and construe the Word of God to mean whatever we would like it to mean.

The Luciferians are masters of lies and confusion

The Luciferian cult that controls this world will contest and reject God’s Word to their last breath. They loathe the idea that Jesus will one day return to the earth in his immortalized physical body and destroy the works of darkness. All references in God’s Word to this glorious fact must be twisted and misconstrued, or weighed down with so many ‘scholarly’ views and opinions that its impact is lost.

The Jesuits, the Preterists, and the motley crew who sail the ship of confusion need to wake up to the fact that Jesus will do exactly as the Word of God has revealed. He will return to earth in triumph, with tens of thousands of his angels and saints, and set his feet on the Mount of Olives. He will annihilate the Antichrist brigade and bring Peace to the earth. He will reign as King of kings in the city of Jerusalem and oversee the orderly spiritual rejuvenation and renewal of the entire earth.



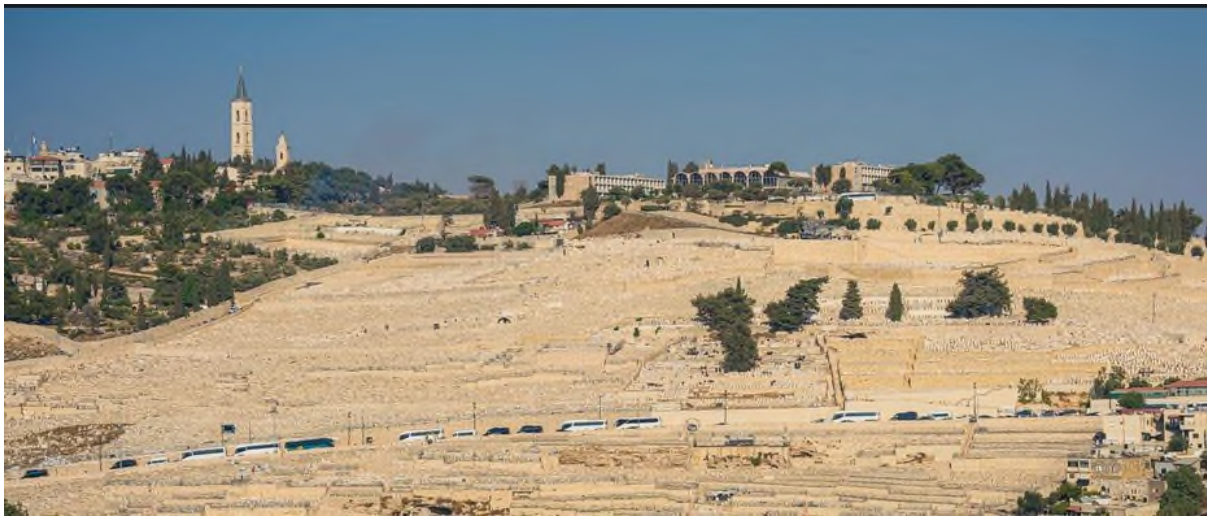
The Annunciation by Fra Angelico (1395-1455)

When the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary at the Annunciation, he said:

“...Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.” (Luke 1:30-33)

Gabriel was conveying a message to Mary from God the Father about Jesus, His Son. He said that Jesus would occupy the throne of his dynastic father, David. Did this happen when Jesus was on earth during the first century? Of course not! Therefore it is a prophecy that awaits fulfillment at his Second Coming. He will occupy the throne of David just as David did – physically, as a living human being. And he will be recognized as king of Israel, just as David was. His name will be recorded in the annals of neighboring nations as the reigning king of Israel, just as David’s name was recorded. And how long will he reign? Forever! Of his kingdom, there shall be no end.

What does this simple, straightforward passage of Scripture do to Preterism? It destroys it completely. It shows Preterism for what it is, a complete fantasy dreamt up by people who have no respect for God’s Word.



The Mount of Olives

For those who would like to see additional Scripture to support this, consider the following:

“And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down...” (Luke 4:17-20)

We give below the passage to which Jesus was referring:

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn...”

(Isaiah 61:1-2)

Notice that Jesus omitted the last part of the passage: **“and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn...”**

When he read aloud the passage from Isaiah, he was speaking of his First Coming. The part he omitted related to his Second Coming. On the great day of the LORD, **“the day of vengeance of our God”**, Jesus will carry out the will of his Father and destroy the wicked. They will no longer exist on the earth! Peace will prevail and all nations will honor and obey the King of kings.

Has this come to pass? Of course not! Jesus has yet to come and fulfil this prophecy.

So, Del Alcázar was either a complete fool or a wretched deceiver. Take your pick.

The prophet Zechariah also referred, in the same breath as it were, to the First and Second Coming of Christ:

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.” (Zechariah 9:9-10)

We could go on and on, citing one passage of Scripture after another proving that the Second Coming still lies in the future, as do numerous detailed prophecies pertaining to that event and the seven years that precede it.



CONCLUSION

The Apostle Paul warned of the “**grievous wolves**” who, entering the church after he left, would attack the true gospel, “**not sparing the flock**” (Acts 20:29).

Those wolves exist in large numbers today. Some are easy to spot, but many are very cleverly disguised and easily pass as sheep unless we take the time to study them closely. The dark supernatural force that energizes them is motivated by a deep hatred of Christ, His Father, and the Word of God. They are utterly without shame and secretly exult in the harm they are causing.

As dedicated servants of Christ, it is incumbent upon us to detect these liars and expose their lies. Who knows how many will benefit from our efforts?

Maranatha!

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Ireland
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For further information visit www.zephaniah.eu

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