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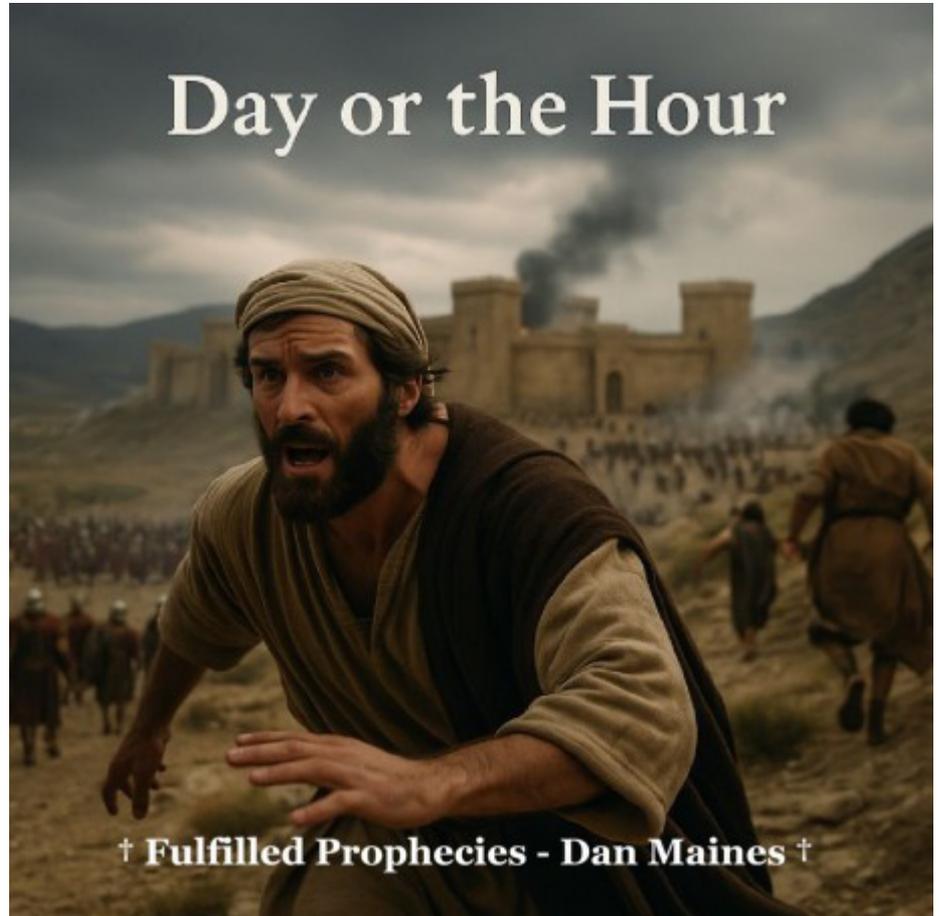
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Day or the Hour



By Dan Maines

Day or the Hour

Matthew 24:34

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

† Jesus anchored the timing. He didn't speak vaguely or symbolically about a distant age. He located fulfillment in the lifetime of those listening to Him.

† This statement governs everything that follows. Any interpretation that moves fulfillment outside their generation

contradicts Jesus directly.

† The phrase this generation consistently refers to the living audience in the Gospels, never to a future race or undefined group.

Matthew 24:36

But of that day and hour no one knows not even the angels of heaven nor the Son but the Father alone.

† But of that day ties directly back to the same events just described, not a new topic.

† Not knowing the day or hour doesn't negate knowing the generation. Both statements stand together without contradiction.

† The uncertainty was about exact timing within a known period, not about a distant future centuries away.

Luke 21:20-22

But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies then recognize that her desolation is near. Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains and those who are in the midst of the city must leave and those who are in the country must not enter the city because these are days of vengeance so that all things which are written will be fulfilled.

† Luke removes all doubt by identifying the sign, Jerusalem surrounded by armies.

† These instructions only make sense for a first century audience. No modern believer can obey them literally today.

† Jesus explicitly said all things which are written would be fulfilled in these events.

Luke 17:22-25

And He said to the disciples the days will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man and you will not see it. They will say to you look there look here Do not go away and do not run after them. For just like the lightning when it

flashes out of one part of the sky shines to the other part of the sky so will the Son of Man be in His day. But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

† Jesus tied His coming to the same generation that rejected Him.

† The flow of Luke 17 and 21 confirms continuity, not separate events thousands of years apart.

† His day was connected to judgment and vindication, not a physical descent visible worldwide.

† Just prior to the no one knows the day or the hour in Matthew 24:36 Jesus said Truly I say to you this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. We can't ignore verse 34. It's saying in this generation, the first century, no one knows the day or the hour of these things to take place but when you see the armies surround the city it's about to happen flee to the mountain.

† When we compare Matthew 23 and 24 with Luke 17 and 21 which covers the same material but in a different order Jesus confirms that it's the same subject all in its continuous flow by saying But concerning that day. What day are we talking about He's talking about the same day as the Destruction of Jerusalem the fall of the Temple His Parousia Resurrection etc. No one knows the day or hour because it was a 3-1/2 year period that would happen in their lifetime not ours.

† What Jesus was teaching was I can't tell you the day or the hour when all these things will take place but I assure you that they'll happen in this generation before some of you die.

Historical References

† Josephus documented the Roman siege of Jerusalem between AD 66 and AD 70 describing signs famine and judgment consistent with Jesus' warnings.

† Eusebius recorded that Christians fled Jerusalem to Pella before its destruction exactly as Jesus instructed.

† Tacitus described the civil chaos signs and destruction

surrounding Jerusalem aligning with Gospel prophecy.

How it applies to us today

- † We trust Jesus' words as true and already fulfilled.
- † We don't live in fear of missed prophecy or delayed promises.
- † We live in the realized kingdom grounded in Christ's completed work.

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

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Source Index

- † Matthew 24:34-36; Luke 21:20-22; Luke 17:22-25
- † Josephus, The Jewish War; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History; Tacitus, Histories

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