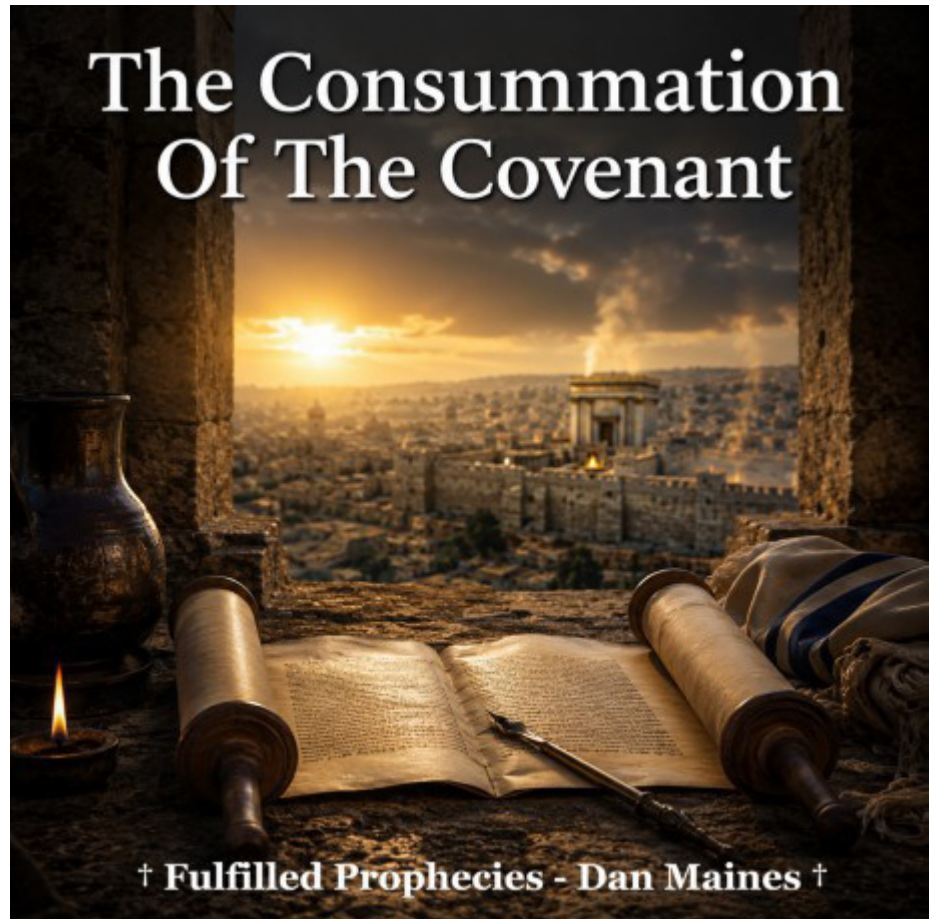


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The Consummation Of The Covenant



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† Consummation is a biblical concept that speaks of bringing something to its intended completion, fulfillment, and final goal. (Hebrews 9:26; Daniel 9:24; Ephesians 1:10)

† Many people think of consummation as something still future, yet the book of Hebrews repeatedly presents Christ's work as complete, sufficient, and final. (Hebrews 7:27; Hebrews 9:12; Hebrews 10:14)

† Christ did not begin a covenant and leave it unfinished. (Luke

21:22; John 17:4)

† He established it, fulfilled its requirements, and brought it to its consummation. (Matthew 5:17-18; Hebrews 8:6)

† The Old Covenant was passing away, the New Covenant was being established, and all things moved toward their God-ordained completion. (Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 12:26-28)

† A consummation is not something that remains half completed. (Daniel 9:24; Hebrews 10:14)

† Scripture presents Christ's work as reaching its intended goal, not awaiting completion thousands of years later. (Hebrews 9:26; Revelation 1:1-3)

Hebrews 1:3

And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

† Christ sat down because His sacrificial work was complete. (John 19:30; Hebrews 10:12)

† The Levitical priests continually stood ministering because their work was never finished. (Hebrews 10:11)

† The seated position of Christ demonstrates completion, finality, and fulfillment. (Psalm 110:1; Hebrews 8:1)

† A completed priesthood requires no successor and no replacement. (Hebrews 7:23-25; Hebrews 7:28)

Hebrews 7:27

who has no daily need, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because He did this once for all time when He offered up Himself.

† The phrase "once for all" comes from the Greek word *ephapax* and emphasizes a completed act that never needs repetition. (Hebrews 9:12; Hebrews 10:10)

† Under the Old Covenant the priests stood continually offering sacrifices because their work was never finished. (Hebrews 10:11-14)

† Christ offered Himself once and completed the work.
(Hebrews 9:26; John 19:30)

† A completed sacrifice requires no future addition, no future repetition, and no future fulfillment. (Hebrews 10:18; Colossians 2:10)

Hebrews 9:12

and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all time, having obtained eternal redemption.

† Christ entered the true heavenly sanctuary as the final High Priest. (Hebrews 8:1-2; Hebrews 9:24)

† The text says He obtained eternal redemption, not that He began obtaining it. (Hebrews 10:14; Ephesians 1:7)

† Redemption was secured through His completed priestly work. (Hebrews 8:1-6; Colossians 1:13-14)

† A consummated covenant rests upon a completed redemption. (Hebrews 10:12-14; Romans 5:9)

Hebrews 9:26

Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been revealed to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

† This is one of the clearest consummation statements in Scripture. (Daniel 9:24; Ephesians 1:10)

† Christ appeared at the consummation of the ages to put away sin by His sacrifice. (John 1:29; Hebrews 10:12)

† The focus is on completion, not postponement. (Hebrews 1:2; Hebrews 10:14)

† The ages associated with the Old Covenant were reaching their intended conclusion in Christ. (Hebrews 8:13; Matthew 24:34)

Hebrews 10:10

By this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time.

† Believers were sanctified through Christ's once-for-all offering. (Hebrews 10:14; 1 Corinthians 6:11)

† The emphasis again is on finality, not ongoing sacrificial work. (Hebrews 7:27; Hebrews 9:12)

† Hebrews continually points believers away from expectation of another sacrifice and toward confidence in the completed work of Christ. (Hebrews 10:18; Hebrews 4:16)

† What Christ accomplished does not need to be accomplished again. (John 19:30; Colossians 2:10)

Hebrews 10:11-12

Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD,

† The contrast could not be clearer. (Hebrews 7:27; Hebrews 9:12)

† The old priests stood because their work continued. (Hebrews 7:23; Hebrews 10:11)

† Christ sat down because His work was finished. (John 19:30; Hebrews 1:3)

† The covenant He established was not awaiting future completion. (Hebrews 8:6; Hebrews 12:28)

Hebrews 10:14

For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

† One offering accomplished what countless animal sacrifices could never accomplish. (Hebrews 10:1-4; Psalm 40:6-8)

† Christ perfected His people through a single completed sacrifice. (Hebrews 9:12; Colossians 2:10)

† A perfect sacrifice that perfects forever leaves nothing unfinished in God's redemptive plan. (Ephesians 1:10; Colossians 1:19-20)

† The language of Hebrews is the language of completion and consummation. (Hebrews 9:26; Hebrews 12:23)

Hebrews 8:13

When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is about to disappear.

† The Old Covenant was nearing its end when Hebrews was written. (Hebrews 9:8-10; Matthew 24:34)

† The New Covenant was replacing the old system and moving toward its complete establishment. (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 12:24)

† The consummation of the covenant involved the passing away of the old order and the full establishment of the new. (Hebrews 12:26-28; Galatians 4:21-31)

† A covenant transition cannot remain unfinished forever. (Daniel 9:24; Luke 21:22)

Hebrews 9:28

so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

† The first-century audience was waiting for the completion of the covenant transition. (Hebrews 10:25; Hebrews 10:37)

† Christ's sacrificial work was already finished, and His appearing would bring the covenant age to its intended conclusion. (Matthew 24:30-34; Luke 21:22)

† Consummation is the completion of a plan, not the postponement of a plan. (Daniel 9:24; Hebrews 9:26)

† Scripture presents fulfillment as near, not thousands of years away. (Revelation 1:1-3; Revelation 22:6-10)

Daniel 9:24

"Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the wrongdoing, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy Place.

† Daniel foretold a work that would finish transgression and make an end of sins. (Hebrews 9:26; John 1:29)

† Christ fulfilled these covenantal objectives through His redemptive work. (Romans 3:24-26; Hebrews 10:14)

† The prophecy points toward completion, fulfillment, and consummation. (Ephesians 1:10; Galatians 4:4)

† The goal was never an endless postponement of fulfillment. (Matthew 5:17-18; Luke 21:22)

Matthew 5:17-18

"Do not presume that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke of a letter shall pass from the Law, until all is accomplished!

† Jesus came to fulfill all that was written concerning Him. (Luke 24:44; John 19:28)

† His mission was directed toward accomplishment and completion. (John 4:34; John 17:4)

† Consummation is the natural result of fulfillment. (Daniel 9:24; Hebrews 9:26)

† Christ fulfilled what He came to fulfill. (Luke 21:22; Acts 13:32-33)

John 19:30

Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

† Christ Himself declared the work finished. (John 17:4; Hebrews 10:12)

† His sacrificial mission was complete. (Hebrews 9:12; Hebrews 10:14)

† The cross was not the beginning of redemption but the accomplishment of redemption. (Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 5:9)

† Finished means finished. (Hebrews 7:27; Hebrews 9:26)

1 Corinthians 15:24

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.

† Paul spoke of an intended goal and completion. (Ephesians 1:10; Hebrews 9:26)

† God's redemptive plan was moving toward an appointed end. (Daniel 9:24; Matthew 24:3)

† Scripture consistently presents fulfillment as reaching completion. (Luke 21:22; Revelation 10:7)

† The kingdom purpose of God was never intended to remain incomplete. (Hebrews 12:28; Colossians 1:13)

Historical References

† Josephus recorded the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, bringing an end to the Old Covenant sacrificial system. (Matthew 24:1-2; Luke 21:20-24)

† Josephus described the cessation of temple worship and sacrifices during the events leading to AD 70. (Daniel 9:27; Hebrews 8:13)

† Eusebius recorded that believers remembered Christ's warnings and fled Jerusalem before its destruction. (Matthew 24:15-18; Luke 21:20-22)

† The historical record confirms the passing away of the old covenant order exactly as Hebrews anticipated. (Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 12:26-28)

† The temple's destruction demonstrated that the former priesthood and sacrificial system had permanently ended. (Hebrews 7:12; Hebrews 10:18)

How It Applies To Us Today

† We live in the fully established New Covenant. (Hebrews 12:22-24; Ephesians 2:13-22)

† We do not wait for another sacrifice because Christ's sacrifice was sufficient. (Hebrews 10:14; Hebrews 10:18)

† We do not wait for another priest because Christ remains our eternal High Priest. (Hebrews 7:24-25; Hebrews 8:1)

† We do not wait for another covenant because the New Covenant has been established. (Hebrews 8:6; Hebrews 12:24)

† We can have confidence because Christ completed what He

came to accomplish. (John 19:30; Hebrews 4:16)

† The completed work of Christ gives believers assurance, peace, and confidence before God. (Romans 5:1; Hebrews 10:22)

† Futurism continually postpones what Scripture repeatedly declared was near. (Hebrews 10:37; Revelation 22:10)

† Consummation means God's covenant plan reached its intended goal in Christ. (Ephesians 1:10; Daniel 9:24)

† We serve a Savior whose work is complete, whose priesthood is complete, and whose covenant is complete. (Hebrews 7:27; Hebrews 10:14; Hebrews 12:28)

Q & A Appendix

Q: What does consummation mean in Scripture?

A: Consummation means bringing something to its intended completion, fulfillment, and final goal. Christ brought the covenant plan of God to its completion. (Hebrews 9:12; Hebrews 10:14; Ephesians 1:10)

Q: What does ephapax mean?

A: Ephapax means "once for all." It describes Christ's sacrifice as complete, sufficient, and never needing repetition. (Hebrews 7:27; Hebrews 9:12; Hebrews 10:10)

Q: Did Christ complete His priestly work?

A: Yes. Christ offered Himself once for all, obtained eternal redemption, and remains the eternal High Priest for His people. (Hebrews 9:12; Hebrews 7:24-25; Hebrews 10:12)

Q: Why is consummation important?

A: Because it demonstrates that Christ's work was not partial or unfinished. God's covenant plan reached its intended completion. (Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 9:28; Daniel 9:24)

Q: Can a covenant be consummated and still remain unfinished?

A: No. By definition a consummation is the bringing of something to its intended completion. Hebrews repeatedly presents Christ's sacrifice, priesthood, and covenant as complete and sufficient. (Hebrews 7:27; Hebrews 9:12; Hebrews 10:14)

Q: Does Hebrews ever use the language of consummation?

A: Yes. Hebrews 9:26 says Christ appeared at the consummation of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. (Hebrews 9:26)

Q: Does consummation leave prophecy waiting to be fulfilled?

A: No. Consummation speaks of completion. Christ's sacrifice, priesthood, kingdom, and covenant reached their intended goal. (Hebrews 10:14; Hebrews 12:28; Daniel 9:24)

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

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Source Index

† Hebrews 1:3, Hebrews 7:27, Hebrews 8:13, Hebrews 9:12, Hebrews 9:26, Hebrews 9:28, Hebrews 10:10, Hebrews 10:11-12, Hebrews 10:14, Daniel 9:24, Matthew 5:17-18, John 19:30, 1 Corinthians 15:24

† Josephus, Eusebius

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