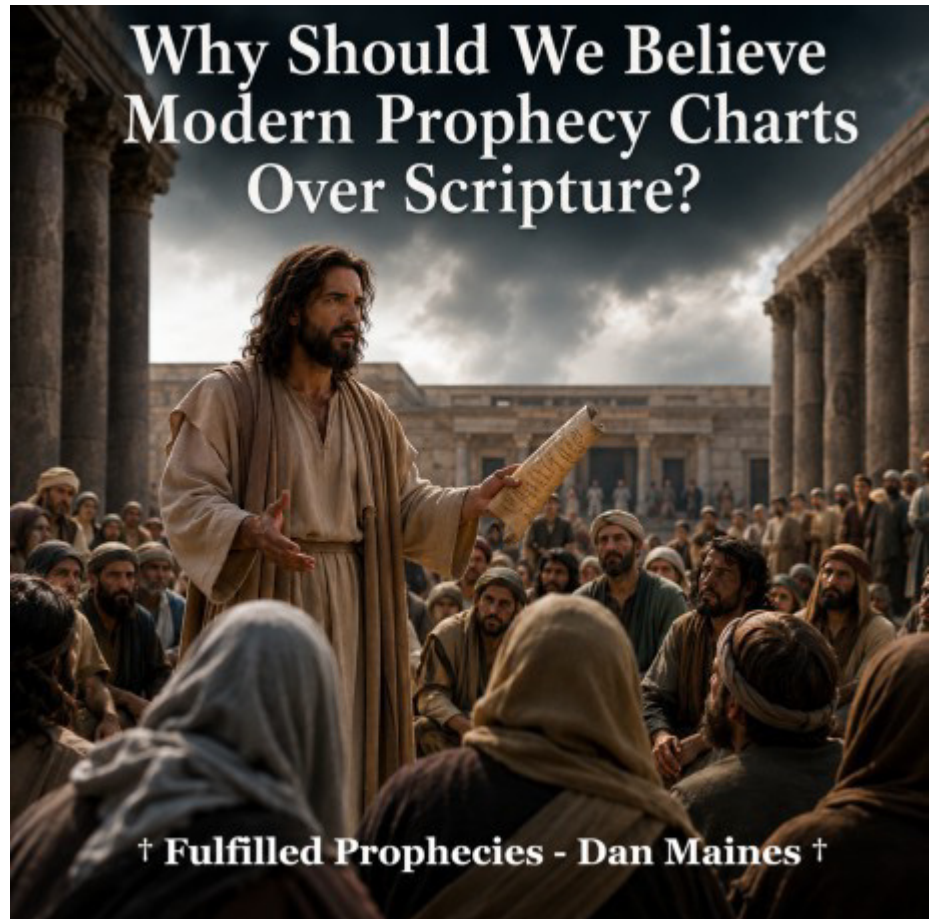


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Why Should We Believe Modern Prophecy Charts Over Scripture?



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† Many prophecy systems today are built around events that were supposed to happen thousands of years after the people who first received the prophecies had already died.

† Yet Jesus and the apostles repeatedly used time statements that placed these events within their own generation.

† The question isn't whether prophecy was fulfilled, the question

is whether we should believe the inspired time statements of Scripture or the theories of later traditions.

This Generation

Matthew 24:34

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

† Jesus didn't say a future generation thousands of years later. He said this generation.

† The plain reading places the fulfillment within the lifetime of those who heard Him speak. (Matthew 23:36)

† When people redefine "generation" to mean something other than the people living at that time, they move away from the natural meaning of the text.

Some Standing Here

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 connected His coming with people who were standing before Him at that moment.

† He specifically stated that some would still be alive when they witnessed it.

† That doesn't fit a fulfillment thousands of years later. It fits a first-century fulfillment exactly as stated.

The Disciples Would Not Finish Israel

Matthew 10:23

But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes.

- † Jesus placed His coming within the ministry of the disciples.
- † He didn't tell them to expect a delay of thousands of years.
- † His audience understood these words as applying to their own generation.

The Time Is At Hand

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.

- † Revelation opens by telling its readers that the events were near.
- † The book was written to real churches facing real circumstances in their own time. (Revelation 1:11)
- † If the events were actually thousands of years away, the statement that the time was at hand would lose its ordinary meaning.

Shortly Come To Pass

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,

- † Revelation doesn't merely say the events would happen someday.

† It says they must shortly come to pass.

† The opening statement establishes the time frame for understanding the entire book.

Do Not Seal The Book

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.

† The same statement appears at the end of Revelation as well as the beginning.

† God told John not to seal the prophecy because the time was near.

† This stands in contrast to prophecies that were sealed because their fulfillment was far away. (Daniel 12:4)

Shortly Come To Pass Again

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.

† The book closes exactly where it began.

† God repeated that the events would shortly come to pass.

† Consistency requires that we allow these inspired time statements to mean what they say.

All Things Written Fulfilled

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 coming destruction of Jerusalem as the fulfillment of all things written.

† He gave specific instructions to people living at that time because they would witness these events.

† The Roman siege of Jerusalem in AD 70 perfectly matches the warning Jesus gave.

A Very Little While

Hebrews 10:37

FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE,
HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.

† The writer of Hebrews expected fulfillment soon.

† "A very little while" doesn't naturally mean thousands of years.

† The original audience was told the coming event was near.

The Test Of A Prophet

Deuteronomy 18:22

When the prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, and the thing does not happen or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you are not to be afraid of him.

† God gave Israel a simple test for prophetic claims.

† When predictions fail, the problem isn't with Scripture but with the interpretation.

† For nearly two thousand years many prophecy teachers have repeatedly predicted events that never happened.

† Scripture calls us back to what God actually said rather than

what later systems claim He meant. (Isaiah 8:20)

Historical References

† Eusebius recorded that Christians in Judea fled Jerusalem before its destruction after receiving warnings and recognizing the signs Jesus had given.

† Josephus documented the events surrounding the Jewish War and the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

† The historical record confirms that the generation Jesus warned experienced the judgment He predicted.

† Josephus described Jerusalem surrounded by Roman armies exactly as Jesus foretold.

† The first-century evidence aligns with the biblical time statements rather than modern prophetic systems.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We should allow Scripture to define its own timing instead of forcing it into modern prophecy systems.

† We can trust that Jesus kept every promise He made within the time frame He gave.

† We don't need to live in fear of endless prophetic speculation.

† Our confidence rests in a faithful Savior who fulfilled His word exactly as promised.

† When Scripture and tradition disagree, Scripture must remain our final authority.

† The fulfillment of prophecy strengthens our confidence in every promise God has made.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Why do many people believe Revelation is still future?

A: Because they interpret Revelation through later prophetic systems rather than the time statements found throughout the book. (Revelation 1:1-3; Revelation 22:6-10)

Q: Did Jesus say His coming would occur in the first century?

A: Yes. He said "this generation shall not pass away" and that some standing before Him would not die before seeing it. (Matthew 24:34; Matthew 16:27-28)

Q: Was Revelation written to people living in John's day?

A: Yes. It was addressed to seven real churches and repeatedly stated that the events were near. (Revelation 1:3, 11; Revelation 22:10)

Q: What did Jesus say would happen when Jerusalem was surrounded by armies?

A: He said its desolation was near and that those were the days of vengeance in which all things written would be fulfilled. (Luke 21:20-22)

Q: Does Revelation claim its prophecies were near?

A: Yes. Revelation opens and closes by saying the events must shortly come to pass and that the time was at hand. (Revelation 1:1-3; Revelation 22:6-10)

Q: Why should Scripture be our authority instead of prophecy charts?

A: Because Scripture is inspired by God, while prophecy charts are interpretations created by men. (2 Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 8:20)

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

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Source Index

† Matthew 24:34, Matthew 16:27-28, Matthew 10:23, Revelation 1:3, Revelation 1:1, Revelation 22:10, Revelation 22:6, Luke 21:20-22, Hebrews 10:37, Deuteronomy 18:22

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History; Josephus, Wars of the Jews

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