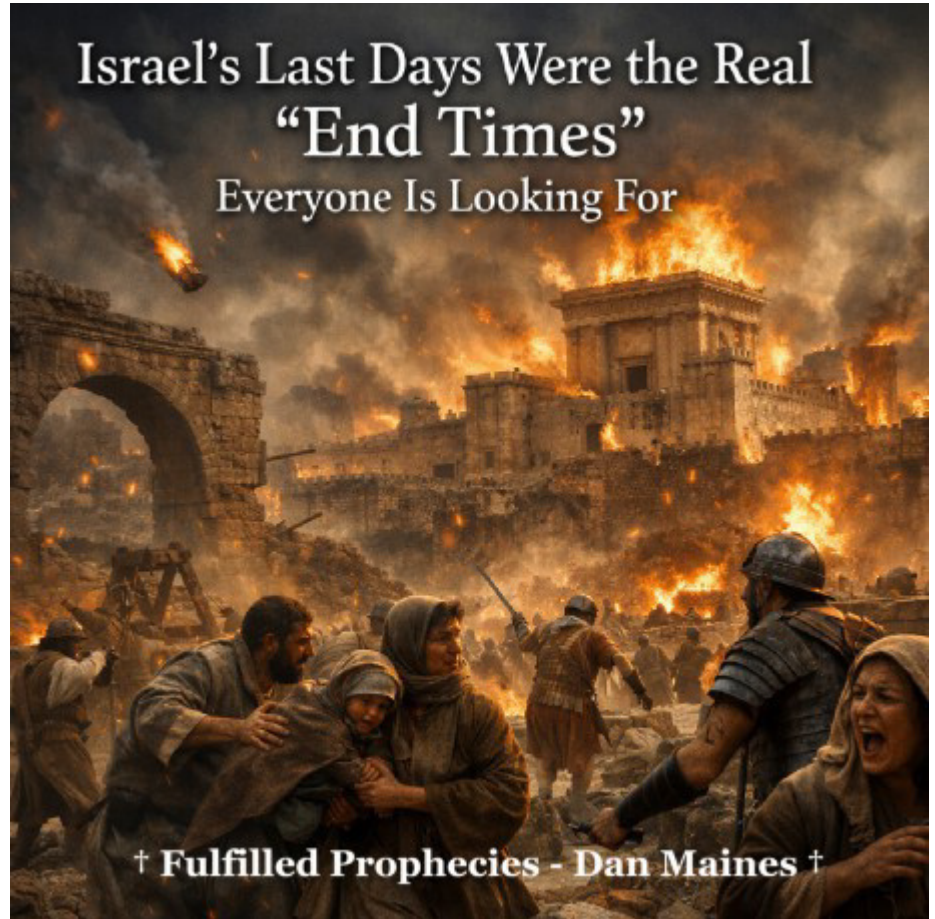


# Fulfilled Prophecies

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**Israel's Last Days  
Were the Real End  
Times Everyone Is  
Looking For**



By Dan Maines

**Israel's Last Days Were the Real "End Times" Everyone Is Looking For**

## Introduction

† Most people hear "end times" and think about the end of the planet, but that's not how the Bible uses that language.

† The Bible defines its own terms, and when it speaks about "last days," it's talking about the last days of something specific, not the destruction of the physical world.

† If we let scripture interpret scripture, we'll see clearly that the

apostles said they were already living in the last days.

† That means what people are still waiting for has already happened, and it happened in the first century.

† The last days were not the end of the world, they were the end of Israel's covenant age.

## **Hebrews 1:1-2**

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the world.

† The writer of Hebrews says God has spoken at the end of these days, not at the end of our days thousands of years later.

† He places himself and his audience in the last days, showing this wasn't future to us, it was present to them (Hebrews 1:2).

† The contrast is between the old covenant prophets and the final revelation in the Son, meaning the old covenant age was coming to its end (Hebrews 8:13).

## **Acts 2:16-17**

but this is what has been spoken through the prophet Joel:

'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says,  
'THAT I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND;  
AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS WILL PROPHECY,  
AND YOUR YOUNG MEN WILL SEE VISIONS,  
AND YOUR OLD MEN WILL HAVE DREAMS;

† Peter doesn't say this will happen thousands of years later, he says this is that, meaning Joel's last days prophecy was being fulfilled right then (Acts 2:16).

† The outpouring of the Spirit marked the beginning of the last days, not the end of the planet (Joel 2:28-32).

† The apostles understood they were living in the last days of

Israel's covenant world, not waiting for a distant future event (1 Peter 1:20).

## **1 Corinthians 10:11**

Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

† Paul says the ends of the ages had already come upon them, not upon a future generation thousands of years later.

† This shows multiple covenant ages were reaching their climax in the first century, specifically the old covenant age (Matthew 24:3).

† The phrase ends of the ages confirms that what was ending was a covenantal system, not the physical creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

## **Matthew 24:34**

Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

† Jesus tied all end time events to this generation, the one he was speaking to, not a future generation 2000 years later.

† That means the last days had a clear time limit, and they were fulfilled within that generation (Luke 21:32).

† This completely removes the idea of a distant, still-future end times scenario (Matthew 16:27-28).

## **2 Timothy 3:1**

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

† Paul tells Timothy about last days conditions as something relevant to his own time, not thousands of years later.

† When you read the context, those exact behaviors were

already present in the first century church (2 Timothy 3:5-7).  
† This shows the last days were not future to us, they were already unfolding in their lifetime.

## **Historical References**

- † Eusebius records that the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 fulfilled the warnings given by Christ about that generation.
- † Josephus, an eyewitness, describes the fall of Jerusalem as a catastrophic end of the Jewish age, exactly matching the language of judgment Jesus used.
- † Josephus describes the temple's destruction and the end of the Jewish system, confirming this was the end of that age, not the end of the world.
- † Tacitus also confirms the devastation of Judea, showing this wasn't symbolic speculation, it was real historical fulfillment.

## **How it applies to us today**

- † We're not waiting for the last days, we're living in what came after them, the fulfilled kingdom reality.
- † The fear-driven end times mindset disappears when we understand those events already happened.
- † Our focus isn't on escaping a future destruction, it's on living in the completed work of Christ.
- † We've moved beyond the old covenant world into the fullness of what Christ established.

## **Q&A Appendix**

**Q:** Doesn't last days mean the end of the world?

**A:** No, the Bible defines it as the last days of the old covenant age, and the apostles said they were already in it (Hebrews 1:2, Acts 2:16-17).

**Q:** What about all the destruction language?

**A:** That language was covenant judgment language used by the

prophets, and it was fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem (Matthew 24:34, Luke 21:20-22).

**Q:** Are we still waiting for end times?

**A:** No, the end times already happened in the first century, they were the last days of Israel's covenant system (1 Corinthians 10:11).

**Q:** What about 2 Peter 3 and the heavens and earth passing away?

**A:** Peter was using Old Testament prophetic language for covenant judgment, just like Isaiah did, and he said it was about to happen in his audience's lifetime (2 Peter 3:10-12, Isaiah 34:4).

**Q:** What about the phrase end of the age?

**A:** Jesus used that phrase to describe the end of the age they were living in, and he said it would happen in that generation (Matthew 24:3, Matthew 24:34).

**Q:** Why do so many people still think it's future?

**A:** Because they redefine words like generation and ignore the time statements that clearly place these events in the first century (Matthew 16:27-28, Luke 21:22).

**Q:** Did anything actually end?

**A:** Yes, the old covenant system, the temple, the sacrifices, and the entire Jewish age came to its end in AD 70 (Hebrews 8:13, Luke 21:20).

**Q:** Are we living in the last days now?

**A:** No, the last days ended with the destruction of Jerusalem, we're now living in the fulfilled kingdom that came after (1 Corinthians 10:11).

**Q:** What did the last days lead into?

**A:** They led into the fully established kingdom of Christ, where

access to God is no longer tied to the old covenant system (Hebrews 12:28).

**Q:** Does this remove fear about the future?

**A:** Yes, because we're not waiting for global destruction, we're living in the finished work of Christ and the kingdom that cannot be shaken (Hebrews 12:27-28).

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

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## Source Index

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 5-6; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History Book 3; Tacitus, Histories 5.13

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