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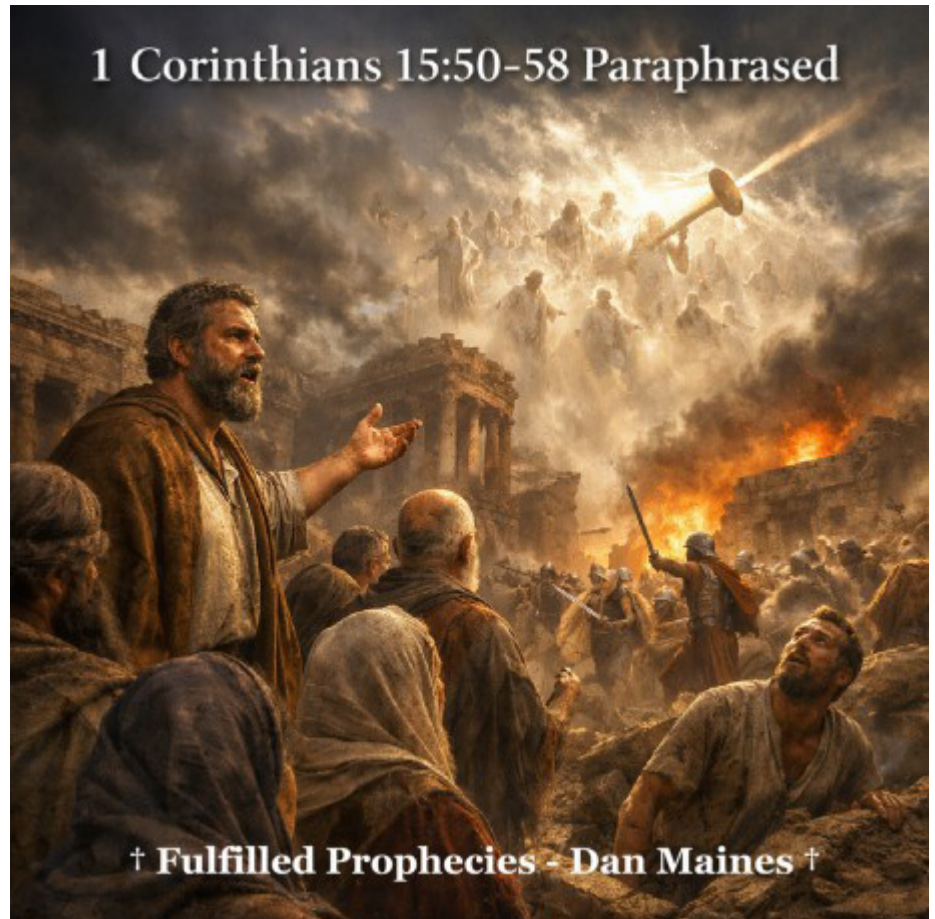
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1 Corinthians 15:50-58 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

1 Corinthians 15:50-58 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Paul closes this chapter by explaining that the old mortal condition tied to the corruptible world could not inherit the eternal kingdom Christ was establishing.

† The change he describes was not about corpses leaving graves centuries later, it was about the transformation from the old covenant age of death into the new covenant life in Christ.

† The fulfillment of this promise was tied to the end of the age Jesus spoke about, when the power of death connected to the

law was removed (Matthew 24:34; Hebrews 9:26).

1 Corinthians 15:50

Now I'm telling you this, brothers, flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, and what is perishable cannot inherit what is imperishable.

† Paul is explaining that the old mortal order connected to the Adamic world could not enter the eternal kingdom Christ was bringing.

† This doesn't mean believers stop existing physically, it means the mortal covenant system tied to corruption couldn't inherit the eternal life Christ established (Romans 8:10-11).

† The old covenant world centered in Jerusalem was passing away, and a new spiritual order was being revealed (Hebrews 12:27-28).

1 Corinthians 15:51

Listen, I'm revealing a mystery to you, we won't all fall asleep, but we will all be changed.

† The mystery Paul speaks of was the transformation of living believers during that generation.

† Some believers would still be alive when the change took place, which shows this event belonged to their lifetime.

† Jesus said the same thing when he told his disciples some standing there wouldn't taste death until they saw the Son of Man coming in his kingdom (Matthew 16:27-28).

1 Corinthians 15:52

In a moment, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet, the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

† The last trumpet points to the closing of the old covenant age and the full establishment of Christ's kingdom.

† The resurrection here refers to the dead in Christ being raised into the new covenant life, while the living believers were transformed into that same life.

† This aligns with the gathering of the elect Jesus described

when the trumpet sounded during the judgment on Jerusalem (Matthew 24:31).

1 Corinthians 15:53

This perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

† Paul is describing the transition from a covenant system tied to death into the eternal life revealed through Christ.

† The change wasn't about exchanging physical bodies but about receiving the life of the Spirit that cannot die (2 Corinthians 5:1-4).

† Through Christ the people of God entered a state where death no longer ruled over them.

1 Corinthians 15:54

When the perishable puts on the imperishable and the mortal puts on immortality, then the saying will come true, Death is swallowed up in victory.

† Paul connects this moment to the fulfillment of the prophetic promise that death would be defeated.

† This victory came through Christ's finished work and the removal of the law that empowered death.

† Isaiah foresaw this when he said God would swallow up death forever (Isaiah 25:8).

1 Corinthians 15:55

Where, O death, is your victory, where, O death, is your sting.

† Paul is declaring that death had lost its authority over God's people.

† Once the covenant of condemnation ended, death no longer had the same power it once held.

† This is the triumphant announcement that the enemy of death had been defeated through Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:56

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

† Paul identifies the real source of death's power, the law that

exposed and condemned sin.

† As long as the old covenant law stood, death continued to reign over the people.

† When Christ fulfilled and removed that system, the power of death was broken (Romans 7:9-11).

1 Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

† The victory Paul celebrates is the triumph Christ achieved through his death and resurrection.

† Through him believers entered the life that cannot be overcome by death.

† This victory was fully revealed when the old covenant world finally ended.

1 Corinthians 15:58

So then, my beloved brothers, stand firm, don't be moved, always continue in the work of the Lord, knowing your labor in the Lord isn't in vain.

† Because Christ had already secured the victory, believers could remain confident in their mission.

† Their work in spreading the gospel was part of God's plan to bring the kingdom to completion.

† Paul reminds them that everything they endured had purpose because the promised transformation was near (Hebrews 10:37).

Historical References

† Josephus records the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the temple system in AD 70, marking the close of the old covenant order.

† Eusebius wrote that the early Christians understood the fall of Jerusalem as the fulfillment of Christ's prophetic warnings.

† Irenaeus taught that Christ's victory over death came through his resurrection and the establishment of the new covenant kingdom.

† Clement of Alexandria explained that believers now live in the life of Christ that cannot be overcome by death.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We live in the completed kingdom Christ established, not in a waiting period for another age.

† Death no longer has authority over the people of God because the covenant that empowered it has passed away.

† Our calling is to remain faithful in the work of the Lord, knowing the victory has already been secured.

† The message of Christ's completed triumph gives believers confidence, purpose, and hope.

Q & A Appendix

Q Did Paul expect this transformation in his own lifetime?

A Yes, Paul used language showing it would happen in that generation, saying we will be changed (1 Corinthians 15:51).

Q What gave death its power according to Paul?

A Paul said the sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law (1 Corinthians 15:56).

Q What prophecy was fulfilled when death was swallowed up in victory?

A Paul was referring to the prophecy in Isaiah 25:8.

Q How did Christ give believers victory over death?

A Through his death and resurrection he removed the condemnation of the law and brought eternal life (Romans 8:1-2).

Q Why did Paul urge believers to stand firm in their work?

A Because the coming transformation and victory of Christ meant their labor in the Lord wasn't in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† 1 Corinthians 15

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

1 Corinthians 15:1-19 Paraphrased

<https://fulfilledprophecies.com/topics/1062.html>

1 Corinthians 15:20-49 Paraphrased

<https://fulfilledprophecies.com/topics/1063.html>

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