

This summary aims to help you see that most of Revelation was not fulfilled in the first century and that Nero, nor Titus or Domitian, could not have been the *man of sin* of 2 Thessalonians 2 or the *antichrist beast* of Revelation. I pray that you will seek truth, not defend a belief, because the enemy has misled us with futurism and preterism to deflect blame away from the *antichrist beast*.

When compared to the false futuristic explanations, the preterist view seems viable. But the witness of early church fathers and internal Scripture evidence and history show that preterism is another deception from the enemy that's been promoted to hide historicism's truth.

The historicist view is that the 70th week of Daniel 9 was about Messiah, not the antichrist. Historicism teaches that the Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24 was fulfilled in *that generation*. Matthew 24:30 points to Messiah coming in judgment of the Jewish nation that delivered Him up. Verse 31 points to the *elect* who had fled to the mountains of Pella being gathered by leaders (*aggelos*) after the war, to go preach the Gospel. Matthew 24:31-46 and Matthew 25 point to Messiah's return at the end.

The early church fathers testified that the apocalyptic vision was given to John during Emperor Domitian's reign, invalidating the preterist premise that it was written before 66 AD. Preterists dismiss their witness as it destroys their explanations, but that stance lacks credibility.

Per Eusebius, the grandchildren of Messiah's brother Jude testified to Emperor Domitian that Christ will come in glory to judge the quick and the dead at the end of the world. The testimony of Messiah's family invalidates the full-preterist position that Messiah returned in the first century.

The early church fathers did not proclaim that most of Revelation was fulfilled in the first century, which refutes the preterist narrative. They were historicists who believed that the prophecies were fulfilled from the first century until Messiah's return.

The early church fathers did not proclaim that Nero, Titus, or Domitian was the antichrist. They believed that the *man of sin* would appear after the Western Roman Empire, which '*restrained*' the *son of perdition* from taking power, fell and split into ten kingdoms, which is the historicist position. The Waldenses, Albigenses, Hussites, Vaudois, Protestant Reformers, the Church of Scotland Confession of Faith, the Lutheran Confession of Faith 1603, the Irish Articles of Religion of 1615, the Westminster Confession of Faith 1649, the London Baptist Confession of 1689, proclaimed that the office of the papacy, the popes of Rome, fulfill prophecy as the '*little horn*' of Daniel 7, the '*son of perdition*' of 2 Thessalonians 2, and '*the beast*' of Revelation 13, who leads the '*harlot*' church of Rome.

The *little horn* of Daniel 7 rose to power over ten contemporary leaders, not ten previous leaders, so it can't apply to Emperor Nero. The popes of Rome rose to power over the ten kingdoms that formed after the Western Roman Emperor was removed from power in 476 AD. The popes *plucked out* three kingdoms, the Heruli, Ostrogoths, and Vandals, who did not bow down to their authority.

Nero did not fulfill Daniel 7:25 in seeking to *change the Scriptural times and laws*. The popes of Rome fulfilled this when they moved the world away from the Scriptural calendar and removed the second commandment about idol worship. They've promoted manmade holidays instead of the Scriptural Holy Feast Days, which Messiah is fulfilling to redeem the saints.

The *son of perdition* of 2 Thessalonians 2 *sits in the temple of God*, but Nero was never in the Jerusalem temple. That said, Paul is not pointing to a physical temple; he is saying that the *man of sin* is a false priest who proclaims to lead Messiah's Ekklesia, the *temple* in which the Father dwells. The popes of Rome proclaim to lead Messiah's one-true church; thus, they seem to *sit in the temple*, but they teach a false gospel and false intercessor in Mary. The popes of Rome sit in ornate basilicas and have people fawn over them, contrary to Messiah.

The epistles of Paul show that there was no significant *falling away* from the faith before Nero. That occurred in the fourth century when Constantine and the Roman bishops created the false religion of Romanism to seek to destroy Messiah's Ekklesia, His Church, from within. Sadly, it's worked very well, as billions of Catholics have believed in a false gospel since the fourth century.

Nero can't be the *son of perdition* as 2 Thessalonians 2:8 says that Messiah *destroys the son of perdition with the brightness of His coming*, which did not occur with Nero, who committed suicide.

Nero was wicked, but in 2 Thessalonians 2, Paul points to someone like Judas, who feigns to serve Messiah but is a betrayer. The popes of Rome have committed heinous sins, and they cause Catholics to sin by believing in a false gospel and false intercessor in Mary; by calling the pope *Holy Father*, which Messiah forbid; by making, bowing, and praying to *graven images*; by forbidding priests to marry which has led to rampant homosexuality and the rape of nuns and children; by causing them to torture and *murder* tens of millions of Messiah's saints during the Dark Ages and Inquisition.

The *temple* in Revelation 11:1 is not physical, so it's not proof of an early writing of Revelation. The command tells us to use the *rule* of Scripture to measure a church to see if it teaches a Scriptural Gospel. This was primarily fulfilled by Catholic monk Martin Luther, who, given the Scriptures, found out that the Roman Catholic Church is an apostate church and *not part of the true temple of Messiah* but is delegated to the *outer court of the gentiles*.

Antichrist means both '*against Christ*' and '*in place of Christ*.' Nero never proclaimed to take the place of Christ, but the popes of Rome proclaim the title of the '*Vicar of Christ*,' which means '*in place of Christ*' while they teach concepts that are *against Christ* and they've made war with His saints.

Titus 1, 2 Peter 2, and Jude 1 define that a '*beast*' is a false priest in the church and Nero did not fill that role. The popes of Rome are false priests who proclaim to be the high priest of Messiah's church, but they teach a false gospel and false intercessor in Mary, which denies Messiah.

Preterists say that the 1260 days of Daniel 7:25 and Revelation 13:5 were fulfilled during the Jewish-Roman War of 66-70 AD. Both prophecies declare that the *antichrist beast* reigns in power and persecutes the saints for 1,260 days, but Nero died in June 68 AD, so he didn't fulfill the 3 ½ years.

The *sea beast* of Revelation 13 points to the *antichrist beast* popes who rose to power out of the *sea* of people of the ten kingdoms (*ten horns*) of the fallen Western Roman Empire and ruled in power for 1260 years, from 538-1798 AD. Preterists understand the '*one day = one year*' principle in the 70 weeks of Daniel 9 prophecy but fail to apply it to the prophecies in Daniel 7 and Revelation.

The *earth beast* of Revelation 13 points to the black pope who rose to power out of the *earth* of the Vatican and has controlled it since 1798 AD. The Jesuit Superior General uses the white pope to gather the world under their authority.

The *false prophet* causes 1.3 billion Catholics to believe in a false Christian religion and have the *mark of the beast* on them as they revere (mark on forehead, thoughts) and obey (mark on right hand, actions) the *antichrist beast* pope. The *false prophet* black pope had Jesuit priests create the preterist and futurist deceptions to deflect blame away from the white pope.

Preterists say that the *harlot* of Revelation 17 points to the Jews. The precedent of the House of Israel and the House of Judah being called a *harlot* gives us a type. It points to a people group who proclaim to serve God but are steeped in the worship of pagan gods. The Roman Catholic Church proclaims to be the one true church of Messiah, but its main basilica has an Egyptian obelisk of the sun god Ra in the middle of a sun wheel, and its temple is filled with sun symbols graven images. Early church fathers Tertullian and Eusebius declared that '*Babylon*' is the code name for Rome.

Revelation 17 describes the papal church of the *antichrist beast* popes, as their high priests wear *purple and scarlet* attire, whose priests use the *golden cup* during their blasphemous Eucharist ceremony, and who have been *drunk with the blood* of Messiah's saints during the Dark Ages and Inquisition, killing tens of millions. Historically, we can see how the *kings* of the *ten kingdoms* of the fallen Western Roman Empire gave their power and authority to the popes. And we can see how those ten kingdoms are being filled with Muslims, which, when they gain a majority, may be used to *hate the harlot* Roman Catholic Church and bring judgment on the apostate church of the *antichrist beast*.

Nero can't be the *beast*, as Revelation 17:10-11 declares that the beast is the *eighth king* who exists after seven kings, and that does not align with the narrative of the Roman Emperors, as Nero would have been the *fifth* or *sixth king*, depending on whether Julius Augustus is included in the list. John is pointing to seven forms of government of the Roman Empire; five had passed when John got the vision, the Emperors were the sixth, and they were removed from power in 476 AD. The seventh was the Dukedom of Rome, which existed for a *short time* from 476 AD to 538 AD, when the popes, the *eighth king*, were given civil and ecclesiastic authority over the Roman Empire.

Nero can't be the *beast*, as Revelation 17:12 says that *ten contemporary leaders (horns)* give their power to the *beast and rule with him one hour*. This was fulfilled when the ten kingdoms of the fallen Western Empire submitted to the authority of the popes of Rome during the Dark Ages.

Revelation 18 describes the riches of the Roman Catholic Church, which has been spent to adorn their popes' tiaras with *gold, silver, and precious stones*; to build and furnish over 1,800 ornate basilicas with *precious wood, ivory, brass, iron, and marble*; to dress their priests in *fine linens, and purple and scarlet silk*; and to carry out their sacraments with *incense* (to burn for their Queen of Heaven, Mary), *wine, anointing oil and eucharist wafer flour* in over 223,000 parishes.

Nero can't be the *antichrist beast* as Revelation 19:20 says that *the antichrist beast and false prophet are taken by Messiah and cast into the lake of fire*, and that did not happen to Nero, who died by suicide.

Regarding passages in which Messiah declares, *"I come quickly,"* it's pointing to Him making sudden judgments of His church, whom He tells to repent. It's not pointing to His actual return, as Revelation 22:12 declares, *"I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."* Every man can't have been judged in the first century. This future judgment aligns with Matthew 25:31-36 when the *sheep and goats are separated* and judged.

Preterists rightly teach that it's absurd that there's a 2,000-year time gap between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel 9. It's also absurd to proclaim that most of Revelation was fulfilled in the first century and that there's a 2,000-year time gap until all of Revelation is completed.

The historicist view shows that the first seal was fulfilled *shortly* after the apocalyptic vision was given, that most of the prophecies in Revelation have already been fulfilled during the last 1,900 years, and that there's not much left to be fulfilled until Messiah's return.

Revelation 1:1 points to *things which must shortly come to pass* and the seal judgments started to be fulfilled *shortly* after it was written. After Domitian, Emperor Trajan *conquered* many territories and celebrated by riding a *white horse* and wearing a laurel wreath *crown* during his victory parades. The second seal points to the *bloody* civil wars when many emperors were killed by the *sword*.

The enemy has created a false dichotomy in making the prophecy fulfillment debate primarily between futurism and preterism, which serves to hide the historicism narrative.

To counter the witness of the Protestant Reformers against the *antichrist beast* popes, Jesuit priests wrote both futurist and preterist prophecy fulfillment explanations. This shows their motive to deflect blame away from the popes and their deception to hide the truth of historicism.

What makes more sense? That Revelation is only pointing to the persecution of Christians by Nero? Or that it's describing all ten persecutions by the Roman Emperors and also to a second group of tens of millions of martyrs (Rev 6:11) whom the popes killed during the Dark Ages and Inquisition?

What makes more sense? That Revelation is only about the events in Jerusalem, which were already proclaimed in Matthew, Mark, and Luke? Or that Revelation gives the historical narrative of what Messiah's saints have faced during the last 1,900 years as the enemy has sought to wipe them out?

Did Messiah have nothing to say about the following anti-Christ events? Constantine and the Roman bishops codifying a false Christian religion to try to destroy the true faith. The popes' apostate church which has misled billions of people with a false gospel of works and a false intercessor in Mary, in the name of Jesus Christ. The popes using the title of *'holy father'* and declaring that they are God, that they can forgive sins, and that they can provide salvation, which is blasphemy. The popes banning and burning the Scriptures and killing those who had them.

The many points made in this summary and the exacting fulfillment of most of the prophecies in the apocalyptic vision during the last 1,900 years render the preterist position invalid.

You can learn the historicist explanations in the YouTube *Revelation Timeline Overview* videos and *Revelation Timeline Decoded* video series.