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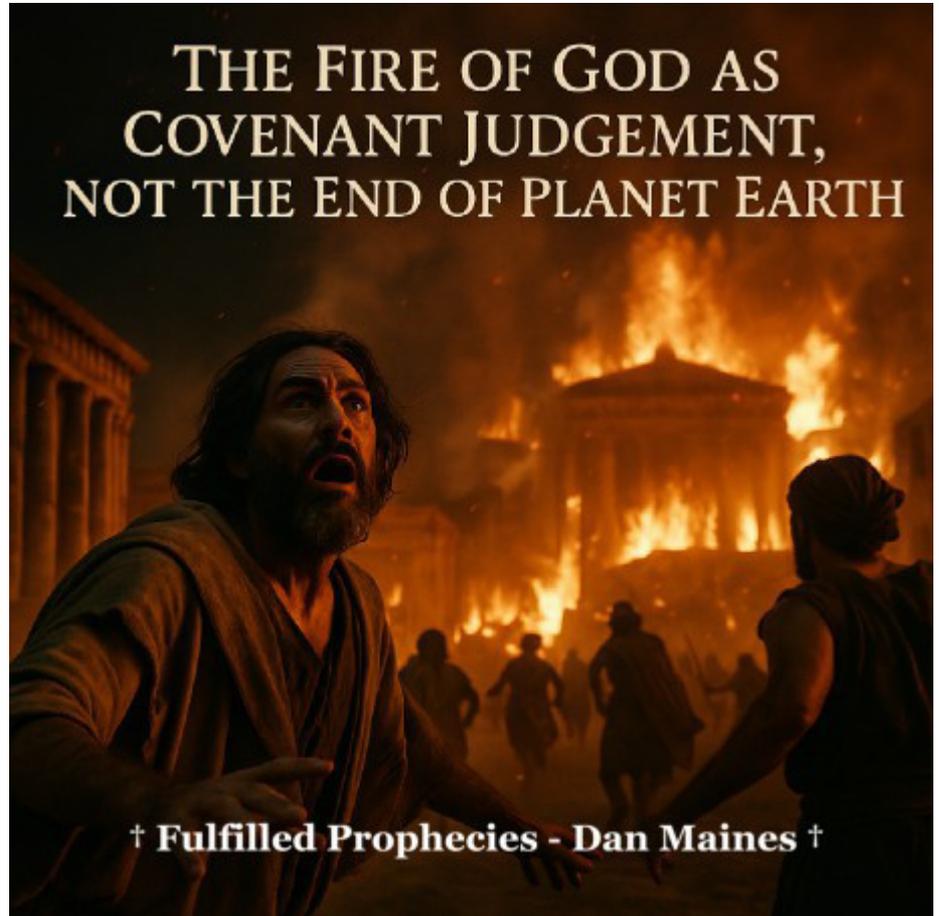
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**The Fire Of God As
Covenant
Judgment, Not The
End Of Planet
Earth**



By Dan Maines

The Fire Of God As Covenant Judgment, Not The End Of Planet Earth

Introduction

† The prophets never used fire to describe the destruction of the physical cosmos. Fire is the language of covenant judgment, God acting against His covenant breaking people. From Isaiah to Malachi, and from John the Baptist to Jesus Himself, fire represents the purifying, consuming judgment that fell on Old Covenant Israel in AD 70. When we let the prophets define their own symbolism, every futurist claim collapses. Fire

is not about the end of planet earth, it is about the end of the covenant world that stood under Moses.

The Prophets Defined Fire As Covenant Judgment

† Isaiah declared that God would burn the Assyrians who threatened Jerusalem in his generation, Isaiah 31:9. That fire did not consume the planet, it consumed a covenant breaking enemy. Isaiah consistently uses fire as judgment on nations and covenant violators, not on creation itself, Isaiah 30:27-30; 33:10-14.

† Jeremiah spoke of God's fire kindled in His anger against Jerusalem, Jeremiah 4:4; 21:12. The fire was the Babylonian destruction. The earth did not melt, the land of Judah did. Jeremiah 4 uses cosmic language, but the chapter is clearly about Jerusalem's fall under Babylon, not the end of the universe.

† Ezekiel said God would rain fire on Gog, Ezekiel 38:22, yet the context is covenant vindication for God's people, not the annihilation of the cosmos. God uses fire to defend His covenant and judge those who rise against it.

† Malachi described the coming of the Lord as a refiner's fire, Malachi 3:2-3. Fire purifies the righteous and destroys the wicked. The context is the priesthood of Israel. This is covenantal, not cosmic. Malachi ends with the warning that God's fire would leave Old Covenant Israel like stubble, Malachi 4:1, and that is exactly what happened in AD 70 when Jerusalem and the temple were burned.

† Every fire prophecy was spoken to people living under the Old Covenant, and every warning targeted their covenant world, not ours. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Malachi, John the Baptist, and Jesus Himself spoke to Israel, not to a future civilization. Fire was the symbol of God's wrath against that covenant people in that generation, Matthew 23:36; Matthew 24:34. Audience

relevance locks these prophecies into the first century and removes the futurist escape hatch entirely.

† When Jesus warned of fire, desolation, and the end of the age in Matthew 24, He quoted Isaiah, Joel, and Daniel to show that He was fulfilling their covenant fire prophecies. The same language the prophets used for Babylon's destruction becomes the language Jesus uses for Jerusalem's. This proves that prophetic fire is covenantal and typological, not geological or planetary.

Jesus Continued The Prophetic Fire Theme

† John the Baptist warned that the coming Messiah would baptize Israel with the Holy Spirit and fire, Matthew 3:11-12. The chaff is burned with unquenchable fire. This is the judgment of that generation. Matthew 3 ties it to the axe already laid at the root of the trees. Judgment was near for Israel then, not for planet earth two thousand years later.

† Jesus repeated this same covenant message. In Matthew 13:40-43 He said the fiery judgment is the removal of stumbling blocks from the kingdom at the end of the age. Jesus defines that age as the Old Covenant age ending in their generation, Matthew 24:3; 24:34. The fire falls on that covenant world, not on the globe.

† Jesus warned the scribes and Pharisees that they would not escape the sentence of hell, Matthew 23:33. That hell is Gehenna, the valley outside Jerusalem that had become the symbol of covenant judgment. It is not a literal underground torture chamber, it is the picture of Jerusalem's coming destruction, tied directly to AD 70 in the same chapter.

The Fire Of AD 70 Fulfilled These Prophecies

† The destruction of Jerusalem by Rome in AD 70 matches every prophetic fire text. The temple burned. The city burned. Josephus recorded that no one could stop the flames and that

the Roman soldiers set fire to the temple against the will of their commanders. God removed the Old Covenant system exactly as Jesus said in Matthew 22:7, where the king sent his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

† This fire purified the covenant people. It removed the corrupt priesthood, ended animal sacrifices, and closed the Old Covenant age. It opened the everlasting kingdom where righteousness dwells, fulfilling 2 Peter 3:7-13 in covenant terms, not astronomical ones. The heavens and earth that were stored up for fire were the Old Covenant heavens and earth, not the starry sky and the dirt under our feet.

† Nothing in scripture points to a fiery destruction of planet earth. Every single fire text in the prophets is about covenant judgment on Israel or surrounding nations. Futurism rips the imagery from its covenant context and tries to push it thousands of years past the audience Jesus addressed. Once you keep the time statements and the covenant framework in place, the fire of God is exactly where Jesus and the prophets put it, on Old Covenant Israel in that generation.

† Peter wasn't warning the Romans, Greeks, or the globe. He was warning the same Jewish audience he addressed at Pentecost, Acts 2:14-40. The heavens and earth reserved for fire, 2 Peter 3:7, were the covenant heavens and earth of the Mosaic order. Peter applies Malachi's fire to their world, not ours. The one New Heavens and New Earth promised in Isaiah 65-66 arrived when the Old Covenant world was destroyed in AD 70.

† The temple was the heart of the Old Covenant world, so its burning was the definitive sign that God's covenant fire had fallen. No temple, no priesthood, no sacrifices, no Mosaic age. Once the temple was gone, the Old Covenant world was gone forever. That is exactly what Jesus meant when He said not one

stone would be left upon another, Matthew 24:2.

† Futurism depends on global fire because it refuses to acknowledge covenant fire. But scripture never once teaches the destruction of planet earth. The Bible begins with creation and ends with covenant renewal, not cosmic obliteration. The fire fell exactly where the prophets said it would, on Old Covenant Israel, and it happened exactly when Jesus said it would, in their generation.

Historical References

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6, records the burning of the temple and city and the uncontrollable spread of the fires.

† Tacitus, Histories 5, confirms Rome's siege, famine, and the consuming fire of Jerusalem.

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3

How It Applies To Us Today

† God's covenant fire has already fallen. The Old Covenant world was judged and removed. We now stand in the everlasting kingdom that cannot be shaken. We don't fear global destruction, because scripture never promised such a thing. The fire already purified God's people when Jerusalem fell in AD 70. Our hope isn't escape from a burning planet, our hope is the finished work of Christ and the fully established kingdom we now live in.

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

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Source Index

† Isaiah 30:27-30; 31:9; 33:10-14; Jeremiah 4:4, 21; Jeremiah 21:12; Ezekiel 38:22; Malachi 3:2-3; Malachi 4:1; Matthew 3:7-12; Matthew 13:40-43; Matthew 22:7; Matthew 23:33; Matthew 24:3, 34; 2 Peter 3:7-13

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