

Fulfilled Prophecies

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[At Hand - The Time Was At Hand](#)



By Dan Maines

The Time Was At Hand

Introduction:

Brothers and sisters, I want to share with you a truth so simple, yet so often denied, twisted, or explained away.

The Scriptures are clear. The words spoken by our Lord and His apostles were not vague, symbolic placeholders for 2,000 years of delay.

They were urgent, present, and imminent. The time statements in the New Testament were not meant for a far off future generation, but for them, their generation.

And once we open our eyes and trust what the text actually says, everything becomes clear.

1. Let the Bible Define "At Hand" (Greek: eggizo)

Matthew 26:45-46 "Then He came to His disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the HOUR IS AT HAND, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is AT HAND.'"

Was Jesus speaking of something 2,000 years away? Of course not. Judas was moments away. The betrayal was immediate.

Luke 22:1 "Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread DREW NEAR, which is called Passover."

The same word is used here: eggizo. It means near. Close. Approaching.

Luke 22:47 "While He was still speaking, behold, a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was going ahead of them, and he approached Jesus to kiss Him."

Judas drew near. He did not take two millennia to get there.

Luke 24:15 "While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them."

Acts 22:6 "But it happened that as I was on my way and approaching Damascus..."

Acts 23:15 "Now you, the Council, notify the commander to bring him down to you... as though you were going to determine his case more thoroughly..."

All these uses of "approaching" or "drawing near" are immediate in context.

2. What About When the Bible Says the Day of the Lord is AT HAND?

Hebrews 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

The Day was visible, approaching, not generations away.

Romans 13:11-12 "And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is AT HAND. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light."

James 5:8 "You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is AT HAND."

1 Peter 4:7 "But the end of all things is AT HAND; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers."

3. Three Logical Options

We have to deal honestly with these statements. There are only three possibilities:

- I. Paul and the apostles were misled by the Holy Spirit and were wrong.

2. The apostles deceived the early church about Christ's return.
3. Or they were right, and Jesus did return when He and the apostles said He would.

Which one are you comfortable believing? I choose to believe they were telling the truth.

4. The Futurist Excuse

Futurists try to say Paul was just instilling urgency for all generations. That is false teaching.

They often twist 2 Peter 3:8 by quoting "with the Lord one day is like a thousand years," but ignore the context. That verse does not cancel out the dozens of clear, urgent statements given to the first-century church.

5. The Spirit of Truth Leads to Truth

John 16:13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth..."

If the apostles were guided into all truth, then their warnings of Christ's imminent return were true.

Were the apostles mistaken when they wrote about the nearness of the end?

Absolutely not. They were writing under divine inspiration.

Paul wasn't confused. Peter wasn't exaggerating. James wasn't misled.

They were led by the Spirit of God and told the churches the truth.

6. Jesus Said It Too

Matthew 10:7 "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is AT HAND.'"

Matthew 4:17 "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is AT HAND.'"

Jesus' gospel began with urgency. He was not talking about a 2,000 year delay.

7. The Consequences of Denial

If you believe Jesus and the apostles were wrong, then you deny the inerrancy of Scripture.

If you say "AT HAND" doesn't mean what it clearly does, you are twisting God's word.

This is not just a debate about timing, it is a question of truth. Do you trust the Scriptures or do you trust tradition?

8. I Was Bamboozled Too

Like many of you, I once believed the traditions I was taught.

But now I see that the Day of the Lord was not far off, it was near.

The warnings were real. The return was real. The judgment was real.

And it all came to pass in that generation.

Conclusion:

Let us believe the clear, Spirit-led words of the apostles.

Let us stop twisting "AT HAND" into "thousands of years later."

And let us rejoice in the truth that Christ did not delay, He was faithful to His promise.

"Behold, the hour is at hand."

Amen.

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