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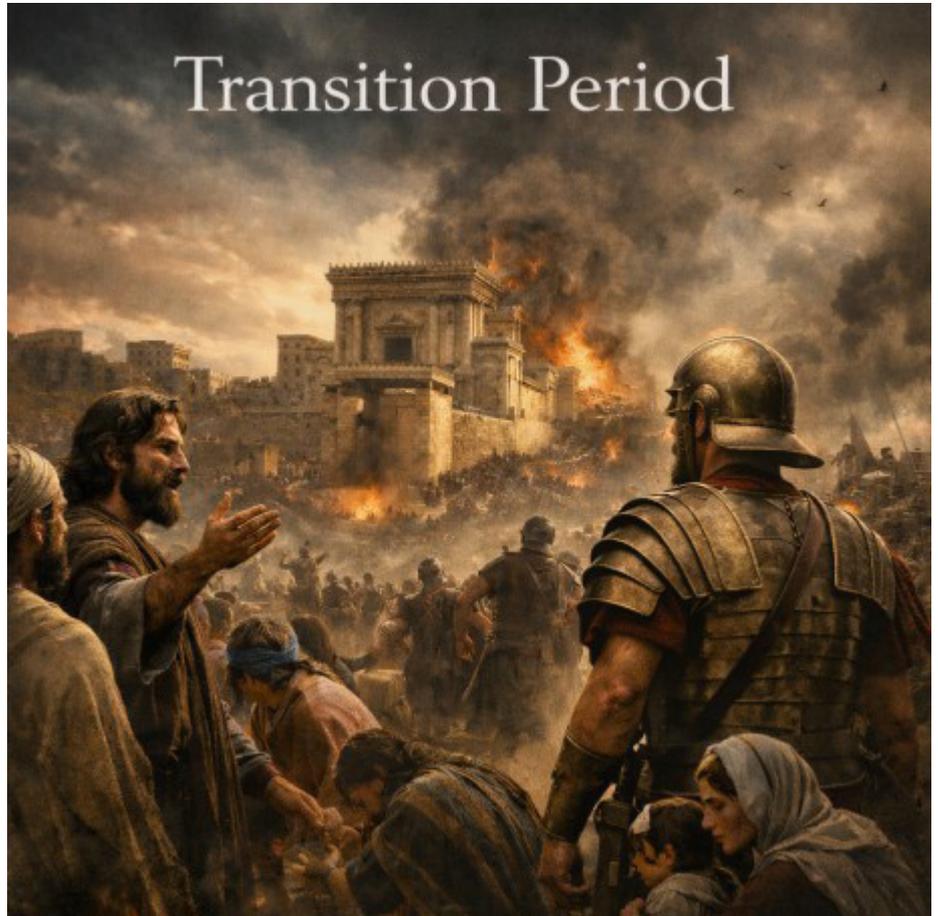
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Transition Period



By Dan Maines

Transition Period

Introduction

† The Bible doesn't jump from Old Covenant to New Covenant in a single moment, it unfolds through a God ordained Transition Period where fulfillment replaces shadow and maturity replaces infancy (Hebrews 8:13).

† This period explains why the New Testament contains both fading elements and established realities existing side by side (2 Corinthians 3:7-11).

† Understanding this Transition Period keeps Scripture consistent, honors audience relevance, and preserves the integrity of fulfilled prophecy (Matthew 24:34).

The Transition Period

† The Transition Period began on Pentecost in AD 30 with the birth of the Church and ended with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in AD 70, bringing the Old Covenant age to its close (Acts 2:1-4; Luke 21:20-24).

† During this time the Church was growing from infancy to maturity, moving toward the fullness promised in Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).

† God worked in the growing Church through miraculous gifts and prophetic revelation to bring His people to maturity (1 Corinthians 13:8-10).

† A spiritual house was being built, not made with hands, in which God would permanently dwell (1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:21-22).

† This was a season of transformation from the Old to the New, not confusion or contradiction (Hebrews 12:26-28).

† The old things of Judaism faded slowly, while the New Covenant realities steadily took their place (2 Corinthians 5:17).

† This change of the ages did not happen overnight, it unfolded across forty years (Numbers 14:33-34; Matthew 23:36).

† During this time, this age was passing away and the age to come was developing (Hebrews 9:26).

† The New Testament writers lived and wrote within this transition (James 5:8-9).

Acts 2:16-17

But this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:
And it shall be in the last days, God says,

That I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind.

† Pentecost marks the opening of the Transition Period and the beginning of the last days of the Old Covenant age (Hebrews 1:1-2).

† Peter didn't say this would happen later, he declared fulfillment had begun (Acts 2:33).

† The outpouring of the Spirit signaled that the New Covenant age was breaking in (Galatians 4:4-6).

Matthew 12:32

Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

† Jesus plainly identified two covenantal ages relevant to His first century audience (Matthew 24:3).

† This age referred to the Mosaic Covenant world then present (Luke 16:16).

† The age to come referred to the incoming Messianic age (Mark 1:15).

† Jewish theology already divided time into *olam hazeh* and *olam haba*, confirming Jesus spoke within an understood framework (Hebrews 6:5).

† The Messiah was expected to bring about a new world order, not delay it indefinitely (Isaiah 65:17).

† Jesus confirmed that the transition between these ages was already underway (Luke 17:20-21).

Ephesians 1:21

Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

† Paul confirms the same two age framework taught by Jesus (Romans 12:2).

† Christ's authority extended across both ages, proving His reign wasn't postponed (Matthew 28:18).

† The age to come was near from Paul's perspective, not distant or symbolic only (Philippians 4:5).

† This shows the New Covenant wasn't theoretical, it was approaching fulfillment (Colossians 1:13).

† Authority was transferring from the Old Covenant structures to Christ alone (Hebrews 7:12).

† The language reflects covenantal change, not physical relocation (Isaiah 51:15-16).

1 Corinthians 10:11

Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

† Paul clearly states the ends of the ages were coming upon the first century saints (Romans 13:11-12).

† This can't be shifted to a future generation without changing Paul's audience (1 Corinthians 1:2).

† More than one age was ending, confirming a covenantal transition (Hebrews 9:26).

† The Transition Period explains why some instructions were temporary and others permanent (Galatians 3:24-25).

† It explains why miraculous signs functioned during this period of establishment (Hebrews 2:3-4).

† Paul wrote to believers living inside the transition, not beyond it (1 Thessalonians 4:15).

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 Old Covenant was not merely old, it was in the process of vanishing (Hebrews 10:9).

† This language describes an active Transition Period, not an instant replacement (2 Corinthians 3:13).

† The Temple's destruction finalized what Hebrews declared was already happening (Luke 23:45).

Matthew 24:2

And He said to them, Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.

† Jesus tied the end of the age to the destruction of the Temple (Matthew 24:3).

† This prophecy was fulfilled in AD 70, closing the Old Covenant world (Luke 19:43-44).

† The Transition Period reached its completion exactly as Jesus foretold (Matthew 24:34).

Historical References

† Josephus documents the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple as the end of the Jewish age (Wars of the Jews 6.4).

† Eusebius records that Christians fled Jerusalem, recognizing Jesus' warnings as fulfilled (Ecclesiastical History 3.5).

† Clement of Alexandria taught that the Law reached fulfillment in Christ (Stromata 6).

† Irenaeus affirmed covenant fulfillment through Christ's work (Against Heresies 4.34).

† Tertullian described the Old Covenant system as obsolete

after Jerusalem's fall (Apology 21).

How It Applies To Us Today

† We're not waiting for a new age, we're living in it (Hebrews 12:28).

† We don't read Scripture through fear of unfinished prophecy (Luke 21:22).

† We stand in the confidence of fulfilled promises (2 Corinthians 1:20).

† Understanding the Transition Period protects us from misapplied warnings (Colossians 2:16-17).

† It keeps us grounded in Christ's completed work (Hebrews 10:14).

† It reminds us that the Church today is mature, established, and lacking nothing (Ephesians 1:22-23).

Q & A Appendix

Q Were the apostles mistaken when they said the end of the ages was near?

A No, they spoke truthfully to their audience, as confirmed in **1 Corinthians 10:11** and **Hebrews 9:26**.

Q Does the age to come refer to heaven?

A No, it refers to the New Covenant age established through Christ, as shown in **Ephesians 1:21**.

Q Why do some New Testament instructions not apply today?

A Because they were written to believers living during the Transition Period, as explained in **Hebrews 8:13**.

Q What marked the official end of the Transition Period?

A The destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in AD 70, which Jesus identified as the sign that all things He spoke of were

fulfilled (Matthew 24:2; Luke 21:20-22).

Q Why did miraculous gifts operate during the Transition Period?

A They functioned as confirming signs while the New Covenant was being established and until maturity was reached (Hebrews 2:3-4; 1 Corinthians 13:8-10).

Q Were believers fully under the New Covenant before AD 70?

A They were participants in the New Covenant while the Old Covenant was still passing away (Hebrews 8:13; Galatians 4:4-6).

Q Why does the New Testament sometimes sound urgent and time sensitive?

A Because the writers lived at the close of the Old Covenant age and expected its imminent end (Romans 13:11-12; James 5:8-9).

Q Did the Law continue to function during the Transition Period?

A Yes, it remained in effect until its fulfillment and removal at the end of the age (Matthew 5:17-18; Colossians 2:14).

Q Is the age to come still future for us today?

A No, we now live in what the apostles called the age to come, the fully established New Covenant age (Hebrews 12:28; Ephesians 3:21).

Q Why do some passages speak of waiting while others speak of fulfillment?

A Because the writers were living inside the Transition Period where fulfillment was unfolding in real time (Hebrews 10:36-37).

Q Does recognizing the Transition Period diminish Christ's finished work?

A No, it magnifies it by showing His work was completed exactly as promised and on time (John 19:30; 2 Corinthians

1:20).

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

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Source Index

† Acts 2:16-17; Matthew 12:32; Ephesians 1:21; 1 Corinthians 10:11; Hebrews 8:13; Matthew 24:2; Hebrews 9:26

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History; Clement of Alexandria, Stromata; Irenaeus, Against Heresies; Tertullian, Apology

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