

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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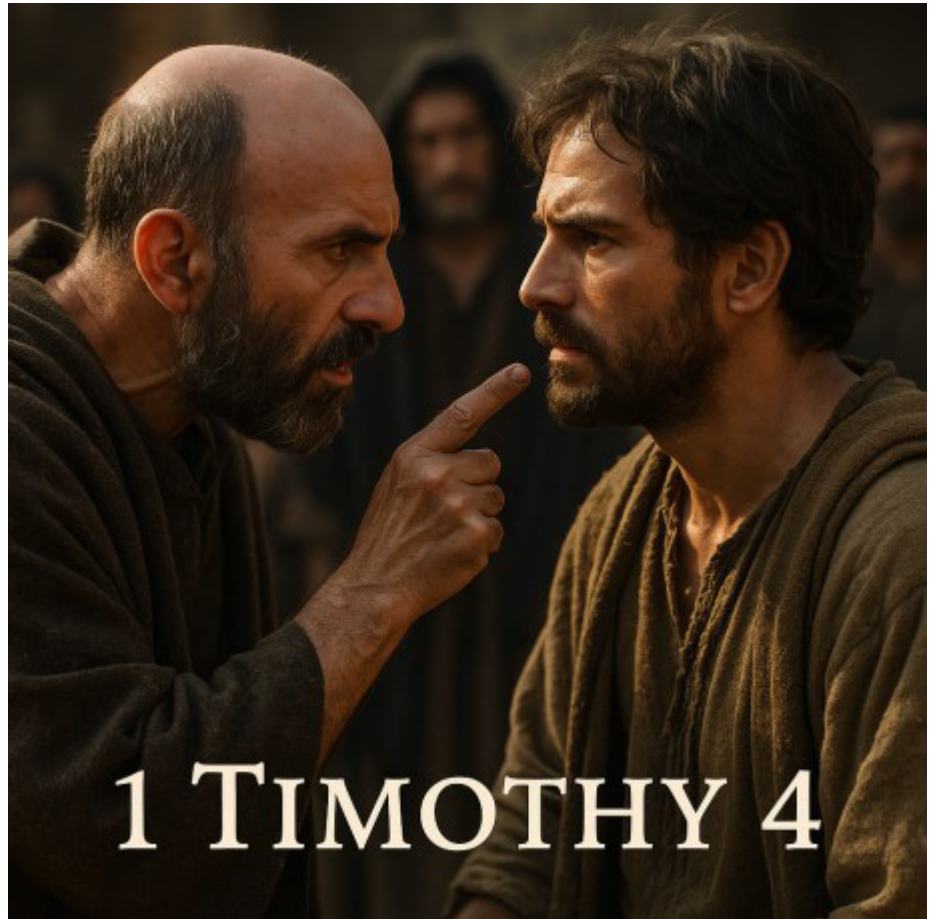
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**1 Timothy 4** This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

## **1 Timothy 4**

### **1 Timothy 4:1-2**

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron.

† Paul warns Timothy of apostasy that was already beginning to appear.

† False teachers, hardened in conscience, are instruments of

demonic deception.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QS 4.23) spoke of spirits of deceit, paralleling Paul's description.

### **1 Timothy 4:3**

Who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.

† False teachers distorted God's creation, forbidding what He had made good.

† Ascetic practices sounded spiritual but denied God's design.

† Josephus (Wars 2.8.2) describes the Essenes who practiced extreme restrictions, showing how Paul's words fit the culture.

### **1 Timothy 4:4-5**

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude, for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.

† God's creation is good, to be received with thanksgiving.

† The word and prayer set apart what God gives as holy.

### **1 Timothy 4:6**

In pointing out these things to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the good doctrine which you have been following.

† Timothy's task is to warn, teach, and feed the church with sound doctrine.

† A good minister is one who nourishes others because he himself is nourished.

### **1 Timothy 4:7-8**

But stay away from worthless stories that are typical of old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose

of godliness, for bodily training is just slightly beneficial, but godliness is beneficial for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

† Paul contrasts empty stories with godly training.

† Godliness surpasses physical exercise in eternal value.

† Philo (On the Creation 128) valued training the soul above training the body, aligning with Paul's emphasis.

### **1 Timothy 4:9-10**

It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have set our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all mankind, especially of believers.

† Paul's mission was driven by hope in the living God.

† God is Savior of all, but believers experience His salvation fully.

### **1 Timothy 4:11-12**

Prescribe and teach these things. Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but show yourself as an example of those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.

† Timothy's authority came not from age but from his example.

† A minister must live the message he proclaims.

† Chrysostom (Homily on 1 Timothy 13) urged young ministers to lead by their conduct.

### **1 Timothy 4:13**

Until I come, give your attention to the public reading, to exhortation, and teaching.

† The early church focused on Scripture reading, exhortation, and teaching in worship.

† Justin Martyr (First Apology 67) described Christian

gatherings centered on the reading of Scripture.

### **1 Timothy 4:14-15**

Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was granted to you through words of prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Take pains with these things, be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all.

† Timothy's gift was confirmed publicly, and he was called to cultivate it.

† Ministry requires visible growth and diligence.

### **1 Timothy 4:16**

Pay close attention to yourself and to the teaching, persevere in these things, for as you do this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

† Paul's final exhortation ties together doctrine and life.

† Salvation in this context refers to preserving the faith, guarding both Timothy and his flock.

### **How it applies to us today**

† 1 Timothy 4 warns us that false teaching and ascetic distortions threaten the church, but God's truth sets us free.

† Godliness, not empty myths or bodily exercise, is the true pursuit of believers.

† Ministers today must guard their doctrine and their lives, setting an example for others.

† The reading, teaching, and living of Scripture remain central to the church's life.

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

### **Source Index**

† Dead Sea Scrolls, 1QS 4.23 - spirits of deceit

† Josephus, Wars 2.8.2 - Essene practices of abstinence

† Philo, On the Creation 128 - training of soul above body

† Chrysostom, Homily on 1 Timothy 13 - young ministers leading by example

† Justin Martyr, First Apology 67 - Scripture reading in worship

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