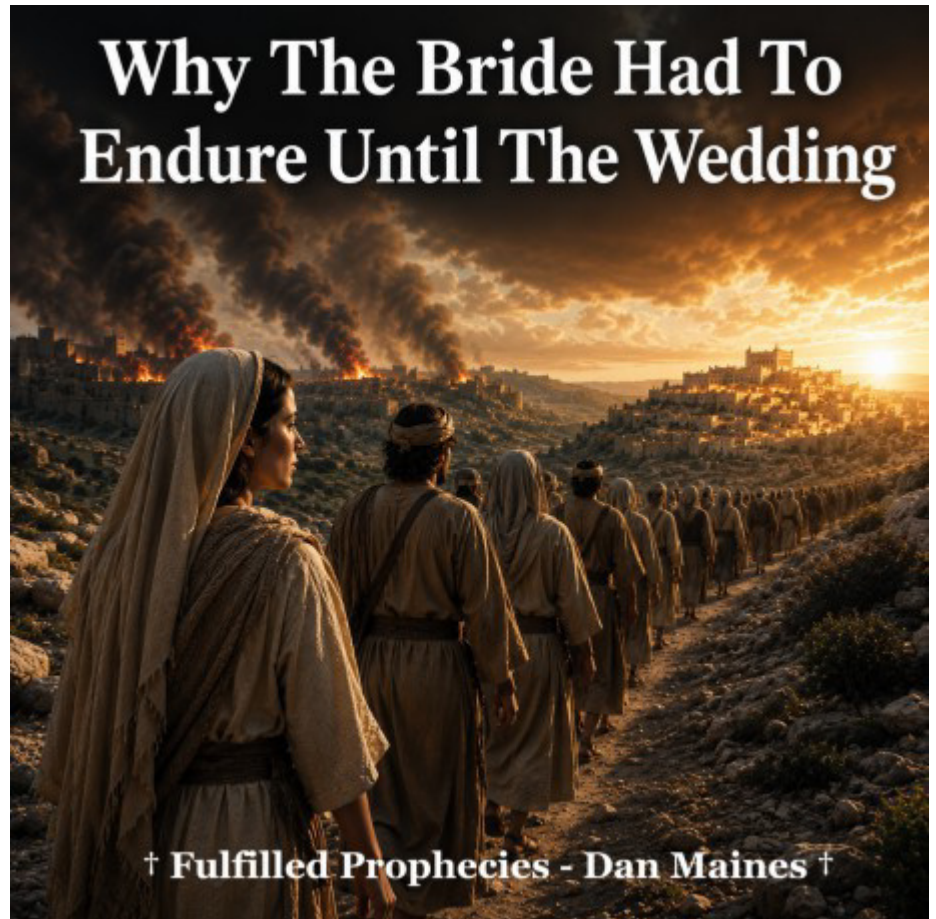


# Fulfilled Prophecies

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**Wedding - Why  
The Bride Had To  
Endure Until The  
Wedding**



By Dan Maines

## **Why The Bride Had To Endure Until The Wedding**

### **Introduction**

† After seeing that the wedding garment was Christ and not human good behavior, an important question naturally follows: If salvation is by grace and the garment is Christ Himself, why did Jesus and the apostles repeatedly command believers to endure? The answer is found by remembering who those commands were written to. They were addressed to the first-century Church living during the final years of the Old Covenant,

awaiting the fulfillment of Christ's promises. (Matthew 24:13; Hebrews 10:36)

† Endurance was never about earning salvation. It was about remaining faithful during the covenant transition until Christ completed His promised coming in judgment upon Jerusalem and fully established the New Covenant order. (Luke 21:20-22; Hebrews 8:13)

† The wedding garment admitted them into the wedding. Endurance carried the Bride faithfully through the time of tribulation until the wedding feast became a covenant reality. (Matthew 22:11-14; Revelation 19:7-9)

### **Matthew 24:13**

But the one who endures to the end is the one who will be saved.

† Jesus spoke these words while answering questions about the destruction of the Temple and the end of the age. (Matthew 24:1-3)

† "The end" referred to the end of the Old Covenant age, not the end of world history. (Matthew 24:3; Matthew 24:34)

† Those disciples were called to remain faithful until Christ fulfilled His promises within their generation. (Matthew 24:34; Luke 21:31-32)

### **Matthew 10:22-23**

And you will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

"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 connects endurance with the coming of the Son of Man during the disciples' own ministry. (Matthew 10:23)

† Their endurance wasn't for thousands of years but until Christ fulfilled His promise. (Matthew 16:27-28)

† This passage establishes the same first-century time frame found in Matthew 24. (Matthew 24:34)

### **Hebrews 10:35-39**

Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE,  
HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.  
BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE WILL LIVE BY FAITH;  
AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

But we are not among those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith for the safekeeping of the soul.

† The writer told his audience they needed endurance because Christ's coming was still "a very little while" away. (Hebrews 10:37)

† They weren't waiting for an event thousands of years in the future but one that was rapidly approaching. (Hebrews 10:25; James 5:8)

† Their endurance demonstrated genuine faith during the closing days of the Old Covenant. (Hebrews 3:14; Hebrews 10:39)

## **Hebrews 3:14**

For we have become partakers of Christ if we keep the beginning of our commitment firm until the end,

† Holding fast demonstrated the reality of their faith during the covenant transition. (Hebrews 3:14)

† The writer continually encouraged his audience not to turn back to the Old Covenant system. (Hebrews 10:38-39)

† Endurance showed their confidence remained in Christ rather than in the Temple and the Law. (Hebrews 8:13)

## **James 5:7-9**

Therefore be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Do not complain, brothers and sisters, against one another, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

† James told his readers that the coming of the Lord was "at hand." (James 5:8)

† He even said the Judge was standing at the doors, emphasizing the nearness of the event. (James 5:9)

† Their patience wasn't for countless future generations but for their own approaching covenant transition. (Luke 21:28-31; Hebrews 10:37)

## **Luke 21:19**

By your endurance you will gain your lives.

† Jesus encouraged His disciples to remain steadfast during the persecution leading up to Jerusalem's fall. (Luke 21:12-18)

† Their endurance would preserve them through the covenant judgment that was about to come upon that generation. (Luke 21:20-22)

† Christ's words were spoken directly to those who would witness those events. (Luke 21:31-32)

† Jesus defines endurance in the context of persecution, betrayal, imprisonment, and hatred, not earning salvation. (Luke 21:12-18)

† Their faithfulness was remaining loyal to Christ while the Old Covenant world was collapsing around them. (Luke 21:20-22)

† Their endurance demonstrated confidence that the Bridegroom would keep His promise exactly as He had spoken. (Matthew 24:34; Hebrews 10:37)

## **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 addressed real congregations facing real persecution in the first century. (Revelation 1:1-3)

† Their endurance wasn't earning eternal life but remaining faithful during intense trials. (Revelation 3:10)

† Christ's promise encouraged believers to stand firm until His victory was fully revealed. (Revelation 22:6-7)

## **Revelation 14:12**

Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

† John defines the endurance of the saints as remaining faithful to Jesus during the coming trial. (Revelation 14:12)

† Their obedience didn't earn righteousness. It demonstrated their loyalty to the One who had already clothed them. (Galatians 3:27)

† This is exactly what a faithful bride does while awaiting the arrival of the Bridegroom. (Revelation 19:7-8)

## **Revelation 3:10-11**

Because you have kept My word of perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of the testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who live on the earth. I am coming quickly; hold firmly to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

† Jesus connected endurance with His promise, "I come quickly." (Revelation 3:11)

† The hour of trial was imminent for the churches receiving the Revelation. (Revelation 1:1-3)

† They were to hold fast because the fulfillment of God's promises was near. (Revelation 22:10; Revelation 22:12)

### **Revelation 19:7-9**

Let's rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself. It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.'" And he \*said to me, "These are the true words of God."

† The Bride finally arrives at the wedding after faithfully enduring the covenant transition. (Revelation 19:7)

† This completes the promise anticipated throughout the New Testament. (Matthew 22:1-14)

† The wedding garment and endurance belong to the same covenant story, one provides entrance into the wedding, the other carries the Bride faithfully until the wedding arrives. (Matthew 24:13; Revelation 19:7-9)

† The fine linen was granted to the Bride by God, while the righteous deeds revealed the faithfulness of those already

clothed in Christ. (Revelation 19:8; Ephesians 2:8-10)

† The Bride didn't earn her place in the wedding through righteous deeds. Rather, because it was granted to her to be the Bride, her faithful obedience identified her as the true Bride awaiting the Bridegroom. (Revelation 19:8; Ephesians 2:8-10)

## **Historical References**

† Every New Testament command to endure was written to first-century believers living during the final years of the Old Covenant. (Matthew 24:13; Hebrews 10:36-37)

† The repeated statements that Christ's coming was near, at hand, and coming quickly establish the time frame of these exhortations. (James 5:8-9; Revelation 3:11)

† The destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 completed the covenant transition those believers had faithfully endured. (Luke 21:20-22; Hebrews 8:13)

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

† We aren't called to endure in order to earn Christ's righteousness because He is our wedding garment. (Galatians 3:27; Philippians 3:9)

† The faithfulness of the first-century Church encourages us to remain steadfast in our own walk with Christ, trusting His finished work. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

† Their endurance reminds us that Jesus always keeps His promises exactly when He says He will. (Matthew 24:34; Revelation 22:6)

† Amanda's question reminds us that endurance never competed with grace. It was the evidence of a faith that trusted

Christ until every covenant promise was fulfilled. (Hebrews 10:36-39; James 5:8)

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** Did first-century believers endure to earn salvation?

**A:** No. They endured because they already belonged to Christ and were awaiting the fulfillment of His covenant promises. (Hebrews 10:35-39; Matthew 22:11-14)

**Q:** What "end" did Jesus mean in Matthew 24:13?

**A:** The end of the Old Covenant age, culminating in the judgment upon Jerusalem, not the end of planet Earth. (Matthew 24:3; Matthew 24:34; Luke 21:20-22)

**Q:** Why was endurance so important in the first century?

**A:** Because those believers were living through the covenant transition and were about to witness the fulfillment of Christ's promises concerning Jerusalem and the Temple. (Hebrews 8:13; James 5:8-9)

**Q:** How does this connect to the wedding garment?

**A:** The wedding garment was Christ's righteousness, freely given. Endurance never earned that garment, it kept the Bride faithful until the wedding feast became a covenant reality. (Matthew 22:11-14; Revelation 19:7-9)

**Q:** If the wedding garment was Christ, why did believers still have to endure?

**A:** Because endurance never earned the garment. It demonstrated faithful trust in Christ while they waited for the fulfillment of His covenant promises and the marriage of the

Lamb. (Hebrews 10:36-39; Revelation 19:7-9)

**Q:** What were believers actually enduring?

**A:** They were enduring persecution, rejection, imprisonment, and the approaching judgment upon Jerusalem while remaining faithful to Christ. Their endurance didn't earn the wedding garment, it demonstrated that they belonged to the Bridegroom. (Luke 21:12-22; Hebrews 10:35-39; Revelation 14:12)

**Q:** Doesn't Revelation 19:8 say the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints?

**A:** Yes. Revelation doesn't say the Bride earned the marriage through her righteous deeds. It says it was granted to her to clothe herself in fine linen, and then identifies that linen as the righteous deeds of the saints. Those deeds reveal the faithfulness of the Bride, but they don't make her the Bride. Her relationship with the Bridegroom is God's gracious work, and her obedience is the evidence of that relationship. (Revelation 19:8; Ephesians 2:8-10; Galatians 3:27)

**Q:** If the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints, doesn't that mean the garment is earned?

**A:** No. Revelation first says it was "granted" to the Bride to clothe herself with the fine linen. The righteous deeds don't purchase the garment, they reveal the faithfulness of those who already belong to the Bridegroom. Just as faith produces good works, the Bride's faithful obedience demonstrates her covenant relationship with Christ. (Revelation 19:8; Ephesians 2:8-10; James 2:17-18)

**Q:** What were the righteous deeds of the Bride during the covenant transition?

**A:** They were the faithful acts of believers who endured persecution, held fast to Christ, obeyed His commandments, and refused to turn back to the Old Covenant while awaiting the marriage of the Lamb. Their obedience didn't earn the wedding garment, it identified them as the faithful Bride. (Hebrews 10:35-39; Revelation 14:12; Matthew 24:13)

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

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## **Source Index**

† Matthew 24:13, Matthew 10:22-23, Hebrews 10:35-39, Hebrews 3:14, James 5:7-9, Luke 21:19, Revelation 2:10, Revelation 3:10-11, Revelation 14:12, Revelation 19:7-9

† Matthew, James, the writer of Hebrews, John the Apostle

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