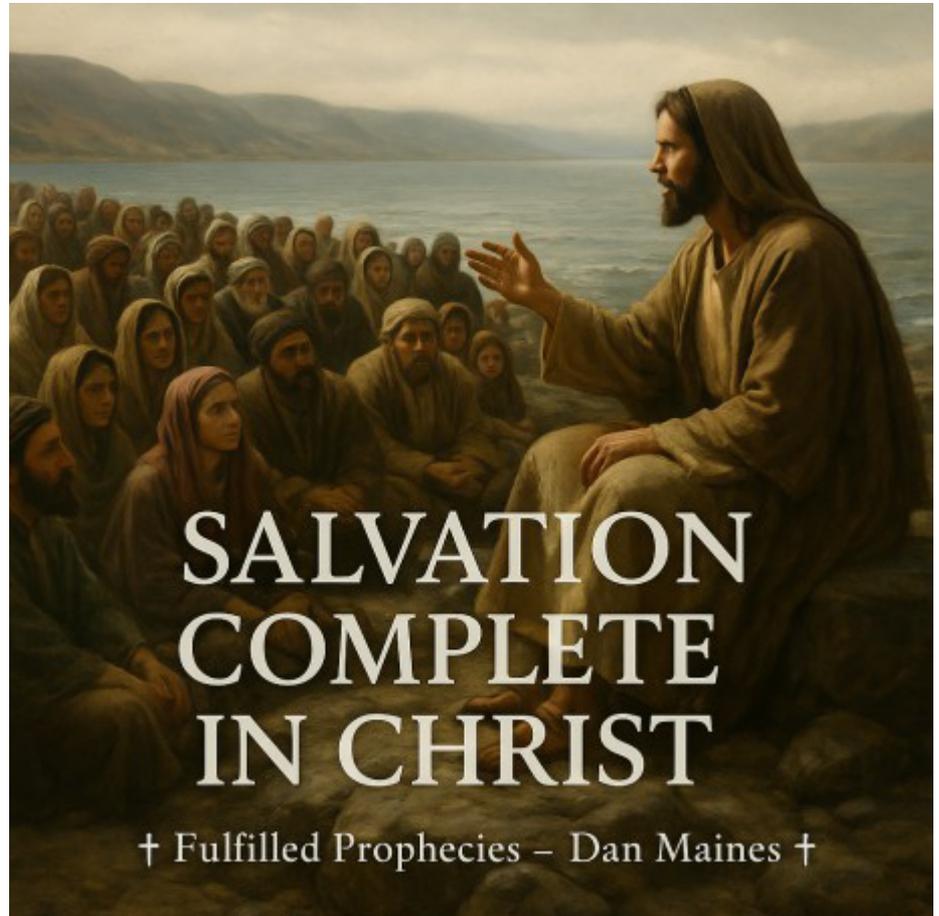


# Fulfilled Prophecies

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**Salvation  
Complete in Christ**



By Dan Maines

## **Salvation Complete in Christ**

There are some who teach that salvation comes in three stages: past (justification), present (sanctification), and future (glorification). But the Bible reveals that salvation is a single, completed work of Christ that believers receive the moment they believe. Scripture does not divide salvation into stages, it shows that we are fully justified, sanctified, and glorified in Him.

† Many futurists teach that salvation unfolds in time through three separate stages. But that idea forces the believer to live

as if salvation is unfinished and yet to be completed, denying the very words of Jesus who said, It is finished (John 19:30). The apostles never spoke of salvation as progressive or delayed but as a present possession in Christ.

### **Philippians 1:6**

For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

† Paul was not teaching three stages of salvation, but the assurance that the work God began in them would be brought to completion when Christ returned in His generation (Matthew 16:27-28; Hebrews 9:26).

† Salvation is not a process stretched through time but a completed work in Christ. When one believes, they are justified, sanctified, and glorified together in Him (Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 2:10).

**Colossians 1:13-14** He rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

† Justification is the forgiveness of sins through faith (Romans 5:1). Sanctification is being set apart in that same faith (1 Corinthians 1:2). Glorification is being made alive with Christ, sharing in His glory (Romans 8:30; Colossians 3:4).

† The error comes from misunderstanding Philippians 1:6 as referring to a lifelong or future process. The "good work" began when they believed and was perfected when Christ fulfilled His promise to return to judge and reward in that same generation (Matthew 24:34; Revelation 22:12).

† At the moment of belief, one receives eternal life. Jesus said those who believe have passed from death to life (John 5:24; John 3:36).

**Titus 2:11-12** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing

salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously, and godly in the present age.

† Hebrews 10:14 says, For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. That single verse destroys the idea of a three-stage salvation. Christ's work was one offering that perfected, sanctified, and justified all who believe (Romans 8:1; Colossians 1:22).

† The so-called "salvation future" applied to the first-century saints awaiting Christ's return to complete redemption of the covenant people. After AD 70, the work was finished, and believers entered the fullness of salvation (Luke 21:28; Romans 13:11; Hebrews 9:28).

† To divide salvation into three stages is to make it incomplete and dependent on human progression. But salvation is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5).

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

### **Saved By Jesus Only**

**John 14:6** Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

**Acts 4:12** And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved.

**John 10:9** I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

**Romans 10:9** That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

**John 11:25** Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies.

**1 John 2:23** Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

**John 20:30-31** Many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book, but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

† The futurist view still expects what the first-century saints already received. They are waiting for what Scripture says was completed in Christ's generation. The end came when the Old Covenant passed away and the New Covenant stood forever. We now live in that fulfilled kingdom age of redemption (Hebrews 8:13; Luke 21:31-32).

### **Historical References**

† Clement of Rome wrote that believers were "justified freely by faith, not by works of righteousness."

† Irenaeus confirmed that those who believed in Christ "were already glorified in Him."

† Eusebius described the destruction of Jerusalem as the visible completion of God's redemptive plan foretold by the prophets.

### **How It Applies To Us Today**

† We are not being saved in stages, we are living in the completed salvation of Christ. We walk in that finished work, showing forth the fruit of His Spirit, not to earn salvation but because we already have it. Our justification, sanctification, and glorification are secure in Him from the moment we believe (Romans 6:4; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 2:6).

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

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## Source Index

† Philippians 1:6; Matthew 16:27-28; Hebrews 9:26; Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 2:10; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 5:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Romans 8:30; Colossians 3:4; Matthew 24:34; Revelation 22:12; John 5:24; John 3:36; Titus 2:11-12; Hebrews 10:14; Romans 8:1; Colossians 1:22; Luke 21:28; Romans 13:11; Hebrews 9:28; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 19:30; Hebrews 8:13; Luke 21:31-32; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; John 10:9; Romans 10:9; John 11:25; 1 John 2:23; John 20:30-31; Romans 6:4; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 2:6

† Clement of Rome, First Epistle to the Corinthians

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book 3

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3

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