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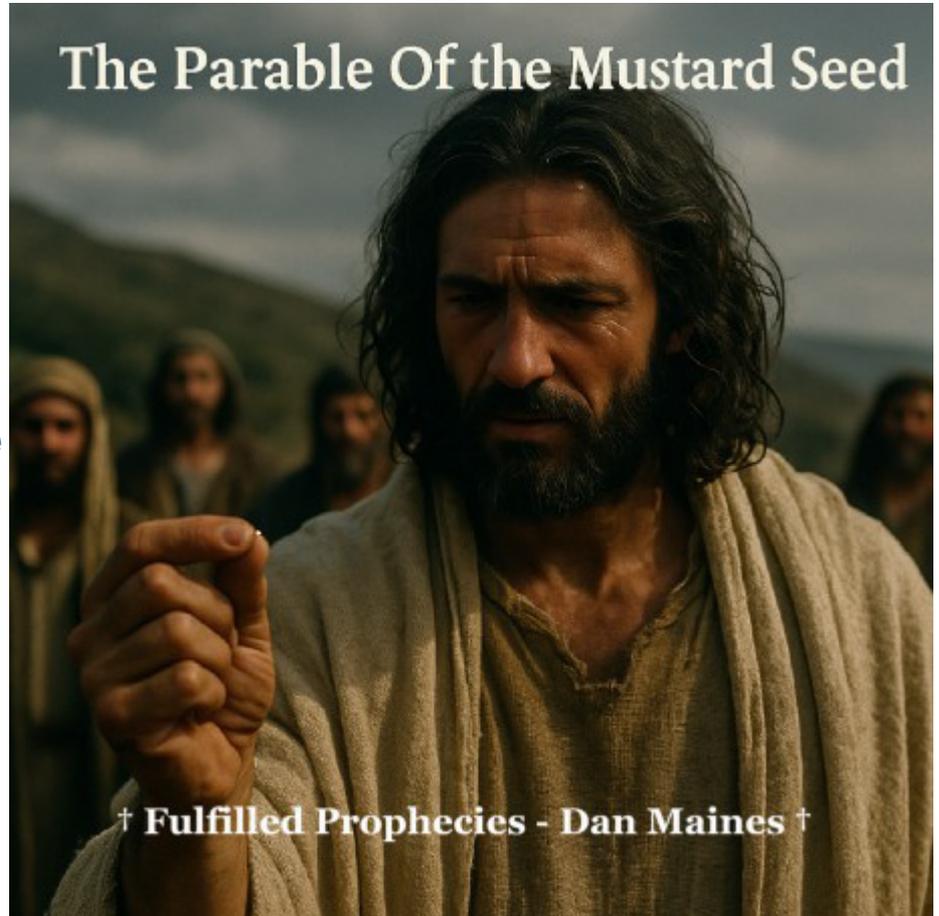
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The Parable Of The Mustard Seed



By Dan Maines

The Parable Of The Mustard Seed

Introduction

This post brings clarity, comfort, and confidence in the fulfilled truth of God's word by showing how Jesus used the smallest of seeds to describe the unstoppable growth of His kingdom in the first century. The Parable of the Mustard Seed wasn't about a future global takeover, it was about the explosive growth of the New Covenant community during the end of the Old Covenant age. Jesus spoke directly to them in their final generation, and

this parable perfectly matches the fulfilled reality we're living in right now.

Matthew 13:31-32

He presented another parable to them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES.

The Mustard Seed In Their Generation

† Jesus said the kingdom would start small, almost invisible, just like a mustard seed (Matthew 13:31).

† He said it would grow into something large enough for the birds to nest in its branches, meaning the nations would rest in what God was building (Matthew 13:32, Ezekiel 17:23).

† Jesus wasn't telling them the kingdom would start thousands of years later, He was telling them what was happening right in their lifetime (Matthew 13:17).

† The growth happened through their persecution, their preaching, and the outpouring of the Spirit as the gospel spread rapidly before AD 70 (Acts 2:41, Acts 6:7, Colossians 1:6).

† The Old Covenant was collapsing and the New Covenant was rising, fulfilling exactly what Jesus said would happen (Hebrews 8:13).

How The Parable Was Fulfilled

† The seed was planted in the ministry of Christ (Matthew 4:17).

† It sprouted at Pentecost when three thousand believed in one day (Acts 2:41).

† It spread through Judea, Samaria, and the nations exactly like Jesus said it would (Acts 1:8).

† It reached full maturity when the Old Covenant system was removed in AD 70 (Matthew 24:34, Hebrews 12:27).

- † That's the mustard seed becoming a tree (Matthew 13:32).
- † That's the kingdom taking its place (Luke 21:31).
- † That's the fulfillment Jesus spoke of (Matthew 5:17).

The Body Of Christ, The Kingdom, And The New Jerusalem Are One Reality

- † You can't separate the body of Christ from the Kingdom or the New Jerusalem. If you're in Christ, you're in His Kingdom. If you're in His Kingdom, you're in the New Jerusalem (Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 2:19-22).
- † Colossians 1:13 says they'd already been transferred into the Kingdom (Colossians 1:13).
- † Revelation 21:2 shows the New Jerusalem as the bride, and Ephesians 5:23 tells us the bride is the church (Revelation 21:2, Ephesians 5:23).
- † Hebrews 12:22-23 says they'd already come to Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, the church of the firstborn (Hebrews 12:22-23).
- † One body, one bride, one Kingdom, one New Jerusalem (Ephesians 4:4-5).

The Old Covenant Tree And The New Covenant Tree

- † The Old Covenant nation was pictured as a tree that would be cut down because of unfaithfulness (Isaiah 6:13).
- † The New Covenant people are the branch of My planting, the true tree God intended (Isaiah 60:21).
- † Daniel 2:35 shows the stone becoming a great mountain, the same picture of kingdom growth Jesus gave (Daniel 2:35).

Why Jesus Used Nature Parables

- † Jesus used things like seeds, trees, soil, and harvests because creation reflects covenant truth (Matthew 13:10-11).
- † Luke 17:20-21 shows the kingdom didn't come with visible signs, which matches the mustard seed perfectly. Quiet growth,

real growth, covenant growth (Luke 17:20-21).

† These parables revealed the kingdom's unstoppable growth right in their generation (Matthew 13:16-17).

Audience Relevance And Their Generation

† Jesus told His disciples that the parables were for them, not for some future generation thousands of years later (Matthew 13:11).

† He said their eyes and ears were blessed because they were seeing the fulfillment the prophets longed for (Matthew 13:16-17).

† This nails down that the mustard seed parable belongs to the first century covenant transition.

Tree Imagery And Kingdom Symbolism In Scripture

† In scripture, trees always represent kingdoms or covenant peoples (Daniel 4:10-12).

† Ezekiel shows nations resting in branches as a picture of covenant inclusion (Ezekiel 17:22-24).

† Jesus was using the exact symbolic language the prophets used, and they understood it instantly.

The Gospel Reaching The Whole World Before AD 70

† Paul said their faith was spoken of throughout the whole world (Romans 1:8).

† He said the gospel had gone out to all the earth (Romans 10:18).

† He said it was bearing fruit in all the world (Colossians 1:6).

† He said it had been proclaimed to every creature under heaven (Colossians 1:23).

† That proves the mustard seed reached full maturity before AD 70, just like Jesus said it would.

The Kingdom Already Present Before AD 70

† Jesus said the kingdom had already come upon them (Matthew 12:28).

† He said the kingdom was in their midst (Luke 17:21).

† The mustard seed was already growing long before AD 70, and it reached its fullness when the Old Covenant world ended.

Historical References

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, documents the collapse of the Old Covenant world and the turmoil through which the early church kept growing.

† Tacitus, Annals and Histories, records how Christianity kept spreading even under pressure.

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, describes how rapidly the church expanded before and after Jerusalem's fall.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We're living in the full grown tree of God's kingdom (Colossians 1:13).

† We're not waiting for the kingdom to arrive, we're already living inside it (Luke 17:21).

† We're not waiting for the mustard seed to grow, it already has (Matthew 13:32).

† We're not looking for signs that the kingdom is near, because Jesus already brought it in their generation (Matthew 24:34).

Because the mustard seed has already become the tree, we stand in a fully established New Covenant world where God dwells with His people, righteousness is ours, access to the Father is open, and the nations rest in the branches of Christ's kingdom.

Our job isn't to wait for the kingdom to arrive, it's to walk in the life, peace, and victory that Jesus already provided through His

finished work.

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

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Source Index

† Matthew 13:31-32, Daniel 4:10-12, Ezekiel 17:22-24, Colossians 1:13, Hebrews 12:22-23, Revelation 21:2, Isaiah 60:21, Daniel 2:35, Luke 17:20-21, Matthew 13:10-17, Matthew 12:28, Romans 1:8, Romans 10:18, Colossians 1:6, Colossians 1:23

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews

† Tacitus, Annals and Histories

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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