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[Daniel, Paul, and John Knew Nothing Beyond Rome](#)



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† Many today read Revelation, Daniel, and the Olivet Discourse as if they were written for the modern world. They try to find America, Russia, China, and other modern nations in Scripture. But neither Jesus, nor His apostles, nor the prophets ever spoke of anything beyond their world, the Roman world. Revelation wasn't written to the United States or to twenty-first-century nations. It was written to first-century believers facing the end of the Old Covenant age and the fall of Jerusalem in AD

They Knew Nothing Beyond Rome

† The book of Revelation begins with these clear words:

Revelation 1:1-3

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

† John was told the events would happen soon and that the time was near. He wasn't describing nations centuries away in the future. He was writing to the seven churches in Asia Minor under the rule of Rome. Everything he saw unfolded within the Roman world.

† Daniel's visions also ended within the same boundaries. When Gabriel explained the four beasts to Daniel, the fourth beast represented Rome, the empire ruling when the Messiah came. **Daniel 2:44** says, In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed. The "days of those kings" refers to the Roman Caesars, not to modern presidents or governments thousands of years later.

Jesus and the Apostles Focused on First-Century Israel and Rome, Not Twenty-First-Century Israel and Rome

† Jesus spoke within the same framework. His words in the Olivet Discourse were directed to His disciples, concerning the temple before their eyes. **Matthew 24:1-3** says, 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 "age" they asked about wasn't our age, but the Old Covenant age centered around the temple. When the temple fell in AD 70, that age ended. Everything Jesus said from verse 4 onward was fulfilled in their generation. **Matthew 24:34** confirms it: Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

† The apostles preached the same message. Peter warned the Jews in his day, **Acts 2:40**, Be saved from this perverse generation! Paul wrote that the wrath was coming upon them to the utmost, **1 Thessalonians 2:16**. John wrote that it was the last hour, **1 John 2:18**. Each of them saw the same approaching judgment on Israel and the transition into Christ's everlasting kingdom.

Ignoring AD 70 Destroys the Context

† When we apply first-century prophecies to modern events, we erase the meaning of the words Jesus spoke to His disciples. The destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70 was the climax of redemptive history, the fulfillment of what all the prophets had foretold. **Luke 21:22** says, These are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled.

† **Luke 21:32** Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place.

† This ties the timing of all fulfillment directly to the generation that witnessed those events, leaving no room for a future repetition.

† If all things written were fulfilled then, there's nothing left awaiting fulfillment in our time. To project these prophecies onto the twenty-first century is to deny that Jesus accomplished what He promised. It also repeats history by expecting another judgment, another tribulation, and another coming, when Jesus

said He'd come in their generation.

Matthew 24 Fulfilled

† Jesus was right. Every detail He spoke was fulfilled in AD 70. His "coming" in Matthew 24:30 wasn't about a physical return to earth but about His coming in judgment against that covenant nation. The sign of the Son of Man appearing in heaven showed that He'd taken His throne. The tribes of the land mourned as Jerusalem burned, and His angels gathered the elect from the four winds, the gospel bringing His people into the everlasting kingdom.

† The coming of the Son of Man in judgment was His vindication as Messiah and proof that His kingdom had replaced the old covenant order forever.

† The world of Daniel and John ended with Rome's dominance and Jerusalem's fall. There was nothing beyond Rome in their prophetic view. The kingdom Christ established wasn't of this world, **John 18:36**, and it stands forever.

The Whole World Under Rome

† When the New Testament speaks of "the whole world," it was referring to the world under Roman rule. **Luke 2:1** says, Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. That "whole world" was the Roman Empire, not the entire planet.

† The apostles and writers of Scripture lived entirely within that Roman world. The gospel was said to be preached "in all the world" (**Colossians 1:6**) and "to all creation under heaven" (**Colossians 1:23**), meaning throughout the Roman Empire, just as Jesus had commanded.

† Understanding this context helps remove confusion when people try to stretch prophecy into modern geography. The "world" of the prophets and apostles was the world they lived in,

the Roman world that stood until the temple fell in AD 70.

Modern Nations and Misinterpretation

† Some claim that the United States, China, or Russia are hidden in the prophecies of Daniel or Revelation, but Scripture never mentions or hints at them. The prophets and apostles spoke about the nations within their own world, the world of Rome and Israel, because that was the arena of fulfillment.

† Daniel's visions were interpreted by the angel Gabriel, and he said the fourth kingdom was Rome, not a future superpower.

Daniel 7:23 says, Thus he said: The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. That kingdom was the Roman Empire, the same one that crucified Christ and later destroyed Jerusalem.

† To stretch Daniel or Revelation into twenty-first-century nations is to remove the prophecies from their inspired context. These books were written to show what was soon to come upon those living in the first century. **Revelation 1:3** says, for the time is near. The time statements themselves prove the events were not about modern governments or faraway nations but about the fulfillment of God's covenant judgment upon Israel and the rise of Christ's everlasting kingdom.

† Every attempt to insert America, Russia, or China into these prophecies leads to confusion and constant failed predictions. The Bible's focus was never global politics, it was covenantal fulfillment in the generation that saw the end of the Old Covenant world.

When Was It Fulfilled?

† Many ask, "How do you know it was 70 AD? The Bible doesn't mention the year." That's true, the Bible gives no calendar year because the first-century audience didn't use our modern dating system. But Scripture does give clear time markers that lead

directly to that historical year.

† Jesus said in **Matthew 24:34**, Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. A generation was about forty years, the same time frame Israel wandered in the wilderness (Numbers 32:13). Since Jesus spoke those words around AD 30, forty years later brings us to AD 70, exactly when Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed.

† Luke confirms this timing in **Luke 21:20-22**, 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. That siege was carried out by the Roman armies under Titus in 70 AD, marking the clear fulfillment of Jesus' words.

† The Book of Hebrews also reveals that this end was imminent when it was written: **Hebrews 8:13** says, 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 old covenant system was still standing when Hebrews was written, but "ready to disappear," which it did in 70 AD when the temple was destroyed.

† Josephus and Tacitus both record this same event as the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD, confirming historically what Jesus prophesied biblically. The timing is exact, the signs match, and the fulfillment is complete.

Historical References

† Josephus recorded the horrors of that judgment in Wars of the Jews, describing famine, Roman siege, and the complete destruction of the temple exactly as Jesus foretold. Tacitus, a Roman historian, confirmed the same devastation in Histories

5.13. Eusebius later identified AD 70 as the clear fulfillment of Christ's prophecies, noting that not one Christian perished in the siege because they'd fled to Pella, heeding Jesus' warning.

How It Applies to Us Today

† We're not waiting for another fulfillment. The kingdom has come. The Lord reigns. We're living in the everlasting covenant age where righteousness dwells. When we read Revelation and Daniel as already fulfilled, we see the power of Christ's finished work and the faithfulness of God to every promise.

† Our calling today isn't to look for beasts, marks, or future tribulations but to proclaim the victory of Christ who brought the old world to an end and made all things new. Nothing in prophecy reaches beyond Rome because the kingdom that replaced it has no end.

† **2 Corinthians 1:20** For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

† This verse reminds us that every promise God made has already found its completion in Christ and His fulfilled kingdom.

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

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Source Index

† Revelation 1:1-3; Daniel 2:44; Matthew 24:1-3, 34; Luke 2:1; Colossians 1:6, 23; Luke 21:20-22, 22, 32; Acts 2:40; 1 Thessalonians 2:16; 1 John 2:18; John 18:36; Daniel 7:23; Hebrews 8:13; 2 Corinthians 1:20

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews; Tacitus, Histories 5.13; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5

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