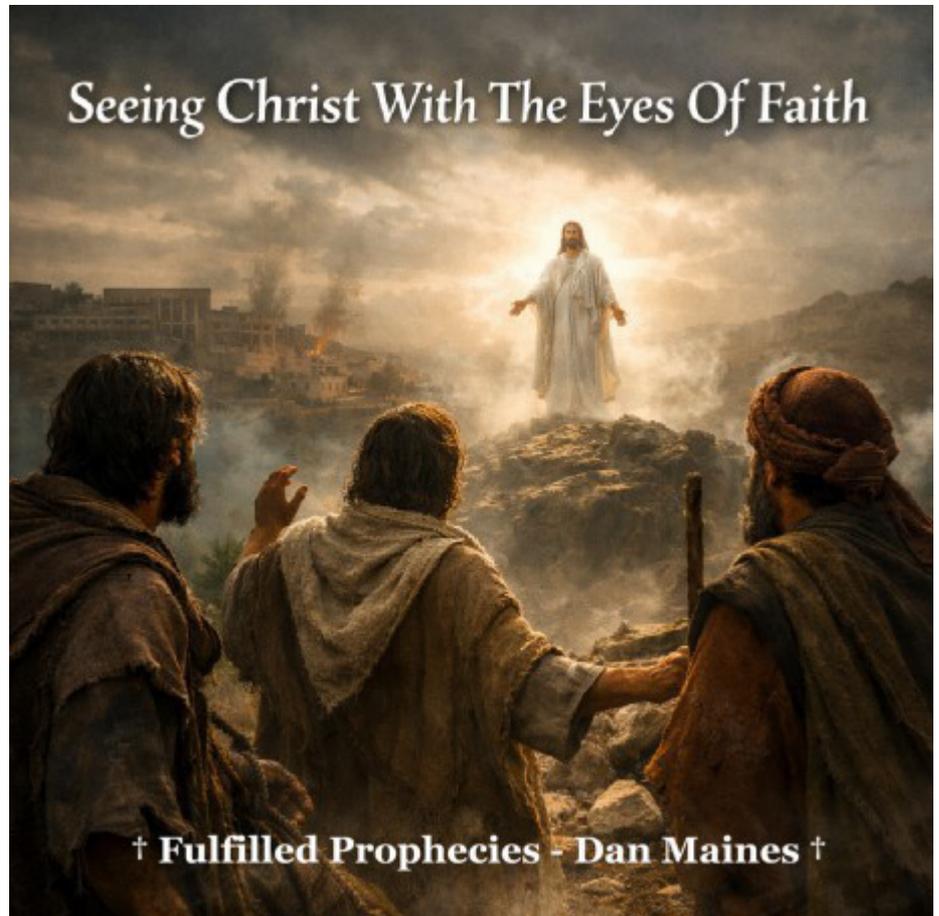


# Fulfilled Prophecies

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## Seeing Christ With The Eyes Of Faith



By Dan Maines

## Seeing Christ With The Eyes Of Faith

### Introduction

† If Scripture says we no longer know Christ according to the flesh, then expecting a visible appearance in the sky contradicts New Covenant revelation.

† God is Spirit, and what is spiritual is not perceived by natural eyesight.

† For Christ to be physically seen, He would have to return in the flesh, yet the apostles teach that we no longer relate to Him

in that way.

† To truly see Him requires spiritual understanding and covenant relationship.

### **John 14:19-20**

After a little while, the world no longer is going to see Me, but you are going to see Me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I in you.

† The world will no longer see Me shows that unbelievers would not perceive His presence (John 4:24).

† You will see Me describes a different kind of seeing based on shared life and union (Ephesians 3:16-17).

† In that day you will know defines seeing as relational knowledge, not physical observation (2 Corinthians 5:16).

### **Luke 17:20-21**

Now He was questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, and He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs that can be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst."

† The kingdom does not come with observation means it does not arrive in a way that can be visually detected (Romans 14:17).

† No one will be able to say, Look here or Look there, removes the idea of identifying a physical location (John 18:36).

† The kingdom of God is within you confirms the internal and covenantal nature of Christ's reign (Colossians 1:27).

### **Matthew 16:17**

And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

† Flesh and blood did not reveal this shows spiritual truth is not grasped through human reasoning (1 Corinthians 2:14).

† Revelation from the Father is required for true recognition (Ephesians 1:17-18).

† The Church stands on revealed understanding, not visible proof (John 6:44).

## **1 Corinthians 2:9-10**

but just as it is written:

"THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD,  
AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HUMAN HEART,  
ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

† Eye has not seen emphasizes that natural sight does not determine spiritual fulfillment (2 Corinthians 4:18).

† God revealed them through the Spirit explains how believers understand covenant realities (John 16:13).

† The Spirit searches all things confirms that revelation, not visibility, is the basis of knowing Christ (Hebrews 11:1).

## **2 Corinthians 5:16**

Therefore from now on we recognize no one by the flesh; even though we have known Christ by the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer.

† We no longer know anyone according to the flesh marks a decisive covenant shift (Romans 7:6).

† We have known Christ according to the flesh refers to His earthly ministry prior to exaltation (Colossians 3:1-3).

† Now we know Him in this way no longer establishes that our relationship to Him is not physical in nature (1 Peter 1:8).

## **1 Peter 1:8**

and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

† Not having seen and yet loving shows that faith does not depend on visible presence (2 Corinthians 5:7).

† Though now you do not see Him confirms believers already live in unseen fellowship (Colossians 3:3).

† Yet believing connects joy and glory to trust in His present reality, not to future sight (Hebrews 11:1).

### **Colossians 3:1-3**

Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

† Where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God affirms His present reign (Acts 2:33-36).

† Your life is hidden with Christ in God describes a spiritual reality not visible to the natural eye (2 Corinthians 4:18).

† This hidden life explains why His presence is discerned spiritually, not physically (John 14:19-20).

### **Acts 1:9-11**

And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were watching, and a cloud took Him up, out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, then behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them, and they said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

† A cloud received Him aligns with Daniel's vision of the Son of Man coming with the clouds to the Ancient of Days (Daniel 7:13-14).

† In like manner refers to divine authority and cloud imagery, not to a reversal of ascension (Matthew 24:30).

† Daniel 7 portrays ascent to receive dominion, not descent to reenter earthly limitation (Daniel 7:14).

### **Revelation 1:7**

BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

† They that pierced Him identifies the first century generation responsible for His death (Matthew 23:36).

† All the tribes of the earth echoes covenant language concerning the land of Israel (Zechariah 12:10).

† Coming with the clouds follows established Old Testament judgment imagery (Isaiah 19:1).

### **Philippians 3:20-21**

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our lowly condition into conformity with His glorious body, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

† Our citizenship is in heaven affirms His present authority from heaven (Colossians 3:1).

† The body of His glory describes His exalted state, not a return to mortal existence (1 Corinthians 15:45).

† He subjects all things from that position of glory, not by relocating to earthly geography (Psalm 110:1).

### **Job 20:9**

The eye which saw him sees him no longer,  
And his place no longer beholds him.

† The eye which saw him shall see him no more confirms the end of visible beholding (2 Corinthians 5:7).

† His place will no longer behold him reflects the passing of localized manifestation (Habakkuk 2:4).

† God's covenant presence is not dependent on physical observation (Isaiah 55:8-9).

### **Matthew 24:26-27**

So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out; or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them. For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

† Claims that He is in the wilderness warn against physical location expectations (Luke 17:23-24).

† Claims that He is in inner rooms reject secret appearance theories (Matthew 24:34).

† The lightning imagery describes covenant judgment and revealed authority, not a body descending from the sky (Daniel 7:13-14).

### **Historical References**

† Eusebius connected the destruction of Jerusalem with the fulfillment of the Lord's warnings (Ecclesiastical History 3.5-7).

† Josephus recorded the siege and devastation of Jerusalem in AD 70, confirming the first century context (Wars of the Jews 6.3-6.5).

† Tertullian emphasized Christ's present reign and authority, not a postponed physical display (Apology 21).

† Clement of Alexandria wrote of spiritual understanding consistent with knowing Christ beyond fleshly categories (Stromata 7).

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

† Christ is known through revelation and indwelling, not through watching the sky for visible signs (Colossians 1:27).

† If He is in us and we are in Him, then we are not waiting for His presence, we are living in it now (John 14:20).

† We walk by faith, not by sight, so our stability does not

depend on what we can physically observe (2 Corinthians 5:7).  
† Our life is hidden with Christ in God, so our identity is secure regardless of world events (Colossians 3:3).  
† Fear based expectations lose their power when we understand that His kingdom has already been established (Hebrews 12:28).  
† We are not called to speculate about clouds and timetables, we are called to live faithfully in the reality of His present reign (Acts 2:33-36).  
† Spiritual maturity means discerning His presence through the Spirit, not chasing dramatic appearances (1 Corinthians 2:12-14).  
† The kingdom within us produces righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit, not anxiety about future catastrophe (Romans 14:17).  
† Because Christ reigns now, our mission is active obedience, not passive waiting (Matthew 28:18-20).  
† The fulfilled perspective produces confidence, not confusion, assurance, not uncertainty, and worship rooted in present union, not postponed hope (Ephesians 3:16-19).

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q** If God is Spirit, how can anyone expect to physically see Him.

**A** John 4:24 says God is Spirit, and 2 Corinthians 5:16 says we no longer know Christ according to the flesh, so the expectation of physical sight contradicts the New Covenant way of knowing Him.

**Q** What does Jesus mean when He says the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me.

**A** It means believers recognize Him through covenant union and revelation, as shown in John 14:19-20 and Ephesians 3:16-17.

**Q** What about Revelation 1:7 where it says every eye will see Him.

**A** Revelation 1:7 says they that pierced Him would see Him. Jesus said all these things would come upon that generation in Matthew 23:36, which limits the context to the first century.

**Q** What about Acts 1:11, does that teach a physical return.

**A** Acts 1:9-11 describes Him being received by a cloud. Daniel 7:13-14 shows the Son of Man coming with the clouds to receive dominion. That is enthronement language, not relocation language.

**Q** What about Matthew 24:30 where they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds.

**A** Matthew 24:30 uses Daniel 7 imagery, and Jesus said all these things would happen in that generation in Matthew 24:34.

**Q** Are you saying Jesus will never be seen again at all.

**A** 1 Peter 1:8 says though you have not seen Him, you love Him. We see Him by faith now, and 2 Corinthians 5:16 says we no longer know Him according to the flesh.

**Q** Are you denying future hope.

**A** Hebrews 12:28 says we have received a kingdom which cannot be shaken. Colossians 1:27 says Christ in you is the hope of glory. Our hope is present covenant reality.

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

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## **Source Index**

† John 14:19-20; Luke 17:20-21; Matthew 16:17; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:16; 1 Peter 1:8; Colossians 3:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 1:7; Philippians 3:20-21; Job 20:9; Matthew 24:26-27

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5-7; Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.3-6.5; Tertullian, Apology 21; Clement of Alexandria,

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