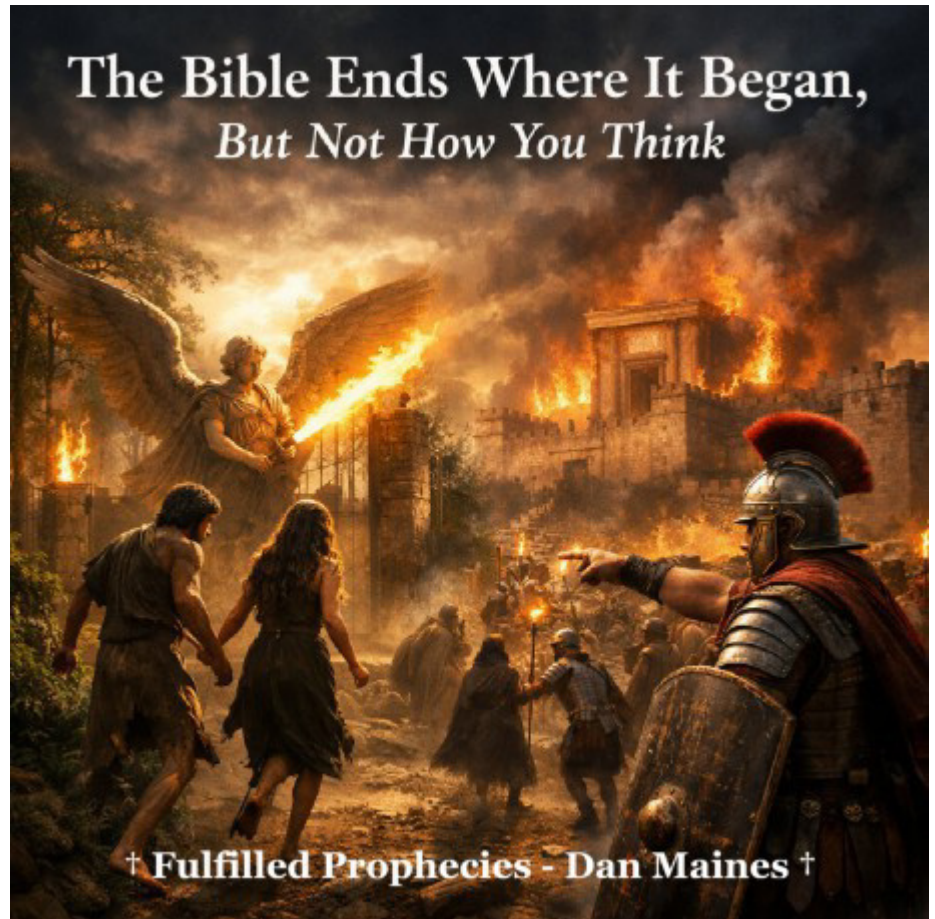


# Fulfilled Prophecies

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**The Bible Ends  
Where It Began,  
But Not How You  
Think**



By Dan Maines

**The Bible Ends Where It Began, But Not How You Think**

## Introduction

† Most people read Genesis and Revelation and assume it's about going back to a garden, but that's not what the text actually teaches.

† The issue in the beginning wasn't just about a place, it was about access, man didn't just lose the garden, he lost access to God.

† If we read this through the fulfilled perspective, we'll see that

the entire story is about covenantal separation and restored access, not a return to dirt, trees, and location.

† Adam wasn't just placed in a garden, he was given responsibility in God's presence, and when he failed, access was lost, setting the pattern that Israel would later repeat (Genesis 2:15; Hosea 6:7).

† Adam failed in a role that Israel was later called to fulfill as a kingdom of priests, and both failures resulted in restricted access (Genesis 2:15; Exodus 19:6).

## **Supporting Scripture**

### **Isaiah 59:2**

But your wrongdoings have caused a separation between you and your God,  
And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

† This shows clearly that separation from God was never about location, it was about sin creating a barrier between man and God (Isaiah 59:2).

† This is the same condition Adam entered after the fall, not just outside a garden, but outside the presence of God (Genesis 3:24).

### **Hebrews 10:19-20**

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,

† This directly shows access has been restored, what was once restricted is now open through Christ (Hebrews 10:19-20).

† The veil represents the same barrier seen from Eden to the temple, and now that barrier has been removed (Exodus 26:31-33).

## **Genesis 3:24**

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.

† The man wasn't just removed from a place, he was cut off from access to the tree of life, which represents life in the presence of God (Genesis 3:24).

† The cherubim weren't decorative, they were guardians of access, just like the cherubim over the mercy seat in the tabernacle, showing restricted access to God's presence (Exodus 25:18-22).

† From that moment forward, humanity lived outside of covenant access, not just outside of a garden, but outside of fellowship with God (Isaiah 59:2).

† Adam failed in his role before God, and just like him, Israel later failed in their priestly responsibility, and both resulted in restricted access (Hosea 6:7; Exodus 19:6).

† The garden itself functioned like a sanctuary, and the cherubim guarding it match the imagery later used in the tabernacle and temple, showing this was always about access to God's presence (Genesis 3:24; Exodus 26:31-33).

## **The Barrier Continues Through Israel**

† The same pattern shows up in Israel, access to God was restricted, only the high priest could enter, and only once a year, showing the barrier was still standing (Hebrews 9:7).

† The veil in the temple functioned the same way as the cherubim, guarding access to God's presence (Exodus 26:31-33).

† This proves the issue was never location, it was access, and that access was covenantally restricted until it was fulfilled.

† Even when sacrifices were offered, they couldn't fully open the way, they were reminders that access wasn't yet complete (Hebrews 10:1-3).

## **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 isn't about going back to Eden, this is about restored access, the right to the tree of life is given again (Revelation 22:14).

† Notice the language, right to the tree, not relocation to a garden, this is covenant language of restored standing before God (Ephesians 2:18).

† The gates are open, meaning the barrier is gone, what was once guarded is now accessible through Christ (Hebrews 10:19-20).

† Through Him we now have direct access to God, not through a system, but through Christ Himself (Ephesians 3:12; John 10:9).

† There is no longer any curse separating man from God, showing the full reversal of what happened in the beginning (Revelation 22:3).

## **The Fulfillment In That Generation**

† Jesus said all things would be fulfilled in that generation, including the removal of the old system that kept access restricted (Matthew 24:34).

† When the temple was destroyed in AD 70, the final physical symbol of separation was removed, showing full access had been established.

† This is why Revelation shows no temple, because access is no longer restricted, God dwells with His people (Revelation 21:22).

† The destruction of the temple didn't just end a building, it ended the last standing barrier between man and God.

† With the temple gone, there is no longer any earthly system

mediating access, proving that the way to God is fully open.

## **Revelation 21:22**

I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

† This confirms there is no longer any system restricting access, God Himself is directly present with His people (Revelation 21:22).

† This is the final contrast to Eden, no guarded entrance, no barrier, full and open access to God.

## **Historical References**

† Josephus records the destruction of the temple in AD 70, confirming the end of the old covenant system and its barriers.

† Eusebius wrote that the church understood these events as the fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy concerning that generation.

† Tacitus also confirms the fall of Jerusalem, showing this wasn't symbolic imagination, it was real historical judgment.

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

† We're not waiting to get back to Eden, we already have access to God right now through Christ (Hebrews 4:16).

† There's no barrier standing between us and God, the way to the tree of life has been opened.

† This changes everything, we're not striving to regain something lost in the future, we're living in what has already been restored.

† We're not outside the garden trying to get back in, we're in the presence of God because the way has already been opened.

† The story doesn't end with man returning to a garden, it ends with full access to God restored, exactly what was lost in the beginning.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q** If this isn't a return to Eden, why does Revelation use garden imagery?

**A** Because it's showing restored access in familiar language, not a literal return to a physical garden, the tree of life represents life with God, not geography (Revelation 22:2; John 17:3).

**Q** What was actually lost in Genesis?

**A** Access to God's presence and life, not just a location, man was driven out from the presence of the Lord (Genesis 3:24; Isaiah 59:2).

**Q** When was access fully restored?

**A** Through Christ and the removal of the old covenant system, culminating in the destruction of the temple in that generation (Hebrews 10:19-20; Matthew 24:34).

**Q** Why is there still death if the tree of life is accessible?

**A** Because the tree of life represents covenant life in God's presence, not biological immortality, it's about restored relationship with God, not escaping physical death (Revelation 22:14; John 17:3).

**Q** If access is already restored, why does Revelation say outside are the dogs and sorcerers?

**A** Because it's describing covenant distinction, not physical location, those outside are those not in Christ, not those standing outside a literal city (Revelation 22:15; Ephesians 2:12-13).

**Q** Does this mean the tree of life is symbolic?

**A** Yes, it's a symbol of life in God's presence, just like in Genesis, it wasn't about eating fruit for biological immortality, it represented access to life from God (Genesis 3:22; John 17:3).

**Q** If the curse is removed, why do we still see suffering?

**A** Because the curse in context was covenant separation from God, not the removal of all physical hardship, the separation has been removed through Christ (Revelation 22:3; Romans 8:1).

**Q** What replaced the temple if it's gone?

**A** God's people are now His dwelling place, access is no longer tied to a building but to Christ and His body (Ephesians 2:19-22; Revelation 21:22).

**Q** How do we know this isn't future?

**A** Because Jesus said all these things would happen in that generation, and Revelation was written about things that must shortly take place (Matthew 24:34; Revelation 1:1).

**Q** What does it mean to wash their robes?

**A** It means being cleansed through Christ, not a future ritual, but present covenant standing in Him (Revelation 7:14; 1 Corinthians 6:11).

**Q** Why mention gates if this isn't a literal city?

**A** Gates represent access and entry, showing that what was once closed is now open, it's covenant language, not architecture (Revelation 21:25; Hebrews 10:19-20).

**Q** Is the New Jerusalem a physical place?

**A** No, it's described as the bride, the people of God, showing it's about a covenant community, not a physical city (Revelation 21:2, 9-10; Galatians 4:26).

**Q** How does this connect to Adam and Christ?

**A** Adam lost access through disobedience, Christ restored access through obedience, reversing what was lost (Romans 5:18-19; 1 Corinthians 15:22).

**Q** What does entering the city mean for us now?

**A** It means having access to God through Christ right now, not waiting to enter a future place (Hebrews 12:22-24; Ephesians 2:18).

## Source Index

† Genesis 3:24; Revelation 22:14; Isaiah 59:2; Hebrews 10:19-20; Revelation 21:22

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

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