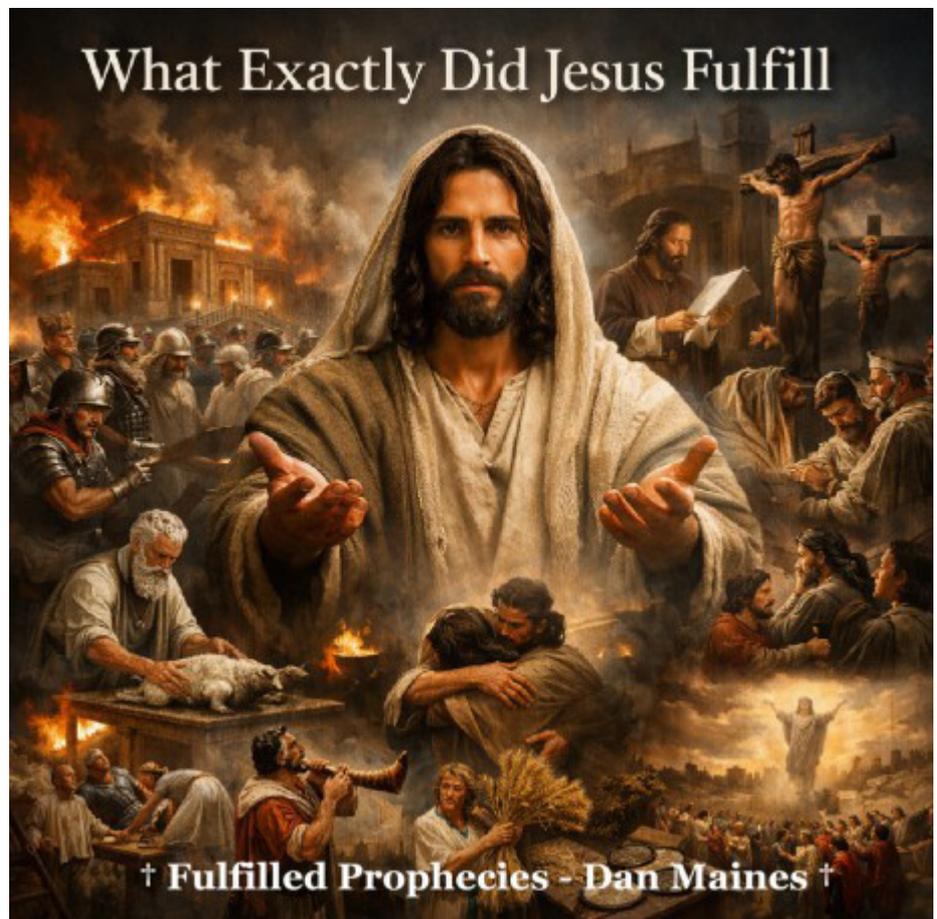


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Fulfill - What Exactly Did Jesus Fulfill



By Dan Maines

What Exactly Did Jesus Fulfill

Introduction

† When Jesus said he came to fulfill, he wasn't speaking vaguely, he was declaring the completion of the entire Old Covenant system.

† Many say he fulfilled the Law, but they don't explain how that includes the feasts, sacrifices, priesthood, temple, covenant curses, promises to Israel, and the time statements tied to that

generation.

† We're going to let Scripture define exactly what was fulfilled, and we'll see it wasn't partial, it was complete.

Matthew 5:17-18

"Do not presume that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke of a letter shall pass from the Law, until all is accomplished!

† Jesus didn't separate the Law from the Prophets, he said he fulfilled both, that's the entire Old Covenant revelation. (Luke 24:44)

† He tied the passing of heaven and earth to the accomplishment of all things, which connects to covenantal language. (Isaiah 51:15-16)

† If all things were accomplished before heaven and earth passed, then heaven and earth refers to the Old Covenant world, not the planet. (Isaiah 65:17)

Luke 24:44

Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all the things that are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

† Jesus expanded fulfillment to include the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms, that's the whole Old Covenant witness. (Matthew 5:17-18)

† He said all things written concerning him had to be fulfilled, not postponed, not deferred, fulfilled. (Luke 24:25-27)

† This includes messianic promises, sacrificial types, priestly shadows, and kingdom realities tied to Israel's covenant story. (Galatians 4:4-5)

Colossians 2:16-17

Therefore, no one is to act as your judge in regard to food and drink, or in respect to a festival or a new moon, or a Sabbath day - things which are only a shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

† The feasts, new moons, and sabbaths were shadows, Christ is the body, once the substance comes, the shadow isn't binding. (Hebrews 10:1)

† This reaches into Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles, and Jubilee themes of release and restoration. (Leviticus 23:4-44)

† If they were shadows of things to come, and Christ came, then those shadows reached fulfillment in him. (Hebrews 9:11-12)

Luke 4:18-21

"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME,
BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR.
HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO CAPTIVES,
AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND,

TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,
TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

And He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all the people in the synagogue were intently directed at Him. Now He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

† Jesus announced Jubilee fulfillment in their hearing, not thousands of years later. (Isaiah 61:1-2)

† The acceptable year of the Lord is Jubilee language, release, restoration, and covenant renewal. (Leviticus 25:10)

† He said it was fulfilled that day, anchoring fulfillment in his first century ministry. (Luke 4:21)

John 2:19-21

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and yet You will raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking about the temple of His body.

† Jesus identified himself as the true temple, the dwelling place of God among men. (John 1:14)

† When the earthly temple was destroyed, the true temple remained, fulfilled in him. (Hebrews 9:11)

† This confirms the temple system pointed forward to Christ, not forward to another stone building. (Acts 7:48)

Hebrews 8:13

When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is about to disappear.

† The writer said the Old Covenant was already becoming obsolete in the first century. (2 Corinthians 3:7-11)

† It was vanishing away, that vanishing occurred when the temple system was removed. (Matthew 24:1-2)

† When the temple went, the sacrificial system, priesthood ministry, and covenant administration went with it. (Hebrews 9:8-10)

Hebrews 10:1

For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the form of those things itself, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually every year, make those who approach perfect.

† The law was never the image, it was the shadow pointing forward to Christ. (Colossians 2:16-17)

† The continual sacrifices couldn't perfect, but Christ's once for all sacrifice could. (Hebrews 10:10-14)

† When the perfect came, the shadow system had to pass because it had done its job. (Galatians 3:24-25)

Galatians 3:16

Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as one would in referring to many, but rather as in referring to one, "And to your seed," that is,

Christ.

† The Abrahamic promise was centered in Christ, not in ethnic lineage. (Genesis 22:18)

† This shows the covenant promises were fulfilled in him. (Galatians 3:29)

† Through Christ, the blessing extends to the nations, completing the covenant story. (Galatians 3:14)

Luke 21:22

because these are days of punishment, so that all things which have been written will be fulfilled.

† Jesus said the destruction of Jerusalem was fulfillment of what was written. (Deuteronomy 28:49-52)

† He used fulfillment language in a covenant judgment context. (Matthew 23:36)

† This ties covenant curses directly to first century events. (Matthew 24:34)

Matthew 16:27-28

For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.

"Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man

coming in His kingdom."

† Jesus tied his coming in judgment and kingdom manifestation to that generation standing before him. (Matthew 24:34)

† This is covenant judgment language, the curses of the Law coming due on the covenant-breaking city. (Deuteronomy 28:49-52)

† Jesus said the guilt would come upon that generation, and history shows it did. (Matthew 23:36)

1 Corinthians 15:45-46

So also it is written: "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING PERSON." The last Adam was a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.

† The resurrection transition is from natural to spiritual, covenantal transformation, not corpse resuscitation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

† The last Adam brought life as a life-giving spirit, fulfilling redemptive promises. (Romans 5:18)

† This confirms fulfillment includes resurrection realities in Christ. (John 5:24)

Historical References

† Josephus recorded the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple, confirming the end of sacrifices and priestly service in history. (War of the Jews 6.4-6)

† Eusebius linked Christ's warnings to the judgment that came upon Jerusalem, treating the catastrophe as fulfillment of the Lord's words. (Ecclesiastical History 3.5)

† Irenaeus argued that Christ brought the Law to its intended goal, and that the shadow gave way to the reality in him. (Against Heresies 4.9)

How It Applies To Us Today

† We're not under a shadow system, we're in the reality of what Christ accomplished. (Colossians 2:16-17)

† We don't live in fear of covenant curses, Christ bore the curse and brought us into the blessing. (Galatians 3:13-14)

† We don't chase temple-based religion, we draw near through Christ with full assurance. (Hebrews 10:19-22)

† Because it's fulfilled, our focus is faithfulness, obedience from the heart, and living as the people of the new covenant. (Jeremiah 31:33-34)

† We don't wait for another sacrifice, another priesthood, or another temple, Christ is the once for all sacrifice and our eternal high priest. (Hebrews 7:24-27)

† We don't rebuild what God removed, the old system served its purpose and has passed. (Hebrews 8:13)

† We live in the fulfilled kingdom now, not postponing it to a future age. (Matthew 16:27-28)

† The Jubilee reality is ongoing freedom in Christ, release from debt, bondage, and condemnation. (Luke 4:18-21)

† The Abrahamic blessing includes us by faith, not ethnicity, and that's already accomplished in Christ. (Galatians 3:29)

† The resurrection life isn't future-only hope, it's present covenant life in the last Adam. (1 Corinthians 15:45-46)

† Fulfillment means confidence, we're not waiting for God to finish something he already declared finished. (John 19:30)

† Because the Law and Prophets are fulfilled, our identity isn't rooted in Sinai, it's rooted in Christ. (Romans 10:4)

Q & A Appendix

Q Did Jesus only fulfill the moral law?

A No, he fulfilled the Law and the Prophets, and he said all things would be accomplished. (Luke 24:44)

Q Were the feasts and sabbaths temporary?

A Yes, they were shadows of things to come, Christ is the body. (Hebrews 10:1)

Q When did the Old Covenant vanish?

A It was vanishing in their day, and the temple's destruction shows that vanishing in history. (Matthew 24:1-2)

Q Did Jesus fulfill covenant curses and blessings too?

A Yes, he announced judgment in that generation, and he also brought blessing to the nations in the new covenant. (Matthew 23:36)

Q Did Jesus fulfill the Jubilee?

A Yes, he declared the acceptable year of the Lord fulfilled in their hearing, announcing release and restoration. (Luke 4:18-21)

Q Did Jesus replace the temple?

A Yes, he identified his own body as the true temple, and the earthly temple passed away. (John 2:19-21)

Q Were the promises to Abraham fulfilled?

A Yes, the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed, which is Christ, and those in Christ inherit the blessing. (Galatians 3:16)

Q What about the priesthood?

A Christ remains a priest continually, and his priesthood doesn't pass to another. (Hebrews 7:24)

Q Did the sacrificial system continue after Christ?

A No, by one offering he perfected forever them that are sanctified. (Hebrews 10:14)

Q What about resurrection, is that still future?

A The last Adam became a life-giving spirit, and the transition is from natural to spiritual. (1 Corinthians 15:45-46)

Q Are we still waiting for the kingdom?

A Some standing there would not taste death until they saw the Son of man coming in his kingdom. (Matthew 16:27-28)

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

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Source Index

† Matthew 5:17-18; Luke 24:44; Colossians 2:16-17; Luke 4:18-21; John 2:19-21; Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 10:1; Galatians 3:16; Luke 21:22; Matthew 16:27-28; 1 Corinthians 15:45-46

† Josephus, War of the Jews 6.4-6; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5; Irenaeus, Against Heresies 4.9

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