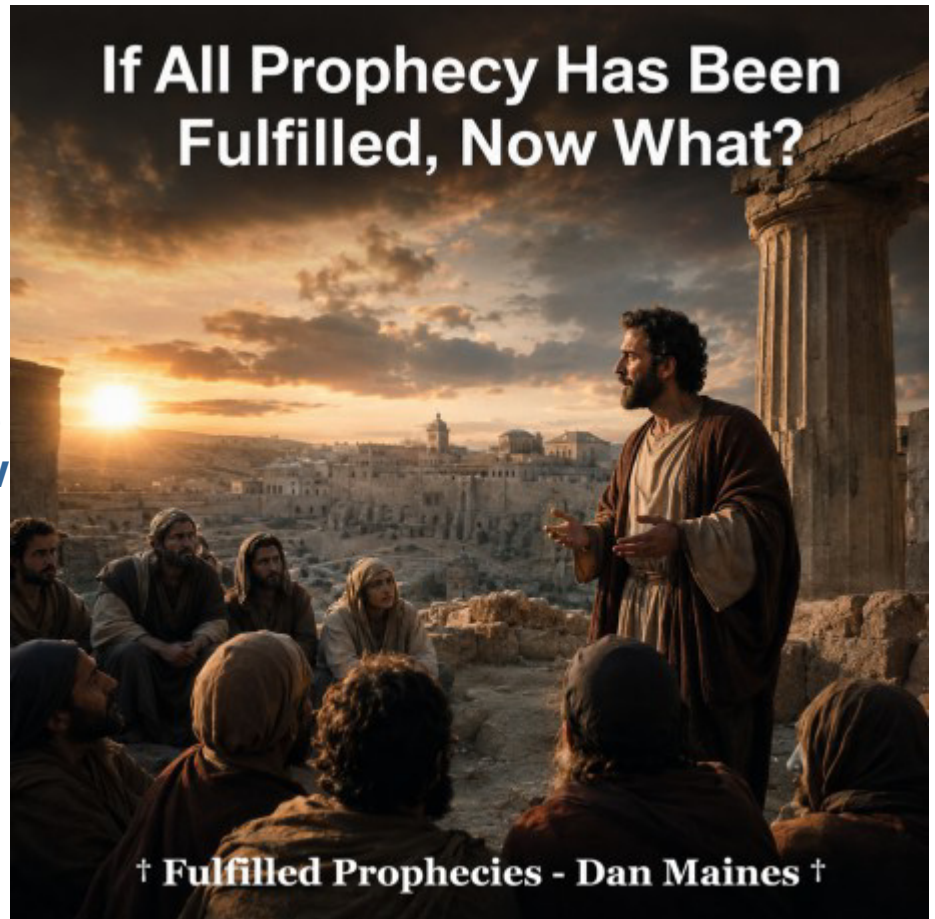


# Fulfilled Prophecies

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**If All Prophecy Has  
Been Fulfilled, Now  
What?**



By Dan Maines

## **If All Prophecy Has Been Fulfilled, Now What?**

### **Introduction**

† One of the most common questions people ask after learning the fulfilled perspective is this: If all prophecy has been fulfilled, now what?

† That question usually comes from years of futurist teaching that conditioned believers to think Christianity is mainly about waiting for future signs, future judgments, future tribulations, and a future kingdom.

† But the Bible never presented the Christian life as endless

waiting. The New Testament constantly pointed its first century audience toward an approaching fulfillment that would bring the Old Covenant age to its complete end and establish Christ's everlasting kingdom. (Matthew 16:27-28; Matthew 24:34; Hebrews 8:13)

† Futurism leaves believers emotionally attached to a coming age that scripture said was already "at hand" nearly two thousand years ago. The fulfilled perspective restores believers to the reality that Christ already reigns, His kingdom already stands, and His covenant promises have already been established. (Revelation 1:1-3; Revelation 22:10; Acts 2:29-36)

† Fulfillment was never the end of hope. Fulfillment was the arrival of what the prophets and apostles were waiting for.

† The question is not, What are we waiting for now? The question is, How do we live now that Christ has accomplished everything He promised concerning the Old Covenant age?

### **Matthew 24:34**

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

† Jesus directly placed ALL these things within the lifetime of His own generation.

† Futurism must redefine "generation" to avoid the plain meaning of Christ's words.

† Jesus was not speaking about a generation two thousand years later.

† This verse alone destroys the idea of an unfulfilled Matthew 24.

### **Revelation 1:1-3**

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-

servant John, 2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, everything that he saw. 3 Blessed is the one who reads, and those who hear the words of the prophecy and keep the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

† Revelation opens by declaring the events would happen shortly.

† God did not tell first century believers events thousands of years away were "shortly" coming to pass.

† Futurism turns imminent language into meaningless language.

† The timing statements of Revelation must be respected exactly as written.

### **Revelation 22:10**

10 And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

† Daniel was told to seal prophecy because fulfillment was far away. (Daniel 12:4)

† John was told NOT to seal Revelation because the time was at hand.

† This proves Revelation concerned events near to John's own lifetime.

† Futurism reverses the inspired timing statements of scripture.

### **Hebrews 8:13**

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 near to vanishing away when Hebrews was written.

† The temple still stood when Hebrews was written.

† Within a few years the temple was destroyed exactly as Jesus

foretold.

† This proves the covenant transition was happening in the first century.

### **Luke 21:20-22**

20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. 21 Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are inside the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; 22 because these are days of punishment, so that all things which have been written will be fulfilled

† Jesus directly identified the destruction of Jerusalem as the fulfillment of prophecy.

† He called it the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

† Futurism says all things were not fulfilled.

† Jesus said all things written would be fulfilled in those events.

### **Revelation 21:3**

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

† John was not describing a future planet thousands of years later. He was describing the completed covenant relationship between God and His people after the passing of the Old Covenant system. (Hebrews 9:8-10; Hebrews 12:22-28)

† Under the Law, God's presence was separated behind veils, temples, priesthoods, sacrifices, and ordinances. Under Christ, believers now have direct access into His presence. (Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 10:19-22)

† Futurists keep placing God's dwelling with man into the future, but Paul said believers already were the temple of God in his

own lifetime. (1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16)

† The destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 marked the full removal of the Old Covenant world that separated Jew and Gentile. The dwelling of God with His people was fully established in Christ. (Ephesians 2:13-15; Hebrews 8:13)

### **2 Corinthians 6:16**

16 Or what agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell among them and walk among them;

And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

† Paul did not say believers would someday become God's temple. He said they already were.

† This completely destroys the futurist obsession with a future physical temple in earthly Jerusalem.

† The true temple is Christ and His people. The physical temple was only a shadow pointing forward to the greater reality fulfilled in Him. (John 2:19-21; Ephesians 2:19-22)

† Futurism reverses the direction of scripture by taking believers backward into shadows instead of forward into fulfillment.

† We are not waiting for God to come near. Through Christ, He already has.

### **Matthew 28:18-20**

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

† Jesus said ALL authority had already been given to Him.

† He did not say He would receive authority thousands of years later.

† Christ reigns now. His kingdom is not postponed. His throne is not waiting on modern politics, earthly Israel, or a future tribulation.

† Futurism unintentionally weakens the kingship of Christ by constantly speaking of His kingdom as though it has not fully arrived yet.

† The "end of the world" here was the end of the covenant age, not the destruction of planet Earth. The Greek word "aion" means age. (Matthew 24:3; Hebrews 9:26)

† The mission of believers is not prophecy watching. It is kingdom living.

† The apostles never taught believers to spend centuries trying to identify the antichrist through newspaper headlines. They taught believers to preach Christ, love one another, walk in holiness, and spread the gospel of the kingdom. (Colossians 1:23; Romans 13:8-10)

### **Colossians 1:23**

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 declared the gospel had already been preached throughout the world in his lifetime.

† This fulfills Matthew 24:14 before the destruction of Jerusalem.

† Futurists continue placing Matthew 24:14 into the modern future despite Paul's direct statement.

### **Romans 16:25-26**

25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long

ages past, 26 but now has been disclosed, and through the Scriptures of the prophets, in accordance with the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;

† Paul declared the gospel message had already gone into all nations of the known world.

† This again confirms the Great Commission fulfillment before AD 70.

### **Hebrews 12:28**

28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let's show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

† Notice the writer said receiving, not someday eventually receiving.

† The kingdom had already arrived in the first century transition period.

† The shaking referred to the removal of the Old Covenant system. (Hebrews 12:26-27)

† Jerusalem fell, the temple was destroyed, the Levitical system ended forever, but Christ's kingdom remained standing exactly as prophesied. (Daniel 2:44)

† Futurists continue expecting another covenant shaking that scripture never predicted beyond the destruction of that Old Covenant world.

† We are living in the unshakable kingdom now.

### **1 Corinthians 10:11**

11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

† Paul said the ends of the ages had already come upon his audience.

† He did not place the end thousands of years later.

† The Old Covenant ages were ending in the first century transition period.

### **Luke 17:20-21**

20 Now He was questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, and He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs that can be observed; 21 nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst."

† Jesus directly destroyed the idea of a visibly observable earthly political kingdom.

† The kingdom was not something believers would locate through worldly signs, armies, borders, or earthly governments.

† The kingdom was a spiritual reality established through Christ.

† Futurists continue searching the newspapers and world events for a kingdom Jesus said does not come with outward observation.

† Christ reigns now in the hearts and lives of His people.

† The kingdom is present wherever Christ rules through His Spirit and truth.

### **1 Peter 1:3-5**

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

† Fulfilled prophecy does not destroy hope. It confirms hope.

† The salvation ready to be revealed referred to the approaching end of the Old Covenant age and the full

manifestation of Christ's kingdom. (Luke 21:28-32; Romans 13:11-12)

† The inheritance was not earthly land in Palestine. It was eternal covenant life in Christ.

† Futurists keep returning to earthly expectations, earthly kingdoms, earthly temples, and earthly nationalism.

† The New Testament consistently points believers upward into spiritual fulfillment in Christ. (Colossians 3:1-4; Philippians 3:20)

† Because God fulfilled His promises exactly when He said He would, we can trust every promise He gives us now.

## **2 Corinthians 5:8**

8 but we are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

† Paul taught that believers go to be with the Lord after death.

† He did not teach soul sleep.

† He did not teach unconscious waiting for thousands of years.

† He did not place hope in a future earthly millennium.

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