

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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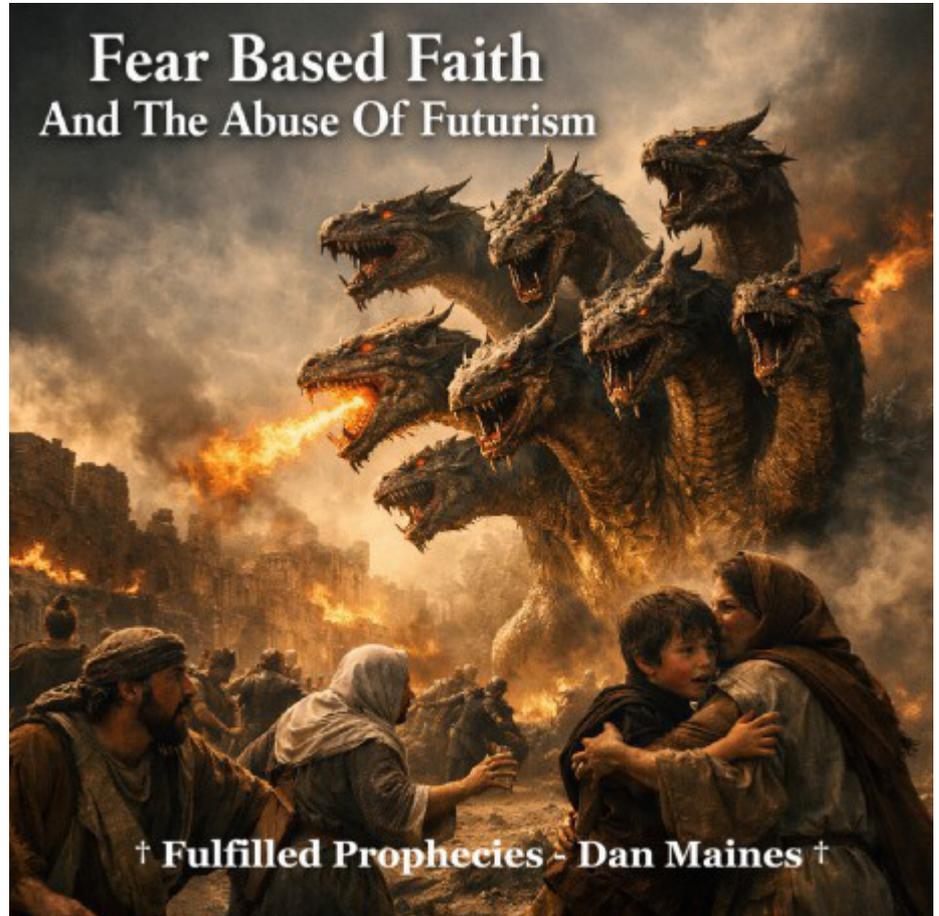
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## Revelation - Fear Based Faith And The Abuse Of Futurism Pt 1 of 2



By Dan Maines

## Fear Based Faith And The Abuse Of Futurism

Part 1 of 2

### Introduction

† Early in my life I was in a church where they told us to learn Revelation chapter by chapter and verse by verse so when it came about we would know what would happen next and dodge what was coming at us next (Proverbs 29:25).

† Looking back now, I can clearly say this was not discipleship, it was fear conditioning, and for a child it crossed the line into

abuse (Colossians 2:8).

† The book of Revelation was never given to terrify children, it was given to comfort suffering believers with assurance that God was bringing judgment and vindication soon (Revelation 1:9).

† When fear becomes the framework of faith, especially in childhood, it produces resentment toward God, hostility toward church, and confusion about Scripture (Ephesians 6:4).

## **Revelation 1:1**

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

† Scripture sets the time frame immediately, the events must soon take place, not thousands of years later (Romans 16:20).

† Teaching Revelation as a future horror story rips it from its stated purpose and audience (Hebrews 10:37).

† When soon is ignored, fear replaces hope, especially in the minds of children (Romans 15:4).

## **Revelation 1:3**

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

† The blessing is tied to nearness, not delay, suspense, or endless anticipation (Luke 21:28).

† Children were never meant to live under constant dread of beasts, monsters, and global destruction (Psalm 127:3).

† Fear driven eschatology strips Revelation of its blessing and turns it into psychological harm (1 John 4:18).

## **Revelation 22:6**

And he said to me, These words are faithful and true, and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond servants the things which must soon take place.

† The book closes the same way it opens, reinforcing imminence, not postponement (James 5:8).

† If Revelation was meant for distant generations, the Holy Spirit would not repeatedly anchor it in soon (Habakkuk 2:3).

† Teaching it as future terror contradicts the testimony of Scripture itself (Deuteronomy 18:22).

## **Revelation 22:10**

And he said to me, Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

† Daniel was told to seal his vision because it was far off, John was told not to seal because fulfillment was near (Daniel 12:4).

† Futurism reverses Gods instruction and seals what God said was near (Isaiah 29:11).

† When adults ignore this, children pay the price with fear, confusion, and resentment (Ephesians 6:4).

## **Matthew 18:6**

But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

† Jesus takes seriously the harm done to children, including spiritual harm (Mark 9:42).

† Instilling fear instead of faith causes children to stumble, not grow (Jeremiah 23:32).

† This warning applies directly to fear based religious teaching (Ezekiel 34:4).

## **2 Timothy 1:7**

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

† Fear driven eschatology does not come from God (James 1:17).

† Power, love, and sound thinking are incompatible with terror based faith (Romans 8:15).

† When fear dominates church teaching, children instinctively recoil (Matthew 11:28).

## **Psalm 103:13**

Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.

† Gods posture toward His children is compassion, not intimidation (Isaiah 40:11).

† Teaching fear as faith misrepresents the character of God (Psalm 145:8).

† Children should encounter mercy first, not monsters (Lamentations 3:22-23).

## **Isaiah 54:13**

All your sons will be taught of the Lord, And the well being of your sons will be great.

† Gods design for teaching produces peace, not panic (James 3:17).

† Futurist fear undermines the promised well being of children (John 14:27).

† Instruction rooted in fulfillment restores safety and trust

(Romans 8:1).

## Historical References

† Josephus records that first century believers understood judgment language as fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem, not the end of the physical world (Wars of the Jews, Book 6).

† Eusebius affirmed that Revelation addressed events surrounding Jerusalem and Rome in the apostolic age (Ecclesiastical History, Book 3).

† Clement of Alexandria taught that Scripture was given for healing and instruction, not fear and torment (Stromata).

† Irenaeus emphasized apostolic proximity, teaching that prophecy was understood within the generation to whom it was given (Against Heresies).

## How It Applies To Us Today

† Parents are called to guard the hearts and minds of their children, not outsource them to fear driven systems (Proverbs 22:6).

† Teaching Revelation as fulfilled removes terror and restores its purpose as comfort and victory (Romans 15:4).

† The church should be a refuge of truth and love, not a source of lifelong trauma (Psalm 34:4).

† Leaders are accountable for how Scripture shapes the emotional and spiritual lives of those under their care (James 3:1).

† The gospel should produce freedom, assurance, and confidence in Christ, not constant anxiety about the future (Galatians 5:1).

† A fulfilled perspective allows believers to focus on faithfulness, love, and maturity now, instead of fear and survival later (Colossians 1:28).

† Healing from fear based teaching begins by relearning who God actually is, as revealed in Jesus Christ (John 14:9).

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q** Should children be taught about Jesus

**A** Yes, children should be taught about Jesus, His love, His sacrifice, and His faithfulness (Matthew 19:14).

**Q** Should children be taught futurist eschatology

**A** No, fear based futurism contradicts the purpose of Revelation and harms young minds (1 John 4:18).

**Q** If Revelation is fulfilled, why is it still in the Bible

**A** Scripture was written for our instruction and encouragement, even after fulfillment (Romans 15:4).

**Q** Why do so many people leave the church or become atheists

**A** Many associate church with fear, manipulation, and trauma instead of truth and love (Colossians 2:8).

**Q** Does fulfilled eschatology remove accountability

**A** No, fulfillment strengthens accountability by calling believers to live faithfully now, not escape later (2 Corinthians 5:10).

**Q** Did Jesus intend Revelation to frighten believers

**A** No, Revelation was given to show victory, vindication, and faithfulness to persecuted saints (Revelation 1:9).

**Q** Is fear a valid tool for discipleship

**A** No, fear may control behavior temporarily, but it never produces love or maturity (Romans 8:15).

**Q** What should parents do if their children have church related fear

**A** Parents should reassure them of Gods love, correct false teaching, and lead them gently in truth (Psalm 34:4).

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

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## Source Index

† Revelation 1:1, 3; Revelation 22:6, 10; Matthew 18:6; 2 Timothy 1:7; Psalm 103:13; Isaiah 54:13; Matthew 19:14  
† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3; Clement of Alexandria, Stromata; Irenaeus, Against Heresies

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