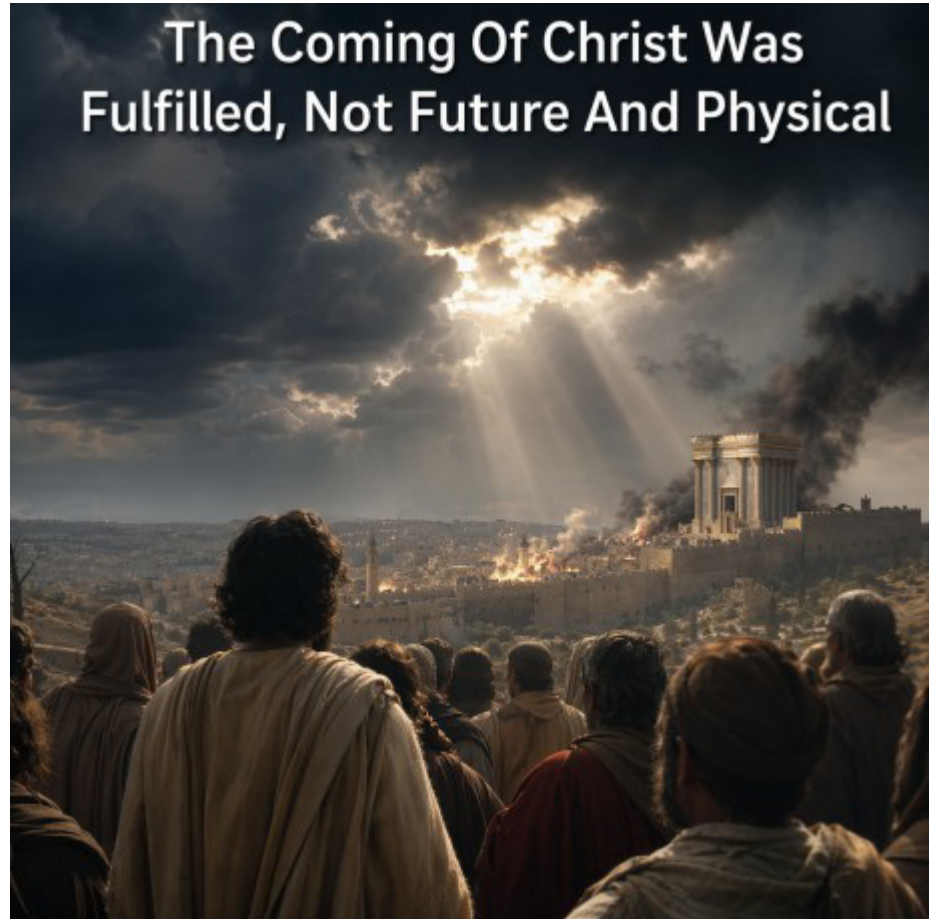


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**Second Coming -
The Coming Of
Christ Was
Fulfilled, Not
Future And
Physical**



By Dan Maines

The Coming Of Christ Was Fulfilled, Not Future And Physical

Introduction

† Many today are still looking for a future physical return of Christ, a rebuilt temple, animal sacrifices, and an earthly throne in Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 5:16).

† This confusion comes from reading Old Testament prophecy without letting the New Testament interpret it (2 Peter 1:20-21).

† When we let Scripture interpret Scripture, we see that

everything they are expecting was already fulfilled in the first century (Luke 21:22).

† We are going to walk through the exact verses used to argue for a physical return and show clearly where the misunderstanding is (Acts 17:11).

† The timing was never left open ended, Jesus said these things would happen in their generation (Matthew 16:27-28).

Acts 1:11

and they said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

† They assume like manner means a physical return to earth, but the text says nothing about location, only manner (Matthew 24:30).

† Jesus went into a cloud, and throughout Scripture clouds represent divine judgment, not physical transportation (Isaiah 19:1).

† The same coming in clouds is explained by Jesus Himself and tied to their generation, not ours (Matthew 24:34).

Revelation 1:7

BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

† This verse places the coming in the lifetime of those who pierced Him, which was first century Israel (Matthew 23:35-36).

† Every eye is covenant language referring to those under judgment, not a global modern audience (Isaiah 26:11).

† The mourning of the tribes matches Jesus' Olivet Discourse and is tied to the fall of Jerusalem (Matthew 24:30).

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 directly defines the timing, it would happen in that generation, not thousands of years later (Matthew 16:27-28).

† The coming on clouds is drawn from Old Testament judgment language, not a physical descent (Daniel 7:13).

† This event is tied to the destruction of Jerusalem, which historically happened in AD 70 (Luke 21:20-22).

Acts 2:30-31

So because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne, he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay.

† The throne of David was fulfilled in the resurrection, not postponed to a future earthly reign (Acts 13:32-33).

† Jesus is already seated and reigning, not waiting to begin ruling (Ephesians 1:20-21).

† The kingdom is present and active, not future and physical (Colossians 1:13).

Revelation 20:4-6

Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been

beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their foreheads and on their hands; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

† The text explicitly says souls, not physical bodies ruling on earth (Revelation 6:9).

† This is a spiritual reign with Christ, not an earthly political kingdom (Ephesians 2:6).

† The first resurrection is spiritual life in Christ, not a future bodily resurrection event (John 5:24-25).

Hebrews 10:12

but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD,

† A future temple with sacrifices would contradict the finished work of Christ (Hebrews 10:18).

† The sacrificial system is fulfilled and ended, not waiting to be restarted (Daniel 9:27).

† Christ's work is complete, not partial or awaiting future completion (John 19:30).

Ephesians 2:21-22

in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

† The true temple is not a future building, it is the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:16).

† God dwells in His people, not in a physical structure made

with hands (Acts 7:48).

† All temple prophecies find their fulfillment in Christ and His people (John 2:19-21).

† Jesus Himself declared the temple would be replaced by His body, not rebuilt in the future (John 2:19-21).

Job 19:25-27

Yet as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,
And at the last, He will take His stand on the earth.
Even after my skin is destroyed,
Yet from my flesh I will see God,
Whom I, on my part, shall behold for myself,
And whom my eyes will see, and not another.
My heart faints within me!

† Job is speaking about vindication and seeing God, not a future global resurrection event (Job 42:5).

† Seeing God is covenant and relational language, not necessarily physical sight (Psalm 17:15).

† Job's expectation is rooted in his own context of deliverance, not a distant future timeline (Job 42:10).

Zechariah 14:4

On that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west forming a very large valley. Half of the mountain will move toward the north, and the other half toward the south.

† This is prophetic judgment language, not a literal geological event (Micah 1:3-4).

† Mountains splitting and melting consistently represent divine judgment throughout Scripture (Nahum 1:5).

† Jesus gave this prophecy from the Mount of Olives, tying it directly to the judgment on Jerusalem in that generation (Matthew 24:3).

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.

† If Ezekiel's temple is future, then the old covenant system returns, which Scripture says has vanished (Hebrews 7:12).

† A return to priests, sacrifices, and rituals would contradict the finished work of Christ (Hebrews 10:18).

† The old system ended, it is not waiting to be restored in the future (Colossians 2:14).

Historical References

† Josephus records the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, fulfilling Jesus' prophecy of judgment (Luke 21:20-22).

† Eusebius wrote that the church understood these events as fulfillment of Christ's words (Matthew 24:33-34).

† Tacitus confirms the catastrophic fall of Jerusalem, aligning with the tribulation described by Jesus (Luke 21:22-23).

How It Applies To Us Today

† We are not waiting for Christ to begin ruling, He is already reigning now (Acts 2:36).

† We are not looking for a physical temple, we are the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16).

† We trust in a finished work, not a future system of sacrifices (Hebrews 10:14).

† We live in the established kingdom, not a postponed one (Matthew 28:18).

† This gives us confidence, stability, and clarity in how we understand prophecy today (Luke 21:32).

Q & A Appendix

Q: Does Acts 1:11 prove a physical return of Christ?

A: No, it speaks of the manner of His coming, not a physical descent, and must be interpreted with Matthew 24:30-34.

Q: How can Revelation 1:7 already be fulfilled if every eye sees Him?

A: It specifically includes those who pierced Him, proving it happened in their lifetime (Matthew 23:36).

Q: Is Jesus ruling from David's throne right now?

A: Yes, Acts 2:30-31 shows the throne was fulfilled in the resurrection and ascension.

Q: Is the thousand-year reign future and physical?

A: No, Revelation 20 shows souls reigning, indicating a spiritual reign, not an earthly kingdom (Ephesians 2:6).

Q: Will there be a future temple with sacrifices?

A: No, Hebrews 10:12 shows Christ's sacrifice was once for all, ending the sacrificial system completely (Hebrews 10:18).

Q: If this is already fulfilled, what are we waiting for?

A: We are not waiting for Christ to return to establish His kingdom, we are living in it now (Colossians 1:13), and we await the full outworking of what has already been accomplished (Hebrews 9:28).

Q: Does "like manner" in Acts 1:11 mean Jesus must return physically to earth?

A: No, it refers to the manner of His coming, which is in the clouds, consistent with judgment language already defined by Jesus (Matthew 24:30-34).

Q: What does it mean that "every eye will see Him"?

A: It refers to those under judgment in that generation, specifically those who pierced Him, not every individual on the

planet (Revelation 1:7, Matthew 23:36).

Q: Did Jesus already come on the clouds?

A: Yes, He came in judgment on Jerusalem just as He said He would in that generation (Matthew 24:30-34, Luke 21:20-22).

Q: Is the Mount of Olives prophecy meant to be taken literally?

A: No, it follows established prophetic language where mountains splitting represents divine judgment, not a physical geological event (Micah 1:3-4, Nahum 1:5).

Q: Does Job teach a future bodily resurrection on earth?

A: No, Job speaks of seeing God in vindication, which is covenant language, not a timeline for a future global resurrection (Job 42:5, Psalm 17:15).

Q: If Jesus is already on David's throne, where is He ruling from?

A: He is seated at the right hand of God, ruling from heaven as King now (Acts 2:30-31, Ephesians 1:20-21).

Q: Are we still waiting for the kingdom to begin?

A: No, the kingdom has already been established and we are in it now (Colossians 1:13, Matthew 28:18).

Q: Why can't Ezekiel's temple be future?

A: Because it includes sin offerings and Levitical priests, which would contradict the finished work of Christ (Hebrews 10:18, Hebrews 7:12).

Q: What is the first resurrection?

A: It is spiritual life in Christ, passing from death to life, not a future bodily event (John 5:24-25, Ephesians 2:5-6).

Q: What does it mean that Christ is reigning now?

A: It means all authority has already been given to Him and His

kingdom is active and present (Matthew 28:18, Acts 2:36).

Q: If prophecy is fulfilled, why do people still expect a future return?

A: Because they read Old Testament prophecy without letting the New Testament define its fulfillment (2 Peter 1:20-21, Luke 24:44).

Q: What replaces the physical temple in God's plan?

A: Christ and His people are the true temple where God dwells (Ephesians 2:21-22, 1 Corinthians 3:16).

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

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Source Index

† Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7; Matthew 24:30-34; Acts 2:30-31; Revelation 20:4-6; Hebrews 10:12; Ephesians 2:21-22; Job 19:25-27; Zechariah 14:4; Hebrews 8:13

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.4-5; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5; Tacitus, Histories 5.13

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