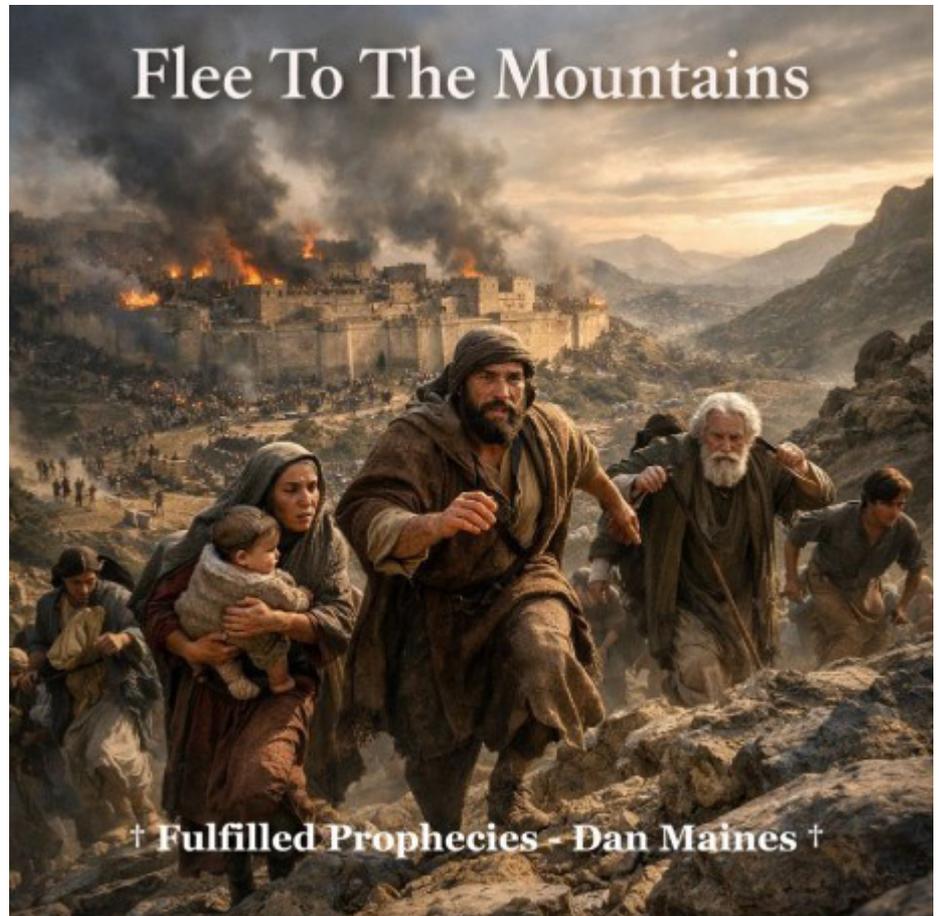


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Flee To The Mountains



By Dan Maines

Flee To The Mountains

Introduction

† Jesus gave a direct, urgent command to His disciples concerning a coming judgment that would occur within their lifetime, not as symbolism, but as practical instruction meant to preserve life (Matthew 24:34).

† The command to flee to the mountains only works in a localized, historical setting tied to Jerusalem and Judea, not a

global or future end of the world scenario (Luke 21:20-21).

† This post shows the clarity of Jesus' warning, its first century fulfillment, and why it stands as firm evidence of fulfilled prophecy.

Matthew 24:15-16

Therefore when you see the Abomination of Desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, let the reader understand, then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

† Jesus connects this warning to a visible event His audience could recognize, not a distant future generation (Daniel 9:26-27).

† The instruction is limited to Judea, immediately ruling out a worldwide or modern application.

† Fleeing to mountains is a physical act of escape from invading armies, not symbolic spiritual language.

Matthew 24:17-18

Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.

† Jesus emphasizes immediate physical flight, leaving possessions behind, which only makes sense in a real historical crisis.

† The urgency confirms this was not a distant or symbolic event, but a sudden danger requiring instant obedience.

† This instruction matches known Roman siege tactics, where delay meant death.

Luke 21:20-21

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.

† Luke removes all ambiguity by defining the Abomination as Jerusalem surrounded by armies.

† The urgency is unmistakable, leave immediately, do not return, do not enter the city.

† This perfectly aligns with Roman military movements leading up to AD 70.

† Jerusalem has never again been surrounded in the same covenantal context described here, confirming the fulfillment was unique and unrepeatable.

Matthew 24:34

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

† Jesus anchors the entire Olivet Discourse, including fleeing to the mountains, within His own generation.

† Any interpretation that pushes this command into the future directly contradicts Jesus' time statement.

† The fulfilled perspective simply takes Jesus at His word.

Historical References

† Eusebius records that the Jerusalem Christians fled to Pella in the mountains, obeying Jesus' warning.

† Josephus documents the Roman siege, surrounding armies, and the destruction of Jerusalem exactly as Jesus described.

† Epiphanius of Salamis also confirms the flight of believers to Pella, providing independent historical corroboration.

† No early Christian writer treated this warning as symbolic or future.

How It Applies To Us Today

† This passage strengthens our confidence that Jesus' words are reliable and precise.

† It shows that God provides clear warning and deliverance for His people.

† Fulfilled prophecy builds faith, it doesn't weaken it.

† Believers today are not waiting for an escape event, we're living in the completed kingdom Christ established.

Q & A Appendix

Q Did Christians actually flee Jerusalem before AD 70?

A Yes. Historical records confirm they fled to Pella and escaped the destruction.

Q Why didn't all Jews flee if the warning was clear?

A Many rejected Jesus and did not believe His words, just as He warned would happen.

Q Why doesn't this apply to a future end of the world?

A Because it was limited to Judea, tied to Jerusalem, and fulfilled within that generation. If the world were ending, He wouldn't have given an escape route.

Q Why is this important?

A It proves Jesus meant exactly what He said.

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

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Source Index

† Matthew 24:15-18, 34; Luke 21:20-21; Daniel 9:26-27

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3

† Epiphanius of Salamis, Panarion

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