

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

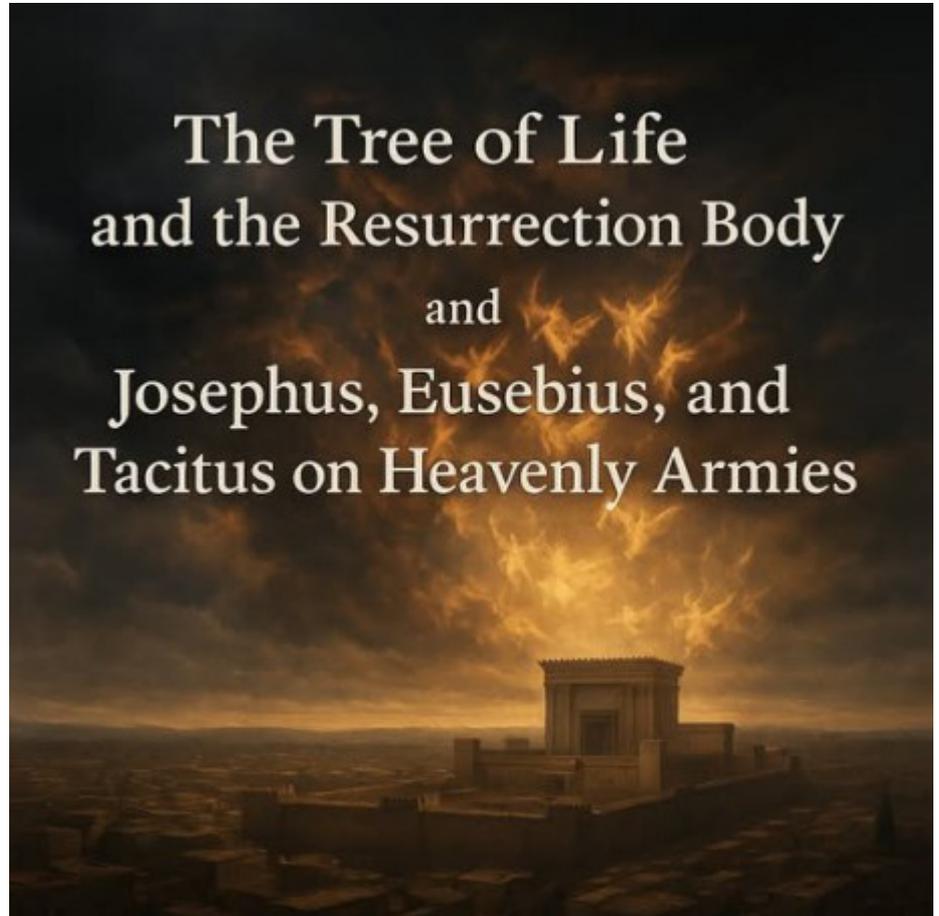
[T](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

[The Tree of Life
and the
Resurrection Body](#)



By Dan Maines

The Tree of Life and the Resurrection Body

Josephus, Eusebius, and Tacitus on Heavenly Armies

Luke 21:20-22 says, "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are inside the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city, because these are days of punishment, so that all things which have been written will be fulfilled."

† Josephus records the very signs that Jesus prophesied. In Wars of the Jews 6.5.3 he writes:

"Besides these [signs], a few days after that feast, on the one and twentieth day of the month Artemisius, a certain prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared; I suppose the account of it would seem to be a fable, were it not related by those that saw it, and were not the events that followed it of so considerable a nature as to deserve such signals; for, before sun-setting, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armor were seen running about among the clouds, and surrounding of cities. Moreover, at that feast which we call Pentecost, as the priests were going by night into the inner court of the temple, as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that, in the first place, they felt a quaking, and heard a great noise, and after that they heard a sound as of a great multitude, saying, 'Let us remove hence.'"

† Josephus dates the events to the 21st day of Artemisius (Iyyar), right before Jerusalem's fall. That is spring of AD 66/70 depending on reckoning, not AD 30. The priests heard the voice during the feast of Pentecost, which always came 50 days after Passover, so this was simply the annual feast as observed in the late Second Temple period. Context in Wars 6.5.3 shows this was a cluster of signs right before the war's climax: armies in the clouds, the quaking in the temple, the heavenly voice saying "Let us remove hence."

† Eusebius also testified of the same signs. In Ecclesiastical History 3.8.6 he records, "For before the war began, chariots and armed troops were seen throughout the whole region in mid-air, wheeling through the clouds and encircling the cities."

† Eusebius, writing in the early 4th century, drew his material from earlier Jewish and Christian sources that circulated about the events of AD 70. His note of "before the war began" places the signs in the late 60s, directly before the Jewish-Roman war

that ended in Jerusalem's destruction.

† Tacitus, the Roman historian, recorded the same. In *Histories* 5.13 he writes, "In the sky appeared a vision of armies in conflict, of glittering armor, and a sudden flash of lightning from the clouds. The doors of the temple suddenly opened, and a superhuman voice was heard to declare that the gods were leaving it, and at the same moment the mighty stir of their going was heard."

† Tacitus was a Roman senator and historian writing in the early 2nd century. His report is independent of Josephus or Eusebius and places these portents squarely in the Jewish War period, around AD 66-70. His mention of "the gods departing the temple" is his pagan perspective on the same event Josephus records as the heavenly voice saying, "Let us remove hence."

† Three separate witnesses, Josephus, Eusebius, and Tacitus, confirm the same signs: heavenly armies, divine voices, and the departure of God's presence from the temple.

† But notice, none of them said they saw Christ Himself in the clouds. They reported visions of armies, chariots, and voices as heavenly portents. Horses do not fly and soldiers cannot walk on clouds. What they described was not literal cavalry overhead, but supernatural signs given in apocalyptic language, the same language Scripture uses.

† Isaiah 19:1 says, "Behold, the Lord is riding on a swift cloud and is about to come to Egypt." Daniel 7:13 speaks of "One like a Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven." This is not about Jesus' physical body appearing in the sky, but symbolic covenant language showing His authority and judgment.

† The people described it as armies and chariots because that was the imagery they understood. Whether flashes of light, angelic hosts, or heavenly visions, they testified to seeing things

in the sky that pointed to God's judgment. Even Tacitus, a Roman historian with no interest in the Scriptures, said the gods themselves had departed the temple. Josephus and Eusebius likewise confirm that voices were heard and armies were seen.

† In reality these were heavenly signs, God's angelic armies made visible, showing that His presence was leaving the Old Covenant temple and that judgment had come, exactly as Jesus said in Matthew 23:38 and Matthew 24:30-31.

The Body Changed in a Moment

1 Corinthians 15:44-46 says, "It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So also it is written: 'The first man, Adam, became a living person.' The last Adam was a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, then the spiritual."

† The change "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye" (1 Corinthians 15:52) was not about receiving new physical bodies on earth. It was about being raised into the spiritual body of Christ, the church, His covenantal body. Believers were "clothed with immortality" as the Old Covenant passed away and the New Covenant was established in its fullness.

1 Corinthians 15:50 says, "Now I say this, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable."

† This settles the question. The change in the twinkling of an eye cannot mean a physical change of our earthly bodies, because Paul rules that out directly. The body of resurrection is spiritual, covenantal, and found in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation, the old things passed away, behold,

new things have come."

† This is not about flesh changing, but about transformation into eternal life in Christ. The saints did not receive new earthly bodies. They were caught up into the spiritual Kingdom, into the Body of Christ.

The New Jerusalem and the Tree of Life

Revelation 21:2 says, "And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

† The New Jerusalem is not a literal city floating down from the skies. It is the bride, the covenant people of God joined to Christ. The Tree of Life is not in a faraway heaven, but is found in Christ Himself, now accessible to His church under the New Covenant.

Revelation 22:1-2 says, "And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

† The river is the Spirit (John 7:38-39). The Tree of Life is Christ, continually bearing fruit and providing healing for the nations. That it stands on both sides of the river shows universal accessibility, that no one is cut off as Adam was (Genesis 3:24).

Revelation 21:3 says, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them."

† The New Jerusalem is heavenly in origin, but it is not far away and inaccessible. God has brought His dwelling to be with His

people. The Tree of Life, the river, and the healing of the nations are covenant blessings that now flow to Christ's body on earth from the heavenly city.

The Unity of the Saints in Heaven and Earth

Hebrews 12:22-23 says, "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect."

† This reveals that the saints in heaven and the saints on earth are not two separate groups. They are one body, united in Christ, the church of the firstborn. The Tree of Life belongs to Christ and His body, and access has been restored for all.

Ephesians 4:4 says, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you also were called in one hope of your calling."

† Those who died in faith were raised at the resurrection, and those who remained alive were caught up into that same body. Now there is no separation. Together we partake of the Tree, the life of Christ, and the nations receive healing in Him.

Conclusion

Josephus, Eusebius, and Tacitus confirm Jesus' prophecy of judgment on Jerusalem, not a future rapture. The change in a moment was the saints entering the spiritual body of Christ, not the transformation of flesh. The Tree of Life is Christ, available in the New Jerusalem, His church, here and now. The saints in heaven and the saints on earth are one body, together partaking of the Tree of Life.

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

Source Index

- † Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.5.3 - Angelic armies seen in the sky, the voice saying "Let us remove hence"
- † Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.8.6 - Chariots and armed troops seen wheeling through the clouds around Jerusalem
- † Tacitus, Histories 5.13 - Armies and armor seen in the sky, the voice declaring the gods had departed the temple
- † Matthew 23:38 - Your house is left desolate
- † Matthew 24:30-31 - Sign of the Son of Man, angels, trumpet, gathering of the elect
- † 1 Corinthians 15:23-26, 44-46, 50, 52 - Resurrection into the spiritual body of Christ
- † 2 Corinthians 5:17 - New creation in Christ
- † Revelation 21:2-3; 22:1-2 - The New Jerusalem and the Tree of Life
- † John 7:38-39 - The Spirit as the river of life
- † Genesis 3:24 - Adam cut off from the Tree of Life
- † Hebrews 12:22-23 - Saints in heaven and earth united in the heavenly Jerusalem
- † Ephesians 4:4 - One body and one Spirit

Share on Facebook

Links

Facebook Link

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/1816656555889144/>

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.