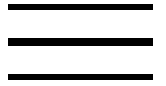


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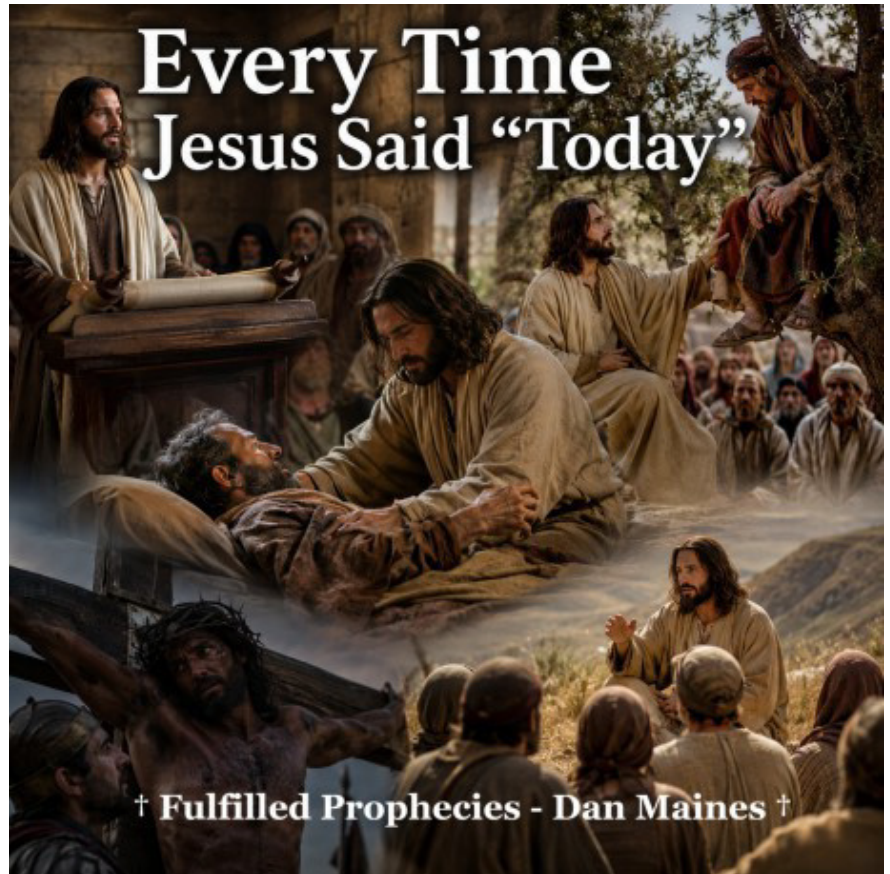
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Every Time Jesus Said "Today"



By Dan Maines

Every Time Jesus Said "Today"

Introduction

† One of the most overlooked themes in Luke's Gospel is Jesus' repeated use of the word "**Today**." It isn't merely a statement about the calendar. It is a declaration that God's promises were being fulfilled in the lifetime of those who heard Him.

† Every time Jesus said "**Today**," He emphasized that God's kingdom, salvation, and covenant promises were present realities, not distant events postponed for thousands of years.

† Luke carefully records these moments to show that God's redemptive plan reached its fulfillment through Christ's ministry and within the generation He addressed.

Luke 4:21

Now He began to say to them, "**Today** this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

† Jesus did not announce that Isaiah's prophecy would be fulfilled centuries later. He declared it fulfilled before the very people listening to Him. (Isaiah 61:1-2)

† His ministry marked the arrival of the promised Messiah and the beginning of the New Covenant age. (Galatians 4:4-5)

† God's timetable was unfolding exactly as the prophets had foretold, proving that fulfillment had entered history in Christ. (Mark 1:14-15)

Luke 2:11

for **Today** in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

† Luke begins his Gospel with the announcement that the Savior had arrived "this day," establishing the theme of present fulfillment from the very beginning. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

† God's promises were no longer merely anticipated, they had entered history through the birth of Jesus Christ. (Galatians 4:4-5)

† Luke intentionally connects Christ's birth with the fulfillment that Jesus later proclaimed in His ministry. (Luke 4:21)

Luke 5:26

And they were all struck with astonishment and began glorifying God. They were also filled with fear, saying, "We have seen

remarkable things **Today!**"



† The miracles of Jesus were evidence that God's kingdom had arrived among His people. (Matthew 12:28)

† Those who witnessed His works were seeing prophecy fulfilled with their own eyes. (Isaiah 35:5-6)

† Luke again stresses the present reality of God's work instead of pointing people toward a distant future. (Luke 7:22)

Luke 19:5-10

And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for **Today** I must stay at your house." And he hurried and came down, and received Him joyfully. When the people saw this, they all began to complain, saying, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner!" But Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I am giving to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone, I am giving back four times as much." And Jesus said to him, " **Today** salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

† Jesus declared salvation as a present reality, not a promise postponed until the end of history. (John 5:24)

† Zacchaeus experienced the blessings of the kingdom through faith in Christ while Jesus walked among Israel. (Romans 10:9-13)

† This fulfilled God's promise to restore His covenant people through the Messiah. (Ezekiel 34:11-16)

Luke 19:41-44

When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known on this day, even you, the conditions for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. For the

days will come upon you when your enemies will put up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, and they will level you to the ground, and throw down your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."

† Jerusalem failed to recognize "this day," the time when God visited His people through the Messiah. (John 1:11)

† Jesus connected their coming judgment directly to their rejection of Him during their own generation. (Matthew 23:37-38)

† The destruction of Jerusalem was the consequence of rejecting the fulfillment that stood before them. (Luke 21:20-22)

Luke 23:43

And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, **Today** you will be with Me in Paradise."

† Even while hanging on the cross, Jesus spoke of immediate hope instead of delayed fulfillment. (2 Corinthians 5:6-8)

† The believing thief would share in the blessings Christ was about to secure through His death and resurrection. (Hebrews 10:19-22)

† The cross was not the postponement of God's plan, it was the very means by which God's promises were accomplished. (John 19:30)

Hebrews 3:13-15

But encourage one another every day, as long as it is still called "**Today**," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we keep the beginning of our commitment firm until the end, while it is said,

"**Today** if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me."

† The New Testament continues the theme of "**Today**" by urging first-century believers to respond while God's covenant transition was taking place. (Hebrews 10:25, 37)

† The opportunity was urgent because the Old Covenant was passing away exactly as Jesus had foretold. (Hebrews 8:13)

† The generation addressed in Hebrews was living in the days of fulfillment, not waiting for another covenant age. (Matthew 24:34)

2 Corinthians 6:2

for He says,

"At a favorable time I listened to you,

And on a day of salvation I helped you."

Behold, now is "a favorable time," behold, now is "a day of salvation"

† Paul proclaimed the same message as Jesus, that salvation was a present reality rather than a distant expectation. (Isaiah 49:8)

† The apostolic message consistently emphasized "now" because God's redemptive plan was reaching its covenant fulfillment. (Romans 13:11-12)

† The urgency reflected the closing days of the Old Covenant age. (Hebrews 8:13)

The Meaning Of "Today"

† Every occurrence of "**Today**" in Luke points to fulfillment taking place during Christ's earthly ministry and the apostolic age, not to events thousands of years later. (Luke 2:11; Luke 4:21; Luke 19:9; Luke 23:43)

† Luke's repeated use of "**Today**" forms a consistent pattern showing that God's kingdom promises had arrived in Christ. (Mark 1:15)

† The repeated emphasis on "**Today**" is one more demonstration that the New Testament is a book of fulfillment rather than postponement. (Hebrews 1:1-2)

Historical References

† Josephus records the events leading to Jerusalem's destruction in AD 70, demonstrating the fulfillment of Jesus' warnings to His generation. (Wars of the Jews, Books 5-6)

† Eusebius records that Christians remembered Jesus' warnings and fled Jerusalem before its destruction, preserving the church exactly as Christ foretold. (Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapter 5)

† Irenaeus affirmed that Christ fulfilled the Law and the Prophets through His coming and redemptive work. (Against Heresies, Book 4)

† Tacitus confirms the devastating destruction of Jerusalem during the reign of Vespasian and Titus, matching the historical setting of Christ's prophecies. (Histories, Book 5)

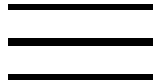
How It Applies To Us Today

† We don't live waiting for Jesus to begin fulfilling His promises because He has already accomplished everything necessary for our salvation.

† We live in the fully established New Covenant where forgiveness, reconciliation, and access to God are present realities.

† We can have confidence that every promise Jesus made concerning redemption was fulfilled exactly when He said it would

be.



† Our hope **Today** rests in the finished work of Christ and the everlasting kingdom He established.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Why did Jesus repeatedly say "**Today**"?

A: Because He was announcing that God's promised salvation and kingdom were being fulfilled during His own ministry, not postponed to a distant future. (Luke 4:21; Luke 19:9-10)

Q: Does "**Today**" always mean the exact same calendar day?

A: Not always. Sometimes it refers to the immediate fulfillment taking place in that present time and covenant era, emphasizing that God's promises had arrived. (Luke 4:21; Hebrews 3:13-15)

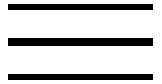
Q: Why is Luke the Gospel that emphasizes "**Today**" the most?

A: Luke highlights that Jesus brought God's promises into present reality. Throughout his Gospel, fulfillment is consistently shown as taking place during Christ's earthly ministry. (Luke 2:11; Luke 4:21; Luke 19:9; Luke 23:43)

Q: What is the greatest lesson from every time Jesus said "**Today**"?

A: Jesus consistently declared fulfillment instead of postponement. His words remind us that God's plan unfolded exactly according to His appointed time and was fulfilled in Christ and the first-century establishment of the New Covenant. (Galatians 4:4-5; Hebrews 8:13; Matthew 24:34)

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



Source Index

† Luke 2:11; Luke 4:21; Luke 5:26; Luke 19:5-10; Luke 19:41-44; Luke 23:43; Hebrews 3:13-15; 2 Corinthians 6:2

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Books 5-6; Tacitus, Histories, Book 5; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapter 5; Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book 4

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