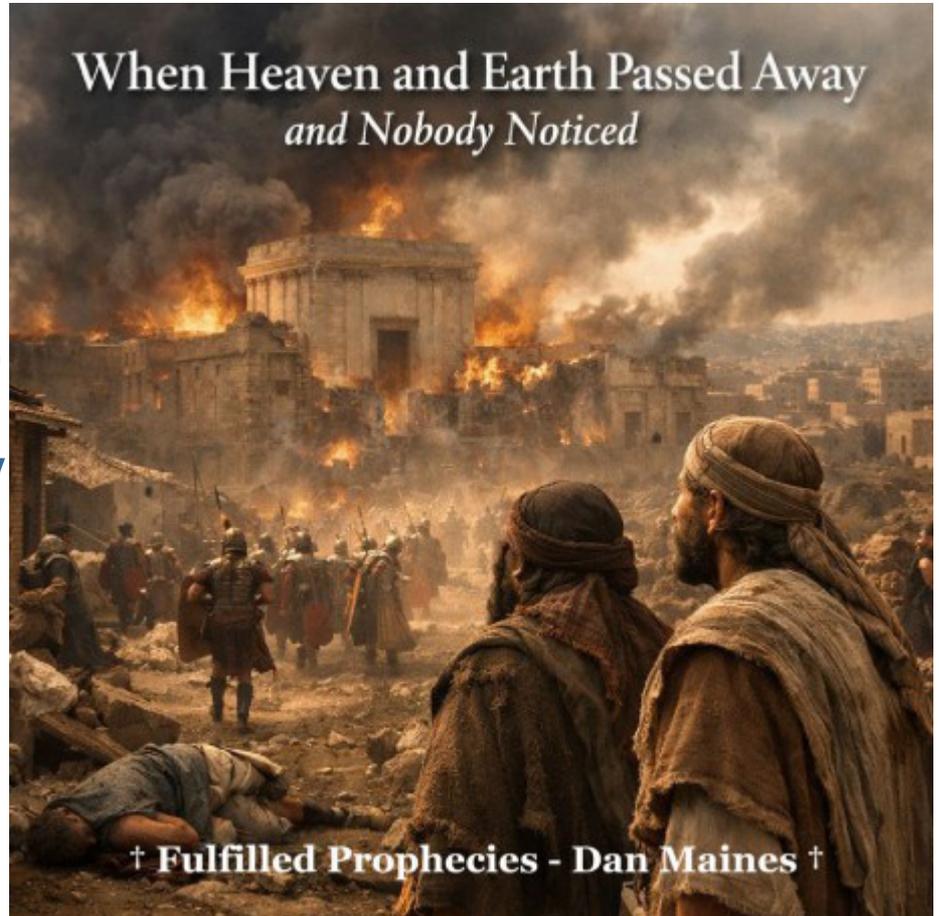


# Fulfilled Prophecies

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## Heaven and Earth - When Heaven and Earth Passed Away and Nobody Noticed



By Dan Maines

## When Heaven and Earth Passed Away and Nobody Noticed

### Introduction

† Most people were taught that if heaven and earth ever passed away, it would be loud, visible, and catastrophic (Isaiah 51:15-16).

† Scripture says it happened, yet history records no cosmic collapse, no end of the planet, no disappearance of humanity (Luke 21:22).

† The problem isn't the Bible, it's the assumption that heaven and earth meant the physical universe (Isaiah 65:17).

† Once we see that heaven and earth were covenantal terms, everything clicks, prophecy, fulfillment, and why Scripture still works today (Hebrews 12:27).

† This passage doesn't ask us to deny reality, it asks us to correct our definitions (Luke 17:20-21).

### **Matthew 24:35**

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

† Jesus contrasts heaven and earth with His words, showing one system would end while another would remain (Hebrews 8:13).

† If heaven and earth meant the physical universe, His words would outlast creation itself, which contradicts Scripture elsewhere (2 Corinthians 5:17).

† Jesus spoke this in a judgment context about that generation, not about the end of time (Matthew 24:34).

† His words didn't merely survive the transition, they replaced what passed away (Hebrews 12:27).

### **Hebrews 12:26-28**

And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.

This expression, Yet once more, denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe.

† The writer explains the shaking as removal of what was made, not annihilation of the cosmos (Haggai 2:6-7).

† The contrast is between the shakable covenant and the unshakable kingdom (Hebrews 8:13).

† They were already receiving that kingdom, proving this wasn't

future to us (Hebrews 12:28).

† What was removed could not coexist with what remained (Galatians 4:24-26).

## **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation, the old things passed away, behold, new things have come.

† Paul uses the same passing away language for covenant identity, not physical existence (Ephesians 2:15).

† The old things were covenantal status, law identity, and separation (Colossians 2:14).

† The new creation existed while the physical world remained unchanged (Romans 7:4-6).

† New creation doesn't require a new planet, it requires a new covenant standing (Hebrews 10:9).

## **Revelation 21:1**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.

† John describes covenant replacement, not planetary destruction (Isaiah 65:17).

† The sea consistently represents separation and chaos, not literal oceans disappearing (Isaiah 57:20-21).

† The New Jerusalem immediately follows, defined as God dwelling with His people, not people leaving the earth (Revelation 21:3).

† If the first heaven and earth had not passed away, we wouldn't be fully in the body of Christ, because the old covenant would still be standing (Ephesians 2:15-16).

† Two covenant heavens and earths cannot exist at the same time (Hebrews 8:13).

## **Historical References**

† Early Christians understood heaven and earth in covenantal terms drawn from the prophets (Isaiah 51:15-16).

† Eusebius wrote of the destruction of Jerusalem as the end of the old order promised by Christ (Matthew 24:2).

† Josephus documented the total collapse of the temple system, priesthood, and sacrifices in AD 70 (Hebrews 10:9).

† The destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 marked the public, historical end of the old heaven and earth system Jesus and the prophets spoke about (Luke 21:20-22).

† These writers recorded fulfillment, not expectation of a future cosmic end (Luke 21:32).

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

† We're not waiting for heaven and earth to pass away, we're living in what replaced them (Hebrews 12:28).

† We don't live under a system that can be shaken, we've received an unshakable kingdom (Ephesians 2:18).

† Scripture still works because it wasn't written for a failed future, it was written for a fulfilled transition (Matthew 24:35).

† Faith today isn't anticipation, it's confidence in what Christ already finished (John 19:30).

† Our identity is settled, our access is complete, and our standing isn't provisional (Romans 8:1).

### **Q & A Appendix**

**Q** If heaven and earth passed away, why is the world still here?

**A** Because heaven and earth referred to the covenant order, not the planet. Matthew 24:35, Hebrews 12:26-28.

**Q** Does this mean Revelation is fulfilled?

**A** Yes. Revelation 21 shows the new covenant reality replacing the old, fulfilled in Christ and confirmed in history.

**Q** Why didn't anyone notice it happened?

**A** Because covenantal transitions don't make headlines, but they change everything spiritually. Luke 17:20-21.

**Q** Does this mean nothing changed physically in the world?

**A** Physical creation remained, but covenant access, identity, and authority changed permanently. Hebrews 12:27, 2 Corinthians 5:17.

**Q** If heaven and earth passed away, does that mean the law passed away too?

**A** Yes. The law was part of the old covenant heaven and earth, and it passed away with that system. Hebrews 8:13, Romans 10:4.

**Q** Are believers today living in the new heaven and new earth?

**A** Yes. Believers live in the new covenant reality where God dwells with His people now, not in a future age. Revelation 21:3, Ephesians 2:22.

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

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## Source Index

† Matthew 24:35; Hebrews 12:26-28; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Revelation 21:1; Isaiah 51:15-16; Isaiah 65:17; Isaiah 57:20-21; Haggai 2:6-7; Hebrews 8:13

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3

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