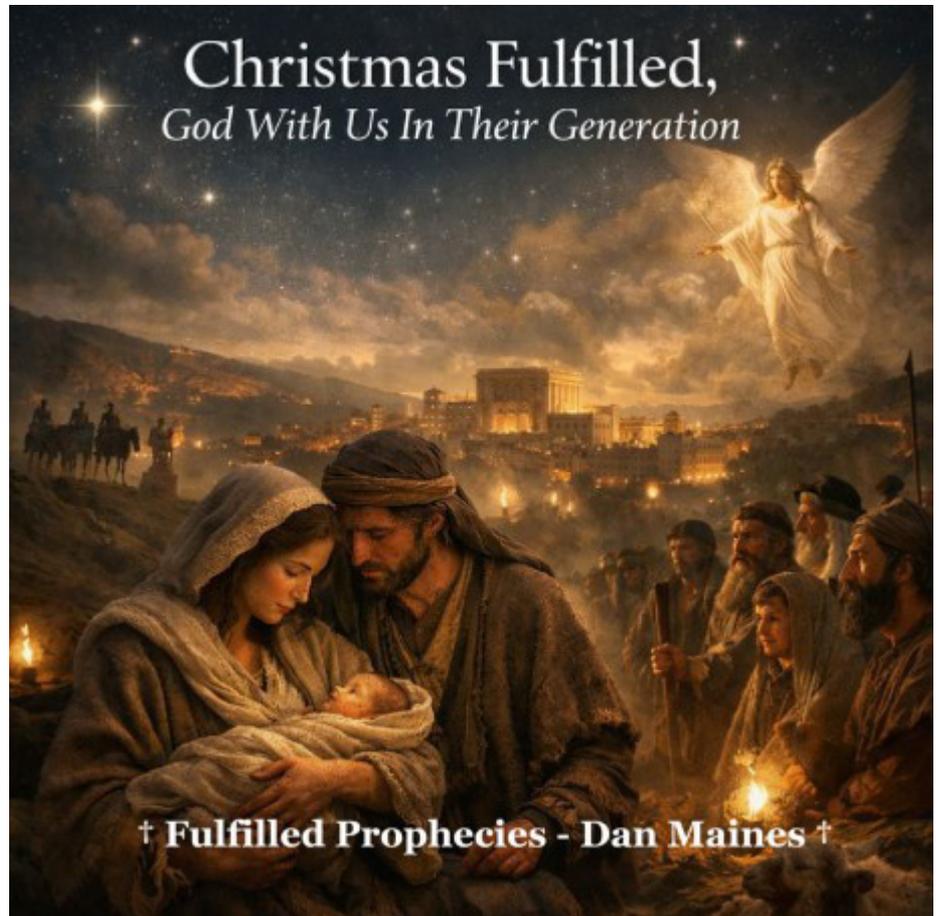


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Christmas Fulfilled, God With Us In Their Generation



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† Christmas is often treated as the beginning of a future plan rather than the arrival of a fulfilled promise.

† Scripture presents the birth of Christ as the decisive moment when God entered history to complete what He had already spoken through the prophets.

† The incarnation wasn't a delay, a setup, or a symbolic gesture, it was the beginning of fulfillment that reached its

completion within that generation.

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign, Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

† Isaiah identifies this birth as a sign, not a vague hope, but a measurable event within Israel's covenant timeline.

† Immanuel means God with us, not God shown at a distance or postponed for another age.

† Matthew explicitly states this prophecy was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, confirming Isaiah wasn't pointing to an indefinite future.

Micah 5:2

But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Too little to be among the clans of Judah,
From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.
His goings forth are from long ago,
From the days of eternity.

† Micah connects the birth of the Messiah directly to kingship, not a delayed reign.

† The ruler comes from Bethlehem, anchoring fulfillment to a historical location and time.

† This prophecy expects immediate authority, not a postponed kingdom centuries later.

Matthew 1:21-23

She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet,

Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means, God with us.

† Matthew says all this took place, not some of it, not part of it, but all of it.

† The purpose of His birth is clearly stated, He will save His people from their sins, not attempt to, not offer the possibility.

† Christmas is inseparable from fulfillment because Scripture ties the birth directly to completed prophetic action.

Luke 2:10-11

But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people, for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

† The angel locates the event in time, today, not thousands of years later.

† The birth of Christ is announced as good news because it marks the arrival of salvation, not the delay of it.

† The title Christ the Lord confirms kingship from birth, not kingship postponed until a future millennium.

Galatians 4:4-5

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

† Paul identifies the timing of Christ's birth as the fullness of the time, meaning nothing was missing and nothing was waiting.

† Redemption is tied directly to His coming, not to a later age.

† Christmas marks the turning point where covenant transition

moved from promise to action.

Matthew 16:27-28

For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay every man according to his deeds.

Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.

† Jesus places the completion of His kingdom within the lifetime of His first century audience.

† The kingdom announced at His birth is the same kingdom seen in power before some standing there died.

† Christmas begins a fulfillment arc that Scripture itself confines to that generation.

Historical References

† Justin Martyr affirmed that Christ's birth fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy and marked the arrival of God dwelling with His people.

† Irenaeus taught that the incarnation was necessary for covenant completion, not merely a prelude to another age.

† Tertullian argued that Christ's advent initiated the decisive transition from the old covenant to the new.

† Eusebius recorded that the early church understood Christ's coming as the beginning of the end of the old covenant order.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Christmas reminds us that God keeps His promises exactly when He says He will.

† We're not waiting for God to come near, He already has.

† Because Christ has come, fulfilled the Law, and completed redemption, we live in access, confidence, and covenant life

now.

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

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Source Index

† Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:21-23; Luke 2:10-11; Galatians 4:4-5; Matthew 16:27-28

† Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Tertullian, Against Marcion

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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