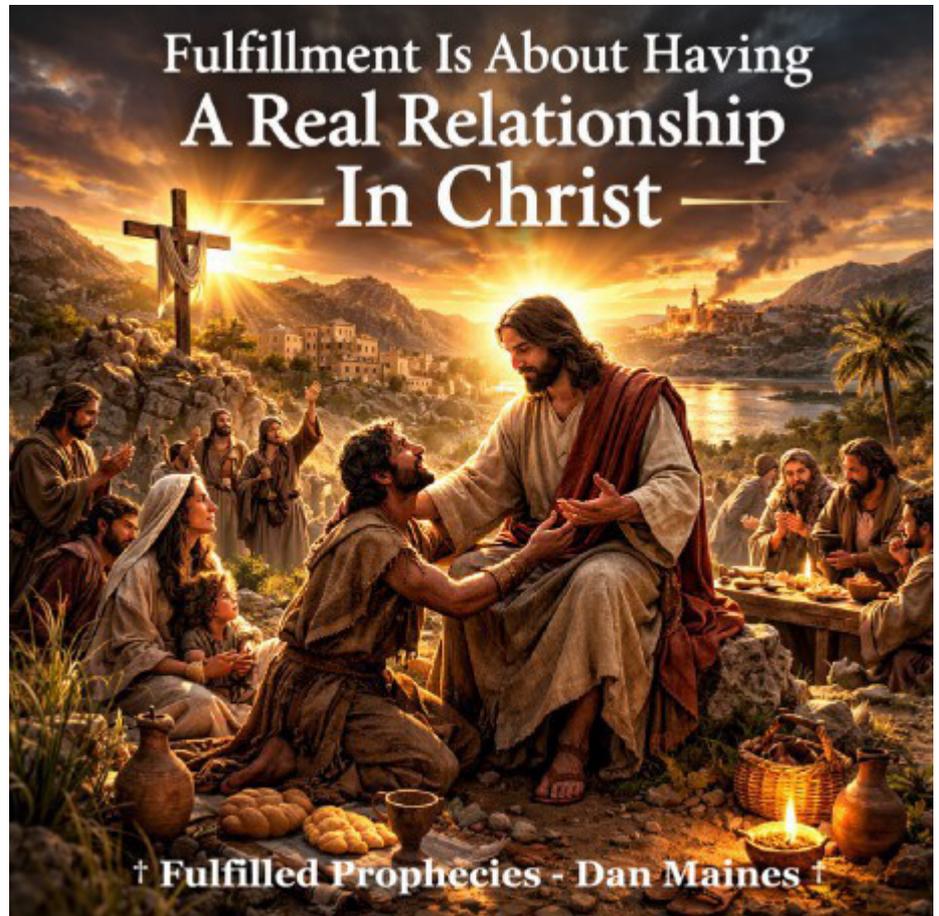


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**In Christ -
Fulfillment Is
About Having A
Real Relationship
In Christ**



By Dan Maines

Fulfillment Is About Having A Real Relationship In Christ

Introduction

† Fulfillment was never about charts, timelines, or speculation, it was about covenant completion and relationship restoration.

† When Jesus said It is finished, He wasn't postponing fellowship, He was securing access.

† Being in Christ is not mystical language, it is covenant language fulfilled in their generation and realized in us now.

† The fulfilled perspective teaches that the age ended, the veil

was removed, and direct relationship in Him became the reality of the New Covenant.

Isaiah 59:2

But your wrongdoings have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

† Under the Old Covenant there was separation, distance, and restricted access (Isaiah 59:2).

† Sin created covenantal distance, not because God changed, but because the covenant structure required mediation.

† Fulfillment removed that separation through the finished work of Christ (Hebrews 9:26).

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

† Paul does not say anyone will be in Christ someday, he says if anyone is in Christ now, that person is a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

† The old things that passed away were the Old Covenant realities, not the physical planet (Hebrews 8:13).

† Being in Christ means we are no longer defined by Adamic covenant separation, but by covenant union in the Second Man (1 Corinthians 15:45).

† Fulfillment brought transition from shadow to substance, from distance to access (Colossians 2:17).

John 15:4-5

Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself but must remain in the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

† Jesus defined relationship as mutual indwelling, remain in Me and I in you (John 15:4-5).

† This is covenant union language, not geographic location

language (Ephesians 1:3).

† To be in Him means life flows from Him, identity flows from Him, fruit flows from Him.

† Fulfillment means the vine was established and the branches are no longer waiting for attachment, we are already grafted in (Romans 11:17).

Ephesians 2:18-22

for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

† Through Him we have access, that means relationship is present reality, not future hope (Ephesians 2:18).

† We are no longer strangers, covenant distance ended in fulfillment (Ephesians 2:19).

† In Him we are the temple, not waiting for a structure, we are the dwelling of God (Ephesians 2:21-22).

† The destruction of Jerusalem confirmed the old temple was finished, and the living temple in Christ remained (Matthew 24:2).

Colossians 3:3-4

For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

† Your life is hidden with Christ in God, that is security and identity language (Colossians 3:3).

† Christ is our life, not merely our example or future appearance (Colossians 3:4).

† The revealing of Christ in judgment upon apostate Israel revealed the covenant glory of the New Covenant body (Matthew 16:27-28).

† Being in Him means we share His life now, not later.

Romans 5:12-19

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all mankind, because all sinned, for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not counted against anyone when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the violation committed by Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. But the gracious gift is not like the offense. For if by the offense of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many. The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one offense resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the gracious gift arose from many offenses resulting in justification. For if by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. So then, as through one offense the result was condemnation to all mankind, so also through one act of righteousness the result was justification of life to all mankind. For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

† In Adam there was condemnation, in Christ there is justification of life (Romans 5:18).

† Being in Christ means covenant headship changed.

† Fulfillment completed the transfer from Adamic death to covenant life in the Second Man (1 Corinthians 15:22-23).

1 Corinthians 1:7-8

so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you eagerly await the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

† They were awaiting His revelation in their lifetime, not

thousands of years later (1 Corinthians 1:7-8).

† He would confirm them to the end, meaning the end of that covenant age (Matthew 24:34).

† Fulfillment confirmed relationship, it did not postpone it.

Historical References

† Ignatius of Antioch repeatedly used the phrase in Christ to describe covenant identity, not future relocation.

† Irenaeus wrote that Christ recapitulated humanity in Himself, restoring what was lost in Adam.

† Athanasius taught that the Son united Himself to humanity so that humanity might share in His life.

† Tertullian spoke of believers as incorporated into Christ through the New Covenant.

† Eusebius recorded the destruction of Jerusalem as the end of the old order and vindication of Christ's words.

How It Applies To Us Today

† If we're in Christ, we aren't waiting for acceptance, we're already reconciled (2 Corinthians 5:18).

† If we're in Him, our identity isn't defined by past sin, it's defined by covenant union (Romans 8:1).

† If we're in Him, access to the Father isn't delayed, it's present (Hebrews 10:19-22).

† Because we're in Him, we approach God as sons, not as strangers (Galatians 4:6-7).

† Fulfillment means relationship is reality, not anticipation.

† We don't live in fear of an unfinished prophecy, we live in confidence of a completed covenant.

Q & A Appendix

Q What does it mean to be in Christ?

A It means covenant union, shared life, shared identity, and shared access to the Father through Him, see 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:18.

Q Is being in Christ symbolic only?

A No, it is relational and covenantal reality grounded in the New

Covenant, see John 15:4-5.

Q Did fulfillment change our relationship to God?

A Yes, the Old Covenant distance ended and full access was established, see Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 10:19-22.

Q Are we still waiting for union with Christ?

A No, believers are already united with Him, see Colossians 3:3-4.

Q Are we physically inside Christ?

A No, this is covenantal and relational union language, not spatial containment, see Ephesians 1:3.

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

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Source Index

† Isaiah 59:2; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 15:4-5; Ephesians 2:18-22; Colossians 3:3-4; Romans 5:12-19; 1 Corinthians 1:7-8

† Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to the Ephesians; Irenaeus, Against Heresies; Athanasius, On the Incarnation; Tertullian, Against Marcion; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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