

An Unprovable Assumption

Part of the problem with the A.D. 70 doctrine is that it demands that all the books of the New Testament be written prior to A.D. 70, which is an unprovable assumption. Because the A.D. 70 doctrine has to have all prophecy finished by the destruction of Jerusalem, if any New Testament book was written after A.D. 70 and had a promise of something future, these advocates' arguments fail.

At least six books are thought by many to have been written after A.D. 70: the five letters of John and Jude. They place Christ's second coming in the future (John 14:2-3; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Revelation 22:20). In conclusion, Almon Williams, who is an advocate for all books being written before A.D. 70, wrote:

Let us get to our point about the A.D. 70 doctrine's pre-A.D. 70 dates for all New Testament books. Can this thesis be proven beyond a reasonable doubt? I, although I am a joint-believer in this view and would not ordinarily, in any other context, like to admit it so freely, do now most unhesitatingly say, 'No!' and frankly confess my view here to be nothing but an opinion. In other words, so long as any proponent of some New Testament books' post-A.D. 70 origin can present arguments which are as persuasive or even nearly so as those of the pre-A.D. 70 advocate, the latter has not gotten close to proving his view beyond a reasonable shadow of doubt ... In conclusion, to argue for the pre-A.D. 70 date of all New Testament books as a personally satisfying opinion is one thing, but to argue for such as an absolute necessity to uphold one's basic belief about the New Covenant and the only true meaning of divine truth is, to say the least, quite another thing. In short, it is an opinion -- pure and simple!

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