

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#) > [N](#) > [Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

New Jerusalem - The Tree Of Life Isn't Lost Anymore, The Way Has Been Opened



By Dan Maines

The Tree Of Life Isn't Lost Anymore, The Way Has Been Opened

Introduction

† The Bible begins with humanity losing access to the tree of life, but it ends with the tree of life standing in the middle of God's restored covenant world.

† Genesis shows the way guarded. Revelation shows the way opened. What was lost in Adam is restored in Christ.

† This is one of the great full-circle moments of Scripture. The Bible doesn't end with God's people still standing outside Eden. It ends with God's people entering the city, enjoying God's presence, and having

access to the tree of life.

† The fulfilled perspective doesn't leave us waiting for God to someday finish this story. Revelation presents these things as realities that were soon to take place, because the time was near (Revelation 1:1-3; 22:6, 10).

† The WOW moment is simple but powerful: Genesis 3 closes the way to the tree of life. Revelation 22 opens the way to the tree of life. The story that began in a garden reaches its goal in a city, and Christ is at the center of it all.

Genesis 3:22-24

Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out with his hand, and take fruit also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" - therefore the Lord God sent him out of the Garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. So He drove the man out; and at the east of the Garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

† This is where the problem begins. Humanity is driven from the garden, and access to the tree of life is blocked.

† Notice that Scripture specifically says the way of the tree of life was guarded. The issue wasn't simply losing a beautiful garden. Humanity had lost access to life in God's presence.

† From this point forward, the biblical story moves toward reconciliation, restored fellowship, and restored access to life with God (Romans 5:17-19).

† If Revelation ends with the tree of life accessible again, then Revelation is showing us the reversal of what happened in Genesis.

Revelation 2:7

The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will grant to eat from the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.'

† Jesus directly connects salvation and victory with access to the tree of life.

† What humanity couldn't approach after Eden was now being promised to Christ's faithful first-century people.

† This promise was given to actual churches living while Revelation's

fulfillment was approaching (Revelation 1:4; 1:9).

† Paradise isn't presented as permanently inaccessible. Christ is the one who restores what sin had taken away.

Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let's approach God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

† Genesis says the way was guarded. Hebrews says Christ opened a new and living way.

† The contrast is powerful. Humanity was driven away from sacred access in Genesis, but through Jesus believers are told to draw near.

† The blood of Christ accomplished what humanity could never accomplish for itself. Jesus didn't merely point toward the way, He opened the way through His sacrifice.

† The movement of redemption is from separation to access, from distance to nearness, and from exclusion to fellowship with God (Ephesians 2:13, 18).

Hebrews 12:22-24

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

† Hebrews doesn't tell believers that they might someday come to heavenly Jerusalem. It says they had come to it.

† This is essential because Revelation's tree of life is located within the New Jerusalem. Hebrews already identifies believers as participants in that heavenly-city reality.

† The movement from Eden to Zion and from the garden to the heavenly Jerusalem isn't a disconnected collection of biblical pictures. It's one unfolding redemption story centered in Jesus.

† Through the new covenant, God's people aren't standing outside

waiting for access. They've been brought near through Christ (Ephesians 2:18-22).

Revelation 21:2-3

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

† Here the Bible's Eden theme reaches its covenant goal. God's dwelling is again with humanity.

† Eden was a place of God's presence. Sin brought expulsion and separation. New Jerusalem represents restored covenant fellowship with God.

† Notice the direction of the city. John sees New Jerusalem coming down from heaven. The picture isn't God's people abandoning God's creation, it's God's dwelling being established with His people.

† This agrees with the rest of the New Testament, where believers are God's temple and God's dwelling place through the Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 2:21-22).

Revelation 22:1-2

And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

† Here is the tree humanity couldn't reach in Genesis. It's no longer hidden behind cherubim and a flaming sword.

† The tree stands openly in God's city beside the river of life. The picture has changed from exclusion to abundance.

† Even more striking, its leaves are for the healing of the nations. This describes an ongoing kingdom reality in which the life of God's kingdom goes outward to the nations.

† Revelation doesn't end with a dead world. It ends with life flowing from God's throne, fruit continually being produced, and healing extending to the nations.

† Genesis showed humanity driven away from the tree. Revelation

shows God's life flowing outward from the tree. That's redemption coming full circle.

Revelation 22:14

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life, and may enter the city by the gates.

† This is the reversal of Genesis 3 in unmistakable language.

† Genesis says humanity was driven out. Revelation says the blessed enter in.

† Genesis says the way was guarded. Revelation says God's people have the right to the tree of life.

† Genesis presents exile. Revelation presents entrance.

† Genesis presents separation. Revelation presents access.

† The tree of life isn't lost anymore. Through Christ, the way has been opened.

Revelation 22:17

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires, take the water of life without cost.

† The Bible ends with an invitation, not a locked gate.

† This is one of the greatest differences between Eden after the fall and New Jerusalem. At Eden the way was guarded. In New Jerusalem the invitation is Come.

† The water of life is offered freely. The bride is present. The invitation continues outward.

† This is why the fulfilled kingdom is good news for the world. We're not preaching that the way remains closed while everyone waits for another prophetic age. We're announcing that Christ has accomplished redemption and the invitation to life goes out to the nations (Matthew 28:18-20).

Historical References

† Josephus described the catastrophic destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70, the historical judgment that brought the old covenant age centered in that temple system to its decisive end (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Books 5-7).

† Tacitus also recorded the Roman conflict against Jerusalem and the destruction associated with that first-century war (Tacitus, Histories, Book 5).

† Eusebius later connected the calamities that came upon Jerusalem with Jesus' warnings concerning that generation and recorded the tradition that believers left Jerusalem before the catastrophe (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapters 5-7).

† These historical witnesses don't create the fulfilled interpretation. Scripture establishes the timing and meaning, while history provides important testimony that the first-century judgment Jesus warned about actually occurred (Luke 21:20-22, 32).

How It Applies To Us Today

† We don't live spiritually outside Eden staring at a flaming sword. In Christ, we have access to God.

† We don't have to wait for another prophetic event before we can draw near to God. Jesus opened the new and living way.

† We don't have to live as though New Jerusalem is an empty future city. God's people have come to heavenly Jerusalem, and God dwells with His people.

† We can live with joy because the Bible's redemption story didn't fail halfway through. What was lost through Adam has been restored through Christ (Romans 5:17-19).

† We can invite others to Christ because Revelation still ends with the beautiful invitation, Come, and take the water of life freely.

† The tree of life reminds us that Christianity isn't ultimately a story about what humanity lost. It's the story of what God restored through Jesus.

† Genesis begins the tragedy of exile. Revelation reveals the victory of restoration.

† The way was closed. Christ opened it. Humanity was far away. Christ brought us near. The tree was inaccessible. In God's covenant city, access has been restored.

† That's the WOW moment: the Bible begins with humanity outside the garden and ends with God's people inside the city. It begins with the way guarded and ends with the gates open. It begins with the tree out of reach and ends with the invitation to life freely given.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Is the tree of life still lost to God's people today?

A: No. Revelation presents access to the tree of life as part of the restored New Jerusalem reality, while Hebrews says believers have come to heavenly Jerusalem and can draw near to God through the new and living way opened by Jesus (Hebrews 10:19-22; 12:22-24; Revelation 22:2, 14).

Q: What connects Genesis 3 with Revelation 22?

A: Genesis 3 shows humanity expelled and the way to the tree of life guarded. Revelation 22 shows access to the tree of life and entrance through the city's gates. Revelation deliberately brings the biblical story from exile to restored access (Genesis 3:22-24; Revelation 22:2, 14).

Q: Does this mean physical death no longer exists?

A: No. The tree of life imagery concerns restored life and fellowship with God in Christ. The New Testament can describe believers as already possessing eternal life while they still experience physical death (John 5:24; 11:25-26).

Q: Why are the nations still being healed if Revelation 22 describes fulfilled New Jerusalem?

A: Because the kingdom continues in the world. The tree continually bears fruit, its leaves are for the healing of the nations, and the invitation remains, Come and take the water of life freely (Revelation 22:2, 17). Fulfillment didn't end the kingdom's mission, it established it.

Q: Are Christians waiting to someday enter God's presence?

A: No. Through Christ we already have access to the Father, and Hebrews says believers have come to heavenly Jerusalem (Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 12:22-24).

Q: What is the great message from Genesis to Revelation?

A: What was lost through sin is restored through Christ. Genesis shows humanity driven away from sacred access. Revelation shows

God's dwelling with His people, the tree of life available, and the invitation to drink freely from the water of life (Genesis 3:22-24; Revelation 21:2-3; 22:1-2, 14, 17).

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

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

Source Index

† Genesis 3:22-24; Revelation 2:7; Hebrews 10:19-22; Hebrews 12:22-24; Revelation 21:2-3; Revelation 22:1-2, 14, 17

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Books 5-7; Tacitus, Histories, Book 5; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapters 5-7

Share on Facebook

Links

Facebook Link

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/2141767626711367/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.