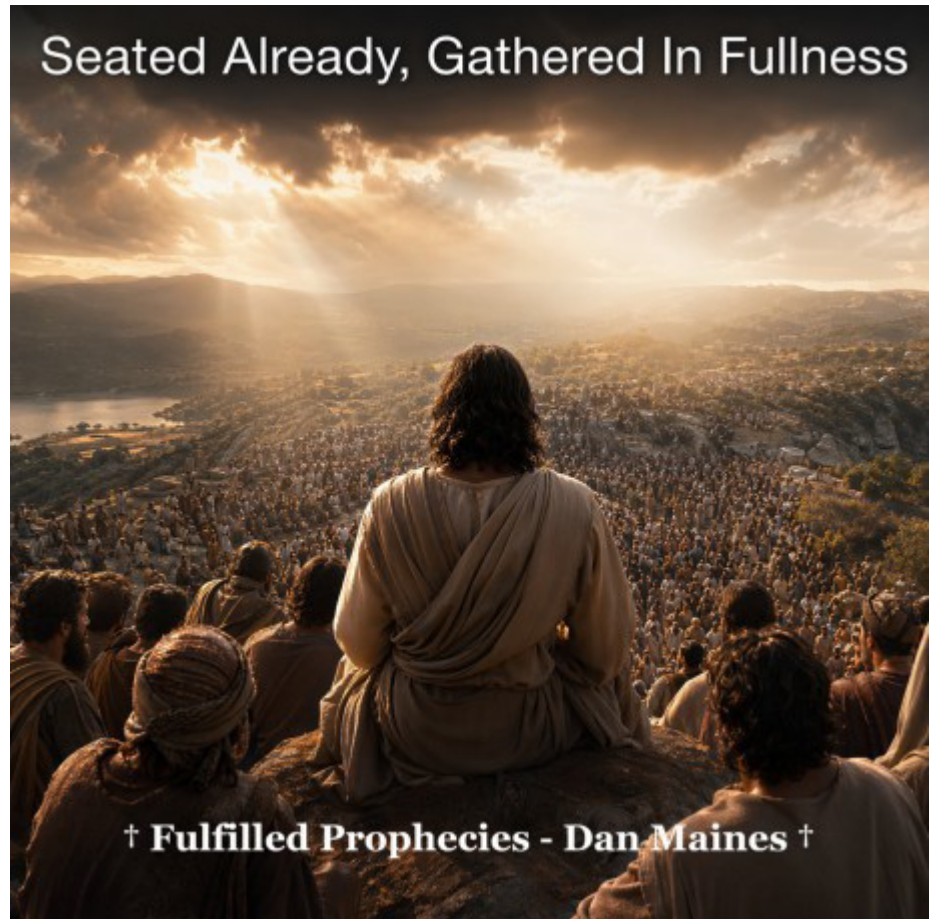


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**In Christ - Seated
Already, Gathered
In Fullness**



By Dan Maines

Seated Already, Gathered In Fullness

Introduction

† Paul wasn't confused, and he wasn't contradicting himself, he was describing two realities happening at the same time (Ephesians 2:6; Hebrews 9:8).

† Believers were already in Christ, already positioned in the heavenly realm, but still living in a world where the old covenant system hadn't fully passed away (Colossians 3:1-3; Hebrews 8:13).

† This is the transition period, the overlap of two covenant worlds, and if you don't see that, you'll force the text into contradictions that aren't there (Galatians 4:30; Hebrews 10:9).

Ephesians 2:6

and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

† This is present reality, not future hope, they were already seated in the heavenly places while still physically on earth (Ephesians 2:6).

† Their identity, access, and standing before God were already established in Christ, they weren't waiting for that to happen (Colossians 3:1-3).

† This proves the kingdom wasn't something postponed, it was already active and functioning in Christ (Luke 17:20-21).

Ephesians 1:20-21

which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

† Christ was already reigning in the heavenly places, far above all authority, showing His kingship was present, not future (Ephesians 1:20-21).

† Since believers were seated with Him, their position in that reign was already established, not something delayed (Ephesians 2:6).

† This destroys any idea that the kingdom or reign of Christ was postponed to a future time (Acts 2:29-36).

Hebrews 9:8

The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing,

† Even though they were already seated in Christ, the full access hadn't been openly revealed because the old system was still standing (Hebrews 9:8).

† This shows a real, historical transition, the old covenant hadn't been removed yet, so there was still a visible barrier in place (Hebrews 8:13).

† The problem wasn't their position, it was the presence of the old covenant system that hadn't been fully taken away yet (Galatians 4:30).

Hebrews 8:13

When He said, A new covenant, He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is about to disappear.

† The old covenant was in the process of vanishing, not already gone, proving an active transition period (Hebrews 8:13).

† This confirms the overlap, one covenant was fading while the other was already in effect (Hebrews 10:9).

† This timing explains why they were already seated in Christ but still living in a world where the old system had not yet fully disappeared (Hebrews 9:8).

1 Thessalonians 4:17

Then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

† This gathering wasn't about becoming something new, it was the full manifestation of what they already were in Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

† The language is covenantal and prophetic, just like God coming in the clouds in judgment, not a physical event in the sky (Isaiah 19:1).

† This was the moment when the overlap ended, and the fullness of their already established position was realized (Matthew 24:30-31).

Matthew 24:30-31

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.

† This is the same gathering language as 1 Thessalonians 4, clouds, trumpet, angels, and gathering, all tied to that generation (Matthew 24:30-34).

† This proves Paul wasn't introducing a new future event, he was describing the same fulfillment Jesus spoke of (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).

† The timing is locked to that generation, confirming the fulfillment in the first century, not thousands of years later (Matthew 24:34).

Hebrews 10:9

then He said, Behold, I have come to do Your will. He takes away the first in order to establish the second.

† The second covenant was already in effect, but the first had to be removed for it to stand alone without overlap (Hebrews 10:9).

† This confirms there was a period where both were present, one fading out, the other being established (Hebrews 8:13).

† Once the first was removed, the second stood in full, without

obstruction, without shadow, and without delay (Colossians 2:14-17).

2 Corinthians 3:11

For if what is fading away was with glory, much more what remains is in glory.

† Something was actively passing away while something else remained, proving a transition between two covenant systems (2 Corinthians 3:11).

† This again confirms the overlap period, not an instant replacement but a process leading to full establishment (Hebrews 8:13).

† The glory that remained is the new covenant reality, fully standing after the old was removed (Hebrews 10:9).

Historical References

† Flavius Josephus recorded the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70, confirming the complete removal of the old covenant system (Luke 21:20-22).

† Eusebius of Caesarea wrote that believers recognized these events as the fulfillment of Jesus' words concerning that generation (Matthew 24:34).

† Tacitus documented the Roman campaign against Jerusalem, showing the historical reality of the judgment that ended the old covenant age (Daniel 9:26).

† Irenaeus spoke of the passing of the old order and the establishment of the new, reflecting early recognition of covenantal fulfillment (Hebrews 8:13).

How It Applies To Us Today

† We're not waiting to be seated with Christ, we already are, that reality isn't future, it's present (Ephesians 2:6).

† There's no overlap anymore, the old covenant is gone, the

barrier is gone, and access to God is fully open (Hebrews 10:19-22).

† We live on the other side of fulfillment, not in anticipation, but in the full reality of what Christ accomplished (John 19:30).

Q & A Appendix

Q: Was Paul waiting to be seated in heavenly places?

A: No, he clearly says they were already seated in Christ, Ephesians 2:6, the waiting wasn't about position but about the removal of the old covenant system, Hebrews 9:8.

Q: What does the gathering in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 mean?

A: It was the full manifestation of their already established position in Christ, completed when the old covenant ended, Matthew 24:30-31.

Q: When did the overlap of the two covenants end?

A: It ended in AD 70 with the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, fulfilling Hebrews 8:13 and removing the old system completely.

Q: So are we in heaven now?

A: We're seated in the heavenly places in Christ right now, that's our covenant position and access to God, Ephesians 2:6, Hebrews 12:22-23. This isn't about a physical location, it's about being in God's presence through Christ, John 4:21-24.

Q: Does that mean we have a seat in heaven where we go after physical death?

A: The seat isn't a future chair we're waiting to occupy, it's our present reality in Christ, Ephesians 2:6. Being with the Lord isn't delayed until physical death, we're already with Him, 2 Corinthians 5:6-8, Colossians 3:1-4. Physical death doesn't give us something new, it doesn't change our covenant position, it simply ends our earthly life while our standing in Christ remains

complete.

Q: If we're already seated, why did they still speak of future events?

A: Because they were living in the transition period where the old covenant was still standing, Hebrews 9:8, and passing away, Hebrews 8:13. The future language was about the removal of the old system, not about gaining a new position.

Q: Was the "coming in the clouds" a physical visible event?

A: No, that language is used throughout scripture for divine judgment, not physical descent, Isaiah 19:1, Matthew 24:30. It's covenantal, not literal sky imagery.

Q: What changed in AD 70 if believers were already in Christ?

A: The old covenant system was completely removed, ending the overlap and bringing full manifestation of what they already had, Hebrews 10:9, Matthew 24:34.

Q: Are we still waiting for any part of this to be fulfilled?

A: No, everything tied to that generation has been fulfilled, Matthew 24:34, and we now live fully in the established new covenant reality, Hebrews 10:14-18.

Q: What does "caught up" really mean in context?

A: It refers to being gathered into the presence and reign of Christ, not a physical flight into the sky, 1 Thessalonians 4:17, Matthew 24:31. It's covenant fulfillment language.

Q: Does this remove the need for a future resurrection?

A: The resurrection Paul describes is spiritual, not physical, 1 Corinthians 15:44-46, and is tied to the end of the old covenant age, not a future global event.

Q: If the resurrection already happened, what about the dead?

A: The dead were raised into the same covenant reality, the transition included both the living and the dead, 1

Thessalonians 4:14-17, John 5:25.

Q: What does it mean that the way into the holy place had not yet been disclosed?

A: It means full covenant access wasn't openly manifested while the old system still stood, Hebrews 9:8, but that changed when it was removed, Hebrews 10:19-22.

Q: Are heaven and earth physical places in this context?

A: No, they represent covenant realities, the old covenant world passing and the new remaining, 2 Corinthians 3:11, Isaiah 51:15-16.

Q: What does "the air" mean in 1 Thessalonians 4:17?

A: It refers to the realm of authority and rule, not literal atmosphere travel, Ephesians 2:2, showing a change in covenant dominion.

Q: Why is AD 70 so important?

A: Because it marked the full end of the old covenant system, exactly as Jesus said would happen in that generation, Matthew 24:2, Matthew 24:34.

Q: Does this teaching deny the presence of Christ today?

A: No, it affirms it, Christ is fully present with His people now, not waiting to arrive, Matthew 28:20, John 14:23.

Q: What does "meeting the Lord" mean?

A: It reflects a welcoming into His reign and presence, not a departure from earth, 1 Thessalonians 4:17, Matthew 25:6.

Q: Does this mean there is no future hope?

A: No, our hope is fulfilled and ongoing, we live in the reality of it now, Colossians 1:27, Hebrews 12:28.

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

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Source Index

† Ephesians 2:6; Ephesians 1:20-21; Hebrews 9:8; Hebrews 8:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Matthew 24:30-31; Hebrews 10:9; 2 Corinthians 3:11; Luke 21:20-22; Daniel 9:26; John 19:30
† Flavius Josephus, Wars of the Jews; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History; Tacitus, Histories; Irenaeus, Against Heresies

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