

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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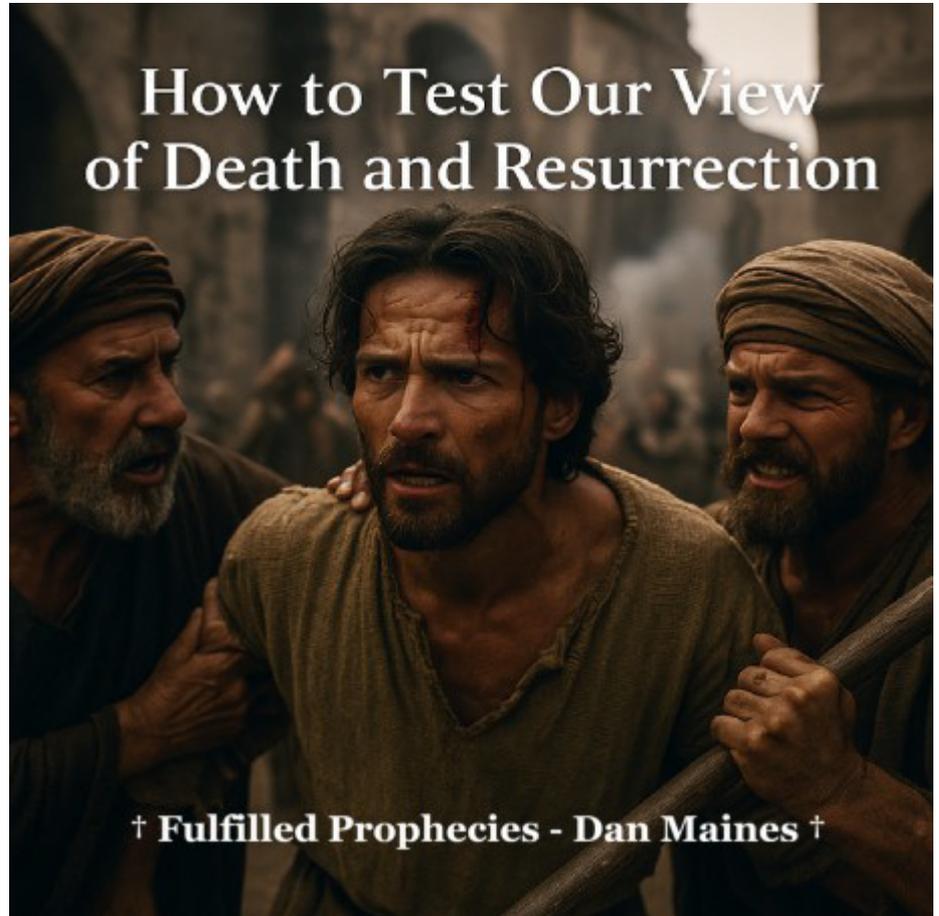
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[Death - How To Test Our View Of Death And Resurrection](#)



By Dan Maines

**How To Test Our View Of Death And Resurrection**

## Introduction

† A lot of confusion about death and resurrection comes from mixing what the Bible actually says with systems people build on top of it. Some teachers say death in Scripture is only about the Law, and resurrection is only about the Law being removed. Others say resurrection is only bodies coming out of graves at the end of time. If we are going to be honest with the text, we have to test every idea by what is written, using the words

Scripture itself uses. Death, sin, Law, life, resurrection, spiritual body, all of this is defined in the Bible. Our job is not to protect a system, but to let every verse speak.

## **When A Teaching Makes Death Only About The Law**

† There is a way of teaching that sounds very close to what we believe about the end of the old order, but it quietly goes further than Scripture. It says things like, death was not about the body at all, death came only from the Law, resurrection is nothing but the Law being removed, death ended in AD 70 for everyone, nobody today ever enters death in any sense, resurrection is not about any kind of body, resurrection is only God raising His people out of the Law. That teaching puts all the weight on the Law and makes death and resurrection nothing more than the rise and fall of one system.

† That kind of language sounds strong and final, but we have to be careful. When we say, death was not biological, or resurrection is not about bodies at all, we are saying something the Bible does not say in those words. The danger is simple, we can go past what is written and turn a partial truth, the Law really did give sin its power, into the whole story, which Scripture never does.

## **What Scripture Actually Says About Death And The Law**

### **Romans 5:12**

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.

† Scripture says death came through sin. That is the foundation. It does not say death came through the Law. The Law came later and did something different.

## **Romans 5:20**

The Law came in so that the transgression would increase.

† The Bible says the Law made transgression increase. It sharpened sin, counted it, exposed it, and multiplied its effects. It did not create death, it intensified it.

## **Romans 7:10**

This commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me.

† Paul says the commandment produced death for him. That is very strong language. The commandment was holy and good, but because of sin it became the means by which death ruled over Israel.

## **1 Corinthians 15:56**

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law.

† Here Paul explains the relationship clearly. Sin is the sting of death, the Law is the power behind that sting. Death is not reduced to the Law, but the Law gave death its deadly force against God's people by holding their sins against them.

## **2 Corinthians 3:7**

But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory.

† Paul calls the engraved letters, the tablets, the ministry of death. Only Israel had that. The death he is talking about here is the death that worked through that ministry, the death that ruled because sin was counted and condemned under that written code.

† When we put all these verses together, we see this, death came through sin, the Law increased sin, the commandment produced death, the Law gave sin its power, the engraved

letters were a ministry of death. The Bible never says death is only the Law, and it never says death is not biological at all. It shows how sin and Law worked together to bring a deep kind of death on Israel, a slavery and fear that had to be broken.

## **What Scripture Actually Says About Resurrection**

### **Ephesians 2:5 to 6**

Even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ, by grace you have been saved, and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

† Paul says believers were made alive, raised, and seated with Christ. That is real resurrection language, and it already applied to living believers in the first century. No graves opened, but real raising happened. That shows resurrection has a present, spiritual side, not just something at the end.

### **Colossians 2:12 to 13**

Having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your wrongdoings and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him.

† Raised with Him through faith, made alive together with Him, that is resurrection language again. This happened to people still walking around in their mortal bodies. Scripture is clear, there is a resurrection that is about being joined to Christ, leaving the old way, and entering life in Him.

### **1 Corinthians 15:44**

It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

† Here Paul is not talking about Law or tablets. He is talking about a body that is sown and raised. He does not say the body

is the Law. He says there is a natural body and a spiritual body. The same verse that destroys the idea of physical flesh inheriting the kingdom also destroys the idea that resurrection is nothing but a system changing. There is a spiritual body.

### **1 Corinthians 15:50**

Now I say this, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

† Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom. If we say resurrection is only about the Law, we ignore this verse. If we say resurrection is only flesh coming out of graves, we also ignore this verse. Paul is forcing us to see a different kind of body, spiritual, imperishable, that belongs to a different order.

### **2 Corinthians 5:1 to 2**

For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made by hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven.

† Paul calls our present state a tent and the future state a building from God. He is not just talking about Law and no Law. He is talking about a real change, from one kind of house to another, from something temporary to something eternal in the heavens.

† When we put these Scriptures together, we see this, there is a resurrection that already began in union with Christ, a raising with Him through faith, and there is also a spiritual body, a heavenly house, a real personal change that cannot be reduced to the fall of a system.

### **Where A Law Only View Of Death And Resurrection Fails**

† When a teaching says, death was not biological at all, death was only the Law, resurrection is only the Law being removed, death ended for everyone in AD 70, nobody today ever enters any kind of death, resurrection is not about any body at all, it is only about people being raised out of the Law, that teaching has gone past what is written. It has taken truths about the Law giving sin its power and turned them into the whole story of death and resurrection.

† Scripture does say the Law brought wrath, the Law increased transgression, the commandment produced death, the Law gave sin its power, the tablets were the ministry of death, Christ set us free from the law of sin and death, and that this old order reached its end in that first century generation. All of that is true. But Scripture also says we are raised with Christ, there is a spiritual body, flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom, we have a building from God, and that Christ brought life and immortality to light.

## **2 Timothy 1:10**

Our Savior Christ Jesus, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

† Christ abolished death in the sense Paul is talking about, the death that ruled through sin and the commandment, the death that held God's people in fear and slavery. That victory was revealed fully when the old way that recorded and condemned sin passed away. But that does not erase the promise of a spiritual body, a heavenly house, a real personal share in Christ's resurrection life.

## **Hebrews 2:14 to 15**

Through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

† Here we see again, death is tied to fear and slavery, and Christ destroyed the one who held that power. That points strongly to the end of that old order where sin was constantly counted against God's people. Yet even here, the goal is not just a system change, it is freedom for real people to live in confidence and hope.

## **Holding Together All That Scripture Says**

† If we only talk about the Law, we lose the spiritual body and the heavenly house. If we only talk about bodies coming out of graves, we lose the Law of sin and death and the ministry of death engraved on stones. The truth is not at either extreme. The Bible says death came through sin, the Law gave sin its power, the commandment produced death, Christ abolished death, we are raised with Him, there is a spiritual body, flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom, and death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire when that old order reaches its end.

† We do not have to choose between those verses. We receive all of them. Christ ended the reign of death that worked through sin and the commandment, He ended the slavery and fear that ruled Israel under that system, and He also gives His people a spiritual body and a heavenly dwelling. The fulfillment in that generation did not rob believers of resurrection hope, it revealed what that hope actually was.

## **Historical References**

† Early Christian writers like Justin Martyr and Irenaeus spoke strongly about Christ defeating death and the devil, though they did not see the timing the way we do. They still confessed that death's power was broken through Christ's work.

† Eusebius recorded that the fall of Jerusalem fulfilled the words of Jesus and marked the passing of the old order, showing that the first generations of believers saw that event as a turning point in history.

† Later teachers built systems that either pushed all resurrection into the distant future or reduced all resurrection to a change in Israel's standing. Our task is not to defend those systems, but to return to the words of Scripture and let them stand.

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

† Because Christ has abolished death in the way Paul describes, the death that ruled through sin and the commandment no longer has power over the people of God. We are not under the ministry of death engraved on stones. We live in the age where life and immortality have been brought to light through the gospel. That gives us confidence that our sins are not counted against us and that fear and slavery are broken.

† Because Scripture promises a spiritual body and a building from God, we know that our hope is not just a better system, but a real share in Christ's risen life. When our earthly tent is torn down, we have a house from God, eternal in the heavens. We do not need man made labels for that. We just need to believe what is written.

† When we read about death and resurrection, we let every verse speak. We do not flatten them into one idea, we do not ignore the Law, and we do not ignore the spiritual body. We thank God that He has ended the rule of death through sin and the commandment, and that He has joined us to His Son who is the resurrection and the life.

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

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† Romans 5:12, Romans 5:20, Romans 7:10, Romans 4:15

† 1 Corinthians 15:44, 1 Corinthians 15:50, 1 Corinthians 15:56  
† 2 Corinthians 3:7, 2 Corinthians 5:1 to 2  
† Ephesians 2:5 to 6, Colossians 2:12 to 13  
† 2 Timothy 1:10, Hebrews 2:14 to 15, Revelation 20:14

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