

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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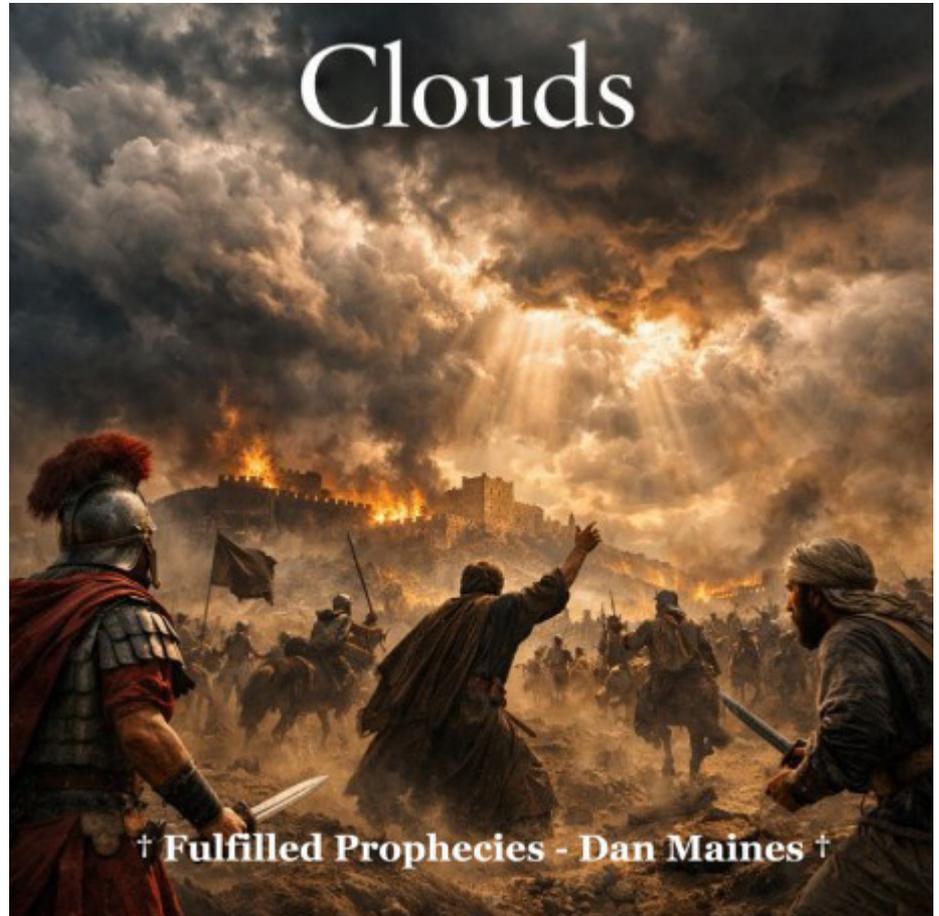
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## Clouds



By Dan Maines

## Clouds

### Introduction

† The Bible uses clouds consistently as covenantal and judgment imagery, not as a literal description of God physically riding atmospheric clouds.

† From Genesis through Revelation, clouds signify God's presence, authority, and intervention from heaven into earthly affairs.

† When Scripture says God comes with clouds, it's describing

divine action in judgment, usually carried out through historical events and nations.

### **Psalm 104:3**

He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters; He makes the clouds His chariot; He walks upon the wings of the wind.

† Clouds are established early as poetic imagery for divine action, not literal transportation (Psalm 104:3).

† This imagery sets the interpretive foundation used by later prophets (Psalm 104:3).

† Israel already understood clouds as symbolic language long before apocalyptic prophecy developed.

### **Isaiah 19:1**

The oracle concerning Egypt. Behold, the Lord is riding on a swift cloud and is about to come to Egypt; The idols of Egypt will tremble at His presence, And the heart of the Egyptians will melt within them.

† This is judgment language, not a literal visible appearance of God in the sky (Isaiah 19:1).

† Egypt's idols trembling shows authority being stripped away, not God becoming physically visible (Isaiah 19:1).

† The coming was made known by what happened in Egypt, God acted through historical judgment (Isaiah 19:1).

### **Jeremiah 4:13-14**

Behold, he goes up like clouds, And his chariots like the whirlwind; His horses are swifter than eagles. Woe to us, for we are ruined!

Wash your heart from evil, O Jerusalem, That you may be saved. How long will your wicked thoughts Lodge within you?

† The one going up like clouds refers to the invading force God used as His instrument (Jeremiah 4:13).

† Clouds describe speed, inevitability, and divine authorization of judgment (Jeremiah 4:13).

† The warning to Jerusalem shows covenant judgment unfolding in history, not the end of the planet (Jeremiah 4:14).

### **Ezekiel 30:3**

For the day is near, Even the day of the Lord is near; It will be a day of clouds, A time of doom for the nations.

† The day of the Lord is a historical judgment event (Ezekiel 30:3).

† A day of clouds means God intervenes without bodily appearance (Ezekiel 30:3).

† Doom for the nations confirms covenantal judgment language (Ezekiel 30:3).

### **Isaiah 13:9-13**

Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it.

For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises And the moon will not shed its light.

Thus I will punish the world for its evil And the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud And abase the haughtiness of the ruthless.

I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold And mankind than the gold of Ophir.

Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, And the earth will be shaken from its place At the fury of the Lord of hosts In the day of His burning anger.

† Cosmic collapse language describes national judgment, not literal astronomy (Isaiah 13:10).

† Heavens and earth shaking refers to covenantal order being dismantled (Isaiah 13:13).

† Babylon's historical fall proves this language is symbolic and

fulfilled.

### **Daniel 7:13-14**

I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him.

And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

† The Son of Man comes with clouds toward heaven, not down to earth (Daniel 7:13).

† Cloud coming here is about receiving authority and dominion (Daniel 7:14).

† Jesus applies this passage to Himself, defining His coming as judicial and covenantal.

### **Ezekiel 30:18-19**

In Tehaphnehes the day will be dark When I break there the yoke bars of Egypt. Then the pride of her power will cease in her; A cloud will cover her, And her daughters will go into captivity.

Thus I will execute judgments on Egypt, And they will know that I am the Lord.

† Darkness and clouds describe national humiliation and loss of power (Ezekiel 30:18).

† Captivity reveals the reality of God's coming (Ezekiel 30:18).

† They know the Lord through judgment, not physical sight (Ezekiel 30:19).

### **Nahum 1:2-6**

A jealous and avenging God is the Lord; The Lord is avenging and wrathful.

The Lord takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves

wrath for His enemies.

The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, And the Lord will by no means leave the guilty unpunished.

In whirlwind and storm is His way, And clouds are the dust beneath His feet.

He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; He dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither; The blossoms of Lebanon wither. Mountains quake because of Him And the hills dissolve; Indeed the earth is upheaved by His presence, The world and all the inhabitants in it.

Who can stand before His indignation? Who can endure the burning of His anger? His wrath is poured out like fire And the rocks are broken up by Him.

† Clouds as the dust beneath His feet emphasize authority (Nahum 1:3).

† Nineveh's fall confirms fulfillment in history (Nahum 1).

† God's presence is known by outcome, not visibility.

### **Zephaniah 1:14-17**

Near is the great day of the Lord, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the Lord!

In it the warrior cries out bitterly.

A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness,

A day of trumpet and battle cry Against the fortified cities And the high corner towers.

I will bring distress on men So that they will walk like the blind, Because they have sinned against the Lord; And their blood will be poured out like dust And their flesh like dung.

† Clouds accompany warfare and covenant collapse (Zephaniah 1:15).

† Trumpets and battle confirm historical judgment (Zephaniah 1:16).

† Near language demands first century fulfillment patterns.

## **Joel 2:1-11**

Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the Lord is coming; Surely it is near, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness.

As the dawn is spread over the mountains, So there is a great and mighty people; There has never been anything like it, Nor will there be again after it To the years of many generations. A fire consumes before them And behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them But a desolate wilderness behind them, And nothing at all escapes them. Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like war horses, so they run.

With a noise as of chariots They leap on the tops of the mountains, Like the crackling of a flame of fire consuming the stubble, Like a mighty people arranged for battle. Before them the people are in anguish; All faces turn pale. They run like mighty men, They climb the wall like soldiers; They each march in line, Nor do they deviate from their paths. They do not crowd each other, They march everyone in his path; When they burst through the defenses, They do not break ranks.

They rush on the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, They enter through the windows like a thief. Before them the earth quakes, The heavens tremble, The sun and the moon grow dark And the stars lose their brightness. The Lord utters His voice before His army; Surely His camp is very great, For strong is he who carries out His word. The day of the Lord is indeed great and very awesome, And who can endure it?

† God comes in judgment through an army (Joel 2:11).

† Cloud language frames covenant judgment (Joel 2:2).

† This imagery directly parallels Revelation.

† Revelation 1:7 borrows Old Testament cloud judgment language, it doesn't introduce a new kind of coming.

† Every eye seeing Him refers to universal covenant impact through historical events.

† Judgment is visible by effect, not by bodily appearance.

## **Historical References**

† Josephus describes Jerusalem's destruction using cosmic and divine judgment language (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6, Chapters 4-5).

† Eusebius identifies Jesus' warnings as fulfilled in the fall of Jerusalem (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapter 5).

† Lactantius taught that God's judgments are recognized by historical outcome, not physical sight (Lactantius, Divine Institutes, Book 7, Chapter 16).

† Clement of Alexandria emphasized spiritual discernment over physical vision (Clement of Alexandria, Stromata, Book 6, Chapter 15).

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

† God is known by what He does, not by spectacle.

† Cloud language teaches us how to read Scripture faithfully.

† God's sovereignty over history hasn't changed.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q** What do clouds represent in Scripture?

**A** God's presence and covenant judgment, not physical visibility, Isaiah 19:1; Nahum 1:3; Ezekiel 30:3.

**Q** Did Jesus come in judgment in AD 70?

**A** Yes, following the same prophetic pattern used throughout

Scripture, Isaiah 13:9-13; Joel 2:1-11.

**Q** Why is this misunderstood?

**A** Because prophetic imagery is read literally instead of covenantally, Zephaniah 1:14-17.

**Q** What does it mean that clouds are the dust of His feet?

**A** It means clouds symbolize God's authority and movement in judgment, not physical visibility. Scripture uses this imagery to show dominion and power expressed through events, Nahum 1:3; Psalm 104:3.

**Q** If clouds are symbolic, why does Jesus use the same language in Matthew 24?

**A** Because Jesus is speaking as a covenant prophet, using the same judgment language God used against Egypt, Babylon, and Nineveh. Matthew 24 follows the established Old Testament pattern, Isaiah 13:9-13; Joel 2:1-11; Matthew 24:29-34.

**Q** Does "coming on the clouds" ever mean a literal descent in the Bible?

**A** No. Every occurrence of cloud coming language refers to divine action in judgment or authority, never a bodily descent visible to human eyes, Isaiah 19:1; Daniel 7:13-14; Nahum 1:3.

**Q** How can every eye see Him if the coming is spiritual?

**A** Every eye sees Him in the sense that everyone experiences the results of His judgment. Scripture consistently defines sight by perception of outcome, not optical vision, Ezekiel 30:19; Revelation 1:7.

**Q** Why do people expect a physical return if Scripture doesn't teach one?

**A** Because prophetic imagery is read literally instead of covenantally, just as many in the first century expected a physical kingdom and missed its spiritual fulfillment, Matthew

16:27-28; John 6:15.

**Q** Does believing in spiritual comings deny God's involvement today?

**A** No. It affirms that God is actively ruling history now, just as He always has, intervening through nations, events, and judgment without needing to appear bodily, Joel 2:11; Psalm 103:19.

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

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## Source Index

† Psalm 104:3; Isaiah 19:1; Jeremiah 4:13-14; Ezekiel 30:3, 18-19; Isaiah 13:9-13; Daniel 7:13-14; Nahum 1:2-6; Zephaniah 1:14-17; Joel 2:1-11

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6, Chapters 4-5; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapter 5; Lactantius, Divine Institutes, Book 7, Chapter 16; Clement of Alexandria, Stromata, Book 6, Chapter 15

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