

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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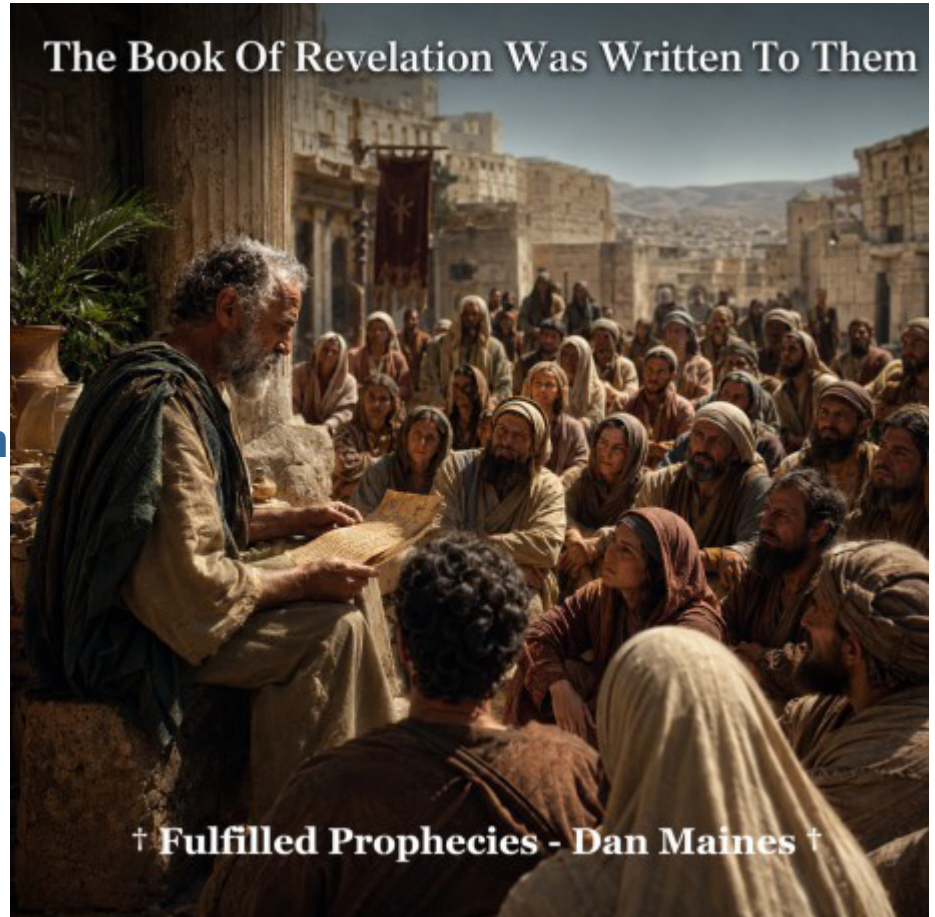
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## Revelation - The Book Of Revelation Was Written To Them



By Dan Maines

## The Book Of Revelation Was Written To Them

### Introduction

† One of the biggest mistakes people make when reading Revelation is ignoring who the book was written to and when the events were said to happen. (Revelation 1:1-3)

† Modern prophecy teachers push Revelation thousands of years into the future even though the book itself repeatedly says the events were near, at hand, and about to happen soon. (Revelation 22:6-10)

† If God wanted believers to understand Revelation as events

2000 years away, then the words shortly, near, and at hand would have no honest meaning. (Matthew 24:34)

† Revelation was written to real first century churches facing real first century persecution under Rome, before the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. (Revelation 1:4, 11)

† The time statements aren't accidental. They're repeated over and over because God wanted the original audience to know judgment was approaching in their generation. (Matthew 24:34)

### **Revelation 1:1**

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,

† The phrase must shortly happen destroys the idea of a 2000 year delay. (Revelation 1:1)

† Shortly means quickly, soon, near in time, not thousands of years later. (Luke 18:8; Romans 16:20)

† God wasn't misleading the seven churches of Asia into believing events were near if they were actually meant for people living in the 21st century. (Revelation 1:4)

† The same Greek word for shortly is used in other places where it clearly means soon in time. (Acts 12:7; Romans 16:20)

† Revelation opens with urgency because covenant judgment against apostate Israel and persecuting Rome was approaching rapidly. (Matthew 23:36; Matthew 24:2)

### **Revelation 1:3**

Blessed is the one who reads, and those who hear the words of the prophecy and keep the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

† John didn't say the time was thousands of years away. He said it was at hand. (Revelation 1:3)

† At hand means near, close, about to arrive. (Philippians 4:5)

† Jesus used the exact same language before the destruction

of Jerusalem. (Matthew 24:33)

† If at hand can mean thousands of years away, then language loses all meaning. (Matthew 16:27-28)

† The first century churches were told to keep the prophecy because they were about to live through the events described. (Revelation 1:11)

### **Revelation 1:9**

I, John, your brother and fellow participant in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

† John said he was already in the kingdom with the first century believers. (Revelation 1:9)

† The kingdom wasn't something delayed thousands of years into the future. (Colossians 1:13)

† The early church was already sharing in the tribulation and kingdom together. (Acts 14:22)

† Revelation was written to suffering believers living in that present reality. (Revelation 1:9)

### **Revelation 2:10**

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

† Jesus told the church at Smyrna they were about to suffer. (Revelation 2:10)

† He wasn't warning Christians living 2000 years later. (Revelation 1:11)

† These were real churches facing immediate persecution under Roman authority. (Revelation 2:8-10)

† Revelation was practical and urgent for them because they were entering the tribulation period of their time. (Matthew

24:21; Revelation 1:9)

### **Revelation 3:11**

I am coming quickly; hold firmly to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

† Jesus said I come quickly. (Revelation 3:11)

† Futurism turns quickly into thousands of years, but the original audience would've understood it exactly as written. (Revelation 22:7)

† Christ came quickly in covenant judgment against Jerusalem exactly as He promised. (Matthew 16:27-28)

† The coming language throughout scripture often refers to judgment comings, not physical appearances. (Isaiah 19:1)

† Jesus came in power and judgment in that generation just as He said He would. (Matthew 24:30-34)

### **Matthew 24:34**

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

† Jesus placed all the events of the Olivet Discourse within the lifetime of His generation. (Matthew 24:34)

† He didn't say a future race, future nation, or future generation thousands of years later. (Matthew 23:36)

† Generation always means the people living at that time when used normally in the Gospels. (Matthew 11:16; Matthew 12:41-42)

† The destruction of the temple in AD 70 proved Jesus told the truth exactly as spoken. (Matthew 24:2)

† Revelation expands on the same judgment Jesus described in Matthew 24. (Revelation 6:12-17)

### **Revelation 17:10**

and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little

while.

† John said one king presently is, proving Revelation was anchored in John's own time. (Revelation 17:10)

† The prophecy concerned rulers existing during the first century Roman Empire, not modern nations 2000 years later. (Revelation 17:10)

† Revelation was written during the reign of a current Caesar, not about distant future governments. (Revelation 13:18)

† The audience would've understood exactly which rulers John was describing. (Revelation 17:18)

### **Revelation 22:6**

And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true"; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.

† Revelation closes exactly the same way it opens. (Revelation 1:1; Revelation 22:6)

† God repeated shortly happen because He wanted there to be no confusion about timing. (Revelation 22:6)

† The prophecy was relevant to the original audience living before Jerusalem's fall. (Revelation 1:4)

† The repetition destroys the claim that the timing statements mean something different. (Revelation 22:10)

### **Revelation 22:7**

"And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

† Jesus again declared that He was coming quickly. (Revelation 22:7)

† The repetition of quickly throughout Revelation proves the timing was urgent and near. (Revelation 1:1; Revelation 3:11)

† Christ was warning the first century churches to remain faithful because judgment was approaching rapidly. (Matthew 24:42-44)

† The blessing was for those who kept the prophecy because they were about to experience those events. (Revelation 1:3)

### **Revelation 22:10**

And he said to me, Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

† John was specifically told not to seal the prophecy because the time was at hand. (Revelation 22:10)

† This directly contrasts Daniel who was told to seal his prophecy because the fulfillment was far off. (Daniel 12:4)

† Daniel looked hundreds of years ahead, John looked at events near in his own lifetime. (Daniel 8:26; Revelation 1:1)

† God wouldn't tell John not to seal the book if fulfillment was still thousands of years away. (Revelation 22:10)

† Revelation was unsealed because the judgment events were ready to begin. (Matthew 24:33-34)

### **Daniel 12:4**

But as for you, Daniel, keep these words secret and seal up the book until the end of time; many will roam about, and knowledge will increase.

† Daniel was told to seal his prophecy because fulfillment was far away. (Daniel 12:4)

† John was told not to seal Revelation because fulfillment was near. (Revelation 22:10)

† The contrast between Daniel and Revelation destroys the idea that Revelation was about events thousands of years later. (Revelation 1:1-3)

† God made a clear distinction between prophecies that were distant and prophecies that were near. (Habakkuk 2:3)

### **Historical References**

† Eusebius recorded the destruction of Jerusalem as the fulfillment of Christ's warnings concerning that generation. (Matthew 24:34)

† Josephus described the Roman siege, famine, civil war, false prophets, and destruction of the temple exactly as Jesus predicted in Matthew 24. (Matthew 24:6-22)

† Clement of Alexandria and other early writers understood Revelation within the context of Roman persecution and first century events. (Revelation 1:9)

† Tacitus confirmed the intense persecution under Nero during the exact time period Revelation describes. (Revelation 13:18)

### **How It Applies To Us Today**

† We should trust Christ's words exactly as He spoke them instead of changing the meaning to fit modern systems. (Matthew 24:35)

† Revelation proves Jesus was faithful to every promise He made concerning that generation. (Matthew 24:34)

† The kingdom isn't waiting to arrive because Christ already reigns now. (Ephesians 1:20-23)

† Believers today live in the fulfilled New Covenant age where access to God has already been established through Christ. (Hebrews 10:19-22)

† The destruction of Jerusalem ended the Old Covenant world exactly as Jesus promised. (Hebrews 8:13)

† Revelation never says the events were thousands of years away, but it repeatedly says they were near. The real question is whether we will believe the timing statements God actually gave. (Revelation 1:1-3; Revelation 22:6-10)

### **Q & A Appendix**

**Q** If Revelation was fulfilled, why does it talk about Christ coming quickly?

**A** Because He did come quickly in covenant judgment against Jerusalem and apostate Israel within that generation. Coming language throughout scripture often refers to judgment, not a visible bodily descent. (Isaiah 19:1; Matthew 24:30-34)

**Q** Why would God say shortly and at hand if He meant thousands of years later?

**A** He wouldn't. The language is clear and honest. Revelation

was written to first century believers facing events that were near in their lifetime. (Revelation 1:1-3)

**Q** Was Revelation written to us?

**A** It was written for our learning, but it was written to them. The seven churches of Asia were the original audience experiencing the approaching tribulation and judgment. (Revelation 1:4, 11)

**Q** Did Jesus really fulfill His coming promises in the first century?

**A** Yes. Jesus repeatedly promised His coming would happen before that generation passed away. Jerusalem fell in AD 70 exactly as He said. (Matthew 16:27-28; Matthew 24:34)

**Q** Why does the traditional church place Revelation into the future?

**A** Because many modern systems ignore the audience relevance and timing statements found throughout the book. Revelation repeatedly says the events were shortly to happen, at hand, and coming quickly, yet futurism pushes those events thousands of years away. (Revelation 1:1-3; Revelation 22:6-10)

**Q** If Revelation was for the first century churches, why do people still fear it today?

**A** Because many have been taught to read Revelation as a future end-of-the-world prophecy instead of a covenant judgment book written to first century believers facing persecution and the fall of Jerusalem. (Revelation 1:4, 11; Matthew 24:1-34)

**Q** Why do so many churches teach a future antichrist and future tribulation?

**A** Because tradition often overrides the actual time statements in scripture. Jesus and the apostles placed these events in their generation, but later systems moved them into the distant future. (Matthew 24:34; Revelation 17:10)

**Q** Did the first century believers understand Revelation was about their time?

**A** Yes. The book was written directly to the seven churches of Asia and addressed events they were about to face. The warnings, persecution, tribulation, and promises were all

relevant to them. (Revelation 1:4, 9, 11; Revelation 2:10)

**Q** Why is Revelation so misunderstood today?

**A** Because people often begin with modern prophecy systems instead of letting the book define its own timing and audience. Once the time statements are taken seriously, the fulfilled perspective becomes clear. (Revelation 1:1-3; Revelation 22:10)

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

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### **Source Index**

† Revelation 1:1; Revelation 1:3; Revelation 1:9; Revelation 2:10; Revelation 3:11; Matthew 24:34; Revelation 17:10; Revelation 22:6; Revelation 22:7; Revelation 22:10; Daniel 12:4

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3; Tacitus, Annals, Book 15; Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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