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John 16 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

John 16 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Jesus prepares His disciples for what is about to come, not centuries later, but in their own lifetime, He speaks plainly about persecution, the coming of the Spirit, and the transition from sorrow to joy that would take place before that generation passed (Matthew 24:34)

† This chapter is about covenant transition, the end of the old system, and the full arrival of the Spirit, not something delayed thousands of years

† He is strengthening them because everything He said would unfold in their lifetime, leading up to the judgment of Jerusalem and the full establishment of the new covenant order

John 16:1

I have told you these things so that you won't fall away when it begins

† Jesus is warning them ahead of time so they stay grounded when persecution comes (Luke 21:12-19)

† The focus is immediate, not distant, He is preparing them for what they themselves will face

† This proves the timing is first-century fulfillment, not future speculation

John 16:2

They will throw you out of the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are serving God

† This happened exactly in the first century, Jewish persecution of believers (Acts 8:1-3)

† The religious system that rejected Christ became the persecutor

† Josephus records intense internal conflict and violence among the Jews before AD 70

John 16:3

They will do this because they have not known the Father or Me

† Their rejection of Christ proves they never truly knew God (John 8:19)

† This exposes the corruption of the old covenant leadership

† Irenaeus wrote that those who rejected Christ remained blind to the truth

John 16:4

I have told you this so when it happens, you will remember I warned you, I didn't say it earlier because I was with you

† Jesus gives them confidence ahead of time so they recognize fulfillment when it happens

† This reinforces that these events would occur soon

† Eusebius confirms the early church remembered and recognized these warnings during persecution

John 16:5

Now I am going to Him who sent Me, yet none of you ask where I am going

† Their focus is still earthly, not understanding the full transition

† Christ's departure is necessary for the next phase

† The shift from physical presence to spiritual reign is central here

John 16:6

Instead, sorrow has filled your hearts because I said these things

† They are grieving because they don't yet see the outcome

† This sorrow would turn into joy after fulfillment

† This ties directly into the resurrection and covenant completion

John 16:7

But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go away, if I don't go, the Helper won't come, but if I go, I will send Him to you

† The Spirit's coming is tied to Christ's departure and glorification (Acts 2:33)

† This was fulfilled in the first century at Pentecost

† The Spirit marks the transition into the new covenant age

John 16:8

When He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment

† The Spirit's work is active in that generation

† Conviction falls especially on Israel for rejecting Christ

† This leads into the judgment that came in AD 70

John 16:9

Concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me

† The primary sin is rejecting Christ

† This defines the guilt of that generation (Matthew 23:36)

† The judgment is tied to unbelief, not generic future sin

John 16:10

Concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me

† Christ's ascension proves His righteousness

† His vindication is seen in the coming judgment

† This aligns with Acts 2:36, God made Him both Lord and Christ

John 16:11

Concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged

† Satan's authority through the old system is being broken

† Judgment is already underway, not delayed

† This culminates in the destruction of Jerusalem

John 16:12

I still have many things to say, but you can't bear them now

† Full understanding would come after the Spirit

† This shows progressive revelation within that generation

† The apostles would later fully grasp these truths

John 16:13

When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth, He will not speak on His own, but what He hears He will speak, and He will declare what is coming

† This is fulfilled in the apostolic teaching

† The Spirit revealed what was about to happen in their time

† This includes warnings of the coming judgment

John 16:14

He will glorify Me, because He will take what is Mine and declare it to you

† The Spirit's role is to reveal Christ

† This is seen in the New Testament writings

† Clement of Alexandria confirms the Spirit revealed Christ through the apostles

John 16:15

All that the Father has is Mine, that's why I said He takes what is Mine and declares it to you

† Full authority belongs to Christ

† The Spirit reveals that authority to the disciples

† This confirms Christ's divine role

John 16:16

In a little while you won't see Me, and again in a little while you will see Me

† This refers to His death and resurrection

† The time frame is immediate, not distant

† This is fulfilled within days, not centuries

John 16:17

Some of His disciples said, what does He mean by this

† Their confusion shows they don't yet understand timing

† They are still thinking physically

† This confusion is resolved after the resurrection

John 16:18

They kept asking what He meant, we don't understand what He is saying

† This shows their limited understanding before the Spirit

† Clarity comes later through fulfillment

† This matches Luke 24:45, their minds were opened

John 16:19

Jesus knew they wanted to ask Him, and said, are you discussing what I meant

† Jesus addresses their confusion directly

† He is guiding them step by step

† This shows His awareness and care

John 16:20

You will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice, you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy

† This happened at His death and resurrection

† The world celebrated His death, but believers rejoiced after

† This also points forward to covenant victory

John 16:21

When a woman gives birth, she has pain, but once the child is born, she forgets the pain because of the joy

† This is a picture of transition from old to new

† The pain represents the suffering before fulfillment

† The joy represents the completed kingdom

John 16:22

You now have sorrow, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away

† This joy comes through resurrection and fulfillment

† It is permanent, not temporary

† This reflects the completed work of Christ

John 16:23

In that day you will not ask Me anything, whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give it to you

† This refers to the new covenant relationship

† Direct access to the Father is established

† This was fulfilled after Christ's work was complete

John 16:24

Until now you have asked nothing in My name, ask and you will

receive, so your joy may be full

† Fullness of joy comes in the new covenant

† Prayer is now centered in Christ

† This marks a shift in access to God

John 16:25

I have spoken in figures, but the time is coming when I will speak plainly about the Father

† That time came through the Spirit and fulfillment

† The apostles understood clearly afterward

† This shows a shift from mystery to clarity

John 16:26

In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say I will ask the Father for you

† Direct relationship is established

† No mediator needed in the same way as before

† This reflects covenant completion

John 16:27

The Father Himself loves you because you have loved Me and believed I came from Him

† Their faith brings them into full relationship

† This confirms their place in the new covenant

† Love is now fully revealed

John 16:28

I came from the Father and entered the world, now I leave the world and return to the Father

† This summarizes His mission

† His return completes the work

† This leads directly to the sending of the Spirit

John 16:29

His disciples said, now You are speaking plainly

† They begin to understand

† Clarity is increasing

† This leads into full understanding after resurrection

John 16:30

Now we know You know everything, and we believe You came from God

† Their faith is growing

† They recognize His authority

† This prepares them for what is coming

John 16:31

Jesus answered, do you now believe

† He challenges their confidence

† Their faith will be tested

† This leads into their temporary scattering

John 16:32

The hour is coming, and has already come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and leave Me alone, yet I am not alone because the Father is with Me

† This was fulfilled when they fled at His arrest

† Even then, the Father remained with Him

† This shows both human weakness and divine faithfulness

John 16:33

I have told you these things so you may have peace, in the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have overcome the world

† Christ's victory is already secured

† Their peace is rooted in His completed work

† This is fulfilled in the triumph over the old covenant system

Historical References

† Josephus describes the persecution, division, and destruction that came upon that generation, confirming Jesus' warnings were fulfilled

† Eusebius records how the early church remembered these words and fled Jerusalem before its destruction

† Irenaeus affirms that Christ's victory and judgment were manifested through historical events

† Clement of Alexandria speaks of the apostles being guided into truth by the Spirit as promised

How It Applies To Us Today

† We live in the reality of what Jesus said being fulfilled, not waiting for it

† Our peace is not in future events, but in a finished victory

† The Spirit has already been given, we walk in what they were promised

† We don't fear judgment coming, it already came on that system

† We live in the established kingdom, not a coming one

Q & A Appendix:

Q: Was this about a future generation?

A: No, Jesus said these things would happen to them, not thousands of years later (Matthew 24:34)

Q: Did the persecution actually happen?

A: Yes, the book of Acts and Josephus both confirm it

Q: When did the Spirit come?

A: At Pentecost in the first century (Acts 2:1-4)

Q: What judgment is Jesus talking about?

A: The judgment on that generation culminating in AD 70 (Matthew 23:36)

Q: Are we still waiting for these things?

A: No, they were fulfilled in their time, we live in the result of that fulfillment

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

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Source Index

† John 16

† Josephus

† Irenaeus

† Eusebius

† Clement of Alexandria

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