Fulfilled Prophecies

Which Promises To Israel Are Fulfilled, And Which Are Still To Come?



By Dan Maines

Which Promises To Israel Are Fulfilled, And Which Are Still To Come?

Introduction

† God made many promises to Israel throughout the Old Testament. He promised Abraham descendants, land, a great nation, a coming Messiah, an everlasting kingdom, a New Covenant, forgiveness of sins, restoration, and resurrection. The question is whether these promises remain unfulfilled or whether God accomplished everything He promised through Jesus Christ.

† Many Christians believe God still owes national Israel a future earthly kingdom, a rebuilt temple, restored animal sacrifices, and another fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. But does Scripture actually teach that? We must allow the apostles to explain how God's promises were fulfilled rather than interpret those promises through modern political events.
† The fulfilled perspective recognizes that God's promises were accomplished through Christ, with the Old Covenant age reaching its final end in AD 70. This doesn't mean God's blessings have ended. It means the promised kingdom and New Covenant are established realities that believers enjoy today. Let's examine what Scripture actually says.

God Already Fulfilled His Promise Of The Land
Joshua 21:43-45
So the LORD gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it. And the LORD gave them rest on every side, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers, and no one of all their enemies stood before them; the LORD gave all their enemies into their hand. Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.
† Joshua didn't say Israel received only part of the promised land or that the remainder would be delivered thousands of years later. He explicitly declared that God gave them all the land He had sworn to their fathers. (Genesis 15:18; Joshua 11:23)
† The statement that not one promise failed is decisive. The land promise wasn't waiting for a modern political nation to complete what God had already accomplished. (Joshua 23:14)
† Israel's later disobedience resulted in judgment, exile, and restoration, but those events didn't mean God's original promise had failed. Their continued possession depended upon covenant faithfulness. (Deuteronomy 28:63-64; Nehemiah 9:7-

Solomon Confirmed That God's Promises Had Been Fulfilled
1 Kings 8:56
Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised; not one word has failed of all His good promise, which He promised through Moses His servant.
† Solomon confirmed the same truth Joshua had proclaimed. God had given Israel the promised rest, and not one word of His promise through Moses had failed. (Joshua 21:44-45)
† This testimony was given centuries before Jesus was born. It proves that the land promises had already received historical fulfillment under the Old Covenant. (Deuteronomy 1:8; Nehemiah 9:8)
† We shouldn't take promises Scripture declares fulfilled and insist that their fulfillment must still occur in our future. God's faithfulness doesn't require a second fulfillment of something He already accomplished. (Joshua 23:14)

The Promise To Abraham Was Fulfilled Through Jesus Christ
Galatians 3:16
Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, And to seeds, as referring to many, but rather to one, And to your seed, that is, Christ.
† Paul identified the ultimate promised seed of Abraham as Jesus Christ. The fulfillment of Abraham's promise centers on the Messiah, not an earthly government or a modern national boundary. (Genesis 22:18; Acts 3:25-26)
† God promised that all nations would be blessed through Abraham. That blessing came through Christ and extended to the Gentiles through faith. (Genesis 12:3; Galatians 3:8)
† The promise wasn't abandoned when the New Covenant arrived. It reached its intended fulfillment through the One to whom it pointed from the beginning. (Romans 15:8; Galatians

3:14)

Believers In Christ Are Abraham's Heirs
Galatians 3:29
And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.
† Paul didn't say believers must become citizens of national Israel to inherit Abraham's promises. He said those who belong to Christ are Abraham's descendants and heirs according to promise. (Galatians 3:26-28)
† The inheritance is determined by belonging to Christ, not by physical ancestry. God's covenant family includes believing Jews and Gentiles united in the same Messiah. (Romans 4:11-16; Ephesians 2:14-19)
† This doesn't mean Jewish people are excluded from salvation. They enter through the same faith in Christ as everyone else. There isn't one plan of salvation for Israel and another for the Gentiles. (Romans 10:12-13; Romans 11:23)

Jesus Came To Confirm The Promises Made To Israel
Romans 15:8
For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers,
† Paul explained why Christ came to Israel. Jesus came to confirm the promises God had made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants. (Luke 1:68-75)
† The Messiah wasn't a temporary offer that Israel rejected, forcing God to postpone His kingdom for thousands of years. Jesus accomplished the work the Father gave Him to do. (John 17:4; John 19:30)
† The promises to Israel find their fulfillment in Christ. His death, resurrection, exaltation, and establishment of the New Covenant accomplished God's redemptive purpose. (Acts 2:30-36; Hebrews 9:15)

The Promise Of The Messiah Was Fulfilled
Acts 13:32-33
And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.'
† Paul didn't preach that Israel must wait thousands of years for God to fulfill His promise concerning the Messiah. He announced that God had fulfilled the promise through Jesus Christ. (Acts 13:23)
† Jesus was the promised Son of David, raised from the dead and exalted to God's right hand. His kingdom wasn't postponed until a future earthly reign. (Acts 2:29-36; Colossians 1:13)
† The resurrection and exaltation of Christ established His royal authority. He reigns now, and His kingdom isn't dependent upon rebuilding David's earthly throne in Jerusalem. (Ephesians 1:20-22; Hebrews 1:3)

The New Covenant Promise To Israel Was Fulfilled
Jeremiah 31:31
Behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,
† Jeremiah promised a New Covenant to Israel and Judah. Jesus identified His own blood as the blood of that covenant, establishing its foundation through His sacrifice. (Luke 22:20; Hebrews 9:15)
† The New Covenant wasn't another version of the Mosaic Law. It brought forgiveness of sins, a new relationship with God, and access to Him through Jesus Christ. (Jeremiah 31:33-34; Hebrews 10:16-22)
† The Gentiles were brought near through Christ and made fellow citizens with God's people. The New Covenant created one household of faith rather than two separate covenant peoples with different destinies. (Ephesians 2:11-22)

The Old Covenant Was About To Disappear
Hebrews 8:13
When He said, A new covenant, He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.
† Hebrews was written while the Old Covenant temple system still existed. The writer declared that the first covenant had become obsolete and was ready to disappear. (Hebrews 8:6-12)
† Christ's sacrifice accomplished what the repeated animal sacrifices could never accomplish. The Old Covenant had lost its covenantal authority through the finished work of Christ, even while its earthly institutions remained standing. (Hebrews 9:11-12; Hebrews 10:1-18)
† In AD 70, Jerusalem and its temple were destroyed, bringing the visible Old Covenant system to its final historical end. There is no biblical need to restore a priesthood or animal sacrifices that Christ's perfect sacrifice made unnecessary. (Matthew 24:1-2; Hebrews 10:12-14)

God's Promises Were Fulfilled In Christ
2 Corinthians 1:20
For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.
† Paul didn't divide God's redemptive promises into those fulfilled in Christ and others requiring a future national kingdom. He declared that God's promises find their affirmation in Jesus Christ. (Romans 15:8)
† This doesn't mean every historical promise was fulfilled at the same moment. The land was given centuries earlier, the Messiah came in the first century, and the Old Covenant order reached its end in AD 70. (Joshua 21:43-45; Acts 13:32-33; Hebrews 8:13)
† God's promises weren't failures that required postponement. They formed one unfolding plan of redemption that reached its

fulfillment through Jesus Christ. (Luke 24:44; Ephesians 1:9-10)

Jesus Identified The Time Of Prophetic Fulfillment
Luke 21:22
because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled.
† Jesus was speaking about Jerusalem's coming destruction. He identified those approaching days as the fulfillment of what had been written concerning that judgment. (Luke 21:20-24)
† Jesus also declared that the events He described would occur within that generation. His words weren't directed toward people living thousands of years after His original audience. (Matthew 24:34; Luke 21:32)
† The destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 completed the judgment upon the Old Covenant nation and brought that covenant age to its end. Daniel had connected the final judgment with the shattering of the power of the holy people. (Daniel 12:1-7; Matthew 23:36-38)

The Promised Kingdom Was Already Established
Colossians 1:13
For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
† Paul didn't say believers were waiting to enter a kingdom that wouldn't exist until thousands of years later. He declared that they had already been transferred into Christ's kingdom. (Hebrews 12:28)
† Jesus received His authority through His resurrection and exaltation. The promised reign of the Son of David had begun, and His followers were already citizens of His kingdom. (Acts 2:30-36; Philippians 3:20)
† The kingdom's establishment doesn't require Jesus to return physically to earth and occupy a throne in modern Jerusalem. His kingdom is heavenly in origin and continues through His people. (John 18:36; Hebrews 12:22-24)

The Promise Of Israel's Resurrection Was Fulfilled
Daniel 12:7
I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed.
† Daniel 12 connects the resurrection described in verse 2 with the time when the power of the holy people would be completely shattered. The prophecy provides its own historical boundary. (Daniel 12:1-2, 6-7)
† Israel's covenantal power was shattered when Jerusalem and its temple were destroyed in AD 70. That event marked the final end of the Old Covenant order. (Luke 21:20-22)
† The promised resurrection belonged to the completion of that covenantal transition. It wasn't a prediction of biological bodies emerging from graves thousands of years after the destruction of Jerusalem. (1 Corinthians 15:50-57; Revelation 20:12-15)

The Promises Were Not Postponed To Our Future
Revelation 22:6
And he said to me, These words are faithful and true; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.
† Revelation was written to first-century believers who were told that its prophetic events must soon take place. The time statements must be understood from the perspective of the original recipients. (Revelation 1:1-3)
† The promised judgment, the completion of the Old Covenant age, and the arrival of the New Jerusalem belonged to the events approaching that generation. (Matthew 24:34; Revelation 21:2)
† We shouldn't turn the words soon and near into predictions requiring thousands of years. God's promises were trustworthy precisely because He accomplished what He announced within

the appointed time. (Revelation 22:7, 10)

Which Promises Are Still To Come?

† From the fulfilled perspective, none of Israel's Old Covenant prophetic promises remain awaiting fulfillment. The land was given, the Messiah came, the New Covenant was established, the kingdom arrived, and the promised judgment and resurrection reached their fulfillment by AD 70. (Joshua 21:45; Luke 21:22; Daniel 12:7)

† This doesn't mean God has stopped saving people or that His kingdom has ended. Christ continues reigning, believers continue entering His kingdom, and those who die in Him are with the Lord. These are continuing blessings of accomplished redemption, not unfulfilled promises to national Israel. (Colossians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23)

† The modern nation of Israel isn't awaiting a separate prophetic fulfillment that Christ failed to accomplish. Jewish people, like Gentiles, are invited to receive salvation through the same Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 10:12-13; Galatians 3:28-29)

Historical References

† Flavius Josephus, a first-century Jewish historian, recorded the Jewish-Roman War and the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple in AD 70. His account in The Jewish War, Books 5-6, describes the siege, famine, violence, and destruction that accompanied the end of the temple system.

† Eusebius, writing in the fourth century, recorded the tradition that Christians in Jerusalem fled to Pella before the city's destruction. His Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapter 5, connects that flight with the approaching judgment.

† These historical writers provide important evidence concerning the events surrounding AD 70. They don't establish the theological interpretation by themselves, but their accounts support the historical setting in which the fulfilled perspective understands Jesus' prophecies. (Luke 21:20-22)

How It Applies To Us Today

† We don't need to wait for another earthly kingdom, another temple, or another covenant to experience God's promises. Jesus Christ has already accomplished the work of redemption. (Hebrews 10:12-14)

† Our hope isn't found in political developments in the Middle East. Our hope is in the risen Christ, who reigns now and has brought us into His kingdom. (Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 12:28)

† We should recognize that God's promises to Abraham extend to everyone who belongs to Christ. Salvation isn't restricted by nationality, ancestry, or geography. (Galatians 3:26-29)

† We can live confidently because God's promises didn't fail. He fulfilled His word, established His New Covenant, and opened the way into His presence. (2 Corinthians 1:20; Hebrews 10:19-22)

† Our responsibility today is to proclaim Christ, teach His Word, love one another, and live as citizens of His established kingdom. (Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 4:1-3)

Q & A Appendix

Q: Did God fulfill His promise to give Israel the land?
A: Yes. Joshua explicitly declared that God gave Israel all the land He had promised and that not one promise failed. (Joshua 21:43-45)

Q: Does God still owe national Israel additional territory?
A: No. Scripture records the fulfillment of the original land promise. The New Testament identifies Christ as the ultimate fulfillment of Abraham's promises. (Joshua 23:14; Galatians 3:16)

Q: Was the promise to Abraham only for his physical descendants?
A: No. Paul taught that everyone who belongs to Christ is Abraham's descendant and an heir according to promise. (Galatians 3:29)

Q: Was the New Covenant promised to Israel?
A: Yes. Jeremiah promised the New Covenant to Israel and Judah, and Jesus established it through His blood. Believing Gentiles were brought into the same covenant household. (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Luke 22:20; Ephesians 2:14-19)

Q: Is Jesus still waiting to receive His kingdom?
A: No. Paul declared that believers had already been transferred into the kingdom of God's beloved Son. (Colossians 1:13; Acts 2:30-36)

Q: Was Israel's promised resurrection fulfilled?
A: Yes, according to the fulfilled perspective. Daniel connected the resurrection with the shattering of the power of the holy people, which occurred with the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple in AD 70. (Daniel 12:1-7)

Q: Does modern Israel have a separate plan of salvation?
A: No. Jews and Gentiles receive salvation through the same Jesus Christ. There is one Lord and one way of salvation through faith in Him. (Romans 10:12-13; Ephesians 2:14-18)

Q: Are any Old Covenant prophecies to Israel still awaiting fulfillment?
A: No. From the fulfilled perspective, God's prophetic promises concerning Israel reached their intended completion through Christ and the events culminating in AD 70. His kingdom and New Covenant blessings continue today. (Luke 21:22; 2 Corinthians 1:20; Hebrews 8:13)

Q: If all prophecy is fulfilled, what do believers have to look forward to?
A: We continue enjoying fellowship with God, growing in Christ, sharing the gospel, and entering His presence when our earthly lives end. These are blessings flowing from fulfilled redemption. (2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; Colossians 3:1-4)

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

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

Source Index

† Joshua 21:43-45; 1 Kings 8:56; Galatians 3:16, 29; Romans 15:8; Acts 13:32-33; Jeremiah 31:31; Hebrews 8:13; 2 Corinthians 1:20; Luke 21:22; Colossians 1:13; Daniel 12:7; Revelation 22:6

† Flavius Josephus, The Jewish War, Books 5-6; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapter 5

Share on Facebook

Links

Facebook Link

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/2171618677059595/

Fulfilled Prophecies https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/

Dan Maines

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.