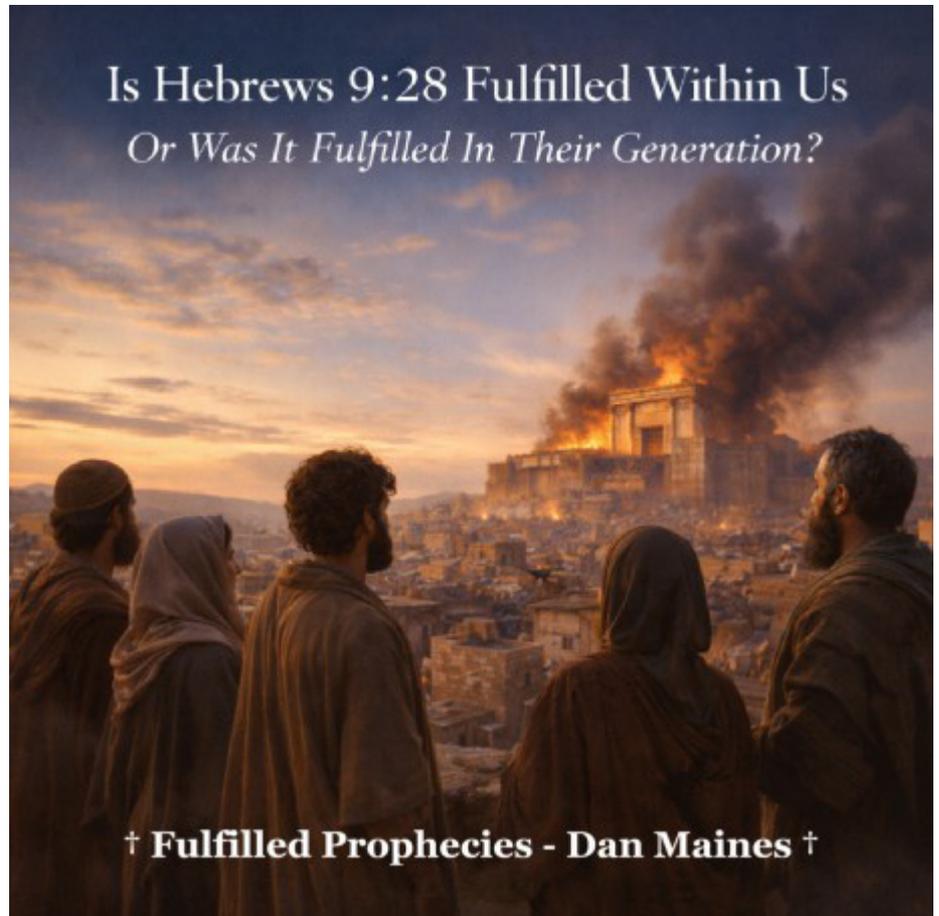


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Hebrews 9:28 - Is Hebrews 9:28 Fulfilled Within Us Or Was It Fulfilled In Their Generation?



By Dan Maines

Is Hebrews 9:28 Fulfilled Within Us Or Was It Fulfilled In Their Generation?

Introduction

† The issue isn't whether Jesus died for sins, it's what Hebrews 9:28 is actually saying. (Hebrews 10:12)

† If Hebrews 9:28 is only about what happens inside an individual at conversion, then it stops being a timed promise to a waiting audience. (Romans 13:11)

† Scripture shows people were waiting for something that was

near, not something pushed out thousands of years. (James 5:8)

Hebrews 9:28

so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

† This verse separates His offering from His appearing, it doesn't treat them as the same event. (Hebrews 9:26)

† To those who eagerly await Him identifies the original audience as living people who were actively waiting at that time. (Hebrews 10:37)

† The second time language matches the high priest pattern, he entered, then he reappeared to the waiting people, Hebrews is applying that fulfilled pattern to Christ. (Leviticus 16:17)

† For salvation here is the revealed, completed deliverance tied to the passing away of the Old Covenant system, not a personal feeling inside a believer. (1 Peter 1:5)

† The Holy Spirit signified that the way into the holy place had not yet been revealed while the outer tabernacle was still standing, meaning the full manifestation required its removal. (Hebrews 9:8)

† Hebrews says what is becoming obsolete and growing old is about to disappear, placing the fulfillment within their lifetime. (Hebrews 8:13)

Matthew 24:34

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

† Jesus fixed the timeline, this generation means the generation He was speaking to, not a future one. (Matthew 24:33)

† All these things includes the judgment and end of the age context of Matthew 24:3, it doesn't allow a 2000 year delay. (Matthew 24:3)

† If Jesus said it would happen in their generation, then a

doctrine that postpones it denies His plain time statement.
(Luke 21:32)

1 Peter 1:5

who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

† Peter said salvation was ready to be revealed, meaning it was near in their time, not delayed for millennia. (1 Peter 4:7)

† The last time is last days language tied to covenantal transition, not the end of the physical planet. (Hebrews 1:1-2)

† This matches the Hebrews audience, they were waiting for the completion and public removal of the Old Covenant order. (Hebrews 8:13)

Hebrews 10:25-27

not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.

† The audience could see the day drawing near, that places the judgment in their visible horizon. (Hebrews 10:37)

† The terrifying expectation of judgment connects directly with the covenantal fire language used by Jesus concerning Jerusalem. (Matthew 23:36-38)

† This reinforces that Hebrews 9:28 was not a distant mystical event, it was tied to a near covenantal day. (Romans 13:11)

Romans 16:20

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

† Paul told them Satan would be crushed soon, not thousands of years later. (Revelation 1:1)

† This is Genesis 3:15 fulfillment language applied to first century believers. (Genesis 3:15)

† The apostolic expectation was imminence, not delay. (Philippians 4:5)

Historical References

† Josephus records the temple's destruction and the end of the sacrificial system in AD 70, that historical reality is exactly what Hebrews said was about to disappear. (Hebrews 8:13)

† Eusebius says the believers in Jerusalem fled before the city's destruction, showing they took Jesus' warnings as near, local, and real. (Matthew 24:16)

† Tacitus also records the devastation of Judea under Rome, confirming this wasn't a myth, it was a dated historical catastrophe. (Luke 21:20)

How It Applies To Us Today

† We aren't waiting for Hebrews 9:28, we live in the accomplished reality it pointed to. (Hebrews 10:14)

† We receive Christ and walk in salvation, but our receiving doesn't create the fulfillment, it receives what was completed. (Ephesians 2:8)

† If someone says we're still waiting for what the New Testament said was near, they turn living hope into perpetual delay. (Romans 13:11)

† This fulfilled perspective produces peace and steadiness, not fear and countdown charts. (Colossians 2:16-17)

† We live in the confirmed New Covenant age, not in suspense, not in anticipation of covenant closure. (Hebrews 12:28)

Q & A Appendix

Q Does Hebrews 9:28 mean Christ appears every time someone gets saved?

A No, the verse speaks of a second appearing to a waiting

audience, and Hebrews places that expectation as near.
(Hebrews 10:37)

Q If salvation was ready to be revealed, what was being revealed?

A The completed transition into the New Covenant reality, confirmed when the Old Covenant system was removed.
(Hebrews 8:13)

Q If we already have salvation, how can we be waiting for it?

A We can't. The New Testament calls believers to stand in what Christ finished, not wait for a promise Scripture said was near.
(Hebrews 10:12)

Q Why does it feel like we're still waiting for something?

A Because tradition trained many to expect a future event, but Scripture says For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay. (Hebrews 10:37)

Q Does Hebrews 9:28 teach a visible bodily return to earth?

A The verse connects His appearing to the high priest pattern and to a waiting first century audience. Hebrews 9:8 and Hebrews 10:37 tie that appearing to the removal of the Old Covenant system, not to a future bodily descent thousands of years later.

Q If Christ already appeared the second time, why did people still die after AD 70?

A Hebrews 9:28 is about covenantal salvation, not biological immortality. The salvation in view is deliverance from the Old Covenant order and its judgment, not the end of physical death.
(1 Peter 1:5)

Q If this was fulfilled in AD 70, why does the church still preach the cross?

A Because the cross was the once for all offering. Hebrews 10:12 says He offered one sacrifice for sins for all time.

Fulfillment does not cancel the cross, it confirms it.

Q Does this mean there is nothing future at all?

A It means the covenantal promises tied to that generation were fulfilled. Hebrews 10:37 says For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay. That time statement cannot be stretched into thousands of years.

Q Are we denying salvation by saying it was fulfilled?

A No. Ephesians 2:8 says For by grace you have been saved through faith. We live in what was accomplished. Fulfillment secures salvation, it does not remove it.

Q What about personal conversion?

A Personal faith applies what Christ accomplished historically and covenantally. Our conversion does not fulfill prophecy, it receives the benefits of what was fulfilled.

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

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Source Index

† Hebrews 9:28; Matthew 24:34; 1 Peter 1:5; Hebrews 10:25-27; Romans 16:20

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5; Tacitus, Histories 5.13

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