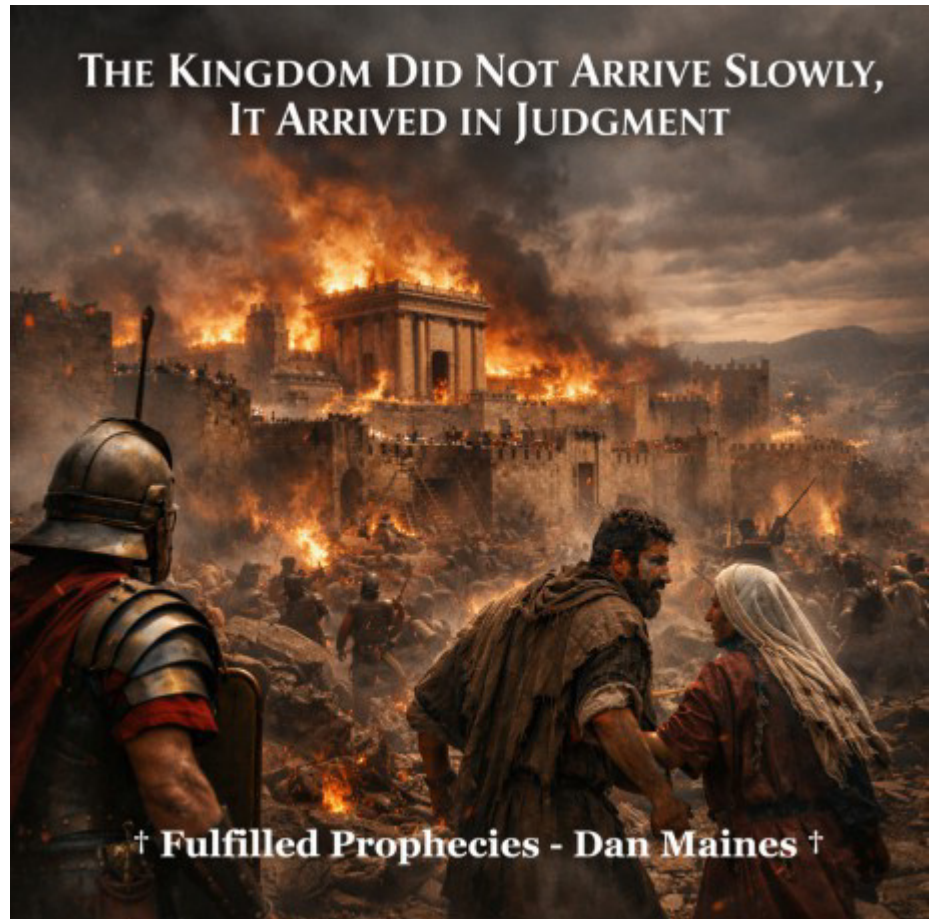


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## Kingdom - The Kingdom Did Not Arrive Slowly, It Arrived In Judgment



By Dan Maines

## The Kingdom Did Not Arrive Slowly, It Arrived In Judgment

### Introduction

† The modern idea says the kingdom came slowly over time, growing quietly until some future completion, but Jesus never taught that (Luke 21:31-32).

† He tied the arrival of the kingdom directly to a visible, historical judgment that would happen in that generation (Luke

21:32).

† Luke 21 shows exactly when and how the kingdom fully arrived, not gradually, but in a decisive end of the old covenant system (Luke 21:22).

### **Luke 21:20-22**

But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are inside the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; because these are days of punishment, so that all things which have been written will be fulfilled.

† Jesus did not point to a distant future, He gave a clear, observable sign, armies surrounding Jerusalem, showing the kingdom would come through judgment (Luke 21:20).

† He said these were days of punishment, meaning God was executing covenant judgment against the old system that had rejected Him (Deuteronomy 32:35; Hosea 9:7).

† He declared that all things written would be fulfilled in this event, not partially, not gradually, but completely (Luke 21:22).

† This is the moment the old covenant order ended, and the kingdom stood fully established with nothing left to replace (Hebrews 8:13).

### **Luke 21:31-32**

So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place.

† Jesus tied the nearness of the kingdom directly to the destruction events He just described, not to a slow process over

centuries (Luke 21:31).

† He defined the timeframe clearly, this generation, the very people hearing Him, would see it completed (Luke 21:32).

† This destroys the idea of a delayed or still future kingdom, because Jesus anchored it in a first century fulfillment (Matthew 16:27-28).

† The kingdom arrived when the old covenant world was removed, not when it slowly developed over time (Daniel 2:44).

† Jesus repeated this same time limit in multiple places, confirming it was not symbolic language but a literal timeframe (Matthew 24:34).

† He also told His disciples some standing there would see the kingdom come in power, proving it was within their lifetime (Mark 9:1).

### **Luke 21:25-27**

There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting from fear and the expectation of the things that are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

† This language is prophetic judgment language used throughout the Old Testament, not literal cosmic collapse (Isaiah 13:10; Ezekiel 32:7-8).

† The coming of the Son of Man in the clouds is covenant judgment imagery, just like God coming in judgment against nations before (Isaiah 19:1).

† This was fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, when Christ came in judgment against the system that rejected Him (Matthew 24:30).

† The kingdom did not wait for a future visible descent, it was revealed in power through this judgment event (Luke 17:20-21).

### **Luke 21:28**

But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

† Their redemption was tied to the same event, the fall of Jerusalem, not something thousands of years later (Luke 21:28).

† This was the deliverance from the old covenant system and its bondage, into the fully established kingdom (Galatians 4:4-5).

† Redemption and judgment happened together, one ending, one beginning, both in the same moment (Hebrews 9:26).

### **Luke 17:20-21**

Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, 'The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, "Look, here it is!" or, "There it is!" For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.'

† Jesus explicitly said the kingdom does not come with visible observation, which destroys the idea of a slow outward development over time (Luke 17:20).

† He said it was already in their midst, meaning it was present but not yet fully manifested until the judgment event (Luke 17:21).

† This proves the kingdom was not something that would gradually become visible over centuries, but something revealed in power at a specific moment (Luke 21:31).

### **Hebrews 12:26-28**

And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, 'Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.' This expression, 'Yet once more,' denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe.

† The writer says the shaking was about to remove the old covenant system so that the unshakable kingdom could remain (Hebrews 12:27).

† This connects directly to the destruction of Jerusalem, where the old system was removed completely (Luke 21:22).

† The kingdom is not in the process of arriving, it is what remained after the shaking was finished (Hebrews 12:28).

### **Historical References**

† Josephus records the Roman armies surrounding Jerusalem and the complete destruction of the city and temple, exactly as Jesus said, showing this was a real historical fulfillment (Josephus, Wars 6.4-6).

† Josephus describes the temple burning and the city completely leveled, confirming that not one stone was left upon another just as Jesus said (Josephus, Wars 6.4-6; Matthew 24:2).

† The historical record shows famine, fear, and mass death, matching the distress and fear described by Christ (Luke 21:25-26; Josephus, Wars 5.10).

† Eusebius records that Christians fled Jerusalem before its destruction, obeying the words of Christ, confirming that believers understood this prophecy as immediate and literal to their time (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5).

† Tacitus describes the chaos, fear, and destruction in Judea, matching the distress of nations and fear Jesus described (Tacitus, Histories 5.13).

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

† The kingdom is not something we are waiting to arrive, it already came in full power when the old covenant world ended (Luke 21:31-32).

† We are not living in a partial kingdom, we are living in the established reign of Christ right now (Colossians 1:13).

† There is no future destruction needed to complete the kingdom, it was completed when all things were fulfilled (Luke 21:22).

† Our focus is not on waiting for the kingdom, but living in it, understanding that Christ is already reigning (1 Corinthians 15:24-25).

## **Q&A Appendix**

**Q** If the kingdom came in AD 70, why does it seem like the world is still broken?

**A** Jesus said His kingdom is not of this world system, John 18:36, the kingdom is a spiritual reign that replaced the old

covenant system, not a political takeover of the planet.

**Q** Does this mean prophecy is completely finished?

**A** Yes, Jesus said all things written would be fulfilled in those days, Luke 21:22, and confirmed it would happen in that generation, Luke 21:32.

**Q** What about the coming of Christ, wasn't that supposed to be visible?

**A** The coming in the clouds is judgment language, just like Isaiah 19:1, and was fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem, Matthew 24:30.

**Q** Are we still waiting for redemption?

**A** No, their redemption was near when those events happened, Luke 21:28, and believers now live in that completed redemption reality.

**Q** If the kingdom came in judgment, does that mean judgment is the same as the kingdom?

**A** Judgment was the event that revealed the kingdom, not the kingdom itself, God removed the old system so the unshakable kingdom could stand fully established, Hebrews 12:27-28.

**Q** If the kingdom arrived in AD 70, why did Jesus say it was near before that?

**A** Because it was about to be revealed in power, Jesus said it was near, but tied its full arrival to the events they would see, Luke 21:31, and those events ended the old system, bringing the kingdom into full manifestation, Luke 21:22.

**Q** Does this mean there is no future coming of Christ at all?

**A** The coming Jesus spoke of in Luke 21 was His coming in judgment against Jerusalem, which happened in that generation, Luke 21:27, 32, and that fulfilled what He said about coming with power, Matthew 24:30.

**Q** Why did Jesus connect the kingdom with destruction instead of peace?

**A** Because the old covenant system had to be removed before the kingdom could stand alone, the judgment was necessary to clear away what was passing so what could not be shaken would remain, Hebrews 12:27-28.

**Q** If the kingdom is here, where is it now?

**A** The kingdom is not a physical location, it is the reign of Christ among His people, Jesus said it was in their midst, Luke 17:21, and believers are transferred into it now, Colossians 1:13.

**Q** What ended in AD 70 that made the kingdom fully established?

**A** The temple, priesthood, sacrifices, and the entire old covenant order ended, fulfilling all that was written and leaving only the unshakable kingdom, Luke 21:22, Hebrews 8:13.

**Q** Does this mean we are already in the new heavens and new earth?

**A** Yes, the old covenant heaven and earth passed away with that system, and the new covenant order remains, which cannot be shaken, Hebrews 12:27-28.

**Q** Why did Jesus warn people to flee if this was about the kingdom?

**A** Because the kingdom was revealed through judgment, and those who believed Him escaped the destruction, showing that His words were immediate and real to that generation, Luke 21:20-21.

**Q** How do we know this was not symbolic or future?

**A** Jesus gave clear signs they could see, armies surrounding Jerusalem, and said it would happen in their generation, which removes any possibility of it being pushed thousands of years into the future, Luke 21:20, 32.

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

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## Source Index

† Luke 21:20-32; Luke 17:20-21; Hebrews 12:26-28; Matthew 16:27-28; Matthew 24:2, 34; Matthew 24:30; Mark 9:1; Luke 21:25-28; Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 9:26; Daniel 2:44; Isaiah 13:10; Isaiah 19:1; Ezekiel 32:7-8; Deuteronomy 32:35; Hosea 9:7; Galatians 4:4-5; Colossians 1:13; 1 Corinthians 15:24-25; John 18:36

† Josephus, The Wars of the Jews, Book 5-6

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3

† Tacitus, Histories 5.13

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