

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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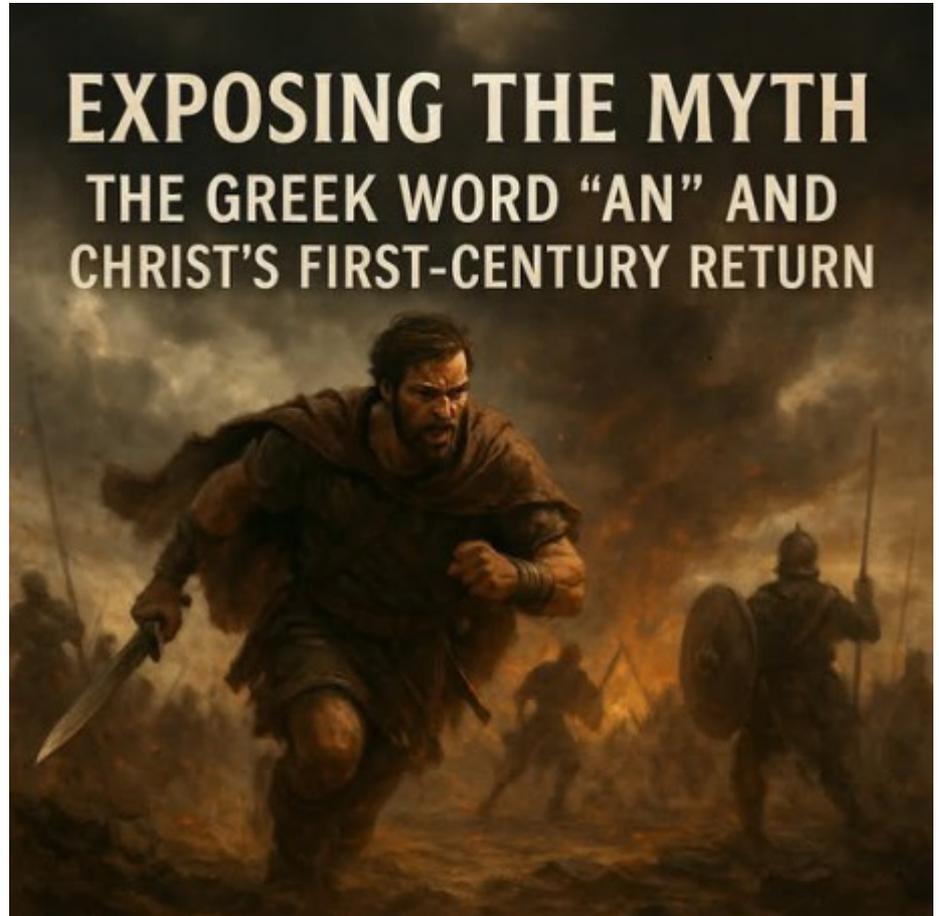
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[An - The Truth About "An" and the Certainty of Christ's First Century Coming](#)



By Dan Maines

**The Truth About "An" and the Certainty of Christ's First Century Coming**

**INTRODUCTION** In debates about the timing of Christ's return, some claim that certain prophecies Jesus gave are "conditional" because of a small Greek particle, **an** (Strong's G302). They say this little word, often used with verbs in the subjunctive mood, leaves the door open for those prophecies to be postponed far into the future.

But when we examine the scripture carefully, both in Greek and in context, that claim falls apart. This isn't just about grammar, it's about whether we believe Jesus kept His promises to His first century audience. From a fulfilled perspective, we see that Jesus' words were certain, His timing was clear, and history confirms He did exactly what He said.

**1. "An" Does Not Make the Prophecy Uncertain** Yes, **an** often appears with verbs in the subjunctive mood to show some kind of contingency or indefiniteness in the action itself. But it never changes the certainty of God's word. It can describe how or when something will happen, but not whether it will happen at all.

Take Matthew 16:28 for example. Jesus said: "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." That is not "maybe it will happen" language. It's a direct, time bound promise. Some of those standing there would still be alive when it happened and that means it had to occur in their lifetime.

**2. The Time Statements Still Stand** Even if **an** is present, the time statements of Jesus remain unshaken. Matthew 10:23 says: "But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes."

Luke 21:32 says: "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place."

The Greek particle **an** does not magically stretch "this generation" into thousands of years. The hearers of these words knew what "this generation" meant, the same way we would mean it today: their own lifetime.

**3. Acts 3:19-20 Is Not Delaying the Second Coming** In Acts 3:19-20, Peter said: "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you."

This is covenant language. Peter was calling Israel to repentance so that covenant blessings would flow and so that the Messiah would be revealed in His glory. The "sending" of Jesus here was not delayed for thousands of years, it was fulfilled when Christ came in judgment and vindication in AD 70, just as He promised in Matthew 24:30-34.

**4. Zechariah 14:3 Is Not a Backup Plan** Some claim that in AD 70 there were two possible outcomes, either destruction or the Lord fighting for Israel. But this ignores the covenant reality.

Jesus had already pronounced the verdict on Jerusalem in Matthew 23:37-38: "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who have been sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!"

Zechariah 14 is apocalyptic language. The Lord did "go forth" in the events of AD 70, not to save apostate Jerusalem, but to judge her. Rome and her allies were the human instrument, but the Lord was the divine Judge carrying out His word.

**5. The Prophecy Is Already Fulfilled** Jesus tied His coming in glory, the judgment, and the kingdom to the lifetime of His hearers. Matthew 16:27-28 says: "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay each person according to his deeds. 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."

The destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 was not one possible path among others, it was the very event He had foretold, the climax of the covenantal story, and the full vindication of His people.

The Greek particle **an** does not turn these prophecies into open ended "maybes." It fits perfectly with a first century fulfillment. All of Jesus' time statements point directly to AD 70, and nothing in the Greek grammar, Acts 3, or Zechariah 14 changes that. The prediction is not still waiting to happen, it already has, exactly as He said.

### **Examples of "An" in Fulfilled Prophecy**

**Matthew 24:22** – "And if those days had not been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short." The Greek uses **an** here, yet Jesus clearly said those days would be cut short and they were, in AD 70 when the siege ended sooner than expected.

**John 14:2** – "In My Father's house are many rooms; if that were not so, I would have told you, because I go to prepare a place for you." This construction involves conditional grammar, but Jesus' going to prepare a place was certain and accomplished.

These examples prove that **an** never weakens God's promises. It simply works within the grammar of the statement. The certainty rests on God's word, and His word was fulfilled in the first century exactly as promised.

**CONCLUSION** This is why we can confidently stand on the words of Christ. He did not speak vaguely or in riddles about His return. He spoke plainly to His disciples, in their time, about events they would live to see. The Greek language supports it,

the covenant context demands it, and history confirms it.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away." - Matthew 24:35

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