

Chronfusion

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1

The men of Issachar had understanding of the times and so **knew what they should do**. The cost of not understanding time, chronfusion, is ineffectiveness. You work hard, you sacrifice, and reap no rewards. You sewed out of season. Nature despised your offering. Like Cain, you might get murderously jealous on the Day of Judgment when you have nothing.

Actually, the 'judgment day' concept is quite threatening for not only does it have potential to rob you of expected blessings (like Cash plus and Olint mega interests), it can also strip all that you have gathered lawfully in past seasons. The injunctions in scripture that warn of the wicked laying up treasure that the righteous will inherit; of investors who end up reaping where they have not sown by God's command; of him that hath not, being stripped of whatever remains of that which he hath, while he that hath is given more;....these are really dreadful possibilities not to be taken lightly by those who respect scripture.

Understanding the deeper meaning of the scriptures is important to those who value those gems more than the earth's precious stones. In fact, many a billionaire's investment portfolio has been cultivated and expanded by referring to its principles.

The purpose of this paper is to reorient the Jamaican mindset to a paradigm that prepares us for an imminent turning point which promises to entirely upset present formations and make room for a rapid acceleration of purpose in advancing certain God-ordained regional realities that shift the present axis of global economic, political and cultural processes.

Rather than pointing to certain presently unfolding US and global economic and political realities and its portents, let me begin by encouraging and challenging all to read [Paradise Restored](#), David Chilton's brilliant exegesis of the Book of Revelations in the Preterist eschatological tradition, a biblical framework for understanding age endings, a must read for Christians who wish to accurately schedule their season of sorrow by having, like the Issacharites, a sound and accurate understanding of the times.

2.

The notion of the interconnectedness of all things, while undeniably true, is also a rather obtuse idea. Much simpler to deal with the specifics of what actually seem to be before us tempero-spatially than to try to apprehend the often vague connections with things distant and unfamiliar. To try to hold in one's consciousness local and global realities with a view to seeing how each impacts the other even in subtle ways, for many will be a task too demanding on the brain.

But we may not have a choice, 21st century lived realities continue to take us to such a place with communication technologies forcing local cultures into a wider pool of awareness of hitherto unknown and unfamiliar global terrain resulting in on the one hand a knee jerk, head-in-the-sand, denial of changes taking place all around.... a clinging to old paths, even when no longer viable; and on the other, a sense of being swallowed up by rapid and fast moving changes outside of one's control and capacity even to comprehend; therefore losing a sense of agency, Having instead a sense of being usurped by powerful forces that require the surrender of soul (identity and value systems) for survival.

There are other options to be sure, but these are the usual initial responses to rapid change - which will only continue to accelerate as we go deeper into this new century. The effects on local culture? - destabilizing. Chronfusion. Whether , one takes refuge in orthodoxies reaching backward for golden days disappeared, or whether one takes the view of staying relevant for survival, but no longer assured of direction, destiny or definiteness.... New gods rise on the horizon, gods that have not been questioned or interrogated. Unfamiliar powers. The choice sometimes seems merely whether to bow or break. Agency is lost.

Of course, one can always choose to go deeper in questioning the God of our understanding (not the god of our Understanding) Greater complexity requires greater revelation. Revelation...or perhaps better stated, Epiphany is not only at the heart of faith, but science as well, in that Truth of any kind yields itself to inquiry. The un-inquisitive are always also necessarily the un-creative.

If the above introduction has no resonance with you, then read no further and dismiss the writing as vain, vague or empty philosophizing.

However, if it does, then consider with me the value, place and purpose of our Jamaican, Christian heritage in the world that is now unfolding before us. Ian Boyne was recently unnecessarily but understandably opining on the destabilization of the Christian worldview in the light of the multiplicity of voices and views introduced by the internet and the new media.

Jamaica is almost to the core Christian in orientation and the status quo is unlikely to be unduly swayed by the rising antitheist fundamentalism claiming space in the vanguards of western academia. However, what are the ramifications of that posture for the next two generations? Will faith deepen or become increasingly reactionary and irrelevant? Will we continue to remain in the backwater of global innovation?

Will we move forward blindly, schizoid, consigned consumers in the brave new world being conceived, created and administered from powerful metropolises or will we rediscover our vision, and continue to produce world changing visionaries - Garvey, Manley, Marley etc. in the various fields of human endeavor...and if we do, will we stone and kill them as Israel did her prophets, or will we ever have prophetic leadership that takes this civilization to the center of global import (at least from our own perspective)?

For me, those questions demanded from me a review of biblical eschatology. For this is where the real crux is at - one's vision of how things end. How things started is comparably inconsequential, except for insomuch as that may help us explain the here and now and suggest viable destinies for our future. Hence, I have little or no interest in creationism, intelligent design / Big Bang, Evolution studies just now. Rather, what is the viable vision of the end? What is our vision for the future, and since we must, how is that vision lifted from scripture and expounded to a people more divided by biblical interpretation than united?

This is what has fueled my recent review of Preterist literature and my revived interest in the theological output of Christian Reconstructionism for all my grave misgivings over many of the other tenets of the movement, undoubtedly, in my

view, there are things that we need to acknowledge and learn for our own Christianity to be of greater relevance to our own situation.

What is classically defined as Partial Preterism is the eschatological position expressed in David Chilton's classic [Paradise Restored](#). It is of little relevance that Chilton eventually parted company with Orthodoxy as he tended to Full Preterism. This eschatological position (Preterism), offers a counter to the frothy and fantastic dispensationalism now standard among evangelicals whether of pre, post or mid tribulationist persuasion which can twist, convolute and do disservice to the genuinely prophetic claims of Hebrew scripture.

3

THE END OF AN AGE.

For most evangelicals who read [Paradise Restored](#) for the first time, there will both be some aha moments as well as some moments of disorientation. Here is, in essence, the value of a consideration of the Preterist vision:

1. By positing AD 70 as the prophetic apex of scripture, it strips away much of the confusing hyperbolic interpretation of 'last days events' (Hal Lindsay et al) that has distracted honest believers from shortly after the days of the protestant reformation till now. (The early Protestant reformers also were partial Preterists. The influence of Dakes and the Dispensationalists are relatively recent doctrinal innovations). The wealth, influence and political entrenchment of the Roman church bear witness to the capacity of the early church fathers (Preterists) to think, plan and act trans-generationally. The almost fairy tale emphasis on 'last days' is, to say the least, an intellectual impediment to futurist projection.
2. The Preterist emerges with a mandate not only for continuous personal spiritual growth and evangelization, but also for cultural victory in the NOW, rather than postponing the reign of Christ in the affairs of men to a posthumous Disney Land of milk and honey.
3. Of all the variant, schismatic, idiosyncratic and sectarian biblical interpretations, it claims itself to be, once properly understood, the most symmetric, simple and credible.

My chief interest in journeying into doctrine comes from an acknowledgement of the deep entrenchment of Judeo-Christian orientation in Jamaican religious life. During times of social malaise, critics of religion tend to put all blame for social evil and inequity squarely at the feet of religion.

Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and the new atheists are positioning themselves to become perhaps even more intractable enemies of religious influence in the affairs of state than was Marx. Jamaica, culturally, to this point, has generally been perceived to follow North American trends with a delay of a decade or so, technology now shortening the gap.

Our education system is now debating the appropriateness of mandatory religious devotion in primary and high schools. Is this an indication that the anti-prayer-in-school and 'Festivus' movements could also cross-pollinate here within the next two decades? Is the current decline of interest in Christian college attendance, the recent appearance of hitherto unknown or unmentioned phenomena such as homosexual gangs and gay rape in Jamaica, the press for legalized abortion etc. portents of that which is to come?

The present influence of the church... (how should we characterize it – Impotent? Irrelevant? Ineffective?) ... does need to be examined. How much does the life and influence of the Jamaican church reflect the Life and Spirit of the Christ of scripture?

Religious revival (we have had one or two in our brief history) might be the only vision of change the church can muster. However, if religious revival only results in a refreshing temporary increase in piety but the social order and cultural matrices remain untouched, there is no lasting value, no millennial reign, no crown, no victory, no Edenic Restoration.

Where is the galvanizing vision that gathers the creative energies of the Jamaican people towards the enterprise of imagining and constructing a nation reflective of our highest and most noble aspirations? If the church is a sleeping giant, what is the trumpet blast that will wake her?

With eyes on Israel, based on traditional church teachings, there is an expectation of an imminent age ending. No doubt, great tribulation, attendant to most profound shifts in the development of human civilization is just around the corner and the global economic and political trends - signs of the times, point us in the direction of anticipation of new developments... even for those too 'drunk on the wine of fornication with Babylon' to consciously pay attention or prepare.

The ground of relevant thought and appropriate action must be prepared in order to seize the moment and engage new destiny. We must ask and answer – what era is ending? And what new age is about to emerge?

Our becoming is seeded in our being. The effective counter to anti-theism comes from a more compelling and demonstrable answer to the question "Who am I" rather than in any theorizing and argument about the nature of the Great I AM. Can we search the scripture with fresh eyes and answer that question on, by and through the authority of the teachings of Christ? This is the challenge of the times.

Have you finished reading Chilton's [Paradise Restored](#) ? Perhaps it might help nudge to alertness those who wish to be up, alert and waiting to catch first glimpse of the bridegroom's lamp approaching in the present darkness.

4.

All collective human experience takes place within the context of a woven patch patch fabric of myth. Properly understood, myth is not oppositional to reality, it is the carpet upon which reality stands. It is the construct and context within which our experience takes shape and has form. It colors, gives character, quality, and definition to our realities.

Time itself, at least in part is mythical - a product as much of mind as matter. That is, humans experience and interpret time not just as relative motion of objects but also attach mythic narrative to season and age. We are in the habit still of idolizing materiality (flawed rationale of an immature cosmology) but Mind is the great arbiter - the Source of myth, shaper of experience.

So as to get all readers on the same page, let me explain further. Our human experiences take place in the context of a variegated field of thought constructs. There are marginal groups today still in the Stone Age, and there are groups and individuals today living a reality that it will take several centuries for the mainstream of civilization to comprehend let alone pattern. Time is a thought construct (and whether or not this can be conceived by the reader or not, so is space....and its material content).

Actually, every Christian ought to recognize the above. The Bible puts it much simpler though. "In the beginning, God.....". The one problem we may have....which religionists and scientists alike share, is conceptualizing 'the beginning'. We may find that more complex than imagining "God".

We tend to think chronologically and linearly. But what if time is neither necessarily linear or logical? Rather than losing coherency through too wide an ambit of speculation, let's examine what we can. Our own time and age, and the mythic cloth that constructs it.

But before that exercise, we need to recognize what and who generates the cloth. We need to understand vision pioneers and vision communities. Today's corporate leaders are remembering that human [vision](#) is not merely a passive sensual capacity - the reception of phototronic data through the biological mechanisms introduced to us in High school science class. Human vision is also an active, creative capacity, granting god like powers to the one mastering its skills.

Putting it another way. You and I may think that we are living in inert reality. What we call 'inert reality' is in fact often the living vision of another. The chair I am sitting in, the laptop I am typing on, the very process by which this data is being delivered to your eyes from my mind through my fingerswhat and where is the real genesis of these realities?

Tell yourself the truth. I'm telling you mine. It was not I who thought any of those up. Not even the ideas expressed in these words are mine. I'll take some responsibility for the way in which they are presented. Do we understand the nature of thought? Do we have a clue of who we really are?

I have introduced more questions than answers. I am fully aware that by the time most read this, I may be dismissed as a time waster infatuated with an ungrounded but vast mental capacity. But I mean to plant some signpost as to the uncertainty of the present moment for those without a sharper light and compass of awareness than we have grown accustomed to functioning with up to this point in the development of our culture.

How do I best explain?

Imagine yourself to be one of the little children at Jesus' feet in Matthew 18. You are living in the times of the Master himself. This is the year and ministry of the Lord's Jubilee. The times of the visitation of the Lord. Wow!

You would have been old enough to bask in the affirming words:

"Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven"

and to appreciate the comfort and kindness of

"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven."

and

"it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."

You would not yet be old or wise enough to feel the ominous threat implied in the parallel statements of Jesus:

'Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!'

and

' if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee; it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.'

or *'it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.'*

Of course Jesus didn't mean you. You are but a little child. Maybe Jesus was upset that day with some adults.

Now let's fast forward some 40 years - just a generation. You are now a little older than Jesus was on that memorable day....and you have kids the age you and your friends were then. Its AD 70. Jesus had warned them that this Great Tribulation would come. Run to the mountains was his advice. Flee. He had given them signs.

For some reason, with all the miracles, the sermons, the spreading of the good news during that great and grand Jubilee ministry of Jesus throughout the cities of Judea. There was no turning. The Pharisees and Sadducees, the leadership would not listen. They would rather countenance the known thievery and deceit of Barabbas than the honest ministry of Jesus....not because his yolk wasn't easy; not because he had not demonstrated His Loving-kindness. But deep down in the Zealot heart of this people with a long tradition and heritage, they said - **We are Jews**. The seed of Abraham. God is with us.

God will fight our battles as before. So here you are with your zealot friends to make a last stand in the temple against these uncircumcised heathen - dogs, idolaters, boy-lovers. Pagans. Our God will arise and as in days gone by, give us the victory.

The tradition, the identity, the heritage had obscured the vision as to who God is and what He loves. Jesus' admonitions, the woes, were all taken with a grain of salt. **We are Jews**. God's chosen.

Let Josephus describe what happened next:-

Now as soon as the army had no more people to slay or to plunder, because there remained none to be the objects of their fury (for they would not have spared any, had there remained any other work to be done), [Titus] Caesar gave orders that they should

now demolish the entire city and Temple,it was so thoroughly laid even with the ground by those that dug it up to the foundation, that there was left nothing to make those that came thither believe it [Jerusalem] had ever been inhabited. This was the end which Jerusalem came to by the madness of those that were for innovations; a city otherwise of great magnificence, and of mighty fame among all mankind.^[2]

"The slaughter within was even more dreadful than the spectacle from without. Men and women, old and young, insurgents and priests, those who fought and those who entreated mercy, were hewn down in indiscriminate carnage. The number of the slain exceeded that of the slayers. The legionaries had to clamber over heaps of dead to carry on the work of extermination."^[5]

God can't lie. You were one of the children Jesus had spoken of. That it was not God's will for you to perish. But the tide of time had shifted. You could not judge yourself. You could not judge the time. For almost 2000 years, your land, your heritage, your temple would be trodden under foot by Gentiles.

Let's get this straight. I know there will be and is now an unprecedented outpouring of Holy Spirit with demonstrative signs and wonders. I know the expectation for revival and Soul Harvest. All the way to AD 70 the Spirit was being poured out.

Do you get the point? Do you see any Tainos / Arawaks around today? Then it should not be far-fetched to imagine a Jamaica two hundred years hence with English - an unknown tongue. Garvey a forgotten name. Hardly a single black face from what we now know as Negril to Portland. And people with stammering lips and a foreign tongue flooding the streets of this land. (Isaiah 28)

This is not a prophecy. Neither do I claim it inevitable. The point is, it's an option. And if we want our candle stick to remain, if we want to build a nation and culture that continues for generations in prosperity and peace, then we are going to have to inquire of the Lord God what materials are required and build according to pattern. Take nothing for granted. We are going to have to make the right choices.

Justice..... Truth..... These are good foundations. God will bless these.