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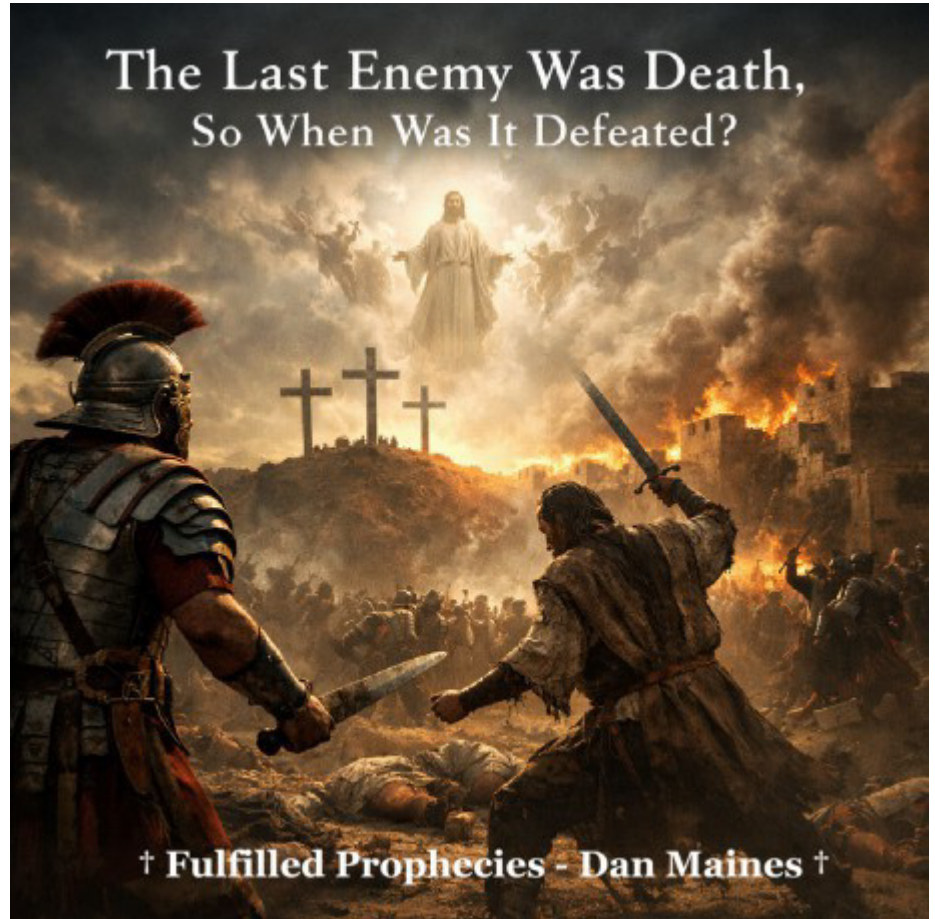
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**The Last Enemy Was Death, So When Was It Defeated**



By Dan Maines

**The Last Enemy Was Death, So When Was It Defeated?**

## Introduction

† Most people assume death is still reigning today, but Scripture says something very different. (1 Corinthians 15:26)

† If death was the last enemy to be destroyed, then we have to ask a simple question, when did that actually happen? (1 Corinthians 15:24-26)

† This isn't a future hope waiting to happen, this is something Scripture places within the lifetime of that generation. (Matthew 16:27-28)

† If we get this wrong, we end up pushing the resurrection into the future when the Bible says it was already fulfilled. (Hebrews 2:14)

### **1 Corinthians 15:24-26**

then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to our God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

† Paul says the end comes when all enemies are put under His feet, and death is the last one. (1 Corinthians 15:24-26)

† That means when death is defeated, the end has already come, not thousands of years later. (1 Corinthians 15:24)

† If death is the last enemy, then nothing comes after it, the kingdom is fully established at that point. (1 Corinthians 15:25-26)

† So the real question is, when did Christ destroy death? (1 Corinthians 15:26)

### **1 Corinthians 15:56**

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law;

† Death gets its power from sin, and sin gets its power from the law. (1 Corinthians 15:56)

† That means death is directly tied to the old covenant system, not just physical dying. (1 Corinthians 15:56)

† When the law was removed, the power behind sin and death was removed with it. (1 Corinthians 15:56)

† This places the defeat of death at the end of the old covenant age, not at the end of world history. (1 Corinthians 10:11)

### **Matthew 16:27-28**

For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS. Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.

† Jesus places His coming and judgment within the lifetime of His audience. (Matthew 16:27-28)

† Some standing there would still be alive when this happened, so this cannot be a future event thousands of years later. (Matthew 16:28)

† This is the same coming connected to the resurrection and the end in 1 Corinthians 15. (1 Corinthians 15:23-24)

† That means the defeat of death had to happen in that same time frame. (Matthew 16:27-28)

### **Hebrews 2:14**

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, so that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

† Christ's purpose in His death was to destroy the one who had the power of death. (Hebrews 2:14)

† This isn't partial, it says bring to nothing, meaning complete defeat. (Hebrews 2:14)

† If the devil's power over death is destroyed, then death itself has been defeated. (Hebrews 2:14)

† That destruction includes removing his authority as the accuser under the law. (Revelation 12:10)

† This lines up perfectly with 1 Corinthians 15, death is not waiting to be destroyed, it was destroyed. (1 Corinthians 15:26)

## **Romans 7:9-11**

I was once alive apart from the Law, but when the commandment came, sin came to life, and I died; and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it, killed me.

† Paul directly connects death to the commandment, showing death is covenantal in nature. (Romans 7:9-11)

† The law brought sin to life, and sin brought death, this is not physical death but separation under the covenant. (Romans 7:9-11)

† Once the law passed away, the source of that death was removed. (Romans 7:6)

† This confirms that the defeat of death is tied to the end of the law, not the end of the physical world. (1 Corinthians 15:56)

## **Revelation 20:14**

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

† Death itself is destroyed, not managed, not delayed, but cast away completely. (Revelation 20:14)

† This is the same final enemy Paul spoke of, now shown as fully removed. (1 Corinthians 15:26)

† This takes place in the same judgment context tied to that generation. (Revelation 1:1)

† Death is not an ongoing enemy today, it was dealt with in that judgment. (Revelation 20:14)

## **Historical References**

† Josephus records the complete collapse of Jerusalem in AD 70, the end of the old covenant system tied to death and condemnation. (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6)

† Eusebius confirms that Christians understood Jesus' words about that generation and saw their fulfillment in the destruction of Jerusalem. (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5)

† Irenaeus ties the defeat of death directly to Christ's completed work, not an unfinished future event. (Irenaeus, Against Heresies 5.15)

† Tacitus records the devastation of Jerusalem, aligning with the judgment Jesus spoke of in that generation. (Tacitus, Histories 5.13)

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† We're not waiting for death to be defeated, we're living in the reality that it already has been. (1 Corinthians 15:26)

† Spiritual death has no power over those in Christ, because He already destroyed it. (Hebrews 2:14)

† The kingdom is not coming, it's already established and we are part of it now. (Luke 17:20-21)

† Our hope isn't future resurrection, it's present life in Christ, because the resurrection has already been fulfilled. (1 Corinthians 15:54)

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q** If death was defeated, why do people still physically die?

**A** The death in view is covenantal and spiritual death, separation from God, not physical death. Ephesians 2:1; Romans 5:12

**Q** When exactly was death defeated?

**A** Within that generation when Christ came in judgment, just as He said. Matthew 16:27-28; Matthew 24:34

**Q** Does this mean the resurrection already happened?

**A** Yes, the resurrection was the transition from the old covenant death to new covenant life. 1 Corinthians 15:44-46; John 5:24-25

**Q** Is there any future defeat of death coming?

**A** No, Scripture says death was the last enemy, once it was defeated, nothing remains. 1 Corinthians 15:26

**Q** Why do we still see sin and corruption if death was defeated?

**A** Because the defeat of death removed separation from God, not human free will or physical decay. Romans 6:7; Romans 8:2

**Q** Does Revelation 20 place the defeat of death in the future?

**A** No, Revelation was written about things which must soon take place. Revelation 1:1; Revelation 20:14

**Q** Is physical death ever said to be abolished in Scripture?

**A** No, Scripture consistently connects death to sin and the law, not biology. 1 Corinthians 15:56; Romans 7:9-11

**Q** What changed after death was defeated?

**A** Full access to God without the law standing in between, no more separation. Hebrews 10:19-20; Ephesians 2:13

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

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## Source Index

† 1 Corinthians 15:24-26; 1 Corinthians 15:56; Matthew 16:27-28; Hebrews 2:14; Romans 7:9-11; Romans 7:6; Revelation 20:14; Revelation 1:1; Revelation 12:10; Luke 17:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:54; Ephesians 2:1; Romans 5:12; John 5:24-25; Matthew 24:34; Romans 6:7; Romans 8:2; Hebrews 10:19-20; Ephesians 2:13

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5; Irenaeus, Against Heresies 5.15; Tacitus, Histories 5.13

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