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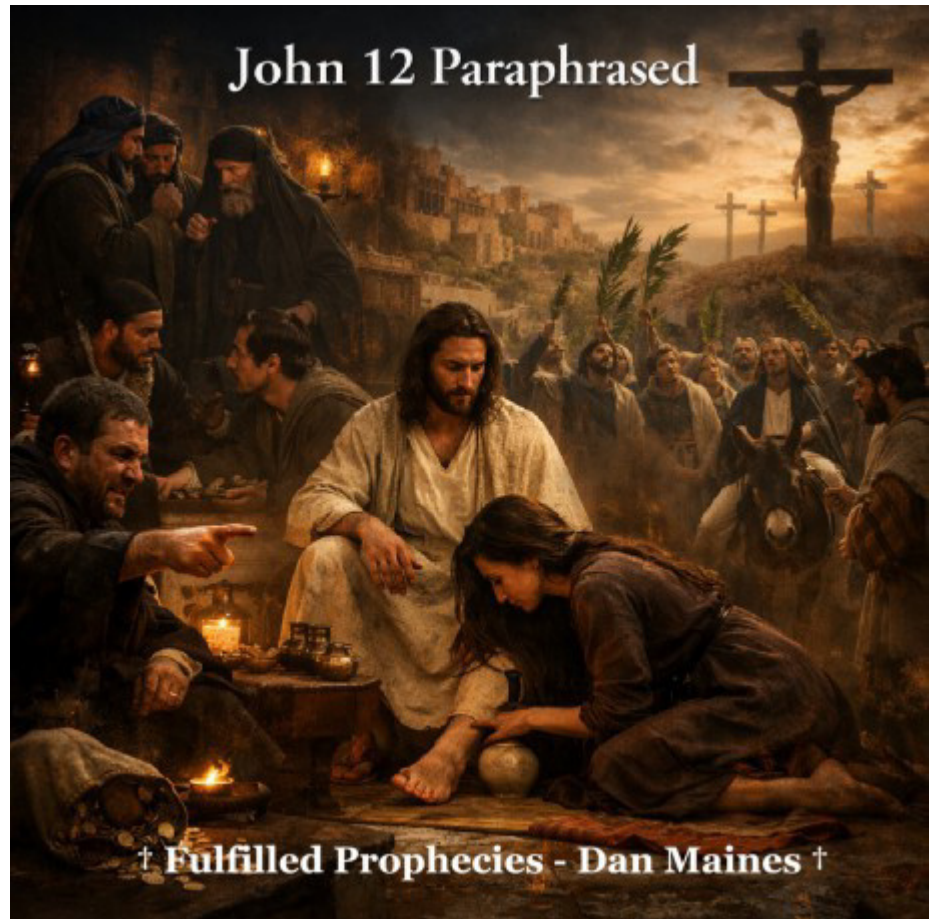
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John 12 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

John 12 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Jesus moves toward the final week, everything points to fulfillment in that generation

† What looks like rejection is actually the path to glory and judgment

† The kingdom is revealed through humility, sacrifice, and timing

John 12:1

Jesus came to Bethany six days before Passover, where

Lazarus was, the one he raised from the dead

† This places the timing right before the final Passover, the last week

† Lazarus stands as living proof of resurrection power already at work (John 11:43-44)

† The fulfilled perspective shows life already breaking into that age

John 12:2

They prepared a dinner for him, Martha served, and Lazarus reclined with him

† Fellowship shows acceptance by those who believed

† Lazarus sitting there proves the miracle was undeniable

† The contrast is set between belief and rejection

John 12:3

Mary took costly perfume and anointed Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair, the house was filled with the fragrance

† This is preparation for burial before it happens (John 12:7)

† The fragrance points to the spreading testimony of Christ

† Worship recognizes what others still refuse to see

John 12:4

Judas, one of his disciples, who was going to betray him, said

† Judas is already identified as the betrayer

† This shows the corruption within Israel's leadership circle

† The betrayal was part of the plan, not a surprise

John 12:5

Why was this perfume not sold and given to the poor

† False concern hides selfish intent

† This mirrors hypocritical leadership in Israel (Matthew 23:27-28)

† Outward righteousness, inward corruption

John 12:6

He said this not because he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief

† The exposure of motive reveals the heart

† Leadership in that system was driven by gain

† Judgment was coming on that corrupt system

John 12:7

Jesus said leave her alone, she kept it for the day of my burial

† Jesus confirms his death is imminent

† The burial preparation is acknowledged before it happens

† This ties directly to the fulfillment of prophecy

John 12:8

You always have the poor, but you do not always have me

† His physical presence was temporary

† The urgency of the moment is emphasized

† The generation was about to lose its opportunity

John 12:9

A large crowd came, not only for Jesus but to see Lazarus

† The miracle drew public attention

† Lazarus became a living testimony

† This increased pressure on leadership

John 12:10

The chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also

† They attempt to destroy the evidence

† This shows hardened unbelief

† Their actions confirm their role in judgment

John 12:11

Because many were believing in Jesus because of him

† The miracle produced faith

† Truth spreads even under opposition

† This is why suppression intensified

John 12:12

The next day the crowd heard Jesus was coming to Jerusalem

† This is the final entry into the city

† The timing fulfills prophecy

† The stage is set for judgment

John 12:13

They took palm branches and went out saying Hosanna,

blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

† Public acknowledgment of Messiah

† This fulfills Psalm 118:26

† The same crowd will later turn

John 12:14

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it

† Fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9

† The King comes in humility

† Not as a military conqueror

John 12:15

Do not fear, daughter of Zion, your King is coming

† Zion represents Israel

† The promise is being fulfilled in their sight

† Yet many still missed it

John 12:16

The disciples did not understand at first, but later remembered

† Understanding came after fulfillment

† This shows progressive revelation

† The events confirmed the truth

John 12:17

The crowd continued to testify about Lazarus

† Witness spreads through testimony

† This builds the case against unbelief

† Evidence was public and undeniable

John 12:18

The crowd went out because they heard of the sign

† Signs drew people

† The miracles validated Jesus' authority

† The response still divided people

John 12:19

The Pharisees said the world has gone after him

† They recognize the influence growing

† Their fear drives opposition

† This is the collapse of their authority

John 12:20

Some Greeks came to worship

† The nations begin to seek Christ

† This shows inclusion beyond Israel

† Fulfillment of the nations coming (Isaiah 49:6)

John 12:21

They asked Philip to see Jesus

† The desire of the nations is evident

† Access is being opened

† The old barriers are fading

John 12:22

Philip told Andrew, and they told Jesus

† The request reaches Jesus

† This signals a turning point

† The hour is about to be declared

John 12:23

Jesus said the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified

† The timing is now

† Glory comes through death

† This is fulfillment, not delay

John 12:24

Unless a grain dies, it remains alone, but if it dies, it bears fruit

† Death produces life

† This is the pattern of the kingdom

† The cross leads to multiplication

John 12:25

He who loves his life loses it, he who hates his life keeps it

† True life requires surrender

† This applies to that generation facing judgment

† Holding to the old system meant loss

John 12:26

If anyone serves me, he must follow me

† Following means sharing in suffering

† Service leads to honor from the Father

† This is discipleship defined

John 12:27

Now my soul is troubled, but for this purpose I came

† Jesus acknowledges the weight

† Yet he submits to the mission

† The cross was intentional

John 12:28

Father glorify your name, a voice came from heaven

† Divine confirmation is given

† God declares fulfillment

† This validates Jesus publicly

John 12:29

The crowd thought it thundered or an angel spoke

† They heard but did not understand

† This reflects spiritual blindness

† The message was missed

John 12:30

Jesus said this voice came for your sake

† The sign was for them

† God gave confirmation to that generation

† Yet many still refused

John 12:31

Now judgment is upon this world, the ruler will be cast out

† Judgment is present, not future

† The system of that age is ending

† This points to the fall of Jerusalem

John 12:32

If I am lifted up, I will draw all to myself

† The cross becomes the means of drawing

† Not limited to Israel

† The nations are included

John 12:33

He was indicating the kind of death he would die

† The lifting up refers to crucifixion

† The method is foretold

† Fulfillment is precise

John 12:34

The crowd questioned how the Son of Man could be lifted up

† They misunderstood the Messiah

† They expected a different kind of king

† Their expectations blinded them

John 12:35

Walk while you have the light, so darkness does not overtake you

† Time was limited for that generation

† Light was present in Christ

† Rejection leads to darkness

John 12:36

Believe in the light, so you may become sons of light

† Faith produces transformation

† Identity changes through belief

† This is the call before judgment

John 12:37

Though he had done many signs, they still did not believe

† Evidence was abundant

† Unbelief was willful

† This fulfills prophecy

John 12:38

Lord who has believed our message

† Isaiah 53 is fulfilled

† The rejection was foretold

† Their unbelief confirms prophecy

John 12:39

They could not believe because of Isaiah's words

† Hardening had taken place

† Judgment includes blindness

† This is covenant consequence

John 12:40

He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart

† Spiritual blindness leads to judgment

† This ties to Isaiah 6:9-10

† They saw but did not perceive

John 12:41

Isaiah said this because he saw his glory

† Jesus is identified with divine glory

† This confirms his identity

† The rejection was of God himself

John 12:42

Many believed but feared being put out of the synagogue

† Fear of man over truth

† Social pressure controlled belief

† This reflects leadership control

John 12:43

They loved approval of men more than God

† This exposes the heart issue

† Approval replaced truth

† This is why judgment came

John 12:44

Jesus cried out, he who believes in me believes in him who sent me

† Faith in Jesus is faith in the Father

† There is no separation

† Rejecting Jesus is rejecting God

John 12:45

He who sees me sees the one who sent me

† Jesus reveals the Father fully

† He is the visible expression

† This removes all excuses

John 12:46

I have come as light, so no one remains in darkness

† Light is present now

† Darkness is a choice

† The offer is immediate

John 12:47

If anyone hears and does not keep, I do not judge him, I came to save

† The purpose of his coming was salvation

† Judgment comes through rejection

† The offer precedes the consequence

John 12:48

The word I spoke will judge him in the last day

† Judgment is tied to his words

† The last day refers to that covenant ending

† The standard was already given

John 12:49

I did not speak on my own, the Father commanded me

† Jesus speaks divine authority

† His message is not independent

† This confirms reliability

John 12:50

His commandment is eternal life

† Life comes through obedience to his word

† The message itself gives life

† This is the fulfilled reality

Historical References

† Josephus records the growing unrest and rejection leading to Jerusalem's destruction

† Eusebius notes the fulfillment of Christ's warnings in that generation

† Irenaeus affirms the prophetic fulfillment tied to Christ's coming and rejection

How It Applies To Us Today

† We don't wait for fulfillment, we live in it

† The call is still to walk in the light while we have it

† Faith isn't about signs now, it's about trusting what has already been fulfilled

Q & A Appendix:

Q: When was the judgment Jesus spoke about?

A: It was in that generation leading up to Jerusalem's fall (Matthew 24:34)

Q: What does being lifted up mean?

A: It refers to the crucifixion (John 12:33)

Q: Why were people hardened?

A: It fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy of judgment (Isaiah 6:9-10)

Q: What is the last day?

A: The end of the old covenant age (Hebrews 8:13)

Q: What does walking in the light mean?

A: Living in the truth revealed in Christ (1 John 1:7)

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

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Source Index

† John 12

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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