

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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## Judgment - Judgment on the Nations



By Dan Maines

### Judgment on the Nations

**Introduction:** Many people read apocalyptic passages in the Old Testament and assume they refer to the end of the physical universe. But when we let scripture interpret scripture, we see that language like stars falling and heavens rolling up are symbolic ways of describing judgment on nations and powers. Today we will examine Isaiah 34 and its context to show how God judged the nations in time, and how this language was reused in the New Testament to describe the fall of Jerusalem.

**Main Text: Isaiah 34:4 (NASB) "And all the heavenly lights will wear away, And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All their lights will also wither away As a leaf withers from the vine, Or as one withers from the fig tree."**

### **1. The Context of Isaiah 34: Judgment on Edom**

Isaiah 34 is a prophecy against **Edom**, not the end of the planet.

**Isaiah 34:5 says: "For My sword has drunk its fill in heaven; Behold it shall descend for judgment upon Edom, And upon the people whom I have designated for destruction."**

This is localized judgment, yet described with cosmic language.

This kind of language was common to describe political powers falling, not literal stars.

### **2. Heavenly Imagery as Political Language**

The **host of heaven** refers to rulers and authorities.

When the stars fall, it symbolizes the fall of kings and nations.

**Isaiah 13:10** describes the fall of Babylon: **"For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash their light; The sun will be dark when it rises, And the moon will not shed its light."**

Yet Babylon fell historically, not cosmically. It was an earthly event with heavenly symbols.

### **3. Parallel with Revelation and Matthew**

The same imagery appears in **Revelation 6:13-14**: **"And the stars of the sky fell to the earth... The sky was split apart**

**like a scroll when it is rolled up."**

This is not about the end of creation, but about the end of **Old Covenant Israel**, just like Isaiah described the end of Edom.

Jesus used this same language in **Matthew 24:29-30** when speaking of Jerusalem's fall: "**But immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky.**"

#### **4. God Has Always Judged Nations**

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and other prophets used judgment language repeatedly to describe how God held nations accountable.

These were not global destructions, but specific judgments in history.

**Jeremiah 4:23-24** even echoes Genesis creation language to describe the fall of Judah: "**I looked at the earth, and behold, it was formless and void... I looked, and behold, the mountains were quaking.**"

#### **5. Why This Matters in a Fulfilled View**

The language of cosmic destruction was symbolic of **covenant change** or **national collapse**, not the end of time.

By 70 AD, this same language described the **judgment on Old Covenant Israel**, the final transition to the New Covenant.

**Hebrews 12:26-28** confirms this: "**Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven... so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.**"

#### **6. Our Application Today**

We must not misread judgment passages as future events.

God's justice was seen historically, not in endless delay.

**Acts 17:31** says: "**Because He has set a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed.**" That day was coming upon **their generation**, as Jesus said in **Matthew 24:34**.

**Conclusion:** God has judged the nations. He used apocalyptic language not to scare us about the end of the world, but to signify the fall of the proud and the passing of old systems. Isaiah 34 was fulfilled when Edom fell. Likewise, the heavens rolled up in Revelation symbolized the end of the Old Covenant world. We are now living in the unshakable Kingdom, where Christ reigns and the nations are welcomed through the gospel.

**Revelation 21:1** "**Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.**" That has already come. The judgment on the nations is history. Christ is victorious. Amen.

The statue looking figures in the image represent fallen kings, rulers, and idols of the nations. This visual symbolism is drawn from prophetic language in scripture where defeated powers are often portrayed as shattered or fallen idols. For example:

**Isaiah 34:12** speaks of nobility being "nothing there to call a kingdom" after judgment.

**Jeremiah 50:2:** "Bel has been put to shame, Marduk has been shattered; Her images have been put to shame, her idols have been shattered."

**Ezekiel 30:13:** "I will also destroy the idols And make the images cease from Memphis."

In the context of Isaiah 34 and other judgment passages, these fallen statues represent the collapse of human governments and false gods under divine judgment. They used to symbolize the political and religious powers that were brought low, as foretold in prophetic scripture.

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