

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

[A](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

At Hand



By Dan Maines

AT HAND

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, repent for the kingdom of heaven is **AT HAND**.

† The first words of Jesus' public ministry announce urgency. **AT HAND** means close, near, about to break in. He wasn't speaking of a kingdom delayed for thousands of years. His hearers were called to repent because the long promised reign of God was on their doorstep.

† Isaiah 40:10 promised the Lord God would come with might. Jesus stood before them as that fulfillment.

† Daniel 2:44 foretold a kingdom God would set up in the days of those kings, not in a far off millennium.

† Hebrews 10:37 adds that the One who is coming will come and won't delay, confirming the immediacy.

† Lexical note: The Greek word **engus** used here means "near, close at hand" (BDAG Lexicon), always indicating proximity in time or space.

The Meaning of "AT HAND"

† In scripture, **AT HAND** never points to a distant age. It speaks of something about to occur, something within reach. Jesus used it to stir immediate response, not to spark a two-thousand-year countdown.

† James 5:8 says, The coming of the Lord is near, matching the same urgency.

† Romans 13:11-12 tells believers the night is almost gone and the day is near.

† Revelation 1:3 blesses those who heed the prophecy for the time is near.

† Historical anchor: First century believers understood this nearness literally, preparing for events they expected in their lifetime.

Matthew 26:46 Rise, let us be going, behold, he is **AT HAND** who betrays Me.

† Here **AT HAND** meant just a few hours. Judas would arrive that very night.

† The disciples could literally hear the approaching soldiers as Jesus spoke.

† Luke 22:47 describes Judas appearing immediately while Jesus was still speaking.

† This proves **AT HAND** never means centuries but the moment at the door.

Matthew 26:18 And He said, go into the city to a certain man and say to him, the Teacher says, My time is **AT HAND**.

† This referred to the next day, the Passover meal that would

lead to the cross.

† Prophecies of the suffering Servant (Isaiah 53) were about to unfold.

† The disciples found everything just as Jesus said, showing precise timing.

† The Lamb of God would be offered at the exact hour of Passover, not in a far future.

John 2:13 The Jews' Passover was **AT HAND**.

† The feast was near, only days away.

† Israel prepared for the annual feast immediately, never imagining centuries away.

† This shows **AT HAND** is normal language for a short interval.

† The phrase reinforced the urgency of purification before the festival.

John 19:42 There they laid Jesus because the tomb was **NIGH AT HAND**.

† Here the phrase points to physical nearness. The burial place was close by.

† The approaching Sabbath required quick action, making proximity essential.

† Luke 23:54 records it was the day of preparation, the urgency real.

† Distance, like time, shows **AT HAND** means close enough to reach.

The Apostolic Witness

1 Peter 4:7 The end of all things is **AT HAND**, therefore be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.

† Peter urged first century believers to stay alert because the culmination of God's redemptive plan was about to unfold.

† James 5:9 warns, the Judge is standing right at the door.

† Hebrews 9:26 speaks of Christ appearing at the consummation of the ages, not at the start of a long delay.

† The early church lived with watchful prayer because fulfillment was imminent.

† Covenantal note: The phrase "end of all things" refers to the end of the Old Covenant age, not the destruction of the physical cosmos.

Additional Witnesses

† Revelation 1:1 declares that these things must soon take place. Verse 3 blesses those who heed the prophecy, for the time is near.

† Romans 13:11-12 urges believers, Now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed, the night is almost gone, and the day is near.

† Hebrews 10:37 assures that He who is coming won't delay.

† Josephus recorded signs and wonders before Jerusalem's fall, confirming that the end of the Old Covenant age was indeed near.

† Historical witness: Josephus' "Jewish War" details armies surrounding Jerusalem, celestial signs, and the temple's destruction, all within that generation.

Consistency of Usage

† Every biblical use shows **AT HAND** as immediate. Hours, days, perhaps a short season, but never centuries. Jesus and His apostles could count time. They spoke in plain terms to their own generation.

† The Septuagint uses similar Greek wording to describe events right upon the people, never millennia away.

† Prophets like Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:12) stress that God watches over His word to perform it quickly.

† The consistent pattern leaves no room for a 2,000-year postponement.

The Fulfilled Kingdom

† The kingdom Jesus preached truly arrived within that first century. The cross, the resurrection, and the judgment on Jerusalem in AD 70 confirmed His words.

† Daniel 7:13-14 shows the Son of Man receiving His kingdom as He ascended, not in a future earthly reign.

† Colossians 1:13 says believers were already transferred into the kingdom of His beloved Son.

† Revelation 11:15 proclaims the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.

† Dating note: Early testimony from church fathers such as Clement of Rome and the internal evidence of Revelation support a pre-70 AD composition, matching the timeframe of imminent fulfillment.

How it applies to us today

† We live in the blessings of that fulfilled kingdom. Our call isn't to wait for a distant reign but to walk in the righteousness, peace, and joy of God's presence now.

† We proclaim the finished work of Christ with confidence that every promise has been kept.

† Our faith rests on a completed redemption, giving boldness in prayer and mission.

† The nearness of God's kingdom assures us of His ongoing presence and power.

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

Source Index

† Matthew 4:17; Matthew 26:18, 26:46; John 2:13; John 19:42; 1 Peter 4:7; James 5:8-9; Romans 13:11-12; Hebrews 9:26, 10:37; Revelation 1:1-3; Daniel 2:44, 7:13-14; Isaiah 40:10, 53; Colossians 1:13; Revelation 11:15

† Josephus, The Jewish War

† Tacitus, Histories

† BDAG Greek Lexicon entry for engus (near, close at hand)

[Share on Facebook](#)

Links

Facebook Link

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/1836484597239673/>

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.