

Fulfilled Prophecies

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**Has It All Been
Fulfilled?
Answering the Big
Questions**



By Dan Maines

Revelation 9:16

The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million. I heard the number of them.

Has It All Been Fulfilled? Answering the Big Questions

The Return of Christ

Matthew 24:30-34 And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His

angels with a great trumpet blast, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

Matthew 16:27-28 For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay each person according to his deeds. Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.

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

Luke 21:20-24 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 in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city, because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

† The inspired time statements are definitive. Jesus tied His coming to that generation, the writer of Hebrews said in a very little while without delay, and Luke places the fulfillment at Jerusalem's siege and trampling.

† The destruction of the temple was the visible sign of His return. The old order ended, and the New Covenant was revealed in its fullness. He didn't fail to keep His promise, He accomplished it right on time.

† Josephus records terrifying signs in the heavens during the war. He said, "Chariots and troops of soldiers in their armor

were seen running about among the clouds, and surrounding of cities" (Wars 6.5.3). Even unbelieving Jews recognized the fulfillment of Christ's words about coming in the clouds.

The Antichrist

1 John 2:18 Children, it is the last hour, and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared, from this we know that it is the last hour.

1 John 4:3 And every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God, this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, only He who now restrains will do so until He is removed.

† John identified the Antichrist in the first century. He said it was already present and that many antichrists had arisen, proving it was the last hour.

† The Antichrist wasn't a single end-time dictator, but a spirit of deception found in those who denied the truth of Christ's incarnation. It was active in John's time, not a future event for us.

† Paul said the mystery of lawlessness was already at work. The New Testament confines Antichrist expectation to the first century.

The New Heaven and New Earth

2 Peter 3:13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Revelation 21:1-2 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem,

coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:9-10 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb. And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

Ephesians 2:19-22 So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Hebrews 12:22-24 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, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks better than the blood of Abel.

† The old heavens and earth were the Old Covenant world of Israel. When Jerusalem and the temple fell, that world passed away.

† The new heavens and earth represent the New Covenant order where God dwells with His people. The bride, the New Jerusalem, is the church itself, joined to Christ as His eternal dwelling place.

† Eusebius recorded how Jerusalem was surrounded and destroyed, and how the prophecy of Jesus in Luke 21 was

fulfilled in that generation (Ecclesiastical History 3.7.6). This confirmed that the old order had passed away and the New Covenant order had fully arrived.

The White Throne Judgment

Revelation 20:11-12 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

Acts 24:15 Having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

Daniel 12:1-2 Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time, and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

2 Timothy 4:1 I solemnly exhort you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom.

† The White Throne Judgment coincided with the end of the Old Covenant age. The dead were raised out of Hades and judged according to their works.

† Daniel links unprecedented tribulation, the opening of the books, and the awakening of the dead. The apostles apply this

judgment to their horizon, not to a distant future.

† Tacitus recorded omens and a voice from the temple declaring its abandonment (Histories 5.13). This aligns with the flight of the old heavens and earth from the presence of the Judge.

The Judgment Seat of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad.

Romans 14:10-12 For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, As I live, says the Lord, to Me every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall give praise to God. So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

† Paul told the Corinthians and Romans that they would appear before the judgment seat. This wasn't for a generation thousands of years later but for them.

† The judgment seat of Christ and the White Throne Judgment are two descriptions of the same reality, the closing judgment of the Old Covenant age.

† The judgment brought full accountability, rewarding faithfulness and exposing unbelief. This brought justice and completion to God's covenant plan.

The Rapture

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will

always be with the Lord.

Isaiah 27:13 And it will come about also in that day that a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were perishing in the land of Assyria and who were scattered in the land of Egypt will come and worship the Lord in the holy mountain at Jerusalem.

Zechariah 9:14 Then the Lord will appear over them, and His arrow will go forth like lightning, and the Lord God will blow the trumpet, and will march in the storm winds of the south.

Matthew 24:31 And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

† Paul's language in 1 Thessalonians 4 follows the prophetic pattern of the Lord's trumpet and covenant gathering. This is resurrection and royal procession, not a secret removal.

† This gathering was fulfilled when Christ came in AD 70, raising the dead saints and uniting all His people with Him.

† The early church fathers knew nothing of a secret rapture. Irenaeus treated 1 Thessalonians 4 as the general resurrection of the church, not an escape from tribulation (Against Heresies 5.29-5.30). Tertullian wrote that the resurrection of the flesh was the church's hope, never an invisible removal (On the Resurrection of the Flesh). The modern rapture doctrine has no historical support.

How It Applies Today

† Since Christ has already returned in judgment, we no longer live in fear of an unfinished plan. Many Christians today are trapped in endless speculation about a future Antichrist, a rebuilt temple, or a rapture that never comes. But knowing the truth sets us free from confusion and gives us confidence that

God has completed His promises.

† Living in the new heavens and new earth means that God dwells with us now. The church is the New Jerusalem, and His Spirit lives in us. This reality calls us to live holy and faithful lives, reflecting the righteousness of the kingdom we're already a part of.

† The completed judgment reminds us that sin has been dealt with and that the wicked system of the Old Covenant has been destroyed. We live under the reign of Christ, secure in His victory. Our hope isn't in waiting for what He already accomplished, but in walking boldly in the fullness of His kingdom today.

† Because the promises are fulfilled, mission is not paralysis by prediction, but faithfulness by proclamation. Our task isn't to guess dates, but to bear witness that Jesus kept His word, and to live as the New Jerusalem people in holiness, justice, and hope.

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

Source Index

† Josephus, Wars 6.5.3

† Tacitus, Histories 5.13

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.7.6

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies 5.29-5.30

† Tertullian, On the Resurrection of the Flesh

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