

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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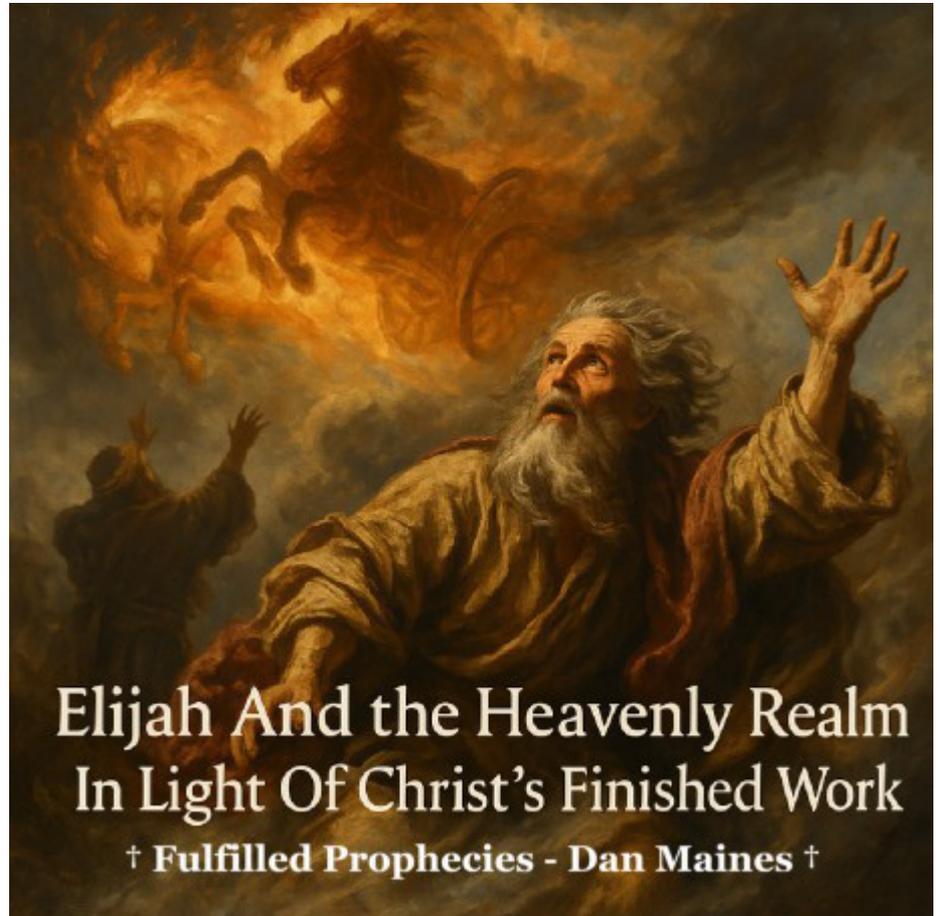
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**Elijah And The  
Heavenly Realm In  
Light Of Christ's  
Finished Work**



By Dan Maines

## **Elijah And The Heavenly Realm In Light Of Christ's Finished Work**

### **Introduction**

† Many people read the story of Elijah and assume he entered the heavenly realm the same way believers do in Christ today. But scripture is clear that full access into God's presence did not exist before Christ completed redemption. We have to let Jesus define this, not tradition and not assumption. (John 3:13, Hebrews 9:8, Luke 16:22)

† Elijah's departure was miraculous, but it was not glorification,

not resurrection, and not entrance into the throne room of heaven. Scripture shows exactly what happened and why it matters in the fulfilled perspective. (John 3:13, Hebrews 11:13, Hebrews 10:19-20)

† This post will walk verse by verse through the key passages and show how Christ alone opened heaven, and why Elijah's experience was divine removal, not resurrection life. (Hebrews 9:15, Luke 24:26, Hebrews 2:14)

### **John 3:13**

No man has ascended into heaven but He who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

† Jesus Himself makes the boundary unmistakable. Before His finished work, no one had ascended into the true heavenly sanctuary. This includes Elijah, Enoch, Abraham, David, and every saint listed in scripture. Elijah's removal from the earth did not override Jesus' own teaching. Christ alone is the first to enter and open the heavenly realm for the redeemed. (John 3:13, Hebrews 6:19-20, Hebrews 9:24, Acts 2:34)

† Jesus is not talking about clouds or the sky. He is talking about the dwelling presence of God. Only the Son could enter it before redemption was complete. (John 1:18, Exodus 33:20, Colossians 1:19)

### **Where Elijah Actually Went Before Heaven Was Opened**

† Scripture is clear that before Christ, the righteous did not enter the heavenly sanctuary. They went to a waiting place described as Abraham's bosom, a place of comfort but not the throne room of God. (Luke 16:22, Luke 16:25, Hebrews 11:39)

† Luke 16:22 says the righteous were carried to Abraham's bosom, not heaven. (Luke 16:22, John 3:13)

† Luke 23:43 shows Jesus telling the thief he would be with Him in Paradise, but Paradise was not yet the heavenly sanctuary. (Luke 23:43, John 20:17, Revelation 2:7)

† Hebrews 9:8 states that the way into the holy place had not

yet been opened while the first covenant was still standing.  
(Hebrews 9:8, Hebrews 10:19-20)

† This means Elijah, like every Old Covenant saint, was preserved by God but did not enter the full heavenly presence until Christ completed redemption. (Hebrews 11:40, Ephesians 4:8, Hebrews 2:10)

## **2 Kings 2:11**

As they were going along and talking, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.

† The word heaven in Hebrew can mean sky, firmament, or the upper realm. The context decides which. Elijah was taken upward, but not into the throne room of God that Jesus said no man had entered. (Genesis 1:8, Deuteronomy 10:14, John 3:13)

† What happened here was divine protection and divine transport. Elijah was carried out of the earthly realm, removed from Israel's history, and placed under God's care. But nothing in the text says glorification, resurrection, or entrance into the heavenly sanctuary. (Psalm 104:3, Psalm 91:11, Hebrews 11:5)

† Elijah did not die physically, but he also did not receive resurrection life. He was removed, not transformed. (1 Corinthians 15:50, Hebrews 11:40, John 14:6)

## **Meaning Of The Chariot Of Fire And Whirlwind**

† The chariot and whirlwind throughout scripture represent divine movement, protection, and power, not glorification. (Psalm 68:17, Isaiah 66:15, Nahum 1:3)

† In Psalm 104:3 God makes the clouds His chariot. (Psalm 104:3, Psalm 18:10)

† In Isaiah 66:15 God comes with His chariots in judgment, not resurrection life. (Isaiah 66:15, Ezekiel 1:4)

† Elijah's departure fits this pattern. God removed His prophet dramatically, but this was not the resurrection body promised only through Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:42-44, Philippians 3:21)

## **Hebrews 11:13**

All these died in faith, without receiving the promises.

† The writer includes the entire Old Covenant era here, covering the time of Elijah. They did not receive the promise because the way into the heavenly sanctuary was not yet opened. Elijah is not treated as an exception. Hebrews 11 confirms Jesus' words in John 3:13 perfectly. (Hebrews 11:13, Hebrews 11:39-40, John 3:13)

† If Elijah had entered the heavenly throne room, Hebrews 11 would contradict the words of Jesus. But it does not. Instead, it affirms that the Old Covenant saints waited until Christ fulfilled all things. (John 14:2-3, Hebrews 9:15, Luke 24:26)

## **Clarifying The Waiting Place Of The Old Covenant Saints**

† Before Christ, the righteous were held in a place of comfort, not glory, awaiting redemption. (Luke 16:22, Hebrews 9:15, Hebrews 11:39)

† Jesus told a parable that reflected this exact condition, showing the righteous separated from the wicked, but not yet glorified. (Luke 16:22-26)

† Elijah, though removed from earth, still awaited the opening of heaven that only Christ provided. (Hebrews 10:19-20, John 14:6)

## **Hebrews 10:19-20**

Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil.

† The way into the true heavenly holy place was opened by Christ, not before Him. This is why Elijah could be taken up but still not enter the glorified presence of God. The veil had not yet been removed. Only the blood of Christ opened the way. (Hebrews 10:19-20, Matthew 27:51, Hebrews 9:24)

† Elijah was preserved alive, but he was not glorified.

Glorification is resurrection, and resurrection life is only found in the One who conquered death. (John 11:25, Romans 6:9, 1

Corinthians 15:20)

### **Christ Alone Opens Heaven**

† The resurrection life Elijah did not receive is the very life all believers now have in Christ. Elijah's removal was miraculous, but it was still under the limitations of the Old Covenant. Christ broke those limitations through His finished work. (Romans 8:11, Hebrews 9:15, John 14:6)

† Elijah was taken up, but he was not transformed. Elijah was removed, but he was not resurrected. Elijah was spared physical death, but he did not receive the heavenly access that Christ alone provided. (1 Corinthians 15:50, Hebrews 11:40, Ephesians 2:18)

### **Contrast Between Elijah's Removal And Christ's Ascension**

† Elijah went up, but Christ ascended into the true heavenly sanctuary. (Acts 1:9, Hebrews 9:24, Ephesians 1:20)

† Elijah was carried by a whirlwind, but Christ ascended by His own authority. (John 10:18, John 20:17)

† Elijah was taken somewhere, but Christ sat down at the right hand of God. (Hebrews 1:3, Hebrews 10:12)

† Elijah did not open heaven for anyone, but Christ opened heaven for all believers. (Hebrews 10:19-20, John 14:6)

### **Elijah, Moses, And The Transfiguration**

† Moses and Elijah appeared with Christ in Matthew 17, but this was a temporary revelation in glory, not their permanent heavenly entrance. (Matthew 17:1-5, Luke 9:30-31)

† They still awaited Christ's finished work, indicating that even these great prophets had not yet entered the heavenly realm. (Hebrews 11:39-40, John 3:13)

† The Transfiguration showed Christ's supremacy over the law and the prophets, not that Elijah had already entered the glorified state. (Matthew 17:5, Hebrews 1:1-2)

### **Why Elijah In Revelation 11 Is Not Literal Elijah**

† Revelation 11 uses symbolic temple language, covenant

imagery, and prophetic representation, not literal resurrected Old Covenant prophets. (Revelation 11:1-4)

† Jesus already taught that John the Baptist fulfilled the Elijah prophecy, ending any expectation of Elijah returning in person. (Matthew 11:14, Matthew 17:12-13)

† Revelation's two witnesses represent covenant testimony, not Elijah's physical return. (Revelation 11:4, Zechariah 4:2-3)

† Elijah cannot be the witness in Revelation 11 because Jesus said no one had ascended into heaven before Him. (John 3:13)

### **Elijah And John The Baptist**

† Elijah's removal connects to the arrival of John the Baptist, the Elijah who was to come. (Matthew 11:14, Luke 1:17, Malachi 4:5)

† Malachi 4 prophesied Elijah before the Day of the Lord, and Jesus says John fulfilled this role. (Matthew 17:12-13, Malachi 4:5)

† This shows Elijah's departure was part of God's transition from Old Covenant to New, but still not resurrection life. (Hebrews 8:13, Galatians 4:4)

### **Prophetic Context From Malachi 4**

† Elijah's story is tied to the closing of the Old Covenant era. (Malachi 4:5-6, Luke 1:17)

† Malachi 4:5 promised an Elijah figure before judgment. (Malachi 4:5, Matthew 17:12)

† John came in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the way for Christ, who alone opened heaven. (Luke 1:17, John 1:29)

† Elijah's own story reinforces God's plan through Christ, not an Old Covenant entrance into glory. (Hebrews 9:15, John 14:6)

### **Elijah's Story And The End Of The Old Covenant Age**

† Elijah's removal foreshadowed the removal of the Old Covenant itself, which ended with the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. (Hebrews 8:13, Matthew 24:34, Luke 21:22)

† John the Baptist completed Elijah's role by preparing the way for judgment against Old Covenant Israel. (Matthew 3:7-12,

Malachi 4:5-6)

† Elijah's story ultimately points toward the closing of the age, the new creation in Christ, and the entrance into the heavenly realm that only Christ opened. (2 Corinthians 5:17, Hebrews 12:27-28)

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

† Elijah's story proves the supremacy of Christ. No one, not even a prophet as mighty as Elijah, could enter the heavenly realm until Christ opened it through His death and resurrection. This affirms the fulfilled reality we stand in today. We enjoy what none of the Old Covenant saints could receive until Christ completed redemption. (Hebrews 10:19-20, Ephesians 2:6, Colossians 1:13)

† Elijah's removal was a miracle, but your position in Christ is greater. You have what Elijah did not have, the fullness of access to God through the New Covenant. (Ephesians 2:18, Hebrews 12:22-24)

### **Fullness Of Our Present Heavenly Access**

† Hebrews 12:22 says we have come to Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, the assembly of the firstborn. (Hebrews 12:22-24)

† Ephesians 2:6 says we are seated with Christ in the heavenly places right now. (Ephesians 2:6, Colossians 3:1)

† Colossians 1:13 says we have been transferred into the kingdom of His beloved Son. (Colossians 1:13, Romans 14:17)

† These blessings were not available to Elijah, or any Old Covenant saint. They belong to us through the finished work of Christ. (Hebrews 11:40, 1 Peter 1:3-4)

### **Historical References**

† Justin Martyr taught in Dialogue with Trypho that the Old Covenant saints did not enter the heavenly inheritance until Christ opened the way, confirming none entered before His resurrection.

† Irenaeus wrote that Christ alone opened the heavenly realm

and that the saints before Christ waited in a separate place until His victory, showing Elijah was not an exception.

† Tertullian taught that the faithful under the Old Covenant were kept in a waiting place until Christ released them through His death and resurrection, proving no Old Covenant figure entered heaven's throne room before Christ.

† Clement of Alexandria explained that Christ alone brought immortality and access to God, meaning Old Covenant figures like Elijah did not enter the heavenly sanctuary before Him.

† Barnabas wrote that the promises were fulfilled only in Christ and that the fathers waited for Him, affirming that Elijah did not receive glorification before the cross.

† Eusebius recorded that Christ opened the way into heaven for all the righteous who had lived before His coming, confirming Elijah was not glorified before Christ's finished work.

† Josephus described Elijah as taken from the earth, but never claimed he entered the heavenly throne room, fitting perfectly with the biblical teaching that Christ alone ascended into heaven.

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

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† John 3:13, 2 Kings 2:11, Hebrews 11:13, Hebrews 10:19-20

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