

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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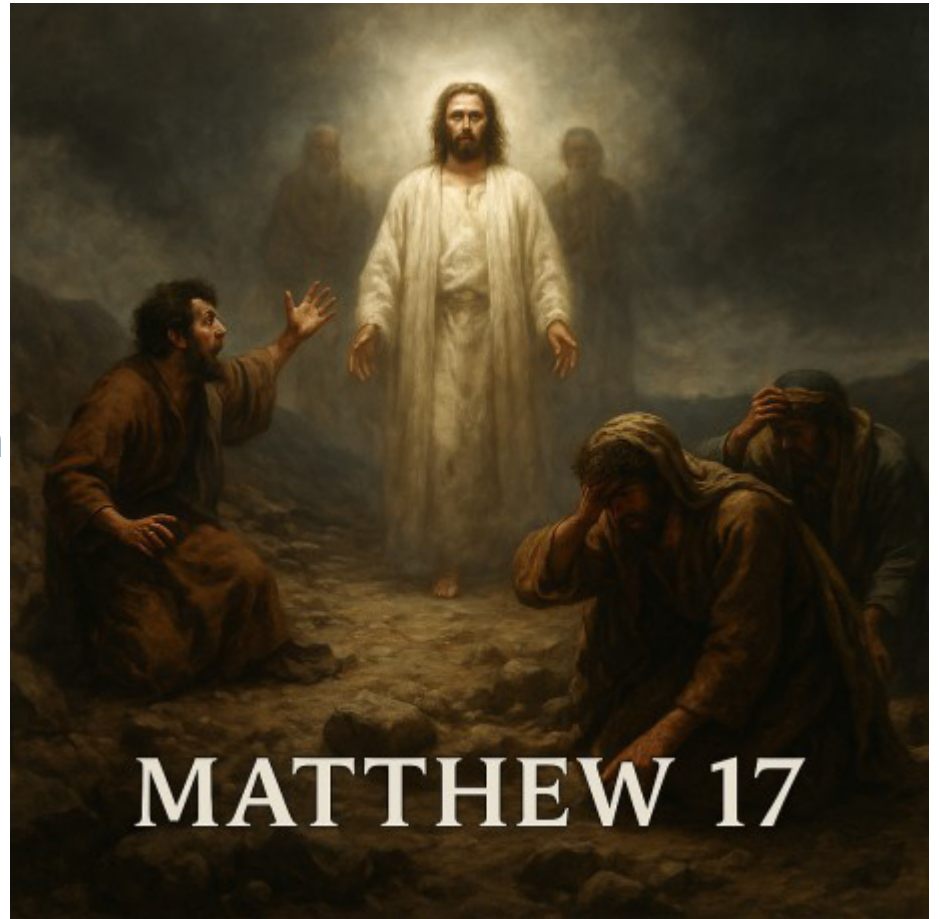
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**Matthew 17** This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

## **Matthew 17**

### **Matthew 17:1-8**

And six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Peter responded and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If You want, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was

still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice from the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground and were terrified. And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, "Get up, and do not be afraid." And raising their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone.

† The transfiguration revealed Jesus' glory as the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, represented by Moses and Elijah.

† Peter's suggestion to build three tabernacles showed his misunderstanding. The voice declared that only Christ is to be heard and obeyed.

† This was a preview of the kingdom's glory that would soon be revealed, confirming the fulfilled perspective.

### **Matthew 17:9-13**

As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead." And His disciples asked Him, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things, but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wanted. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.

† Jesus explained that John the Baptist was the Elijah who was to come. The restoration he preached was rejected, just as the Son of Man would be rejected.

† This confirmed prophecy was fulfilled in their generation, not postponed.

† Josephus also records Herod's fear of John and his execution (Antiquities 18.5.2), proving the historical reality.

## **Matthew 17:14-21**

When they came to the crowd, a man came up to Jesus, falling on his knees before Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, because he has seizures and suffers terribly; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not cure him." And Jesus answered and said, "You unbelieving and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was healed at once. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" And He said to them, "Because of your meager faith, for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

† The failure of the disciples revealed the weakness of their faith.

† Jesus rebuked the generation for unbelief, tying their condition to the judgment soon to fall on them.

† Faith, even small, had power because it was anchored in God's authority.

## **Matthew 17:22-23**

And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be handed over to men; and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day." And they were deeply grieved.

† Jesus again predicted His death and resurrection.

† The disciples could not yet understand that the kingdom would be established through His suffering.

† Fulfillment required the cross, not earthly triumph.

## **Matthew 17:24-27**

Now when they came to Capernaum, those who collected the two drachma tax came to Peter and said, "Does your teacher

not pay the two drachma tax?" He said, "Yes." And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect tolls or a poll-tax, from their sons or from strangers?" When Peter said, "From strangers," Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are exempt. However, so that we do not offend them, go to the sea and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a stater. Take that and give it to them for you and Me."

† Jesus showed that as the true Son of God, He was not obligated to the temple tax.

† Yet He paid it miraculously to avoid unnecessary offense.

† This miracle pointed to His authority over creation and foreshadowed the end of temple obligations in AD 70.

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

† Matthew 17 reminds us that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, the Son of God who reigns in glory. John the Baptist fulfilled the Elijah role, showing prophecy was not postponed but completed in their generation. The failure of the disciples calls us to deeper trust, while the transfiguration assures us that the kingdom is established in power. The temple tax episode reminds us that Christ set us free from Old Covenant obligations. Today, in the fulfilled kingdom, we live by faith in the risen Lord who has already accomplished redemption and established His reign.

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

### **Source Index**

† Josephus, Antiquities 18.5.2

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.16.2

† Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho 49

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