

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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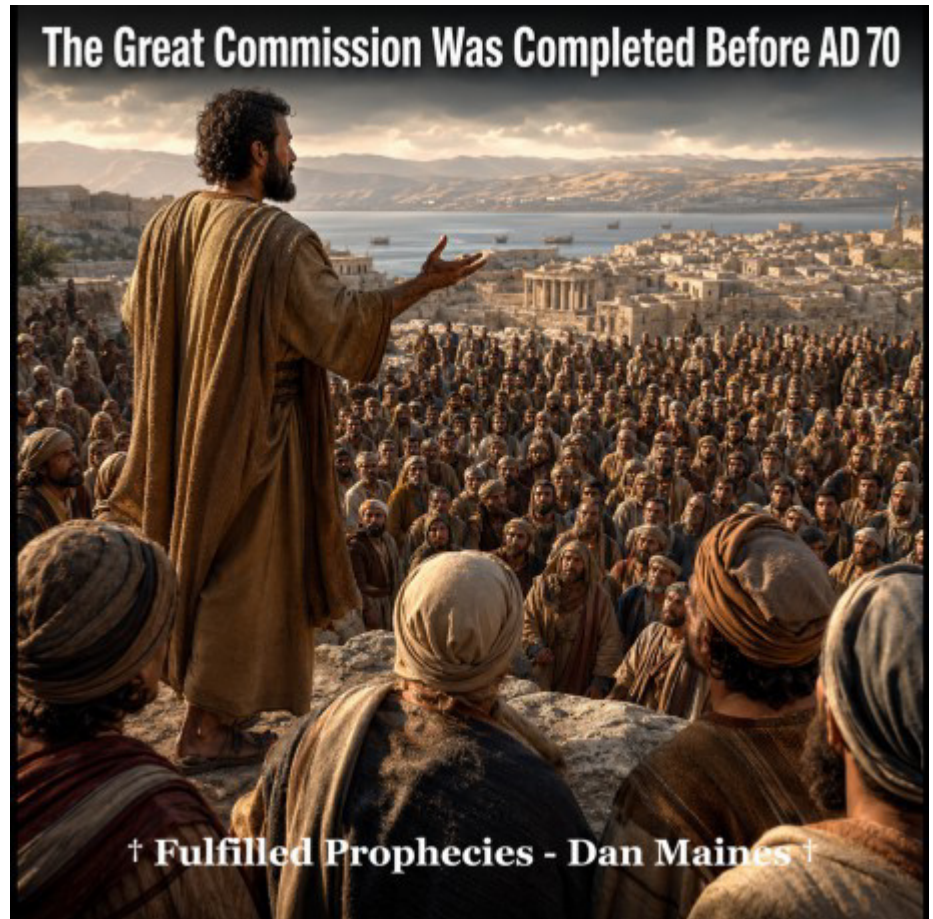
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## The Great Commission Was Completed Before AD 70



By Dan Maines

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### Introduction

† Most people assume the Great Commission is still ongoing today, but the Bible places it within a specific time frame, tied to the end of the age that Jesus spoke about (Matthew 24:14, Matthew 24:34).

† Jesus said the gospel would be preached in all the world before the end came, and then immediately said that all those

things would happen in that generation (Matthew 24:14, 34).

† If the gospel actually reached all the world in their time, then the Commission was fulfilled before the judgment of Jerusalem in AD 70.

**Matthew 28:19-20** Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

† The Great Commission is tied to the end of the age Jesus spoke about, not the end of the physical world (Matthew 24:3, 34).

† This was not an open-ended mission for thousands of years, it was bounded by the end of the age they were living in.

† Once that end came in judgment, the Commission tied to that age was complete.

**Matthew 24:14** This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

† Jesus tied the preaching of the gospel to the end, and that end was within their generation (Matthew 24:34).

† The phrase whole world does not mean the entire globe as we define it today, it refers to the Roman world, the known world of that time (Luke 2:1).

† Once that gospel reached the nations within that world, the end of that covenant age came in judgment (Matthew 24:34).

**Colossians 1:23** if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

† Paul says the gospel was already preached in all creation under heaven, not that it would be someday in the future (Colossians 1:23).

† This was written before AD 70, proving that the mission had already been accomplished in their world.

† The same language Jesus used in Matthew 24:14 is now declared fulfilled by Paul.

**Romans 10:18** But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? On the contrary:

"THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD."

† Paul confirms that the message had already gone out into all the earth, echoing Psalm 19 to show its fulfillment (Psalm 19:4).

† This is not future language, it is completed language, showing the spread of the gospel had already reached its intended scope.

† The ends of the world again refers to the known world of that time, not every continent on the planet.

**Acts 2:5** Now there were Jews residing in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven.

† At Pentecost, Jews from every nation under heaven were present, meaning the gospel began spreading immediately back

into all those regions.

† This shows how quickly the message would have reached the entire Roman world through those returning witnesses.

† The groundwork for fulfilling the Commission was already in place from the very beginning.

**Acts 24:5** For we have found this man a public menace and one who stirs up dissensions among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.

† Even the enemies of the gospel acknowledged that the message had spread throughout the world.

† This confirms that Christianity had already reached the known world prior to AD 70.

† The same world Jesus spoke of was already impacted by the gospel message.

**Luke 2:1** Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

† Scripture itself defines all the world as the Roman world under Caesar, not the entire globe.

† This establishes the meaning of the same phrase used by Jesus and Paul.

† The gospel reaching all the world must be understood within that same context.

## **Historical References**

† Eusebius records that the apostles spread throughout the known world, preaching the gospel before the destruction of

Jerusalem (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5).

† Clement of Rome speaks of the apostles going to the ends of the earth, showing early Christians understood the mission as already fulfilled in their time (1 Clement 42).

† Tacitus confirms the widespread presence of Christians throughout the Roman Empire before AD 70, demonstrating the reach of the message (Tacitus, Annals 15.44).

† Josephus records the widespread Jewish diaspora throughout the Roman world, providing the network through which the gospel rapidly spread (Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, Book 14-15).

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

† We are not waiting for a worldwide mission to trigger the return of Christ, that already happened within the time Jesus said it would (Matthew 24:34).

† We live in the fully established kingdom where the gospel has already accomplished its covenant purpose (Colossians 1:13).

† Our role today is not to finish the Great Commission, but to live in the reality of what Christ has already completed (John 19:30).

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** If the gospel was already preached to all the world, why are there still people who have not heard today? **A:** The all the world language was limited to their known world and covenant context, not the entire globe as we define it today (Colossians 1:23, Romans 10:18).

**Q:** Does this mean evangelism is no longer needed? **A:** No, it means the specific covenant mission tied to the end of the age is complete, but sharing truth still continues as part of life in the kingdom (Acts 17:30).

**Q:** How do we know the end in Matthew 24 already happened? **A:** Jesus said it would happen in that generation, and history records the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 exactly as He described (Matthew 24:34, Luke 21:20).

**Q:** What about tribes or regions that were never reached? **A:** The mission was never about modern global geography, it was about the covenant world of Israel and the nations connected to it, which had already been reached before judgment fell (Colossians 1:23, Romans 10:18).

**Q:** If the Great Commission was completed, why does Jesus say I am with you always? **A:** He tied that promise to the end of the age they were in, not to an unending timeline. Once that age ended, the covenant transition was complete and His presence with His people continues in the established kingdom (Matthew 28:20, Matthew 24:3, 34).

**Q:** Does all creation under heaven really mean every single person heard the gospel? **A:** It means the gospel reached all the nations within their covenant world, the same scope defined throughout scripture, not every individual without exception (Colossians 1:23, Luke 2:1).

**Q:** Why would God limit the Commission to that generation? **A:** Because it was tied to the judgment of Israel and the end of the Old Covenant system, once that purpose was fulfilled, the mission connected to it was complete (Matthew 24:14, Hebrews 8:13).

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies † © Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.**

## Source Index

† Matthew 28:19-20; Matthew 24:14, 34; Colossians 1:23; Romans 10:18; Acts 2:5; Acts 24:5; Luke 2:1; Psalm 19:4; John 19:30; Colossians 1:13; Acts 17:30; Luke 21:20

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5; Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 42; Tacitus, Annals 15.44; Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, Book 14-15

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