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Age - The End of the Age: Not the End of the World



By Dan Maines

The End of the Age: Not the End of the World

Matthew 24:1-3

Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down." As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of

the end of the age?"

† The disciples asked about one event, the destruction of the temple and called it the end of the age.

† The Greek word "aion" means age or era, not planet or physical world.

† Jesus' prediction concerned the end of the old covenant order, not the end of creation.

† The temple's fall in AD 70 was the visible sign that the former age had ended and the kingdom age had begun.

Matthew 13:39-43

And the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

† Jesus identified the harvest as the end of the age, not the end of the world.

† The separation of wheat and tares symbolizes the judgment of Israel, the righteous were gathered into the kingdom while the wicked were cast out.

† The furnace of fire represents the destruction of Jerusalem, not eternal torment.

† The righteous shining forth shows the new covenant people rising from the ashes of the old system.

Hebrews 9:26

Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the

sacrifice of Himself.

† The writer of Hebrews places Christ's sacrifice at the "consummation of the ages," meaning the closing of the old covenant era.

† The end of the ages was not the end of time, but the fulfillment of all prophetic purpose.

† Christ appeared once, not at the end of creation, but at the turning point of redemptive history.

† The cross was the dividing line between the shadow and the substance, between the old world and the new.

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.

† Paul told the Corinthians that the end of the ages had already come upon them.

† The fulfillment was already in progress while the old covenant world was still standing.

† This confirms that the end of the age was a first-century event, not a future global catastrophe.

† The old covenant's last generation witnessed its close, just as Jesus promised in Matthew 24:34.

Hebrews 8:13

When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

† The author of Hebrews wrote just before the temple's destruction, declaring that the old covenant was "ready to disappear."

† That disappearance came in AD 70 when the temple fell, ending sacrifices and priesthood forever.

† The end of the age was the end of Mosaic worship, not the

end of human life.

† What replaced it was the unending new covenant kingdom of Christ.

2 Peter 3:10-13

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

† Peter used prophetic language drawn from Isaiah to describe the end of the old covenant world.

† The heavens and earth symbolize Israel's covenant structure, its temple, priesthood, and sacrifices.

† The "elements" destroyed were not physical atoms, but the elements of the Mosaic law.

† The new heavens and earth represent the new covenant order where righteousness dwells.

Revelation 21:1

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.

† John's vision of the new heaven and earth mirrors Peter's prophecy, both point to covenant renewal, not cosmic destruction.

† The "sea" in prophetic language symbolizes separation and chaos; its removal shows full reconciliation with God.

† The first heaven and earth (the old covenant) passed away in AD 70, replaced by the everlasting kingdom.

† The new creation is spiritual and eternal, established forever in Christ.

How it applies to us today

† We live in the new covenant world, the age that never ends.

† The end of the age was not the end of creation but the dawn

of God's completed kingdom.

† Understanding this truth brings peace, the world is not awaiting destruction, but redemption already accomplished.

† The gospel is not about escape but about inheritance, we are heirs of the fulfilled kingdom of God.

† Heaven and earth have met in Christ, and that union will never be undone.

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

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Source Index

† Matthew 24:1-3; Matthew 13:39-43; Hebrews 9:26; 1 Corinthians 10:11; Hebrews 8:13; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, 6.4.5

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3

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