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The Best Part Of Fulfilled Eschatology Is What Comes After Fulfillment



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† Fulfilled eschatology isn't merely about proving when prophecy was fulfilled. It's about understanding what fulfillment accomplished and what we have because of it.

† AD 70 wasn't the end of God's purpose. It was the judgment that brought the old covenant age to its final historical conclusion and openly demonstrated that the Kingdom established through Christ would never be replaced.

† The story didn't end with Jerusalem's fall. Christ's Kingdom continues, the gospel continues, the nations continue coming to Him, and people continue entering the life found in Christ.

† Fulfillment isn't a message of emptiness. It's a message of victory, access, life, peace, reconciliation, and an everlasting Kingdom.

† The best part of fulfilled eschatology is what comes after fulfillment. We aren't waiting for God's Kingdom to begin. We're living in the Kingdom Christ established, and His reign has no end (Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 12:28).

Revelation 21:24-26

The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it;

† Notice what happens after the judgment scenes of Revelation. The nations are still present, and they're walking by the light of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:24).

† The gates aren't closed. This picture isn't of humanity disappearing from the earth. It's a picture of continuing access to God's covenant city through Christ (Revelation 21:25).

† Nations and kings bring their glory into the city. The Kingdom isn't shrinking after fulfillment, it's reaching outward to the nations (Psalm 22:27-28; Matthew 28:18-20).

† This is one of the strongest pictures of what comes after fulfillment. Judgment removed the old covenant order, but God's redemptive purpose continues among the nations.

Revelation 22:1-2

And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

† Revelation ends with life flowing from the throne, not with God's work coming to a stop (Revelation 22:1).

† The tree of life is pictured as continually producing fruit. The imagery communicates abundant and continuing life under the reign of God and the Lamb (Revelation 22:2).

† The leaves are for the healing of the nations. Nations still need the blessings that flow from Christ's Kingdom (Ezekiel 47:12).

† Fulfillment opened the picture of an ongoing Kingdom where the life of Christ continues reaching people throughout the world.

Revelation 22:17

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires, take the water of life without cost.

† Revelation doesn't finish with the invitation canceled. It finishes with an invitation to come (Revelation 22:17).

† The Spirit and the Bride invite the thirsty to receive the water of life. That's Kingdom language for the continuing availability of salvation and life in Christ (John 4:14; John 7:37-39).

† People can still come because Christ's Kingdom remains. The gates are open, the water of life is available, and the gospel continues calling people to Christ.

† Fulfillment didn't eliminate evangelism. Fulfillment established the covenant world in which the gospel continues going to the nations.

Isaiah 9:6-7

For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of armies will accomplish this.

† Isaiah didn't describe Christ's Kingdom as temporary. He said there would be no end to the increase of His government and

peace (Isaiah 9:7).

† Jesus didn't establish a Kingdom that would disappear after AD 70. AD 70 demonstrated the passing of the old covenant world while Christ's Kingdom remained.

† Christ reigns from the throne of David, and His Kingdom is established in justice and righteousness forever (Luke 1:32-33).

† Fulfilled eschatology should therefore produce hope. We're living under the reign of the King whose Kingdom has no expiration date.

Daniel 7:13-14

I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a son of man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, Honor, and a kingdom, So that all the peoples, nations, and populations of all languages Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

† Daniel saw the Son of Man receiving dominion, glory, and a Kingdom. Jesus applied this Son of Man language to Himself (Matthew 26:64).

† His dominion includes peoples, nations, and languages. The scope of Christ's reign extends far beyond first-century Jerusalem (Daniel 7:14).

† His Kingdom won't pass away and won't be destroyed. That's why AD 70 can't represent the end of Christ's Kingdom. It demonstrated His royal authority in judgment while His everlasting dominion continued.

† Fulfillment brought God's prophetic promises to their appointed goal, but Christ's everlasting reign continues.

Hebrews 12:28

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 believers addressed in Hebrews were receiving a

Kingdom that couldn't be shaken (Hebrews 12:28).

† The things belonging to the old covenant order were being shaken and removed, while the Kingdom belonging to Christ remained (Hebrews 12:26-27).

† That's the contrast fulfilled eschatology helps us understand. What could be shaken was removed. What couldn't be shaken remains.

† We aren't living between kingdoms. We're living in the unshakable Kingdom of Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:24-25

then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to our God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

† Paul's emphasis is the victorious reign of Christ. Christ's enemies were being placed beneath His authority as God's redemptive plan moved toward its covenantal goal (1 Corinthians 15:25).

† The language of Christ reigning doesn't describe defeat or abandonment. It describes the successful accomplishment of God's purpose through the Messiah (Psalm 110:1).

† Fulfillment means Christ accomplished what prophecy said He would accomplish. It doesn't mean God stopped saving people, stopped ruling, or stopped blessing the nations.

† The Kingdom's victory gives us confidence to live faithfully under Christ's authority today.

Historical References

† Josephus described the catastrophic destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70, providing an important historical witness to the judgment that ended the old covenant nation's temple-centered order (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Books 5-7).

† Tacitus recorded the Roman campaign against Jerusalem and the destruction associated with the Jewish war, providing independent Roman testimony concerning the first-century

catastrophe (Tacitus, Histories, Book 5).

† Eusebius later connected Jerusalem's destruction with Jesus' warnings and recorded the tradition that believers in Jerusalem departed before the city's destruction (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapters 5-7).

† These historical witnesses help establish the first-century setting of Jerusalem's judgment. Scripture explains the covenant significance of those events, while history confirms that the predicted catastrophe occurred.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We don't have to live as though Christianity is waiting for its greatest reality to arrive. We have received a Kingdom that can't be shaken (Hebrews 12:28).

† We don't preach a defeated King waiting to begin His reign. We proclaim Jesus Christ as the reigning King whose Kingdom continues throughout the generations (Isaiah 9:7).

† We don't tell the nations that the gates are closed. Revelation pictures the gates as open and the nations walking in the city's light (Revelation 21:24-25).

† We don't tell thirsty people that the water of life belonged only to the first century. The invitation remains meaningful, Come, and take the water of life freely (Revelation 22:17).

† We can live with joy instead of fear because fulfillment means Jesus kept His promises.

† We can live with purpose because there's still a world that needs the good news of Jesus Christ.

† We can live with confidence because Christ's Kingdom isn't waiting to arrive, isn't collapsing, and isn't temporary.

† AD 70 wasn't the end of God's purpose. It was the decisive removal of the old covenant world in judgment and the vindication of Christ's everlasting Kingdom.

† The best part of fulfilled eschatology isn't simply looking backward and saying, It happened.

† The best part is looking at what Christ has given us now and saying, His Kingdom remains, His gates are open, His life is

available, His gospel continues, and His reign has no end.

Q & A Appendix

Q: If prophecy was fulfilled by AD 70, does that mean God's purpose ended?

A: No. Christ's Kingdom is everlasting, and Revelation pictures the nations continuing to walk in its light (Isaiah 9:7; Revelation 21:24-26).

Q: If Revelation was fulfilled, why does Revelation 22:17 still matter?

A: Because fulfillment established the reality pictured in Revelation. The Spirit and the Bride say Come, and the water of life is freely available in Christ (Revelation 22:17; John 4:14).

Q: Are people still entering the Kingdom today?

A: Yes. Revelation pictures open gates, nations outside being invited into its blessings, and the water of life being offered freely (Revelation 21:24-26; 22:17).

Q: Did AD 70 end Christ's reign?

A: No. Christ's Kingdom is everlasting and can't be destroyed or shaken (Daniel 7:14; Hebrews 12:28).

Q: What should fulfilled eschatology produce in Christians today?

A: Joy, confidence, faithful service, and a desire to share Christ with others. We aren't waiting for His Kingdom to begin. We've received the Kingdom that can't be shaken (Hebrews 12:28).

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

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Source Index

† Revelation 21:24-26; Revelation 22:1-2; Revelation 22:17; Isaiah 9:6-7; Daniel 7:13-14; Hebrews 12:28; 1 Corinthians

15:24-25

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Books 5-7; Tacitus, Histories, Book 5; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapters 5-7

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