

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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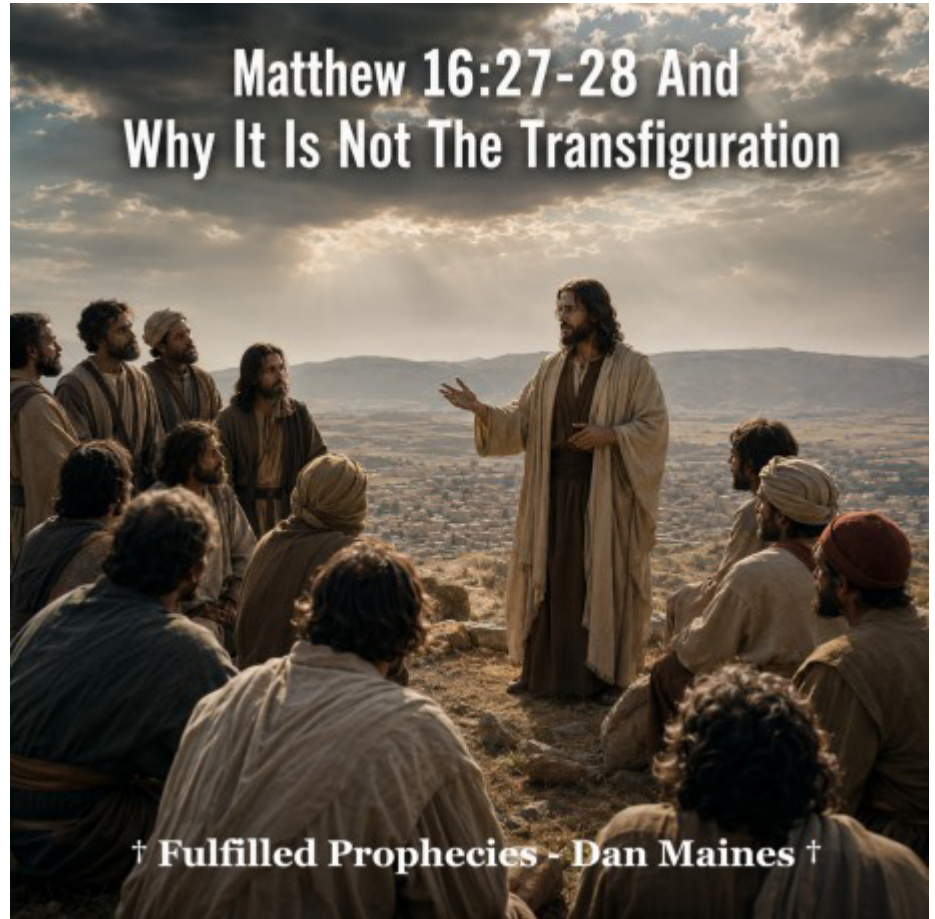
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## Matthew 16:27-28 And Why It Is Not The Transfiguration



By Dan Maines

## Matthew 16:27-28 And Why It Is Not The Transfiguration

### Introduction

† Matthew 16:27-28 is one of the clearest time statements in the entire Bible.

† Many people claim verse 28 was fulfilled six days later at the transfiguration, but that explanation creates more problems than it solves.

† Jesus connected verses 27 and 28 together as one event, not two separate events.

† When we allow Jesus to define His own words, the fulfillment becomes clear.

### **Matthew 16:27-28**

For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.

"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 said He would come in His Father's glory with His angels and reward every man according to his deeds.

† The word then directly connects the coming of verse 27 with the time statement of verse 28.

† Jesus wasn't describing two different comings. He was describing one coming.

† Some standing there would still be alive when it happened. (Matthew 24:34)

† If the coming of verse 27 happened thousands of years later, then Jesus' audience never saw it and His words failed.

† The timing statement limits the fulfillment to the lifetime of some of His hearers. (Mark 9:1; Luke 9:27)

### **The Problem With The Transfiguration View**

## **Matthew 17:1-2**

Six days later, Jesus took with Him Peter and James, and his brother John, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

† The transfiguration happened only six days after Jesus spoke Matthew 16:28.

† Nobody needed a promise that they wouldn't die within six days.

† The statement that some would not taste death becomes meaningless if fulfillment occurred less than a week later.

† Jesus said some would remain alive until they saw the event, implying a significant period of waiting.

† The transfiguration was a vision of glory, not the coming in judgment that Jesus described in Matthew 16:27.

† No reward according to deeds occurred on the mountain. (Romans 2:5-6)

† No angels gathered anyone on the mountain. (Matthew 24:30-31)

† No covenant judgment occurred on the mountain. (Matthew 24:1-3)

† The transfiguration previewed glory, but it wasn't the fulfillment of Matthew 16:27-28.

## **Mark 9:1**

And Jesus was saying to them, "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God when it has come with power."

† Mark records the same promise but says they would see the kingdom come with power.

† This matches Jesus' later statements about Jerusalem's judgment and the establishment of His kingdom. (Luke 21:31)

† The focus is the coming of the kingdom, not merely seeing Christ shine on a mountain.

† The kingdom coming with power is consistent with the judgment language found throughout the Olivet Discourse. (Matthew 24:29-34)

## **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.

† Jesus repeatedly identified Himself as the Son of Man from Daniel 7.

† Daniel does not show the Son of Man coming to earth but coming before the Ancient of Days to receive kingdom authority.

† Matthew 16 is connected to Christ receiving and manifesting His kingdom rule.

† The destruction of Jerusalem publicly demonstrated that transfer of covenant authority. (Matthew 21:43)

† Daniel's vision establishes the kingdom as an everlasting reality, not a temporary earthly reign.

## **The Same Coming Found In Matthew 24**

### **Matthew 24:30-34**

And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET BLAST, and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

"Now learn the parable from the fig tree: as soon as its branch has become tender and sprouts its leaves, you know that summer is near; so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

† The same elements appear in both passages.

† The Son of Man comes in glory.

† Angels accompany His coming.

† Judgment and gathering take place.

† Both passages contain a first century time statement.

† Jesus said all these things would happen before that generation passed away.

† Scripture interprets Scripture. (Deuteronomy 19:15)

### **Matthew 26:64**

Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

† Jesus told the high priest that he would see the Son of Man coming.

† The high priest isn't alive today.

† Jesus placed the fulfillment within the lifetime of His audience.

† Coming on clouds is Old Testament judgment language. (Isaiah 19:1)

† God came on clouds against nations many times without physically appearing to every person on earth.

### **The Fulfillment**

## **Luke 21:20-22**

"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are inside the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; because these are days of punishment, so that all things which have been written will be fulfilled.

† Jesus identified the destruction of Jerusalem as the time when all things written would be fulfilled.

† The judgment of AD 70 vindicated Christ's authority and kingdom.

† The old covenant age ended exactly as Jesus predicted. (Hebrews 8:13)

† The Son of Man came in covenant judgment against the nation that rejected Him. (Matthew 21:43-45)

† His kingdom was fully established and openly manifested. (Daniel 7:13-14)

## **Historical References**

† Eusebius recorded that Christians fled Jerusalem before its destruction because they remembered Christ's warnings.

† Eusebius wrote that the church departed to Pella before the Roman invasion.

† Josephus described the siege, famine, civil war, and destruction that overwhelmed Jerusalem.

† Josephus recorded that the temple was completely destroyed, fulfilling Jesus' prediction that not one stone would be left upon another. (Matthew 24:2)

† Tacitus also recorded the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman armies.

† The historical record confirms that Jerusalem fell within the generation Jesus addressed.

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

† We can trust every time statement Jesus gave.

† Christ kept His promises exactly when He said He would.

† The kingdom isn't waiting to arrive because the King already reigns.

† We live in the blessings of the fulfilled new covenant age.

† Understanding Matthew 16:27-28 removes confusion and strengthens confidence in Scripture.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** If Matthew 16:28 refers to the transfiguration, why did Jesus mention some not tasting death?

**A:** Because the fulfillment was not six days away. The statement implies that some would die before the event while others would still be alive to witness it. That fits the generation leading to AD 70, not an event occurring less than a week later. (Matthew 24:34)

**Q:** Was the transfiguration related to Matthew 16:28 at all?

**A:** The transfiguration was a preview of Christ's glory and kingdom authority, but it wasn't the fulfillment of the coming described in Matthew 16:27-28. The coming involved judgment, angels, reward, and covenant fulfillment.

**Q:** Doesn't Matthew 17 follow immediately after Matthew 16, proving the transfiguration fulfilled the prophecy?

**A:** Matthew's chapter divisions were added centuries later. The issue is not what event follows next in the text, but whether the details match. Matthew 16:27 speaks of Christ coming in glory with angels, rewarding according to deeds, and exercising kingdom authority. Those things did not occur at the transfiguration. The transfiguration was a preview of glory, not the fulfillment of the coming itself.

**Q:** Why would Jesus say some standing here would not taste death if He meant the transfiguration six days later?

**A:** Because such a statement would be unnecessary. Nobody expected the disciples to die within six days. The wording only makes sense if years would pass and some listeners would die while others remained alive to witness the fulfillment.

**Q:** How do we know the coming was not a future event thousands of years later?

**A:** Jesus repeatedly placed His coming within the lifetime of His audience. Matthew 16:28, Matthew 24:34, and Matthew 26:64 all contain direct first century time indicators that cannot be moved thousands of years into the future.

**Q:** If the transfiguration was the fulfillment of Matthew 16:28, why does Matthew 16:27 mention angels?

**A:** Matthew 16:27 says the Son of Man would come in His Father's glory with His angels and reward every man according

to his deeds. At the transfiguration, no angels appeared, no judgment occurred, and no reward according to deeds was given. The details do not match the transfiguration but do match Christ's coming in judgment language found elsewhere.  
(Matthew 24:30-31)

**Q:** Did Jesus ever connect His coming to the destruction of Jerusalem?

**A:** Yes. In the Olivet Discourse Jesus connected His coming, the gathering of the elect, and the judgment of Jerusalem, then declared that all those things would occur before that generation passed away. (Matthew 24:30-34)

**Q:** What did the Jewish leaders understand Jesus to mean when He spoke about coming on the clouds?

**A:** They understood it as a claim to divine authority and judgment. That is why the high priest accused Him of blasphemy after Jesus quoted the Son of Man prophecy and said they would see Him coming on the clouds of heaven.  
(Matthew 26:64-66)

**Q:** If Christ's coming in Matthew 16:27-28 was fulfilled, does that diminish His present reign?

**A:** No. It confirms it. The fulfillment proves that Jesus received all authority as promised and that His kingdom is established. His fulfilled coming demonstrates His faithfulness and the certainty of His reign. (Daniel 7:13-14; Ephesians 1:20-23)

**Q:** Why do so many people connect Matthew 16:28 to the transfiguration?

**A:** Because the transfiguration account follows shortly afterward in the Gospel narrative. However, similarity is not fulfillment. The details of Matthew 16:27, angels, judgment, reward, and

kingdom authority, go far beyond what occurred on the mountain. The transfiguration was a preview, not the fulfillment.

**Q:** Why is Matthew 16:28 so important in the fulfilled perspective?

**A:** Because it contains one of the clearest audience relevance statements in Scripture. Jesus promised that some standing before Him would still be alive when they saw the Son of Man coming in His kingdom. Any interpretation must honor the timing Jesus gave. (Matthew 16:28; Matthew 24:34)

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

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## Source Index

† Matthew 16:27-28; Matthew 17:1-2; Mark 9:1; Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 24:30-34; Matthew 26:64; Luke 21:20-22

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5; Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6; Tacitus, Histories 5

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