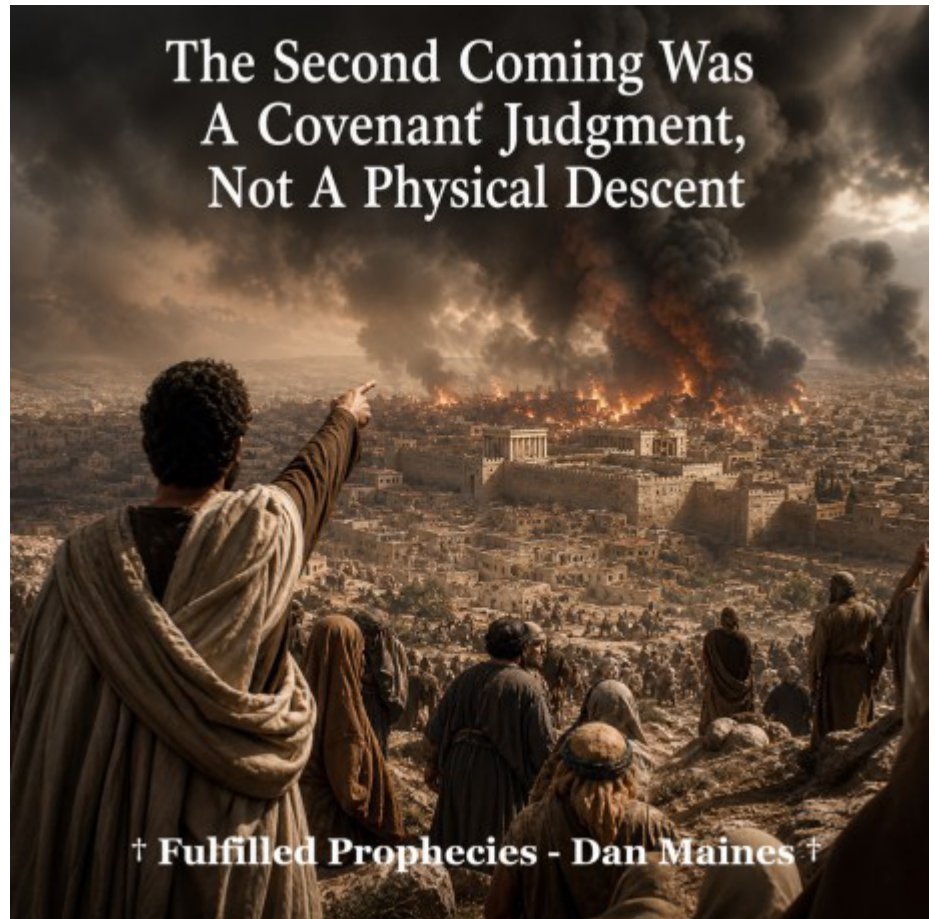


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The Second Coming Was A Covenant Judgment, Not A Physical Descent



By Dan Maines

The Second Coming Was A Covenant Judgment, Not A Physical Descent

Introduction

† Jesus did not invent new language when He spoke about His coming, He used language already established in the Old Testament (Isaiah 19:1; Psalm 104:3).

† When we read His words through that covenantal framework, it becomes clear that His coming was about judgment, not a

physical descent (Matthew 24:30; Daniel 7:13).

† The audience time statements lock this into their generation, not thousands of years later (Matthew 16:27-28; Matthew 24:34).

Matthew 16:27-28

27 For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.

28 "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

† Jesus clearly says some standing there would not die before seeing this coming, that places the event in their lifetime, not ours (Matthew 16:28; Matthew 24:34).

† This is a direct time statement tied to His audience, and it cannot be stretched without ignoring His own words (Luke 21:32; Mark 9:1).

† The coming is tied to judgment and reward, which is covenantal language tied to Israel's accountability under the Law (Deuteronomy 32:35-36; Isaiah 40:10).

Isaiah 19:1

1The pronouncement concerning Egypt:

Behold, the LORD is riding on a swift cloud and is about to come to Egypt;

The idols of Egypt will tremble at His presence,

And the heart of the Egyptians will melt within them.

† God is described as riding on a cloud coming to Egypt, yet this was not a visible physical descent, it was judgment

language (Isaiah 13:1; Isaiah 13:10).

† This shows that coming on the clouds was already understood as divine intervention in judgment, not physical travel (Psalm 104:3; Nahum 1:3).

† Jesus used this same language, meaning His audience would have understood it the same way, as covenant judgment (Matthew 26:64; Daniel 7:13).

Daniel 7:13-14

13 "I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a son of man was coming,
And He came up to the Ancient of Days
And was presented before Him.

14 And to Him was given dominion,
Honor, and a kingdom,
So that all the peoples, nations, and populations of all
languages
Might serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion
Which will not pass away;
And His kingdom is one
Which will not be destroyed.

† The Son of Man is not coming down to earth here, He is coming to the Ancient of Days, this is about receiving authority, not physical descent (Daniel 7:13; Acts 2:33).

† This proves that coming on the clouds is throne language, showing exaltation and kingship, not movement through the sky (Psalm 110:1; Daniel 7:14).

† Jesus applied this directly to Himself, meaning His coming was about being revealed in authority, not physically appearing

(Matthew 24:30; Revelation 1:7).

Matthew 24:30

30 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.

† The phrase coming on the clouds is throne language drawn directly from the Old Testament, not describing movement through the sky (Daniel 7:13; Psalm 18:9-12).

† The mourning of the tribes matches covenant judgment against Israel, not the entire globe, aligning with Zechariah's prophecy (Zechariah 12:10-12; Revelation 1:7).

† This remains within the same generation context Jesus already established, keeping everything in that first century timeframe (Matthew 24:34; Luke 21:22).

† The sign is not Jesus physically appearing, it is the visible evidence of His authority and judgment through the destruction of Jerusalem (Luke 21:20-22; Matthew 22:7).

Matthew 26:64

64 Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

† Jesus tells the high priest they would see this, again locking it into that first century audience (Matthew 26:64; Matthew 23:36).

† This ties the cloud coming directly to His authority at God's right hand, not a future physical descent (Psalm 110:1; Acts 2:34-35).

† The judgment would fall on that leadership, exactly as Jesus warned throughout His ministry (Matthew 23:38; Luke 21:22).

Revelation 1:7

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.

† It specifically says those who pierced Him would see Him, placing this in the first century, not thousands of years later (Revelation 1:7; Matthew 27:25).

† This matches the mourning of the tribes in Matthew 24:30, showing it's the same covenant judgment event (Zechariah 12:10-12; Matthew 24:30).

† The cloud language remains consistent with Old Testament judgment imagery, not physical appearance (Isaiah 19:1; Daniel 7:13).

Psalms 18:7-15

7 Then the earth shook and quaked;

And the foundations of the mountains were trembling

And were shaken, because He was angry.

8 Smoke went up out of His nostrils,

And fire from His mouth was devouring;

Coals burned from it.

9 He also bowed the heavens down low, and came down

With thick darkness under His feet.

10 He rode on a cherub and flew;

And He sped on the wings of the wind.

11 He made darkness His hiding place, His canopy around Him,
Darkness of waters, thick clouds.

12 From the brightness before Him passed His thick clouds,
Hailstones and coals of fire.

13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens,
And the Most High uttered His voice,

Hailstones and coals of fire.

14 He sent out His arrows, and scattered them,
And lightning flashes in abundance, and routed them.

15 Then the channels of water appeared,
And the foundations of the world were exposed
By Your rebuke, LORD,
At the blast of the breath of Your nostrils.

† This uses the same coming down and cloud imagery, yet no one takes this as a literal physical descent, it is clearly judgment language (Psalm 18:9; 2 Samuel 22:10).

† This reinforces that cloud coming language throughout Scripture represents divine intervention, not physical movement (Isaiah 13:10; Nahum 1:3).

† Jesus used this established language consistently, meaning His audience would have understood it as judgment (Matthew 24:30; Matthew 26:64).

Historical References

† Eusebius recorded that the destruction of Jerusalem fulfilled the Lord's warnings about judgment and His coming against that generation (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3.5; Luke 21:20).

† Josephus described signs in the sky and overwhelming destruction before Jerusalem fell, matching the language of signs and coming in judgment (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6.5.3; Matthew 24:30).

† Tacitus confirmed the catastrophic events surrounding that time, showing the historical reality of that judgment (Tacitus, Histories 5.13; Matthew 24:21).

How It Applies To Us Today

† We are not waiting for a future coming, Christ already came in judgment and established His kingdom (Matthew 16:28; Mark 9:1).

† We now live under a kingdom that cannot be shaken, because the old covenant system has already been removed (Hebrews 12:27-28; Hebrews 8:13).

† This gives us confidence, because judgment has already passed and we stand in a completed covenant (Romans 8:1; John 5:24).

Q & A Appendix

Q If Jesus already came, why didn't people see Him physically?

A Because the coming was never about physical sight, it was about covenant judgment using established prophetic language (Isaiah 19:1; Matthew 24:30).

Q What does coming on the clouds actually mean?

A It refers to divine authority and judgment, not physical movement, as shown throughout the Old Testament (Daniel 7:13; Psalm 104:3).

Q How do we know this happened in their generation?

A Jesus said some standing there would not die before seeing it, and He confirmed all these things would happen in that generation (Matthew 16:28; Matthew 24:34).

Q Why do many still think it's future?

A Because they read the language literally instead of covenantally, ignoring how the Old Testament already defined it (Isaiah 13:10; Isaiah 19:1).

Q Why does Daniel 7 say He comes on the clouds if that's not physical?

A Because Daniel shows Him coming to the Father to receive the kingdom, not coming down to earth, which proves the language is about authority, not movement (Daniel 7:13-14; Acts 2:33).

Q If this was fulfilled in AD 70, why does it say every eye will see Him?

A Because "seeing" in prophetic language refers to perceiving judgment and authority, not physical eyesight, just like Old Testament judgment texts (Isaiah 26:11; Jeremiah 1:14-16).

Q Doesn't Acts 1:11 say He will come the same way He left?

A Yes, He went into the clouds and was received into authority, and He came in the clouds in judgment, consistent with cloud language throughout Scripture (Acts 1:9-11; Daniel 7:13).

Q What is the sign of the Son of Man in heaven?

A The sign is not Jesus appearing physically, it is the evidence that He is enthroned and reigning, shown through the destruction of Jerusalem (Matthew 24:30; Luke 21:20-22).

Q Why did the tribes mourn if this was only about Israel?

A Because the tribes refers to the tribes of the land, Israel itself, fulfilling covenant judgment warnings given through the prophets (Zechariah 12:10-12; Amos 8:8-10).

Q How do we know this is judgment language and not literal?

A Because the exact same language is used repeatedly in the Old Testament for historical judgments with no physical descent (Isaiah 19:1; Nahum 1:3).

Q What does sitting at the right hand mean in relation to His coming?

A It means He was given authority and reign, and His coming reveals that authority through judgment (Psalm 110:1; Acts

2:33-36).

Q If Jesus already came, what are we waiting for now?

A We are not waiting for another coming in judgment, we are living in His established kingdom under the completed new covenant (Hebrews 12:28; Ephesians 2:19-22).

Q Why is this so hard for people to see?

A Because they read the language through a modern literal lens instead of letting Scripture interpret Scripture from the Old Testament foundation (Isaiah 13:10; Daniel 7:13).

Q Does this deny the power or glory of Christ's coming?

A No, it actually affirms it, because His coming accomplished exactly what He said it would in that generation (Matthew 24:34; John 17:4).

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

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Source Index

† Matthew 16:27-28; Isaiah 19:1; Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 24:30; Matthew 26:64; Revelation 1:7; Psalm 18:7-15; Matthew 24:34; Luke 21:32; Mark 9:1; Deuteronomy 32:35-36; Isaiah 40:10; Isaiah 13:1; Isaiah 13:10; Psalm 104:3; Nahum 1:3; Acts 2:33; Psalm 110:1; Zechariah 12:10-12; Luke 21:22; Luke 21:20-22; Matthew 22:7; Hebrews 12:27-28; Hebrews 8:13; Romans 8:1; John 5:24

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3.5; Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6.5.3; Tacitus, Histories 5.13

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