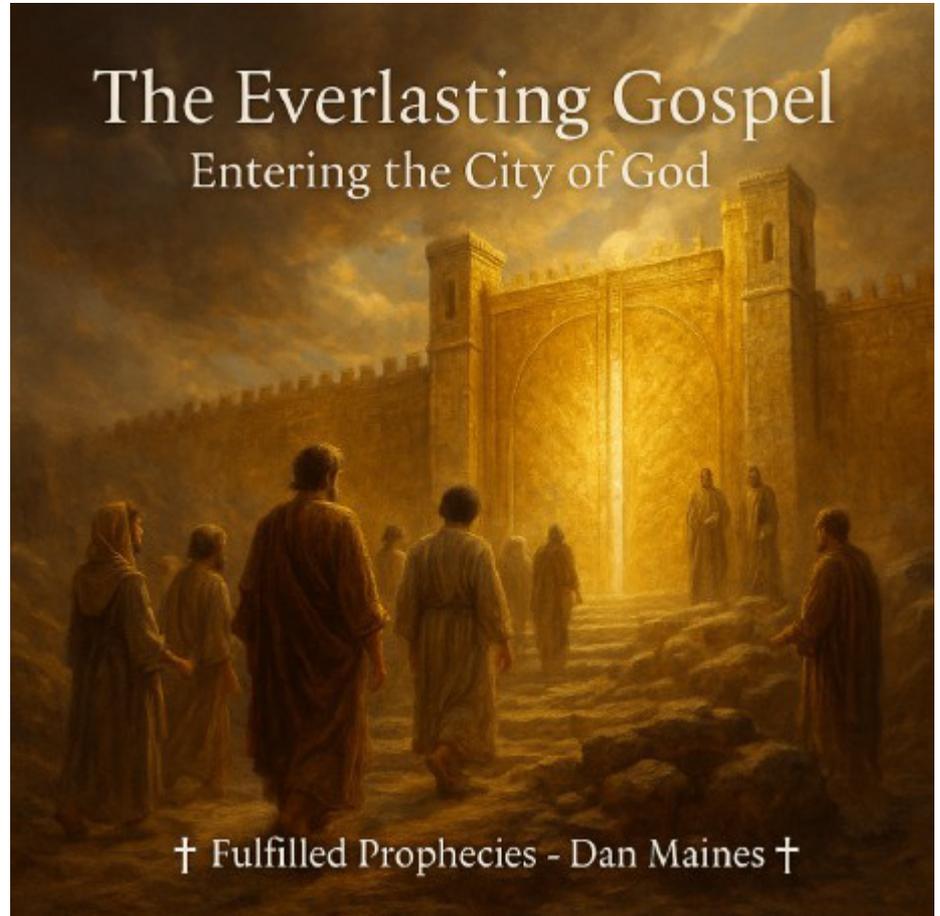


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The Everlasting Gospel: Entering the City of God



By Dan Maines

The Everlasting Gospel: Entering the City of God

Looks like Renee ShiftedGears and I are in full agreement, so we put this post together.

Acts 2:38

Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

† When Renee asked what the apostles preached to the lost, she raised one of the most important questions of all time. What did they tell people to do to be saved? Was there one message for their day and another for ours? The answer is clear, there's never been more than one gospel. The same everlasting message that saved souls in the first century is the same message that saves today.

† The apostles preached the finished work of Christ, the death, burial, and resurrection. That is the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). They proclaimed faith in Jesus as the Messiah who fulfilled the Law, conquered sin, and brought the new covenant into effect through His blood.

† Peter declared this first on the Day of Pentecost, standing in Jerusalem filled with the Holy Spirit. He told the crowd that Jesus, whom they had crucified, was both Lord and Christ. When they were pierced to the heart and cried, What shall we do? Peter answered, Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This was the first salvation message of the new covenant age, exactly as Jesus said it would begin in Jerusalem (Luke 24:47).

† The new covenant entrance is through Jesus Christ alone, the pearl of great price (Matthew 13:45-46). Acts 2:38 is the door into the city of God, the New Jerusalem, where the twelve gates represent the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Each gate is one pearl, showing that there's only one way to enter, through Christ, who suffered and paid the full price for salvation.

† The city four square (Revelation 21:12-14, 21) reveals the perfection and completeness of God's people. Three apostles at each gate equal twelve, the twelve apostles who laid the foundation of the faith. The number four points to the four directions of the earth, showing that the message of salvation is

open to all nations.

† Jesus left the apostles the message before He ascended and sat down on His throne. That same message is everlasting and will never change. The apostles preached repentance, baptism in His name, and the reception of the Holy Spirit, the full entrance into the new covenant kingdom. Baptism in His name during that first-century transition identified believers with the crucified Messiah and separated them from the Mosaic order, while today the reality it pointed to remains, the spiritual baptism into Christ by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:5; Titus 3:5).

† Sadly, even many who claim to know fulfillment still miss this entrance. They have particles of truth, as Renee said, but not the solid rock. Sand comes from the rock, but it isn't the rock itself. The wise build upon the solid rock, Jesus Christ and His everlasting gospel, not on the shifting sands of partial truth. I agree with Renee,

† It's our calling to help others see what Apollos once missed, to teach the full way of God more accurately (Acts 18:24-26). Many are running with a partial message, blind leaders of the blind. But the true message, the one Peter preached, leads straight into the city of God through the pearl, through Christ Himself.

† Acts 18:24-26, where Apollos was a powerful preacher who knew the Scriptures well but didn't yet understand the full message of salvation. Apollos was teaching what he knew, the baptism of John, but he hadn't yet learned about baptism into Christ, the full gospel message revealed through the apostles. Priscilla and Aquila heard him and "explained to him the way of God more accurately." We're called to help people today who, like Apollos, have part of the truth but not the complete understanding of the gospel, specifically the new covenant message of repentance, baptism in Jesus' name, and the indwelling Spirit (Acts 2:38). In other words, just as Priscilla and

Aquila helped Apollos see the complete message, we're helping others today understand the fulfilled gospel in its entirety.

† The everlasting gospel hasn't changed. It began in Jerusalem, it spread through the apostles, and it still stands today. There's only one door, one foundation, one way into the city, Jesus Christ, the pearl of great price.

† Thank you, Jesus, for the solid rock of truth, for opening the gates of the city, and for letting us stand upon Your unshakable foundation.

How it applies to us today

† The same everlasting gospel that began in Jerusalem is the same one we preach today. No one enters the kingdom through partial truth or religious systems, but only through faith in Christ, repentance, and baptism into His name. The apostles' message still stands, and it's our mission to carry that same truth to those who've been blinded by man-made doctrine.

† The city of God is open to all who'll enter through Christ, the pearl of great price. We're not waiting for a future temple or city to come down, because we're the living stones built into that city today (1 Peter 2:5). Every believer who obeys the gospel stands on the solid rock, part of the New Jerusalem, where God now dwells among His people.

Historical References

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, Book 20

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 2

† Clement of Rome, Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 42

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book 3

(early Christians practiced baptism as a public sign of leaving the Mosaic system and entering the new covenant community. Once the temple system ended in AD 70, the physical act gave

way to the spiritual reality it foreshadowed.)

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

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Source Index

† Acts 2:38; Acts 10:43; Acts 13:38-39; Romans 10:9-10

† Matthew 13:45-46; Revelation 21:12-14, 21

† 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:5

† Ephesians 4:5; Titus 3:5; Acts 18:24-26; Luke 24:47

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