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Matthew 16 – The Coming of the Kingdom (Fulfilled Perspective)



By Dan Maines

Matthew 16 – The Coming of the Kingdom (Fulfilled Perspective)

Matthew 16:1

The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and putting Jesus to the test, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven.

† The demand for a sign from heaven shows their unbelief. They had already seen miracles yet wanted cosmic proof. They were blind to what was before them.

† Josephus describes the Pharisees and Sadducees as rival

groups who nevertheless worked together against Christ.

† Josephus, Antiquities 18.1.3: The Pharisees have delivered to the people a great many observances by succession from their fathers, which are not written in the laws of Moses. And the Sadducees reject them, saying that we are to esteem those observances to be obligatory which are in the written word, but are not to observe what are derived from the tradition of our forefathers.

Matthew 16:2-3

But He replied to them, When it is evening, you say, It will be fair weather, for the sky is red. And in the morning, There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening. Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?

† They could read the sky, but they could not see the prophetic signs of judgment approaching. The signs of the times were miracles and fulfilled prophecies pointing to the end of the Old Covenant.

† Josephus recorded heavenly omens before Jerusalem's destruction.

† Josephus, Wars 6.5.3: A star resembling a sword stood over the city, and a comet that continued a whole year. And before sun-setting, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armor were seen running about among the clouds, and surrounding of cities.

Matthew 16:4

An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah. And He left them and went away.

† The sign of Jonah is Christ's death and resurrection. That generation rejected the greatest sign God would ever give

them.

† Roman historians acknowledged the impact of Christ.

† Tacitus, Annals 15.44: Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome.

Matthew 16:5-6

And the disciples came to the other side of the sea, but they had forgotten to bring any bread. And Jesus said to them, Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

† The leaven was their corrupt doctrine. The Pharisees clung to traditions, the Sadducees to political power, both rejecting the truth of Christ.

† Their teaching influenced the nation, which led to ruin.

† Josephus, Wars 2.8.14: The Sadducees are those that compose the second order, and take away fate entirely, and suppose that God is not concerned in our doing or not doing what is evil, and they say, that to act what is good, or what is evil, is at men's own choice. But the Pharisees say, that some actions, but not all, are the work of fate, and some of them are in our own power, and they ascribe all to fate and to God.

Matthew 16:13-16

Peter confesses, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

† In a land filled with pagan temples, Peter's confession set Christ above all gods and rulers.

Matthew 16:17-18

And Jesus said to him... upon this rock I will build My church,

and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

† The rock is Peter's confession. The church would endure while the Old Covenant system collapsed.

† Christians fled Jerusalem before its destruction, proving the church endured.

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5.3: But the people of the church in Jerusalem had been commanded by a revelation, vouchsafed to approved men there before the war, to leave the city and to dwell in a certain town of Perea called Pella. And when those that believed in Christ had come there from Jerusalem, then the destruction of Jerusalem came to pass, as if it were in accordance with a divine decree of God.

Matthew 16:19

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven...

† Binding and loosing were rabbinic terms for teaching authority. Jesus gave it to His apostles, establishing covenant law under Him.

Matthew 16:21-23

Peter rebukes Jesus, but Jesus says, Get behind Me, Satan!

† Peter wanted a political Messiah, but the true Messiah would conquer through suffering.

Matthew 16:24-25

If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.

† Many of His disciples literally carried crosses under Roman persecution.

† Tacitus confirms Nero's persecution of Christians.

† Tacitus, Annals 15.44: Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired.

Matthew 16:26-27

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.

† This was fulfilled in AD 70 when Christ judged Jerusalem, coming in glory with His angelic hosts.

† Josephus records supernatural visions of angelic armies.

† Josephus, Wars 6.5.3: Chariots and troops of soldiers in their armor were seen running about among the clouds, and surrounding of cities.

Matthew 16:28

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.

† Jesus promised that His coming would occur in the lifetime of some hearing Him. This was fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

† Eusebius confirms the church's survival and the destruction of Jerusalem.

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5.3: The whole body, however, of the church at Jerusalem, having been commanded by a divine revelation, removed from the city, and dwelt at Pella beyond the Jordan, and thus escaped the severe ruin of the Jews.

Matthew 16 reveals Christ's authority, the corruption of Israel's leaders, the foundation of His church, the necessity of the cross, and the certainty of His coming in judgment within that generation. History confirms His words. Josephus, Tacitus, and Eusebius bear witness that signs appeared, persecution came, and Jerusalem fell exactly as Jesus said.

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

Source Index

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews 18.1.3 –
<https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=J.+AJ+18.1.3>

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews 2.8.14 –
<https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=J.+BJ+2.8.14>

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.5.3 –
<https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=J.+BJ+6.5.3>

† Tacitus, Annals 15.44 –
<https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Tac.+Ann.+15.44>

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5.3 –
<https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/250103.htm>

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