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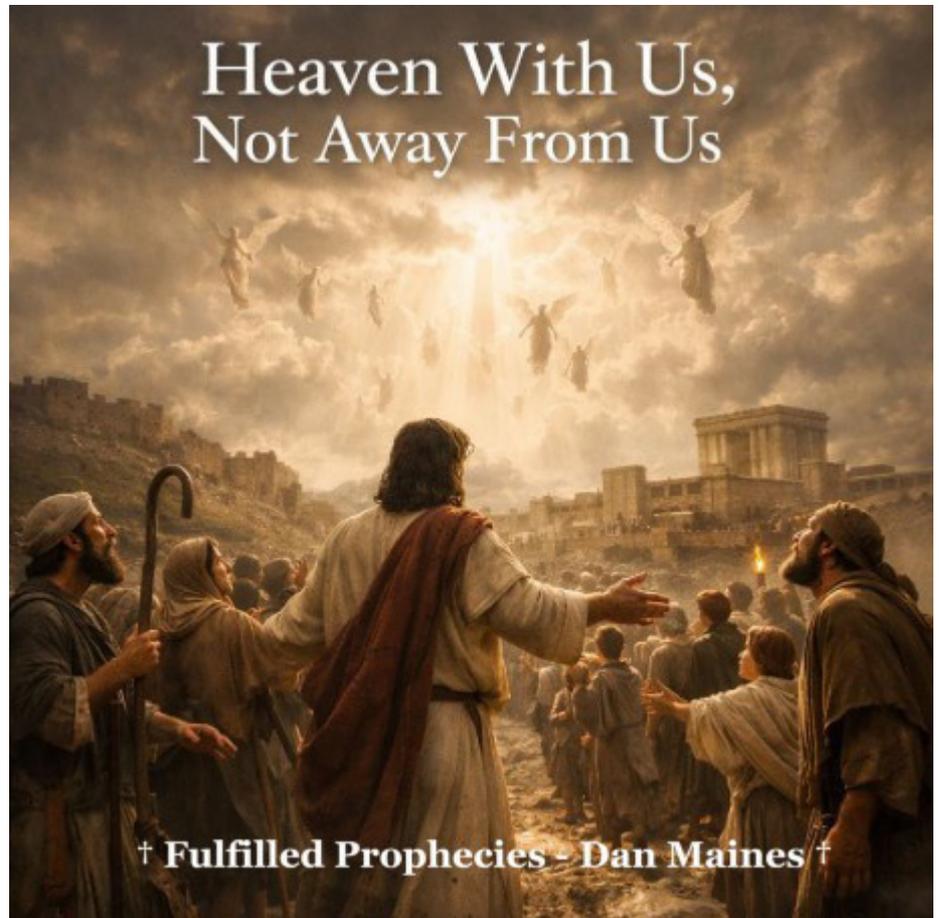
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Heaven With Us, Not Away From Us



By Dan Maines

Heaven With Us, Not Away From Us

Introduction

† I believe heaven isn't missing from us at all, it's just not a future destination we're waiting to reach (John 17:3).

† In Scripture, heaven is God's dwelling and authority, not a place that replaces the earth (Psalm 115:16).

† Under the old covenant, heaven and earth functioned together as a covenant system, now fulfilled in Christ (Colossians 1:19-20).

† This view doesn't deny heaven, it restores heaven to its biblical role as God's present rule and dwelling among His people (Isaiah 66:1).

Revelation 21:3

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is among people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them.

† This passage shows God coming to dwell with men, not men going to dwell with God elsewhere (Ezekiel 37:27).

† The emphasis is on presence, heaven is identified by God's dwelling, not geography (John 14:23).

† This fulfills the covenant promise of God dwelling among His people without separation (Leviticus 26:11-12).

† The language echoes earlier covenant promises where God's dwelling defined blessing and life, not physical relocation (Psalm 132:13-14).

Ephesians 2:22

in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

† Paul teaches that believers are presently God's dwelling place, not future occupants of a distant realm (1 Corinthians 3:16).

† Heaven is defined as God's habitation, and that habitation is among His people now (2 Corinthians 6:16).

† This confirms that heaven and earth were reconciled through Christ, not kept apart (Isaiah 57:15).

† The dwelling language shows covenant fulfillment, not delay, the goal has already been reached (Isaiah 65:17-18).

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace

and truth.

† The incarnation reveals heaven entering earth through Christ, not believers escaping creation (Matthew 1:23).

† God's purpose has always been to dwell with humanity, not abandon the earth (Exodus 29:45).

† The word dwelt carries tabernacle meaning, pointing to covenant fulfillment in Christ (Hebrews 8:2).

† First century Jews understood God's dwelling as covenant presence, making this language immediately recognizable to the original audience (Zechariah 2:10).

Hebrews 12:22

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

† The writer uses present tense, showing this reality had already been reached by believers (Ephesians 1:3).

† This passage speaks of access, not anticipation, heaven is entered through Christ now (Luke 17:21).

† Heaven is described as covenantal reality, not postponed inheritance (Romans 8:10).

† This aligns with first century expectation that the kingdom would be established within that generation (Daniel 9:26-27).

Colossians 1:13

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

† This is past tense language, showing the transfer already occurred, not something awaited (Ephesians 2:6).

† The kingdom is entered now, reinforcing heaven as present authority rather than future relocation (Revelation 1:6).

† Deliverance is described as movement in covenant status, not physical departure (Hebrews 13:14).

1 Peter 2:5

you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

† Believers are described as God's present dwelling, continuing the temple theme (1 Corinthians 6:19).

† A spiritual house confirms heaven is where God dwells, not where we travel (Psalm 127:1).

† This fulfills the prophetic promise of God dwelling among His people without a physical temple (Ezekiel 43:7).

Exodus 25:8

Have them construct a sanctuary for Me, so that I may dwell among them.

† God's stated purpose was dwelling among His people on earth, not removing them from it (Exodus 29:45).

† This covenant pattern sets the trajectory fulfilled in Christ (John 2:19-21).

† Heaven and earth function together through covenant dwelling, not separation (Isaiah 8:18).

Ezekiel 43:7

And He said to me, Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever.

† God's throne language connects heaven with rule, not distance (Psalm 103:19).

† Forever language points to covenant fulfillment, not endless delay (Hebrews 9:10).

† This promise reaches fulfillment through Christ's completed work (John 19:30).

Historical References

† Irenaeus taught that God's redemptive goal was His dwelling with redeemed humanity on earth (Against Heresies 5.36).

† Augustine described the City of God as God's reign among His people rather than a distant location (City of God, Book 20).

† Eusebius recorded that the kingdom was inaugurated through Christ's reign and the church's establishment (Ecclesiastical History 3.24).

† Josephus recorded the destruction of the temple, marking the end of the old covenant system that separated heaven and earth (Wars of the Jews 6.4).

How It Applies To Us Today

† We don't live waiting to escape the earth, we live knowing God dwells with us now (Matthew 28:20).

† Our faith rests in presence, not postponement, because Christ has brought heaven near (James 4:8).

† We walk in confidence and obedience because God's authority and dwelling are accessible today (Hebrews 4:16).

† This understanding frees believers from fear based religion and grounds us in faithful living now (Romans 8:1).

Q & A Appendix

Q If heaven is present now, where is it?

A Heaven is God's dwelling and authority made present among His people through Christ (John 14:23).

Q Does this mean eternal life is future only?

A No, eternal life is knowing God now through Christ (1 John 5:11-12).

Q Did heaven replace the earth?

A No, heaven and earth were reconciled in Christ, not replaced (Colossians 1:20).

Q What about being with the Lord when we die?

A Scripture teaches continued fellowship with Christ, not a delay of relationship, because life in Him is already established (2 Corinthians 5:8).

Q If heaven is here now, why does Scripture speak of it as above?

A Scripture uses above language to describe authority and rule, not distance, showing God's throne and sovereignty rather than a physical location (Isaiah 66:1).

Q Did believers before Christ have the same access to heaven we do now?

A No, access was restricted under the old covenant, but through Christ the separation has been removed (Hebrews 10:19-20).

Q Why do many Christians still believe heaven is only a future destination?

A That belief comes from reading Scripture through later tradition instead of audience relevance and covenant fulfillment (Matthew 23:36).

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

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Source Index

† Revelation 21:3; Ephesians 2:22; John 1:14; Hebrews 12:22; Colossians 1:13; 1 Peter 2:5; Exodus 25:8; Ezekiel 43:7

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies; Augustine, City of God; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History; Josephus, Wars of the Jews

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