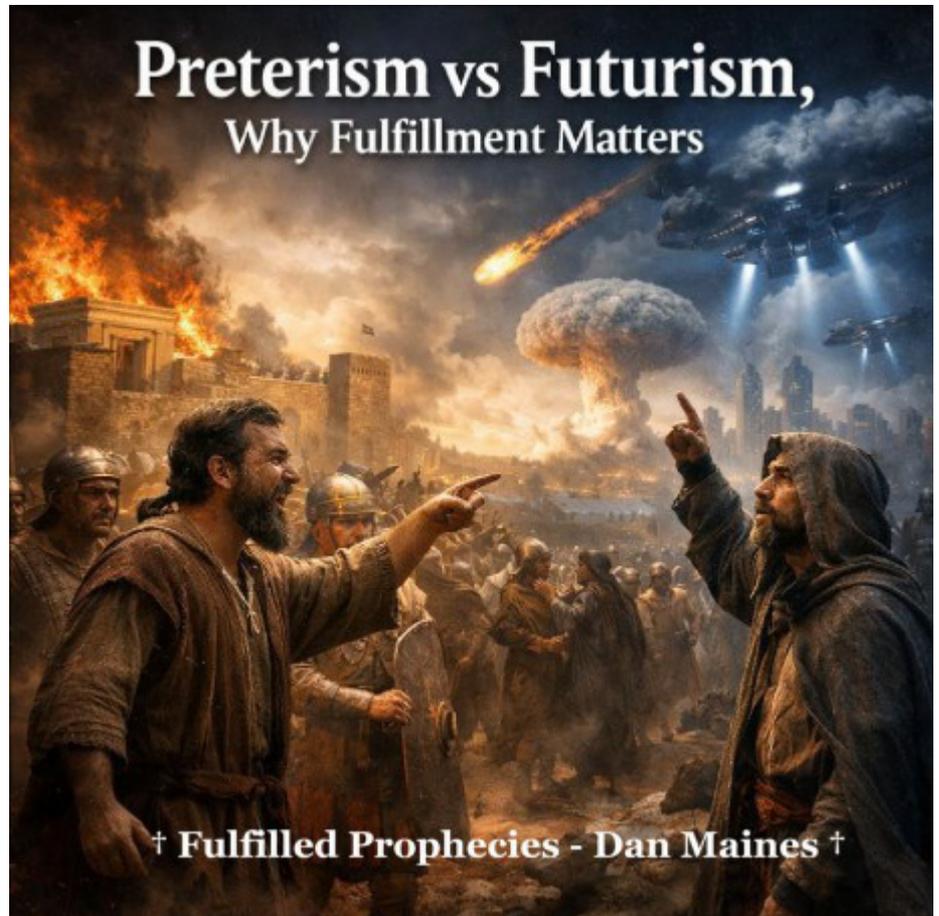


# Fulfilled Prophecies

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## Preterism vs Futurism, Why Fulfillment Matters



By Dan Maines

## Preterism vs Futurism, Why Fulfillment Matters

### Introduction

† This post is written to compare two approaches to Bible prophecy, futurism and preterism, and to show why the fulfilled perspective honors the words of Jesus, the time statements of Scripture, and the testimony of history.

† The issue is not optimism versus pessimism, but faithfulness versus delay. One view takes Jesus at His word, the other continually postpones fulfillment.

† Scripture itself tells us which approach is faithful, because God anchored prophecy to real people, real places, and real generations.

### **Matthew 24:34**

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

† Jesus directly tied the fulfillment of all He described to the generation standing before Him, not to a future audience thousands of years removed. (Matthew 24:34)

† Futurism must redefine generation to mean something other than what it means everywhere else in Scripture in order to survive. (Matthew 23:36; Luke 11:50-51)

† Preterism accepts Jesus meant exactly what He said, which preserves His credibility and authority. (John 7:16)

### **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 again anchored His coming to the lifetime of some standing there, leaving no room for a distant future fulfillment. (Matthew 16:28)

† Futurism is forced to separate verse 27 from verse 28 to avoid the timing statement, something the text itself never does. (Matthew 16:27-28)

† Preterism keeps the passage unified and consistent, showing Christ came in judgment and kingdom authority within that generation. (Daniel 7:13-14)

### **Luke 21:32**

Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all

things take place.

† Luke records the same time marker as Matthew, confirming this was not symbolic language but a fixed expectation. (Luke 21:32)

† Futurism must claim all things have not happened yet, even though Jesus said they would in that generation. (Luke 21:22)

† Preterism recognizes the destruction of Jerusalem as the covenantal fulfillment Jesus was describing. (Luke 19:41-44)

### **Hebrews 8:13**

When He said, A new covenant, He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

† The writer of Hebrews said the old covenant was in the process of vanishing at the time of writing, not thousands of years later. (Hebrews 8:13)

† Futurism keeps the old covenant shadows alive by pushing fulfillment into the future. (Galatians 4:21-31)

† Preterism sees the complete removal of the old covenant system in AD 70 as the final confirmation of the new covenant. (Hebrews 9:26)

### **Historical References**

† Eusebius recorded that Jesus warnings were fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem, confirming early Christian understanding was not futurist. (Ecclesiastical History, Book 3)

† Josephus documented the exact signs Jesus described, famine, false prophets, wars, and the city surrounded by armies. (Wars of the Jews, Book 6)

† Clement of Alexandria taught that the end spoken of by Jesus referred to the end of the Jewish age, not the end of the world. (Stromata)

## How It Applies To Us Today

† Preterism frees believers from fear driven prophecy and replaces it with confidence in a finished work. (Hebrews 12:28)

† It anchors faith in what Christ has already accomplished rather than what we are told to endlessly wait for. (Ephesians 1:20-22)

† It restores trust in Jesus words, because He wasn't mistaken, delayed, or symbolic about timing. (John 14:29)

## Q & A Appendix

**Q** Did preterism deny the return of Christ

**A** No, it affirms Christ came in judgment and kingdom authority exactly when He said He would. Matthew 16:27-28; Matthew 24:34.

**Q** Why does futurism dominate modern churches

**A** Because delayed fulfillment removes accountability and keeps people dependent on systems of interpretation rather than Scripture itself. Matthew 24:48; 2 Timothy 4:3.

**Q** Does fulfilled prophecy weaken Christian hope

**A** No, it strengthens hope by showing God keeps His word on time. Hebrews 6:18; Romans 15:13.

**Q** Does preterism claim nothing is future at all

**A** No. Preterism teaches that Bible prophecy concerning Israel, the Law, the Temple, and the covenant age reached fulfillment in Christ and in AD 70. We still live, grow, suffer, and die in history, but redemptive prophecy has reached its goal. Hebrews 1:1-2; Hebrews 9:26.

**Q** Why does futurism require constant reinterpretation

**A** Because the time statements given by Jesus and the apostles keep expiring. To survive, futurism must redefine generation, near, shortly, and at hand into meanings they never

have elsewhere in Scripture. Matthew 24:34; Revelation 1:1; Revelation 22:6.

**Q** Did the apostles expect fulfillment in their lifetime

**A** Yes. They spoke of the end as near, at hand, and about to happen, and they warned first century believers to prepare for it. Romans 13:11-12; James 5:8-9; 1 Peter 4:7.

**Q** Does preterism undermine the authority of Scripture

**A** No, it strengthens it. Preterism takes Scripture at face value and refuses to override clear timing statements with theological systems. John 14:29; Numbers 23:19.

**Q** Why does futurism emphasize fear and speculation

**A** Because unresolved prophecy creates uncertainty. When fulfillment is always future, believers are kept watching headlines instead of trusting finished promises. Luke 21:28; Hebrews 10:23.

**Q** What advantage does preterism give the believer today

**A** It gives assurance. Christ reigns now, the kingdom is established, sin has been judged, and believers live in the fullness of the new covenant without waiting for validation. Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 12:28.

**Q** If prophecy is fulfilled, what is our focus now

**A** Faithfulness, maturity, and walking in the reality of what Christ has already accomplished, not waiting for what He already completed. Ephesians 4:13; Galatians 2:20.

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

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**Source Index**

† Matthew 24:34; Matthew 16:27-28; Luke 21:32; Hebrews 8:13  
† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3; Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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