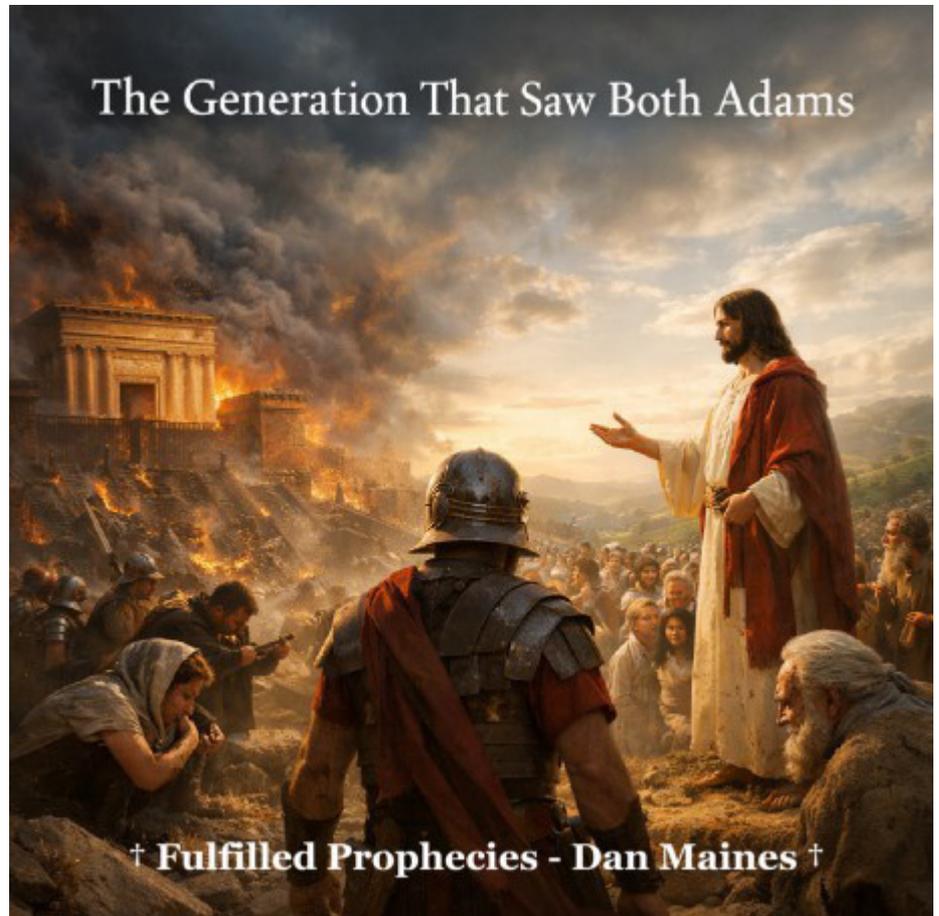


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Adams - The Generation That Saw Both Adams



By Dan Maines

The Generation That Saw Both Adams

Introduction

† Most believers are taught about the first Adam and the last Adam, but almost no one asks when the transition between those two heads was completed in history.

† The New Testament does not leave that timing vague.

† It repeatedly anchors the climax of redemptive change within a specific generation.

† If we ignore those time statements, we distort the structure of

fulfillment.

† The first century generation stood at the turning point.

Romans 5:12

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

† Paul identifies Adam as the historical entry point of sin and death.

† Death entered through one representative man.

† This is headship language, not covenant language.

† Humanity shares in Adam's fallen condition.

† The Law later exposed that condition, but it did not create it.

Romans 5:18-19

18 So then, as through one wrongdoing the result was condemnation to all mankind, so also through one act of righteousness the result was justification of life to all mankind.
19 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.

† Two representative acts stand in contrast.

† Adam's act brought condemnation.

† Christ's act brought justification.

† The issue is headship and identity.

† The covenant that required removal was the one given at Sinai, not something made with Adam.

1 Corinthians 15:22

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

- † In Adam describes solidarity with fallen humanity.
- † In Christ describes union with the risen head.
- † These are two realms of existence.
- † The Sinai covenant functioned within a humanity already under Adamic death.
- † Christ both fulfills the Law and overcomes the death introduced through Adam.

1 Corinthians 15:45-46

45 So also it is written: The first man, Adam, became a living person. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, then the spiritual.

- † The natural order came first in redemptive history.
- † Adam was the natural head of fallen humanity.
- † Christ is the life-giving head of redeemed humanity.
- † The Law world stood temporarily between those realities.
- † Its removal cleared the way for the full manifestation of the last Adam's reign.

Matthew 24:34

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

- † Jesus placed the fulfillment of covenant judgment within His own generation.
- † He did not project it thousands of years forward.
- † The destruction of Jerusalem marked the end of the Sinai covenant order.
- † That event ended the temple system permanently.
- † The generation that heard Jesus speak witnessed the closing of that age.

Galatians 4:4-5

4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent His Son,
born of a woman, born under the Law,
5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that
we might receive the adoption as sons and daughters.

- † Christ entered the Law administration intentionally.
- † His mission was directed at those under that covenant structure.
- † The cross secured redemption legally.
- † The removal of the temple system confirmed it historically.
- † After AD 70, the Sinai covenant no longer functioned in the world.

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 first covenant was already obsolete.
- † It was about to disappear in the writer's lifetime.
- † That disappearance corresponds with AD 70.
- † The old covenant did not linger beyond that generation.

Hebrews 12:27-28

27 And this expression, Yet once more, denotes the removal of
those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that
those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be
shaken, let's show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an
acceptable service with reverence and awe;

- † The shaken things refer to the Sinai covenant structures.
- † Their removal was decisive and historical.

- † What remains is the unshaken kingdom of Christ.
- † That kingdom belongs to the last Adam.
- † The transition was completed in the first century.

Historical References

- † Josephus records the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in Wars of the Jews, Book 6.
- † Tacitus confirms the devastation of the Jewish temple system in Histories 5.
- † Eusebius records the flight of believers before the city's destruction in Ecclesiastical History, Book 3.
- † Justin Martyr identifies the fall of Jerusalem as divine judgment on that generation.
- † Irenaeus writes that Christ brought the ages to their fulfillment in Against Heresies.

How It Applies To Us Today

- † We're not living between Adam and Christ.
- † We're not under the Sinai covenant.
- † We're not waiting for the kingdom to arrive.
- † We're living under the established reign of the last Adam.
- † The old order ended.
- † Christ's kingdom remains unshaken.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Was Adam in a covenant with God?

A: Scripture never states that God made a covenant with Adam in Genesis. Adam functioned as a representative head whose sin introduced death, Romans 5:12.

Q: What covenant was removed in the first century?

A: The Sinai covenant. Hebrews 8:13 says it was about to disappear, and Matthew 24:34 places fulfillment within that

generation.

Q: Are we still waiting for the last Adam to reign?

A: No. Hebrews 12:28 says we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken.

Q: Does this mean physical death ended in AD 70?

A: No. Romans 5:12 explains that biological death entered through Adam. The New Testament focus in passages like 1 Corinthians 15:22 is covenant identity, being in Adam or in Christ. The destruction of Jerusalem ended the Sinai covenant order, not biological mortality.

Q: If Christ defeated death, why do people still die physically?

A: 1 Corinthians 15:45 identifies Christ as the life-giving spirit. His victory over death is covenantal and redemptive, overcoming the separation introduced through Adam. Physical death continues, but condemnation does not remain for those in Christ, Romans 5:18-19.

Q: How do we know Matthew 24:34 refers to the first century and not a future race?

A: Jesus said this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. The same phrase generation consistently refers to His contemporaries in passages such as Matthew 23:36. There is no contextual shift in Matthew 24.

Q: If the Sinai covenant ended in AD 70, what governs believers today?

A: Hebrews 12:28 says we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken. We live under the reign of Christ, not under the Law of Moses. The New Covenant is not fading, it remains.

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

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Source Index

† Romans 5:12, 18-19; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45-46; Matthew 24:34; Galatians 4:4-5; Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 12:27-28

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6; Tacitus, Histories 5; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3; Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho; Irenaeus, Against Heresies

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