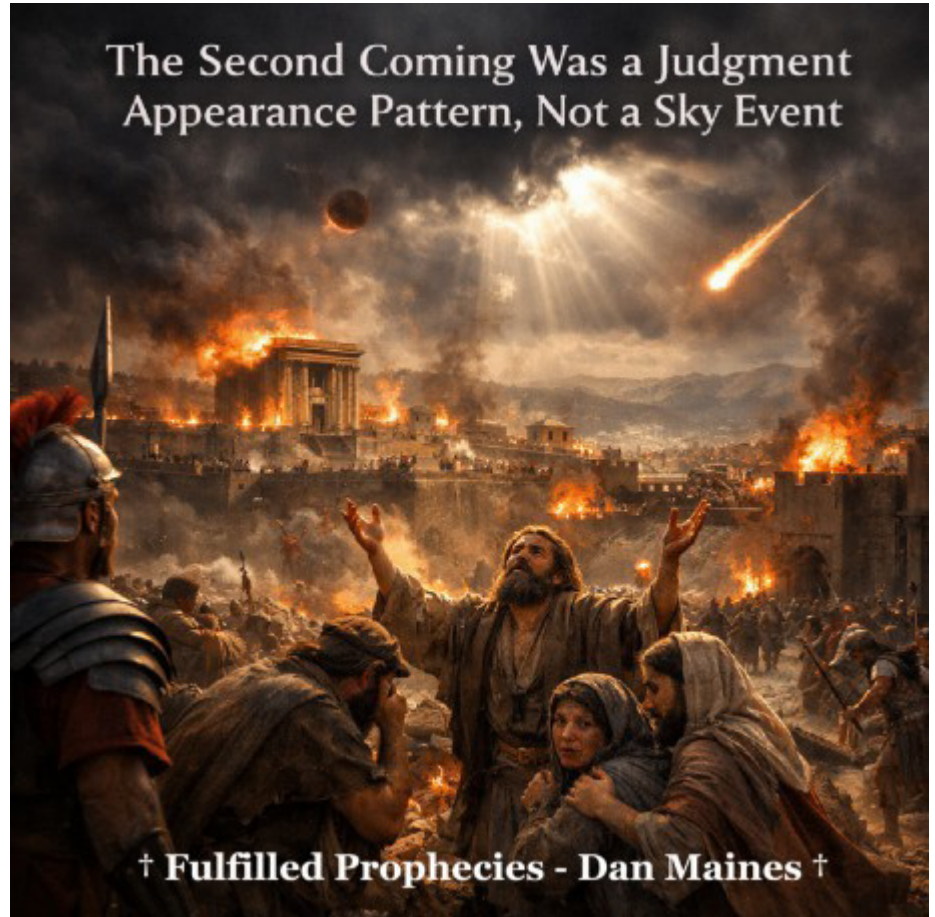


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The Second Coming Was a Judgment Appearance Pattern, Not a Sky Event



By Dan Maines

The Second Coming Was a Judgment Appearance Pattern, Not a Sky Event

Introduction

† Most people argue about when the coming happened, but that misses how God actually comes throughout scripture.

† If we let the Bible define its own pattern, we'll see that God's "coming" is consistently described as judgment, not a visible

sky event.

† This isn't new language, it's established all through the Old Testament, and Jesus used that same pattern.

Isaiah 19:1

The pronouncement concerning Egypt:

Behold, the LORD is riding on a swift cloud and is about to come to Egypt;

The idols of Egypt will tremble at His presence,
And the heart of the Egyptians will melt within them.

† God is described as riding on a cloud coming to Egypt, but no one saw a literal visible Yahweh in the sky (Isaiah 19:1).

† This was fulfilled through judgment on Egypt, showing that "coming on clouds" is symbolic covenant judgment language, not physical appearance (Isaiah 19:1).

† The language describes divine authority and judgment, not a visible descent from heaven (Psalm 104:3; Nahum 1:3).

Isaiah 13:9-13

Behold, the day of the LORD is coming,

Cruel, with fury and burning anger,

To make the land a desolation;

And He will exterminate its sinners from it.

For the stars of heaven and their constellations

Will not flash their light;

The sun will be dark when it rises

And the moon will not shed its light.

So I will punish the world for its evil

And the wicked for their wrongdoing;

I will also put an end to the audacity of the proud

And humiliate the arrogance of the tyrants.

I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold

And mankind than the gold of Ophir.
Therefore I will make the heavens tremble,
And the earth will be shaken from its place
At the fury of the LORD of armies
In the day of His burning anger.

† This describes God "coming" in judgment against Babylon using cosmic language, sun darkened, stars falling, heavens shaken (Isaiah 13:9-13).

† None of this was a literal collapse of the universe, it was prophetic judgment language against a nation (Isaiah 13:17).

† This proves the pattern, when God "comes," it's describing covenant judgment, not a visible sky event.

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 uses the exact same judgment language as Isaiah, showing continuity with the Old Testament pattern (Matthew 16:27).

† He places the timing within that generation, saying some standing there wouldn't die before seeing it (Matthew 16:28).

† This cannot be a future global sky event, because the audience limitation makes it a first century fulfillment (Matthew 16:28).

† The coming includes judgment and reward, which matches the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 (Matthew 16:27; Luke 21:22).

† This is covenant judgment against Israel, just like Yahweh came against Egypt and Babylon (Isaiah 19:1; Isaiah 13:9-13).

Matthew 24:30-34

And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET BLAST, and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

"Now learn the parable from the fig tree: as soon as its branch has become tender and sprouts its leaves, you know that summer is near; so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

† Jesus again uses cloud-coming language, exactly like the Old Testament judgment passages (Matthew 24:30).

† He clearly defines the timing, this generation would see all of it fulfilled (Matthew 24:34).

† This directly confirms what He already said in Matthew 16, removing any possibility of a distant future fulfillment.

Daniel 7:13

"I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a son of man was coming,
And He came up to the Ancient of Days

And was presented before Him.

† The Son of Man comes on the clouds, but He comes to the Ancient of Days, not down to earth (Daniel 7:13).

† This shows that cloud-coming is about receiving authority and kingdom, not a physical descent.

† Jesus is drawing directly from this passage, showing His coming is about enthronement and judgment, not a sky event.

Historical References

† Josephus records the destruction of Jerusalem as catastrophic, with signs and judgments that match prophetic language (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6).

† Eusebius confirms the fall of Jerusalem as the fulfillment of Jesus' warnings (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5).

† Tacitus describes the same events with overwhelming destruction and divine-like judgment (Tacitus, Histories 5.13).

How It Applies To Us Today

† We don't look for a physical sky event, we understand how God works through history in judgment and authority.

† This strengthens our confidence in scripture, because what Jesus said happened exactly when He said it would.

† It shifts our focus from speculation about the future to recognizing the fulfilled kingdom we live in now.

† It reminds us that God is faithful to His word, and His judgments and promises always come to pass.

† When people miss this pattern, they stay stuck waiting for something that has already been fulfilled.

Q & A Appendix

Q If the coming wasn't visible, how could people "see" it?

A Scripture often uses "seeing" as understanding or experiencing judgment. Jesus tied this to events they would witness in their lifetime (Matthew 16:28; Matthew 24:30; Luke 21:20-22).

Q Doesn't Acts 1 say He will return the same way?

A Acts 1:11 refers to His ascension pattern, but Jesus already defined His coming within that generation using established prophetic language (Matthew 24:30, 34).

Q How do we know this is judgment language?

A The Old Testament repeatedly uses cloud-coming and cosmic language for national judgment, not physical appearances (Isaiah 19:1; Isaiah 13:9-13).

Q What about Revelation 1:7 where every eye will see Him?

A That language comes from Old Testament judgment imagery and covenant context. "Every eye" refers to those under judgment, especially Israel, and it was fulfilled in that generation (Revelation 1:1, 7).

Q What about a bodily return of Jesus?

A Jesus already defined His coming using Old Testament judgment language, and placed it within that generation. The focus is on His authority and judgment, not a physical descent (Matthew 16:27-28).

Q What about angels coming with Him?

A Angels are often used as agents of judgment and gathering in scripture, not necessarily visible beings descending from the

sky (Matthew 13:39-41; Matthew 24:31).

Q What about the trumpet sound?

A Trumpets in scripture announce covenant events, judgment, and gathering, not necessarily a literal global sound (Isaiah 27:13; Matthew 24:31).

Q Why do people expect a visible sky event then?

A Because they read prophetic language literally instead of recognizing the Old Testament pattern that defines how God "comes" in judgment.

Q Does this mean Jesus already returned?

A Yes, in the sense that He came in judgment and kingdom authority exactly as He said He would within that generation (Matthew 16:28; Matthew 24:34).

Q I thought the second coming was supposed to be visible and audible?

A That expectation comes from taking prophetic language literally instead of recognizing the pattern. When God "came" in the Old Testament, no one physically saw or heard Him in the sky (Isaiah 19:1).

Jesus used that same language and placed it in their lifetime (Matthew 16:27-28).

So the "seeing" and "hearing" describe experiencing judgment and fulfillment, not a literal global sky event.

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

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Source Index

† Isaiah 19:1; Isaiah 13:9-13; Matthew 16:27-28; Matthew 24:30-34; Daniel 7:13; Psalm 104:3; Nahum 1:3; Luke 21:22

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

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