

# Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

&gt;

[E](#)

&gt;

[Share on Facebook](#)[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

## The Error of Dual Fulfillment



By Dan Maines

### The Error of Dual Fulfillment

When people defend the idea of dual fulfillment, they are not upholding the words of Christ, they are undermining them. Dual fulfillment is really just a way to escape the force of the time statements that Jesus and the apostles declared with absolute clarity. Over and over, they said that all prophecy would be fulfilled in that generation.

**Matthew 24:34** - Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

**Luke 21:22** - Because these are days of punishment, so that all things which have been written will be fulfilled.

**1 Corinthians 10:11** - Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

**Hebrews 10:37** - For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay.

† These are not vague statements. They are direct, pointed, and bound to the first-century context. To then claim that prophecies had a first-century fulfillment and also a future fulfillment thousands of years later is to make Christ's words meaningless.

† Notice the inconsistency: Partial preterists criticize dispensationalists for stretching the time texts, yet they themselves fall into the same error by appealing to so-called dual fulfillment. Scripture never teaches that God's word comes in repeated cycles separated by millennia. That is the invention of men, not the testimony of the Spirit.

† The phrase "this generation" in Matthew always refers to the people then alive, compare Matthew 11:16, 12:41-42, 23:36, 24:34. Luke 21:22 fixes the timing by saying all things written would be fulfilled when Jerusalem was surrounded. Nearness words like "soon," "at hand," and "about to" are never stretched across thousands of years. They were urgent for that audience.

## **The Shadow and the Substance**

The law and the prophets were not meant to stretch on forever, being fulfilled and then re-fulfilled again and again. They were shadows pointing to Christ. When He came, He fulfilled them completely.

**Luke 24:44** - Now He said to them, These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all the things that are

written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.

**Colossians 2:16-17** - Therefore, no one is to act as your judge in regard to food and drink, or in respect to a festival or a new moon, or a Sabbath day, things which are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

† A shadow does not reappear once the reality has arrived. No one waits for shadows to return after the substance has taken its rightful place. To argue for dual fulfillment is to argue for shadows to rise again after the cross. That is confusion and error.

† Colossians 2:16-17 calls Israel's calendar a shadow, with Christ as the substance. Hebrews 10:1 repeats that the law is a shadow, not the form. Hebrews 8:13 says the Old Covenant was becoming obsolete and about to vanish, and Hebrews 9:26 says Christ appeared at the consummation of the ages to put away sin. Shadows serve once, then vanish when the substance arrives.

## **The Danger of Confusion**

† This is why dual fulfillment causes so much confusion in the church. It allows endless speculation. It gives people an excuse to look at the newspaper instead of the scriptures. It undermines the plain words of Christ and opens the door to every kind of future telling, prediction, and failed prophecy.

† But when we accept that Jesus meant exactly what He said, that these things would happen in that generation, the confusion disappears. We no longer need to stretch the text, invent theories, or divide fulfillment into two phases. Christ spoke plainly, and His words were true.

† The prophets used sun, moon, stars, and cloud-riding as covenant judgment language: Isaiah 13:10 against Babylon,

Ezekiel 32:7-8 against Egypt, Amos 8:9 against Israel, Isaiah 19:1 with the Lord riding on a swift cloud to judge Egypt. Jesus applied the same imagery to His own generation. Luke 21:22 anchors it: all things written would be fulfilled in those days.

† Josephus himself recorded that Jerusalem was surrounded by armies, exactly as Christ warned. He described famine so severe that mothers ate their own children, fulfilling the covenant curses of Deuteronomy 28. This was not a shadow of a future event, it was the real judgment Christ declared would fall on that generation.

† Tacitus confirmed that signs appeared in the heavens before the fall. Armies and chariots were seen in the clouds, a vivid picture of the Son of Man coming on the clouds in power and glory. These were the signs Jesus said His generation would see.

† Eusebius later wrote that Christians remembered Christ's warning and fled to Pella when they saw the city surrounded. This proves the early church did not expect a second fulfillment. They knew the words of Christ were true and complete in their own day.

† Suetonius also recorded omens and portents in the skies before the fall, seen as warnings of divine judgment. These secular witnesses confirm what the apostles and prophets declared.

† Clement of Alexandria taught that the destruction of Jerusalem was a divine judgment, and pointed to the church's preservation as proof of God's fulfilled word.

† Tertullian affirmed that the fall of Jerusalem was the fulfillment of prophecy and that the church now lived in the age of Christ's kingdom.

† Philo of Alexandria described the corruption of the priesthood and the moral decay of the Jewish leadership leading into the first century, setting the stage for covenant judgment.

† The Qumran community, in their writings, also spoke of imminent judgment and covenant curses, showing that even among the sects of Judaism there was an expectation of an approaching end.

† Every attempt to stretch these texts into the future must ignore the inspired time markers. The apostles said "the Judge is standing right at the door" (James 5:9) and "the time is near" (Revelation 1:3). These words are not elastic, they were urgent for them.

## **No Such Thing as Dual Fulfillment**

That's the key point: Scripture never teaches "dual fulfillment" as a doctrine. The idea of a prophecy having a primary fulfillment in the first century and then a second, larger fulfillment thousands of years later is not in the Bible at all, it is an invention of later interpreters to get around the plain time statements.

† Sometimes there are types and shadows (like Israel as a type of Christ, or the exodus as a type of redemption), but those are not "dual fulfillments." A type ends in the antitype. Once Christ fulfills it, it does not repeat.

† Jesus Himself said that "all things written" would be fulfilled in His generation (Luke 21:22; Matthew 24:34). That leaves no room for a second round thousands of years later.

† The apostles confirmed the same:  
Paul said "the ends of the ages have come upon us" (1 Corinthians 10:11).  
The writer of Hebrews said Christ appeared "at the

consummation of the ages" (Hebrews 9:26).

John said the events of Revelation "must soon take place" (Revelation 1:1,3).

† Where futurists or partial preterists try to argue "dual fulfillment," they usually point to things like:  
Day of the Lord passages (Isaiah against Babylon, then Jesus' Olivet Discourse)

Abomination of desolation (fulfilled in AD 70, but they claim a future Antichrist too)

Pentecost / Spirit poured out (Joel 2 fulfilled in Acts 2, but some claim it repeats in the "last days" today).

† But in every case, the New Testament writers anchor fulfillment in their own generation, not in ours.

† The answer is clear: There are zero true "dual fulfillments" in the Bible. There are types and shadows, but those all terminate in Christ, not in endless cycles of fulfillment.

## **How it Applies to Us Today**

† The lesson for us is to trust the promises of Christ without hesitation. He said His words would not pass away, and they did not. The fulfillment of prophecy in the first century proves the faithfulness of God and the authority of scripture. We are not waiting for shadows or speculations but living in the reality of the new covenant where Christ reigns.

† Dual fulfillment breeds doubt, confusion, and endless theories. Fulfilled prophecy brings confidence, stability, and faith in Christ's finished work. We can rest knowing that God has kept His word and that His kingdom has no end.

## **Conclusion**

† The apostles declared that they were living in the last days of the Old Covenant. They saw the day approaching. They urged the church to remain faithful because the appointed time was near. To add a second fulfillment is to deny their inspired witness.

† The truth is simple: All prophecy was fulfilled in Christ and in the judgment on Jerusalem in the first century. The shadows have given way to the substance. The confusion disappears when we let scripture speak for itself.

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

### **Source Index**

- † Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.3.3-4, 6.5.3 - Siege, famine, covenant curse fulfillments, portents in the heavens
- † Tacitus, Histories 5.13 - Armies and chariots seen in the skies, temple signs
- † Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5 - Christians fled to Pella, heeding Christ's command
- † Suetonius, Lives of the Caesars - Omens and portents before Jerusalem's fall
- † Clement of Alexandria, Miscellanies - Judgment on Jerusalem as fulfillment
- † Tertullian, An Answer to the Jews - Fulfillment of prophecy in the fall of Jerusalem
- † Philo of Alexandria, Embassy to Gaius - Corruption and decay of Jewish leadership
- † Qumran, 1QS 3.18-21 - Expectation of covenant judgment

[Share on Facebook](#)

### **Links**

[Facebook Link](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/1818169155737884/>

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.**