

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

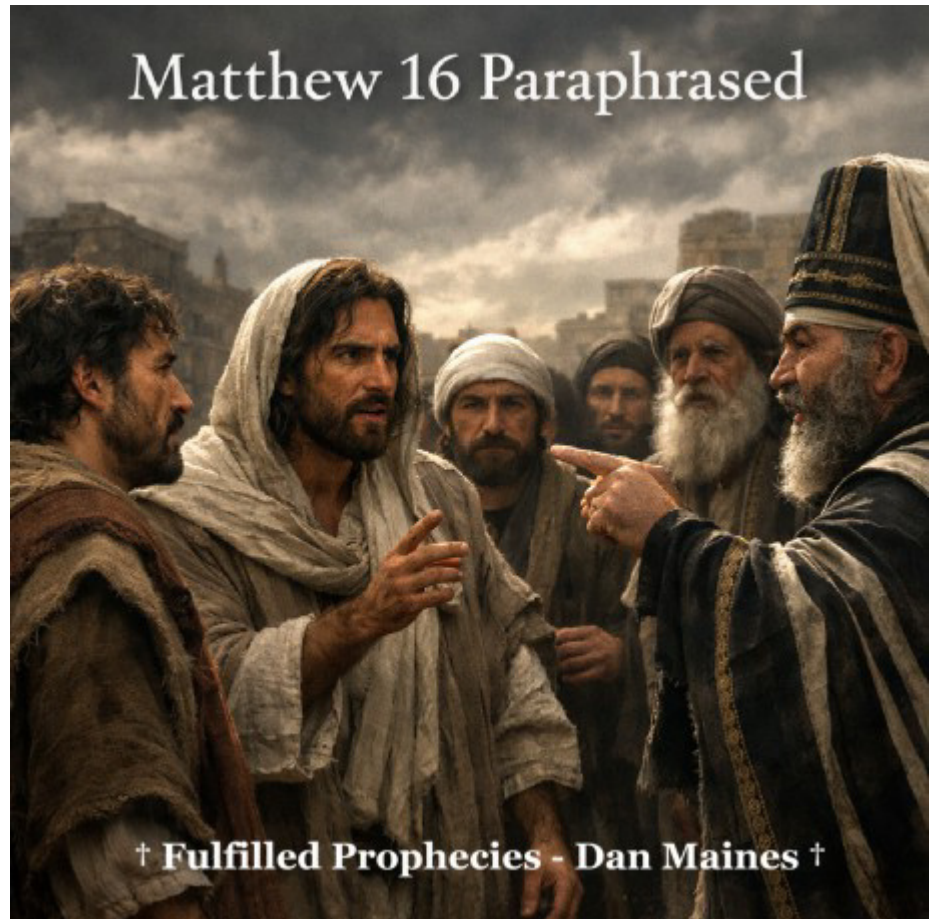
[Other](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

Matthew 16 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Matthew 16 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Jesus had just confronted the religious leadership of Israel, the Pharisees and Sadducees, who constantly demanded signs while ignoring the clear evidence already in front of them (Matthew 12:38-41).

† Matthew 16 continues that confrontation and then moves into a critical moment where Jesus reveals who He is and speaks about the coming judgment that would fall within that generation (Matthew 16:27-28).

† This chapter also establishes the foundation of the church, not on Peter as a man, but on the confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God (Ephesians 2:19-20).

Matthew 16:1

The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Him they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven.

† The religious leaders were not sincerely seeking truth, they were testing Jesus and trying to trap Him (Matthew 12:38-39).

† They had already seen miracles, healings, and the feeding of thousands, yet they still demanded more proof (John 12:37).

† Their request shows the hardness of Israel's leadership during the final generation before Jerusalem's destruction (Luke 19:41-44).

Matthew 16:2

But He replied to them, When it is evening, you say, It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.

† Jesus exposed their hypocrisy by pointing out that they could interpret natural signs in the sky but refused to recognize the spiritual signs standing before them (Luke 12:54-56).

† The Messiah Himself was present among them, fulfilling prophecy, yet they ignored the evidence (Isaiah 35:5-6).

† Their blindness wasn't intellectual, it was willful rejection of God's revelation (John 5:39-40).

Matthew 16:3

And in the morning, There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening. Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?

† The signs of the times referred to the fulfillment of messianic prophecy taking place in their generation (Daniel 9:24-27).

† John the Baptist, the miracles of Jesus, and the message of the kingdom were all clear signs (Matthew 11:2-5).

† Their inability to see it showed the spiritual blindness of the leadership that would soon lead the nation into judgment

(Matthew 23:37-38).

Matthew 16:4

An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah. And He left them and went away.

† The sign of Jonah referred to Jesus' death and resurrection after three days, just as Jonah was three days in the fish (Matthew 12:40).

† Calling them an adulterous generation pointed to their covenant unfaithfulness toward God (Jeremiah 3:8-9).

† This same generation would later reject the risen Christ and bring judgment upon Jerusalem in AD 70 (Matthew 23:36).

Matthew 16:5

And the disciples came to the other side of the sea, but they had forgotten to bring any bread.

† The disciples were still thinking in physical terms, often missing the deeper meaning behind Jesus' teachings (Mark 8:17-18).

† Their concern about bread contrasts with the miracles they had already witnessed (Matthew 14:19-21).

† This moment sets up Jesus' warning about the dangerous influence of Israel's leadership.

Matthew 16:6

And Jesus said to them, Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

† Leaven represents corrupt influence that spreads and affects everything it touches (Galatians 5:9).

† The Pharisees and Sadducees represented the religious system that rejected Christ and misled the people (Matthew 23:13).

† Jesus warned His disciples not to be influenced by that corrupt teaching.

Matthew 16:7

They began to discuss this among themselves, saying, He said that because we did not bring any bread.

† The disciples again misunderstood Jesus and thought He was referring to literal bread (Mark 8:16).

† This shows how easily people can miss spiritual truth when focused only on physical concerns.

† Even the disciples needed time and instruction to fully grasp what Jesus was revealing.

Matthew 16:8

But Jesus, aware of this, said, You men of little faith, why do you discuss among yourselves that you have no bread?

† Jesus rebuked them for forgetting the miracles they had already witnessed (Matthew 14:19-21; Matthew 15:36).

† Their concern showed a lack of trust in God's provision despite clear evidence.

† Faith grows when believers remember what God has already done.

Matthew 16:9

Do you not yet understand or remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets full you picked up?

† Jesus reminded them of the feeding of the five thousand to show that bread wasn't the real issue (Matthew 14:20).

† The miracle demonstrated Christ's authority and provision.

† The disciples should have recognized that Jesus was speaking symbolically.

Matthew 16:10

Or the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many large baskets full you picked up?

† The feeding of the four thousand confirmed that Jesus repeatedly demonstrated divine power (Matthew 15:37).

† These miracles were public signs of the Messiah promised in scripture.

† Yet even the disciples struggled to grasp the full meaning.

Matthew 16:11

How is it that you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

† Jesus clarified that He was warning about false teaching and corrupt influence (Matthew 23:3).

† The leadership of Israel had turned religion into hypocrisy and legalism.

† Their influence would lead many people away from recognizing the Messiah.

Matthew 16:12

Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

† The disciples finally realized that Jesus was speaking about doctrine and influence.

† False teaching spreads like leaven and corrupts the entire body if left unchecked (1 Corinthians 5:6).

† This warning remains important for believers in every generation.

Matthew 16:13

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, Who do people say that the Son of Man is?

† Jesus asked this question to reveal the difference between public opinion and true faith.

† Many people admired Jesus but misunderstood His identity (John 7:12).

† The question forced the disciples to consider the truth about who He really was.

Matthew 16:14

And they said, Some say John the Baptist, and others Elijah,

but still others Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.

† Many people believed Jesus was a prophet or a resurrected figure from Israel's past (Matthew 14:1-2).

† These views showed respect but still fell short of recognizing Him as the Messiah.

† The world often reduces Jesus to a teacher or prophet instead of acknowledging Him as the Christ.

Matthew 16:15

He said to them, But who do you say that I am?

† This question moved from public opinion to personal conviction.

† Every believer must answer this question for themselves.

† True faith isn't built on what others say, but on revelation from God.

Matthew 16:16

Simon Peter answered, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

† Peter's confession recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah foretold in the Old Testament (Psalm 2:7).

† This statement forms the foundation of the church's faith.

† The church is built on the truth of who Christ is.

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.

† True understanding of Christ comes from divine revelation, not human reasoning (1 Corinthians 2:10).

† Peter didn't discover this on his own, God revealed it to him.

† Salvation and faith always begin with God's initiative.

Matthew 16:18

I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

† The rock refers to the confession that Jesus is the Christ, not

Peter himself (1 Corinthians 3:11).

† The church would be built on that truth and would overcome death itself.

† Christ's kingdom would outlast the old covenant system that was soon to pass away.

Matthew 16:19

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

† The keys symbolize authority to proclaim the gospel and open the kingdom to others (Luke 11:52).

† The apostles played a foundational role in establishing the church (Ephesians 2:20).

† Their teaching would guide believers in understanding God's kingdom.

Matthew 16:20

Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.

† At this stage Jesus controlled the timing of His revelation because the events leading to His death had not yet unfolded.

† Public declarations could have disrupted the mission He came to accomplish.

† The full proclamation of Christ would come after His resurrection (Acts 2:36).

Matthew 16:21

From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

† Jesus clearly predicted His death and resurrection.

† The suffering Messiah fulfilled Old Testament prophecy (Isaiah 53:5).

† This event would become the central message of the gospel.

Matthew 16:22

Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, God forbid it, Lord. This shall never happen to You.

† Peter still expected a political Messiah who would overthrow Rome.

† The idea of a suffering Messiah didn't fit Jewish expectations.

† Even faithful followers can misunderstand God's plan.

Matthew 16:23

But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan. You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.

† Peter's words unintentionally echoed Satan's earlier temptation to avoid the cross (Matthew 4:8-10).

† Human thinking often resists God's plan when it involves sacrifice or suffering.

† Jesus sharply corrected Peter because the cross was essential.

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

† Following Christ requires surrender and self-denial.

† The cross symbolized suffering and loyalty to Jesus even in persecution.

† Many first century believers would literally face persecution for their faith (Hebrews 10:32-34).

Matthew 16:25

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

† Those who cling to worldly security often lose eternal life.

† True life comes through faithfulness to Christ.

† This principle applied directly to believers facing persecution in the first century.

Matthew 16:26

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

† Material success cannot compensate for spiritual loss.

† Jesus emphasized the eternal value of the soul.

† This statement confronts the priorities of every generation.

Matthew 16:27

For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay every man according to his deeds.

† Jesus spoke about the coming judgment that would occur within that generation (Matthew 24:30-34).

† The coming of the Son of Man language comes from Daniel's prophecy (Daniel 7:13-14).

† This judgment culminated in the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

Matthew 16:28

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 clearly placed the fulfillment within the lifetime of His listeners.

† This verse confirms that the coming judgment and kingdom manifestation were near in the first century.

† The events surrounding AD 70 fulfilled these warnings exactly as Jesus predicted.

Historical References

† Josephus recorded the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70, confirming the catastrophic judgment that Jesus warned about.

† Eusebius wrote that Christians fled Jerusalem before the Roman siege, remembering Jesus' warnings in the Gospels.

† Tacitus also recorded the Roman campaign that devastated

Judea during this period.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Believers must recognize Christ for who He truly is, the Son of the living God.

† False teaching still spreads like leaven, so we must remain grounded in scripture.

† Following Jesus still requires denying ourselves and remaining faithful.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Did Jesus say His coming would happen during the lifetime of His listeners?

A: Yes. Matthew 16:28 clearly states that some standing there would not die before seeing the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.

Q: Is the church built on Peter himself?

A: No. The church is built on the confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Q: What is the leaven of the Pharisees?

A: It refers to the corrupt teaching and hypocrisy of Israel's religious leadership (Matthew 23:13).

Q: Why did the Pharisees and Sadducees keep demanding signs from Jesus?

A: Their request wasn't sincere. They were testing Him and refusing the evidence already given through His miracles and teachings (Matthew 12:38-39; John 12:37).

Q: What did Jesus mean by the sign of Jonah?

A: Jesus was referring to His death and resurrection after three days, just as Jonah was three days in the fish (Matthew 12:40).

Q: What is the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees?

A: It represents their corrupt teaching and hypocrisy, which spreads like leaven through the whole group if left unchecked (Matthew 23:13; 1 Corinthians 5:6).

Q: Why did Jesus ask the disciples who people said He was?

A: He was revealing the difference between public opinion and true faith, leading to Peter's confession that He is the Christ (Matthew 16:15-16).

Q: What is the rock that Jesus said He would build His church on?

A: The rock is the confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, which is the foundation of the church (1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20).

Q: What are the keys of the kingdom mentioned in Matthew 16:19?

A: The keys represent the authority given to the apostles to proclaim the gospel and open the kingdom to others through their teaching (Luke 11:52; Acts 2:38).

Q: Why did Jesus tell the disciples not to tell anyone He was the Christ?

A: The timing of His public revelation had to follow God's plan leading to the cross and resurrection (Matthew 17:9).

Q: Why did Peter rebuke Jesus for predicting His death?

A: Peter still expected a conquering political Messiah and didn't yet understand the necessity of the cross (Isaiah 53:5).

Q: What does it mean to take up your cross and follow Jesus?

A: It means denying self and remaining faithful to Christ even when facing hardship or persecution (Matthew 10:38).

Q: What does it mean to lose your life to save it?

A: Those who cling to worldly security lose eternal life, but

those who surrender their lives to Christ gain true life (John 12:25).

Q: What coming did Jesus refer to in Matthew 16:27?

A: He referred to the coming judgment on Jerusalem that would occur in that generation, fulfilling His warnings about the end of the old covenant system (Matthew 24:30-34).

Q: What does Matthew 16:28 mean when it says some would not taste death?

A: Jesus clearly stated that some standing there would live to see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom, which places the fulfillment in the first century (Matthew 24:34).

Q: How do we know the fulfillment happened in the first century?

A: Jesus repeatedly said these events would happen in that generation, and history records the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 exactly as He predicted (Matthew 23:36; Luke 21:20-22).

Q: Why is recognizing Jesus as the Son of the living God so important?

A: That confession is the foundation of faith and the basis of the church that Christ established (Matthew 16:16-18).

Q: What lesson should believers take from the disciples misunderstanding Jesus about the bread?

A: Even faithful believers can miss spiritual meaning when focused only on physical concerns, so we must stay attentive to Christ's teaching (Mark 8:17-18).

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

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

Source Index

† Matthew 16:1-28; Daniel 7:13-14; Daniel 9:24-27; Isaiah 53:5;

Matthew 24:30-34; 1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:19-20
† Josephus, Wars of the Jews Book 6; Eusebius Ecclesiastical
History Book 3; Tacitus Histories Book 5

Share on Facebook

Links

Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.