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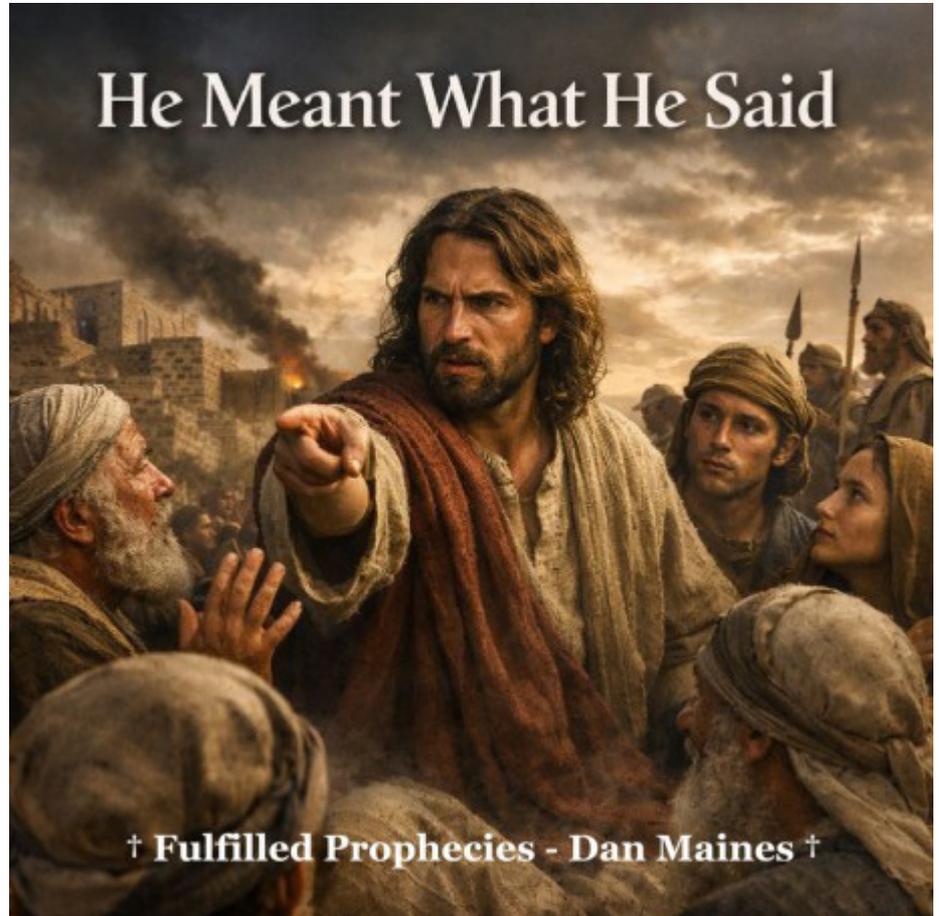
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He Meant What He Said



By Dan Maines

He Meant What He Said

Introduction

† Jesus wasn't vague or mysterious when He spoke about timing.

† He was addressing real people who were standing in the middle of a covenant transition.

† If His words about time didn't mean what they said, then His authority is called into question.

† This sermon examines Jesus' time statements to show His

faithfulness, not delay.

† Jesus consistently tied His authority to the truthfulness of His words, not to future reinterpretation.

† The credibility of the gospel stands or falls on whether Jesus meant what He said when He said it.

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 each person 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 tied His coming in glory to the lifetime of some standing before Him.

† He didn't say all, but some, meaning a near generational fulfillment.

† This can't be pushed thousands of years into the future without emptying His words of meaning.

† His audience understood Him as speaking about events they'd live to see.

† The phrase standing here anchors the promise to a living audience, not symbolic hearers.

† The assurance depended on Jesus' credibility, not on future theological systems.

† A delayed fulfillment would've turned this promise into a false hope.

Matthew 24:34

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

† Jesus defined the time frame clearly, this generation.

† He didn't redefine generation, His listeners already knew what it meant.

† Every sign He listed was anchored to that generation's

lifespan.

† To delay fulfillment is to accuse Jesus of error, which Scripture never allows.

† The word all leaves no room for partial or postponed fulfillment.

† Jesus placed the burden of understanding on His hearers, not on distant readers.

† Fulfillment within that generation confirms His prophetic authority.

Mark 1:15

and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the gospel.

† At hand means near, not distant.

† Jesus announced fulfillment, not postponement.

† The Kingdom wasn't delayed, it was arriving in their lifetime.

† Repentance was urgent because the covenant change was imminent.

† Fulfilled time language establishes expectation, not speculation.

† The call to repent loses urgency if fulfillment is pushed far away.

† Jesus framed the Kingdom as present reality, not future anticipation.

Luke 21:22

because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled.

† All things written refers to prophetic judgment tied to Jerusalem.

† Jesus said these days were then present, not future centuries away.

† Vengeance was covenantal, not global annihilation.

† Fulfillment was the point, not delay.

† Jesus identified these events as the resolution of written

prophecy.

† The phrase all things confirms completion, not continuation.

† This statement settles the question of prophetic timing.

Revelation 1:1-3

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His bond-servants the things which must soon take place, and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,

who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

Blessed is the one who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things which are written in it, for the time is near.

† Shortly and at hand can't mean thousands of years later.

† The blessing depended on nearness, not delay.

† John wrote to living churches facing imminent events.

† A postponed Revelation would've been meaningless to its original readers.

† The urgency of obedience confirms the nearness of fulfillment.

† Revelation addressed covenant judgment, not modern speculation.

† Time statements frame the entire book from beginning to end.

James 5:8-9

You too be patient, strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

Do not complain, brothers and sisters, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged, behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

† James spoke to first century believers under persecution.

† The Judge standing at the door implies immediate expectation.

† This wasn't symbolic patience for future generations.

- † It was assurance for believers living in the final days of the old covenant.
- † The imagery of the door indicates imminence, not distance.
- † James echoed Jesus' own time statements without reinterpretation.
- † The comfort rested in nearness, not delay.

Historical References

- † Eusebius recorded that the words of Jesus were fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem.
- † Josephus documented the signs, judgments, and tribulation matching Jesus' warnings.
- † Clement of Alexandria spoke of the end of the old order within the apostolic age.
- † Tacitus described the catastrophic events surrounding Jerusalem in the first century.
- † These writers didn't expect fulfillment thousands of years later.
- † Their testimony aligns with the time statements of Scripture.

How It Applies To Us Today

- † We can trust Jesus' words without redefining them.
- † God keeps covenant promises on time, not on delay.
- † We're not waiting for fulfillment, we're living in it.
- † Our faith rests in completed redemption, not future fear.
- † This brings peace, confidence, and assurance in Christ.
- † Fulfillment shifts our focus from speculation to faithful living.
- † We live as heirs of a finished work.

Q & A Appendix

Q Did Jesus ever say His coming would be delayed for thousands of years?

A No. He consistently used near time statements, Matthew 16:28; Matthew 24:34; Mark 1:15.

Q Does this mean God failed to keep His promises?

A No. Scripture shows fulfillment within the stated time frame, Luke 21:22; Revelation 1:1-3.

Q Why do many believe it's still future?

A Later traditions redefined time statements, not Scripture itself.

Q Were the apostles mistaken about the nearness of fulfillment?

A No. They repeated Jesus' time statements under inspiration, James 5:8-9; 1 Peter 4:7; Hebrews 10:37.

Q Does fulfilled timing remove the hope of believers today?

A No. Fulfillment establishes our hope on a finished work, not an unfinished promise, Hebrews 9:26; Colossians 2:10.

Q If prophecy is fulfilled, why does Scripture still matter today?

A Because fulfilled prophecy confirms God's faithfulness and anchors our faith in truth already accomplished, Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:16.

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

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Source Index

† Matthew 16:27-28; Matthew 24:34; Mark 1:15; Luke 21:22; Revelation 1:1-3; James 5:8-9

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria

† Tacitus, Histories

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