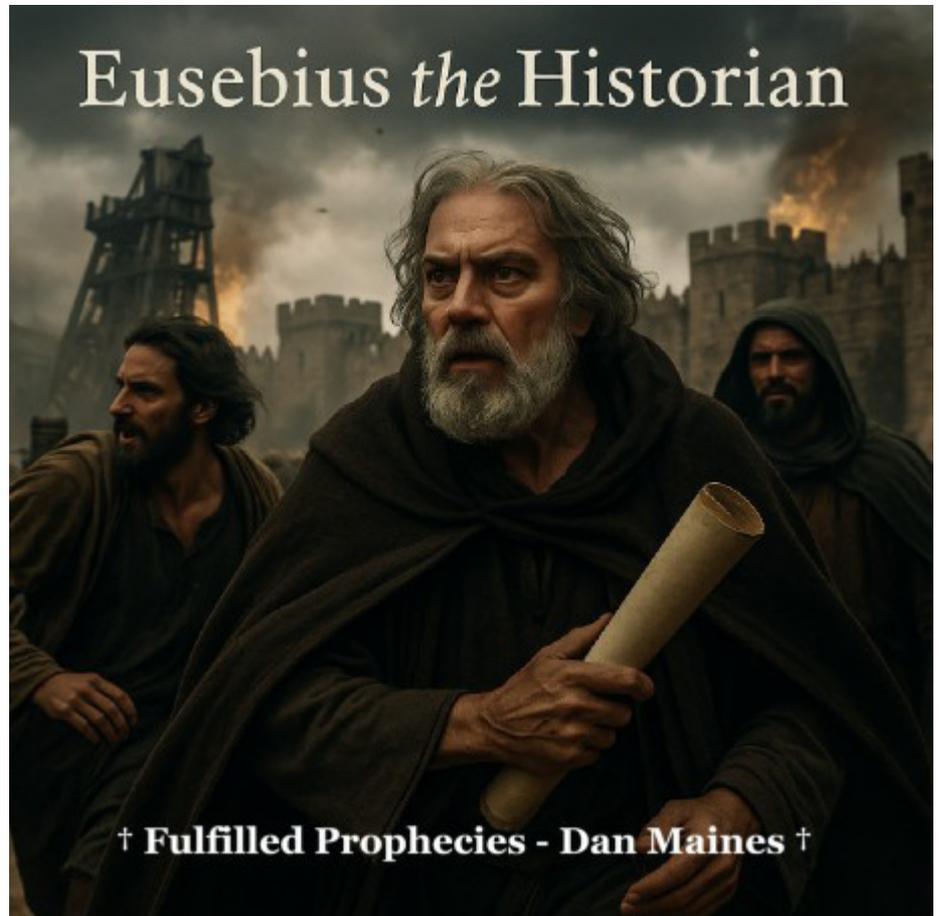


# Fulfilled Prophecies

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## Historical Writers - Eusebius the Historian



By Dan Maines

## Eusebius the Historian

### Introduction

† Eusebius of Caesarea is one of the most important early Christian historians. His writings preserve eyewitness accounts of the Jewish War, the destruction of Jerusalem, the rise of the early church, and the events that shaped the first three centuries. For anyone who holds the fulfilled perspective, Eusebius is a key historical witness because he confirms, without even trying to argue theology, that the words of Jesus in Matthew 24, Luke 21, and Mark 13 came to pass exactly as He

said. But like every human historian, he had strengths and weaknesses. He got many things right, he misunderstood some things, and there were times his loyalty to Constantine clouded his judgment. This post lays out what he was right about, what he was wrong about, and why his work still matters.

## **The Testimony Of History And The Fulfillment Of Scripture**

† Eusebius lived close enough to the apostolic age to preserve memories that would have otherwise disappeared. His most important contribution is his confirmation of the historical events surrounding the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70. Jesus said in Matthew 24:34 that all of those things would happen in that generation. Eusebius shows exactly that.

Matthew 24:34

Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

Luke 21:20

But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near.

Luke 21:22

Because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled.

† Eusebius describes the starvation, the signs, the factions, the Roman siege works, and the fall of the temple in a way that lines up perfectly with the words of Jesus. This is why his testimony is so valuable for the fulfilled perspective. When a historian who had no stake in Preterism confirms the exact details Jesus predicted, it becomes another witness proving the reliability of our Lord.

## **What Eusebius Got Right**

† He preserved the earliest historical record of the Jewish War, confirming Jesus' prophecies.

† He documented the persecution of Christians and the faithfulness of the early church.

† He recorded the spread of the gospel to the nations exactly as Jesus said in Matthew 24:14.

† He preserved the writings and traditions of early Christian leaders that would have been lost.

† He recognized that the destruction of Jerusalem fulfilled biblical prophecy.

† He affirmed that the old covenant order came to its final end in that generation.

† He showed that the apostles completed the mission Christ gave them.

† He confirmed that a new age had begun after the fall of Jerusalem.

† One of Eusebius' most important statements appears in his commentary on the prophets, where he explicitly says that the fall of Jerusalem was the fulfillment of the predictions spoken by Daniel and by Jesus. This aligns perfectly with the fulfilled perspective, not because Eusebius was trying to argue theology, but because he was simply reporting events as they happened.

### **What Eusebius Got Wrong**

† Even though Eusebius preserved priceless history, there were areas where he misunderstood or misrepresented things.

† He defended Constantine too strongly, praising him beyond what was deserved.

† He sometimes merged historical reporting with political flattery.

† He presented Constantine's empire as the visible kingdom of God, which is not what scripture teaches.

† He treated the institutional church of his time as the prophetic fulfillment instead of the spiritual body Christ established.

† He occasionally accepted unverified traditions as fact.

† He was sometimes selective in which sources he used, leaving out accounts that did not support his theological views.

### **Did Eusebius Ever Make A Historical Mistake**

† Yes. Eusebius was a faithful recorder of history, but he was not perfect. He made mistakes, he trusted certain sources too easily, and he interpreted political events through the lens of

Constantine's rule. That does not undermine the value of his work. It simply means he was a man, not an apostle, and his writings must be weighed carefully. His mistakes do not touch or undermine the events he described linked to the Jewish War. When he recorded the destruction of Jerusalem, he relied heavily on Josephus, and Josephus was an eyewitness. That portion of Eusebius' work is extremely reliable.

### **What Do We Think Of Eusebius**

† From the fulfilled perspective, we respect Eusebius for the historical witness he preserved. He helps establish the timeline of gospel expansion, persecution, and the end of the old covenant age. He was right about the destruction of Jerusalem, right about the fulfillment of the prophets, and right about the end of that generation. His errors came in areas where he tried to elevate Constantine or interpret the Roman Empire as God's chosen instrument in a way scripture does not support. But when he stayed close to the events themselves, he was one of the most accurate historians of early Christianity.

### **Eusebius And The Record Of Early Christian Persecution**

† Early Christian persecutions were not myths or later inventions. Eusebius preserved the stories of those who suffered, resisted, and remained faithful under Roman pressure. His record shows that believers lived through exactly what Jesus warned about. Eusebius helps connect the suffering of the early church with the fulfillment of Jesus' warnings about tribulation, endurance, and the victory of the kingdom.

### **Why Eusebius Matters For The Fulfilled Perspective**

† Eusebius lived close enough to the events to know that the old covenant world truly ended in that generation. He saw the Jewish nation scattered, the temple destroyed, the gospel spreading, and the church growing across the Roman world. His writings confirm that Jesus' timeline was accurate. Eusebius allows us to see the end of the age through the eyes of

someone connected to the early church.

### **Eusebius' Method As A Historian**

† Eusebius relied on earlier writers, eyewitnesses, official letters, and preserved documents. He did not write fiction. He copied, summarized, and organized the evidence available to him. Because of this, his work remains one of the strongest historical witnesses to the truthfulness of scripture and the events surrounding Jerusalem's fall.

### **Eusebius And Josephus Together**

† Eusebius preserved long sections of Josephus so later generations would know the full story of Jerusalem's fall. Josephus was an eyewitness. Eusebius was the transmitter. Together they confirm every major prophecy Jesus gave concerning the temple, the judgment, the siege, and the end of the old covenant age.

### **Eusebius As A Reminder**

† Eusebius reminds us that God's word never fails. History bends to the voice of Christ. Every prophecy He spoke came to pass. And we live in the fulfilled kingdom He established through judgment, restoration, and the victory of the cross.

### **Historical References**

† Justin Martyr, early Christian writer whose works Eusebius preserved and used as historical evidence

† Irenaeus, one of Eusebius' major historical sources for apostolic succession and early church tradition

† Eusebius, the primary historian whose writings this sermon examines

† Tertullian, an early historian and apologist cited by Eusebius for Christian persecution and doctrine

† Clement of Alexandria, a major teacher whose writings Eusebius quoted and relied on for early Christian history

† Josephus, the eyewitness historian of the Jewish War whose work Eusebius used to confirm the fall of Jerusalem

† Tacitus, the Roman historian providing external confirmation of first century events referenced by Eusebius

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

† Eusebius reminds us that fulfilled prophecy is rooted in real history, not speculation. When Jesus said it would happen in that generation, it did. When He said Jerusalem would fall, it did. When He said the kingdom would not come with signs to be observed, but would already be in their midst, it was exactly that way. The work of Eusebius strengthens our confidence that the words of Christ were fulfilled completely. He also teaches us to test every teacher, every historian, and every tradition by scripture alone. Faith rests on the reliability of God's word, not on the perfection of human historians.

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

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## **Source Index**

† Matthew 24, Luke 21, Mark 13

† Josephus, The Jewish War

† Tacitus, Histories 5

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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