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Covenants And Fulfillment In Christ



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† Scripture is a covenantal book from beginning to end, and if we miss that, we miss the framework God Himself used to reveal His plan (Psalm 25:14, Hebrews 1:1-2)

† The fulfilled perspective isn't something separate from the covenants, it's the very conclusion those covenants were always moving toward (2 Corinthians 1:20, Romans 15:8)

† The question isn't whether Preterism fits covenant theology,

it's whether the covenants themselves demanded fulfillment in the first century (Luke 21:22, Matthew 24:34)

Genesis 12:3

And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

† This promise to Abraham wasn't about a delayed future thousands of years later, it was about a covenant that would reach its fulfillment through Christ in that generation (Galatians 3:16, Luke 1:72-73)

† The blessing to all nations shows from the start that God's covenant plan was global, not limited, and was always moving toward completion (Genesis 22:18, Acts 3:25-26)

† This covenant begins the trajectory that ends in fulfillment, not endless continuation (Luke 1:72-73, Hebrews 6:13-15)

Exodus 24:8

So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."

† The Old Covenant was established with blood, but it wasn't meant to be permanent, it was a temporary system pointing forward (Hebrews 9:18-20, Hebrews 10:1)

† This covenant created a system of law, priesthood, and sacrifice that defined Israel's world until its appointed end (Hebrews 8:13, Galatians 3:19)

† The fulfilled perspective recognizes that this covenant had a built-in expiration tied to its purpose (Galatians 3:24-25, Romans 10:4)

Jeremiah 31:31

"Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of

Judah,

† God promised a new covenant, which means the old one was never intended to last forever (Hebrews 8:6-7, Hebrews 10:9)

† This new covenant wasn't an addition, it was a replacement, showing transition and fulfillment (Jeremiah 31:32, Hebrews 8:13)

† The timing of this promise points directly to the first century fulfillment in Christ (Luke 22:20, Hebrews 9:15)

Matthew 26:28

for this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

† Christ didn't start something unrelated to the covenants, He fulfilled and established the promised New Covenant (Hebrews 9:15, Romans 15:8)

† His death marked the transition point where the old system was being judged and removed (Hebrews 10:9, Colossians 2:14)

† This is the central covenantal moment that defines fulfillment, not a future delay (Hebrews 8:13, Hebrews 9:26)

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 already passing away in the first century, not waiting thousands of years to end (Hebrews 9:10, Hebrews 10:25)

† The language shows immediacy, meaning fulfillment was happening in their lifetime (Hebrews 10:25, Hebrews 10:37)

† This aligns with the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, marking the full end of that covenant world (Luke 21:20-22, Matthew 22:7)

† This shows the Old Covenant was in the process of

disappearing during their lifetime, not ours (Hebrews 10:37, James 5:8)

Matthew 24:34

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

† Jesus placed the fulfillment of covenant judgment and transition within that generation, not a distant future (Luke 21:32, Matthew 16:28)

† This includes the end of the Old Covenant system and the full establishment of the New (Matthew 5:17-18, Luke 21:22)

† The fulfilled perspective stands directly on Christ's timing statement, not against it (Mark 13:30, Luke 9:27)

Covenant Language And Why It Matters

† Another term for the fulfilled perspective is Covenant Eschatology because prophecy is rooted in covenant promises, not random future events (Hebrews 8:13, Luke 21:22)

† Scripture doesn't speak in modern literalistic categories, it speaks in covenantal terms tied to Israel's relationship with God (Deuteronomy 28:1-68, Leviticus 26:14-33)

† When God spoke of heaven and earth shaking, stars falling, and nations judged, He was using established covenant language of judgment and transition (Isaiah 13:10, Isaiah 34:4, Ezekiel 32:7-8)

† The prophets consistently used creation language to describe covenant changes, not the destruction of the physical universe (Hosea 4:1-3, Joel 2:10)

† Heaven and earth in many passages represent covenant order, authority, and the structure of God's relationship with His people (Isaiah 51:15-16, Haggai 2:6-7)

† This is why Jesus could speak of heaven and earth passing away in His generation, He was speaking of covenant transition, not the end of the physical world (Matthew 24:34-35, Luke

16:16-17)

† Covenant language also explains terms like last days, end of the age, and day of the Lord, which all refer to the end of the Old Covenant system (Hebrews 1:1-2, 1 Peter 1:20)

† Without understanding covenant language, people assume everything is physical and future, which leads to confusion about timing and fulfillment (Luke 21:22, Matthew 13:40)

† Covenant Eschatology keeps interpretation anchored in how Scripture actually defines its own prophetic language (2 Peter 3:7, 10-13, Isaiah 65:17)

† This is why the fulfilled perspective isn't adding something new, it's restoring the original covenant framework Scripture was written in (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 9:26)

† Once covenant language is understood, the timing statements of Jesus and the apostles make perfect sense and don't need to be pushed thousands of years into the future (Matthew 24:34, James 5:8)

† The entire Bible moves from promise to fulfillment through covenants, and that fulfillment was completed in the first century (2 Corinthians 1:20, Luke 21:22)

The Covenants Leading To Fulfillment

† The Abrahamic Covenant established the promise, a seed, a land, and a blessing to all nations, which finds its fulfillment in Christ and the gospel going out in that generation (Genesis 17:7, Galatians 3:16)

† The Mosaic Covenant established the law, priesthood, and sacrificial system, which served as a temporary guardian until Christ fulfilled and removed it (Galatians 3:24-25, Hebrews 10:1)

† The Davidic Covenant established the promise of a King and kingdom, which was fulfilled in Christ's reign, not postponed to a future earthly throne (Acts 2:30-33, Luke 1:32-33)

† The New Covenant brought forgiveness of sins, internal transformation, and direct access to God, which was fully established in the first century (Hebrews 8:10-12, Luke 22:20)

† Every covenant moves in one direction, promise to fulfillment, shadow to reality, old to new, and none of them were left incomplete (2 Corinthians 1:20, Hebrews 9:26)

† This is why the fulfilled perspective isn't a separate system, it's the conclusion of the covenantal structure already built into Scripture (Romans 15:8, Hebrews 10:14)

† When people separate prophecy from covenant, they end up pushing fulfillment into the future (Luke 21:22, Matthew 24:34)

† When covenant is kept as the foundation, the timing, language, and purpose of prophecy all stay consistent (Isaiah 46:10, Hebrews 8:13)

† The entire Bible is one unified covenant story, and that story reached its fulfillment in Christ and the events surrounding AD 70 (Luke 21:22, Hebrews 9:26)

Historical References

† Justin Martyr recognized the transition from the Old Covenant to the New as fulfilled in Christ and no longer binding on believers (Dialogue with Trypho, Chapter 11)

† Irenaeus wrote about the completion of the old system and the establishment of the new through Christ's work (Against Heresies, Book 4)

† Eusebius connected the fall of Jerusalem with the judgment of the Old Covenant system (Ecclesiastical History, Book 3)

† Josephus recorded the destruction of Jerusalem, confirming the historical end of that covenant world (Wars of the Jews, Book 6)

How It Applies To Us Today

† We're not waiting for covenant fulfillment, we're living in it, the New Covenant is fully established (Hebrews 10:14, Hebrews

12:28)

† We don't live under a system of law, temple, and sacrifice, because those were fulfilled and removed (Hebrews 8:13, Colossians 2:14)

† Our identity is rooted in Christ's completed work, not in an unfinished plan (2 Corinthians 5:17, Hebrews 9:26)

† Understanding the covenants correctly removes confusion about prophecy and timing (Luke 21:22, Matthew 24:34)

† We can have confidence that God's promises are already fulfilled, not postponed (2 Corinthians 1:20, Joshua 21:45)

Q & A Appendix

Q Does Preterism fall under Covenant Theology

A It aligns in recognizing the importance of covenants, but it goes further by showing their complete fulfillment in the first century (Hebrews 8:13, Matthew 24:34)

Q Is Covenant Eschatology the same as the fulfilled perspective

A It can be when it acknowledges that all covenant promises reached their fulfillment in Christ and the events surrounding AD 70 (Luke 21:22, Hebrews 9:26)

Q Are we still under any Old Covenant obligations

A No, the Old Covenant has passed away and been replaced by the New Covenant in Christ (Hebrews 8:13, Galatians 5:18)

Q What ended the Old Covenant system

A The death of Christ initiated it, and the destruction of Jerusalem completed it (Hebrews 9:15, Luke 21:20-22)

Q Why does this matter

A Because it defines how we understand Scripture, prophecy, and our relationship with God today (2 Corinthians 3:6, Hebrews 10:14)

Q Why is it called Covenant Eschatology

A Because eschatology in Scripture is tied to the fulfillment of covenant promises, not the end of the physical world (Hebrews 8:13, Luke 21:22)

Q What is covenant language in prophecy

A It is symbolic language rooted in the Old Testament used to describe covenant judgment, transition, and restoration, not literal cosmic destruction (Isaiah 13:10, Isaiah 34:4, Matthew 24:34-35)

Q What does heaven and earth passing away mean

A It refers to the passing of the Old Covenant system and its authority, not the destruction of the physical universe (Hebrews 12:26-28, Matthew 5:17-18)

Q What are the last days referring to

A The last days refer to the final period of the Old Covenant before its complete removal in the first century (Hebrews 1:1-2, 1 Peter 1:20)

Q What is the end of the age

A The end of the age is the end of the Old Covenant age, not the end of the world (Matthew 13:39-40, Matthew 24:3)

Q Did all covenant promises get fulfilled

A Yes, all the promises of God are fulfilled in Christ and were completed as He said within that generation (2 Corinthians 1:20, Matthew 24:34)

Q Why do people misunderstand prophecy

A Because they separate prophecy from covenant context and read symbolic language as literal future events (Luke 21:22, 2 Peter 3:10-13)

Q Does this mean nothing is future

A It means covenant prophecy has been fulfilled, and we now

live in the reality of what was promised (Hebrews 9:26,
Hebrews 10:14)

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

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Source Index

† Genesis 12:3; Exodus 24:8; Jeremiah 31:31; Matthew 26:28;
Hebrews 8:13; Matthew 24:34

† Deuteronomy 28:1-68; Isaiah 13:10; Isaiah 34:4; Hosea 4:1-3;
Isaiah 51:15-16; Matthew 24:34-35; Hebrews 1:1-2; Luke 21:22;
2 Peter 3:7, 10-13

† Genesis 17:7; Galatians 3:16; Galatians 3:24-25; Hebrews
10:1; Acts 2:30-33; Hebrews 8:10-12; Luke 22:20; 2 Corinthians
1:20

† Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho; Irenaeus, Against
Heresies; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History; Josephus, Wars of
the Jews**

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