

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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Covenant - **WHAT IS COVENANTAL LANGUAGE?**



By Dan Maines

## **WHAT IS COVENANTAL LANGUAGE?**

As a fulfilled believer, I understand that the Bible is written in covenantal terms. This means the language of scripture is deeply tied to the covenants God made with His people. Recognizing this is crucial for understanding prophecy, law, blessings, curses, and the events of AD 70.

**THE NATURE OF COVENANTAL LANGUAGE** Covenantal language is the vocabulary, imagery, and symbolism used by God to communicate covenant terms. In the Bible, God uses

creation imagery, temple imagery, marriage imagery, and royal imagery to speak about His relationship with His people. These are not random metaphors but legal, binding terms rooted in covenant agreements.

**Heaven and Earth as Covenant Terms** In passages like Deuteronomy 31:28 and Isaiah 51:15-16, "heaven and earth" refers to Israel's covenant order, not the physical universe. Jesus uses the same covenantal meaning in Matthew 5:18 and Matthew 24:35. The passing away of heaven and earth in prophetic language refers to the end of the Old Covenant system, fulfilled in AD 70.

**Creation Language for Covenant People** Isaiah 51:15-16 says God planted the heavens, laid the foundations of the earth, and said to Zion, "You are My people." This shows creation terms are applied to the formation of Israel as a covenant nation. This explains why 2 Corinthians 5:17 speaks of a "new creation" when someone is in Christ — it is covenantal new creation.

**Marriage as a Covenant Picture** God describes His covenant with Israel as a marriage (Jeremiah 3:14, Hosea 2:19-20). Israel's unfaithfulness is spiritual adultery. In the New Covenant, the church is the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 21:2). Understanding this keeps us from interpreting these texts through a physical lens instead of a covenantal one.

**Temple Language for God's People** God's people are described as His temple (1 Corinthians 3:16, Ephesians 2:19-22). This is covenantal — the dwelling place of God is no longer a physical building in Jerusalem but the community of believers.

## **HOW COVENANTAL LANGUAGE GUIDES**

**INTERPRETATION** When we read the Bible through covenantal language, we avoid making the mistake of turning spiritual

realities into future physical events.

Prophecies about the "end" are about the end of the Old Covenant age, not the end of the planet (Matthew 24:3, Hebrews 8:13).

Judgment scenes use covenant lawsuit language drawn from Deuteronomy and the prophets.

Promises of a "new heaven and new earth" (Isaiah 65:17, Revelation 21:1) speak of the New Covenant order in Christ.

**FULFILLMENT IN AD 70** Jesus' return "in the clouds" (Matthew 24:30) is drawn from Old Testament covenant judgment language (Isaiah 19:1). His "coming" in AD 70 was a covenantal visitation to judge the Old Covenant system and fully establish the New Covenant.

## **WHY THIS MATTERS**

It keeps scripture consistent from Genesis to Revelation.

It protects us from futurist interpretations that push fulfillment thousands of years away.

It helps us see that God's promises have been kept exactly as He said.

**CONCLUSION** Covenantal language is the key to understanding prophecy, judgment, and redemption. The Bible speaks in covenant terms because God's relationship with His people is always covenantal. When we read the Bible through this lens, we see the unity of scripture and the completeness of God's work in Christ.

## **SCRIPTURE APPENDIX — COVENANTAL LANGUAGE EXAMPLES**

**Heaven and Earth:** Deuteronomy 31:28, Isaiah 51:15-16, Matthew 5:18, Matthew 24:35

**Creation Language:** Isaiah 65:17, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Revelation 21:1

**Marriage Imagery:** Jeremiah 3:14, Hosea 2:19-20, Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 21:2

**Temple Imagery:** 1 Corinthians 3:16, Ephesians 2:19-22, Revelation 21:22

**Covenant Lawsuit:** Deuteronomy 32:1, Isaiah 1:2, Micah 6:1-2

**Coming in the Clouds:** Isaiah 19:1, Matthew 24:30, Revelation 1:7

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