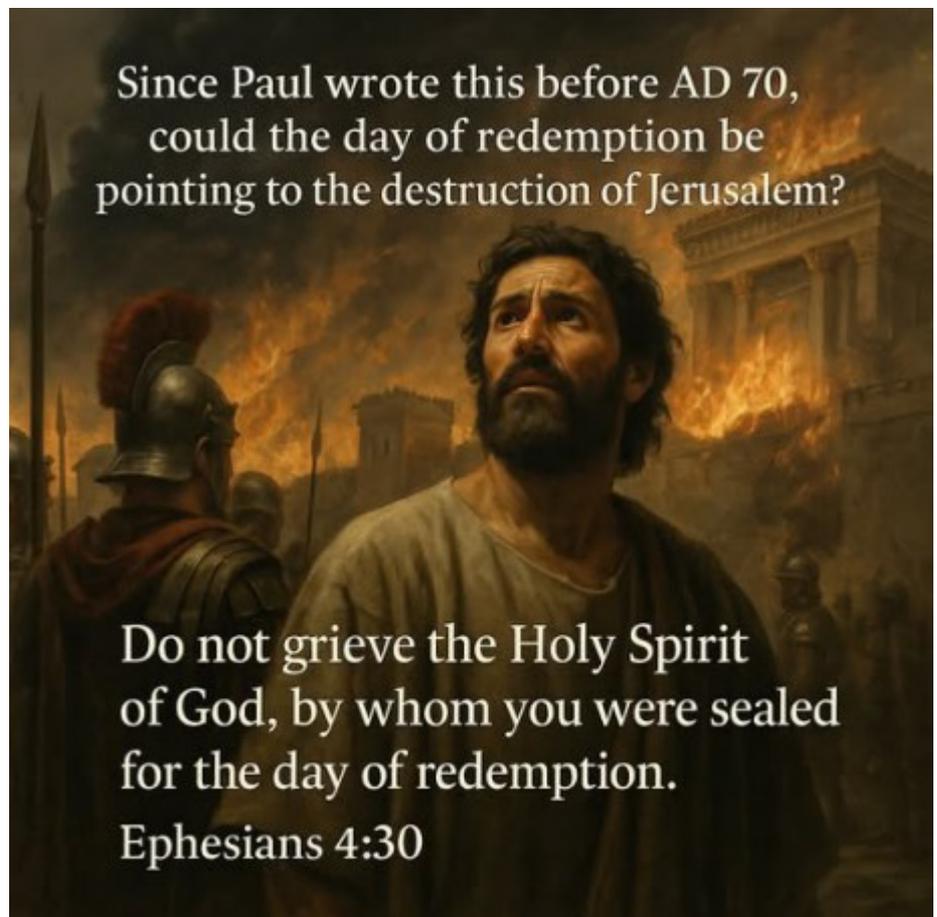


# Fulfilled Prophecies

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(EPHESIANS 4:30)**



By Dan Maines

**SINCE PAUL WROTE THIS BEFORE AD 70, COULD THE  
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Yes, exactly. Paul ties the Spirit's sealing to a future "day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:30), and Jesus used that same language when speaking of the fall of Jerusalem: "But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28). When the temple fell in AD 70, the old order of sacrifices and priesthood was finally removed, and the New Covenant stood in

full. That was the day of redemption Paul's audience was sealed for.

**SEALED FOR THE DAY OF REDEMPTION** Ephesians 4:30 says, "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

Paul wrote these words to a first-century audience living in the overlap of two covenants. The Spirit was given as a seal, not for an endless waiting period, but for a specific day when redemption would be fully realized.

**THE SPIRIT AS A GUARANTEE** Paul explained earlier, "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of the promise, who is a first installment of our inheritance, in regard to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory" (Ephesians 1:13-14).

The Spirit was the down payment of what was about to be received in full. Jesus tied this day of redemption to the destruction of Jerusalem, saying, "But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28).

**THE CONNECTION TO AD 70** Paul wrote before AD 70, so the day of redemption was still future to his audience, but near. Jesus Himself had declared, "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place" (Luke 21:32). Hebrews 8:13 confirms the same reality, "When He said, 'A new covenant,' He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is about to disappear."

That disappearance of the Old Covenant happened in the judgment on Jerusalem. The temple was destroyed, the sacrifices ended, and the old priesthood was swept away. What remained was the New Covenant standing in full. That was the

day of redemption for which the saints had been sealed.

**THE REDEMPTION OF THE BODY** Paul also calls this event "the revealing of the sons of God" and "the redemption of our body" in Romans 8:19, 23. The "body" here was not individual fleshly corpses but the corporate body of God's people. Israel after the flesh was passing away, and the true body of Christ was being raised into glory.

This is why Paul urged them not to grieve the Spirit. The Spirit was guiding them through the transition from the Old Covenant to the New. To resist that work was to cling to the system that was about to be destroyed.

**HISTORICAL CONFIRMATION** Josephus, a first-century eyewitness, confirms the very events Jesus and Paul spoke of. He describes the Roman siege and destruction of Jerusalem in vivid detail:

The temple, the very center of Old Covenant life, was consumed by fire (Wars 6.4.5).

The sacrifices ceased, ending the priestly system forever (Wars 6.2.1).

Josephus even remarked that Jerusalem's destruction was so complete it looked as though it had never been inhabited (Wars 6.9.1).

These events match the language of redemption and judgment in scripture. God removed the obsolete covenant system and brought His people fully into the New Covenant kingdom.

**CONCLUSION** Ephesians 4:30 is not pointing to something 2000 years later. The saints were sealed by the Spirit until the "day of redemption," which came with the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. That day was the fulfillment of Jesus'

prophecy, the completion of the covenant transition, and the liberation of God's people into the New Creation.

The scriptures and history agree: the day of redemption Paul spoke of has been fulfilled.

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