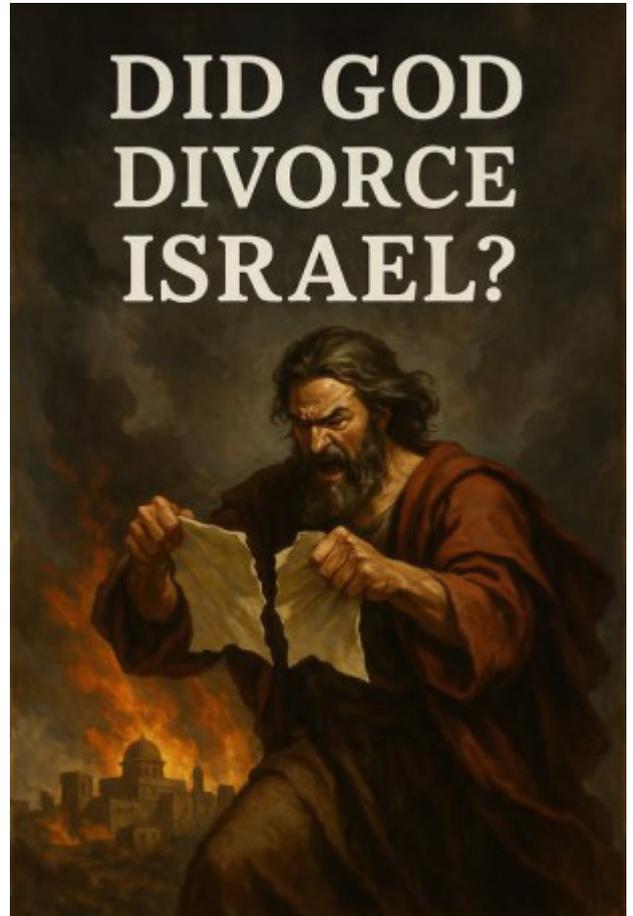


# Fulfilled Prophecies

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## Did God Divorce Israel



By Dan Maines

### Did God Divorce Israel?

**Introduction** When we ask the question, Did God divorce Israel? we are not just probing a historical issue, but the very heart of the transition from the Old Covenant to the New. This is not just about national Israel, it is about covenantal identity, faithfulness, and judgment. And yes, according to scripture, God did divorce Old Covenant Israel. But this wasn't arbitrary. It was the outcome of repeated spiritual adultery and rebellion. The judgment reached its climax in the destruction of Jerusalem in

70 AD, not in some still future end of the world.

## **God's Divorce of Israel**

**Jeremiah 3:8** "Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also." This verse clearly shows that God gave Israel a certificate of divorce. The imagery is covenantal. God was in a marriage relationship with His people, and their consistent unfaithfulness led to the final decree of separation.

**Historical Context: Around 586 BC** Scholars widely date Jeremiah's prophecies to the final years before Jerusalem's destruction by Babylon in 586 BC. This was the judgment against Judah. Israel, the northern kingdom, had already been scattered by Assyria around 722 BC. But Jeremiah warns that Judah, like her sister Israel, would face judgment too. God had already issued the decree of divorce against the ten northern tribes. Now Judah's time had come.

**Jeremiah was active from roughly 626 BC to after 586 BC**

**Jerusalem fell to Babylon in 586 BC, fulfilling the prophecy of destruction**

**This was not the final destruction, but a foreshadowing of the greater one in 70 AD**

## **Israel's Role in the Old Covenant and Her Rebellion**

**Isaiah 1:2** "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the Lord has spoken: 'Sons I have raised and brought up, but they have revolted against Me.'" The "heavens and earth" are not about the physical sky and ground. This is covenantal language. The Law was given in the presence of heaven and

earth as witnesses (Deuteronomy 30:19). So when Jesus says in Matthew 5:18 that not one jot or tittle will pass until heaven and earth pass away, He is referring to that covenantal system.

**Matthew 21:43** "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruit." Here Jesus explicitly announces that the kingdom is being removed from physical Israel and will be handed over to a new people, the believers, His church. This was not a delay tactic, it was a covenantal transfer.

## **Jesus Declares the End of the Old Covenant Marriage**

**Revelation 21:1-3** "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them.'" This is not about the end of the planet. It is the passing away of the Old Covenant system and the establishment of the New. The bride is not national Israel. It is the church, the body of Christ, the New Jerusalem.

**Revelation 21:4** "And He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will no longer be death, there will no longer be mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." The "first things" refer to the Old Covenant order, a system of sin, death, and condemnation. These are covenantal transitions, not planetary collapses.

**Hebrews 8:13** "When He said, 'A new covenant,' He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is about to disappear." Written shortly before 70 AD, this tells us that the Old Covenant was on the verge of

vanishing. It did so in the destruction of Jerusalem.

## **Christ's Coming Was the Final Redemption Event**

**Hebrews 9:26-28** "Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been revealed to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And just as it is destined for people to die once, and after this comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him." Christ appeared once to put away sin. His second appearing (not bodily but in judgment and redemption) was to come at the end of the age, which He clearly defined as that generation (Matthew 24:34). That was 70 AD.

## **The Shattering of the Power – Daniel 12:1-7**

In Daniel 12, we are told that the end comes when the power of the holy people is shattered. That power was the covenant. Not the land, not the temple stones, but the covenantal relationship itself. Once that was broken, God's marriage with Israel ended. She was no longer His bride.

## **Israel the Harlot vs. The Church the Bride**

**Revelation 17:1,5** "Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters... and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, 'Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth.'" This harlot was none other than apostate Jerusalem. She was drunk with the blood of the saints (Revelation 17:6), just as Jesus said Jerusalem was guilty of all righteous blood (Matthew 23:35-37).

**Jeremiah 2:1-2** "Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Go and proclaim in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, This is what the Lord says: I remember regarding you the devotion of your

youth, Your love when you were a bride..." God had married Israel, but her repeated adultery led to her divorce and ultimate judgment.

**Revelation 19:7-8** "Let's rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself." The bride is not Old Covenant Israel. It is the church, the body of believers, the New Jerusalem.

## **Conclusion: One Divorce, One Final Judgment**

God did divorce Israel, both in the Assyrian destruction (Israel) and the Babylonian captivity (Judah), but the full and final divorce came with the judgment in 70 AD.

Jesus did not come to establish a third covenant. The New Covenant is eternal. There is no other bride coming.

There will be no future marriage supper. It has already come (Revelation 19), and the church now lives in the light of that fulfilled union.

## **Application**

Just as God judged faithless Israel, we are not exempt from walking in the truth of our covenant today. But we do not walk in fear of future wrath. We live in the fulfilled promises of Christ.

This should humble us when judging others. If God Himself divorced a nation, yet offered a New Covenant to all people, who are we to hold the past against anyone?

**Final Word** God is faithful. Even when Israel was not, He fulfilled His promises to bring a new bride to Himself. That bride is His church. That bride is you, believer. Stand firm in the

finished work of Christ.

Let the harlot fall. Let the bride rejoice. Let the covenant stand forever.

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