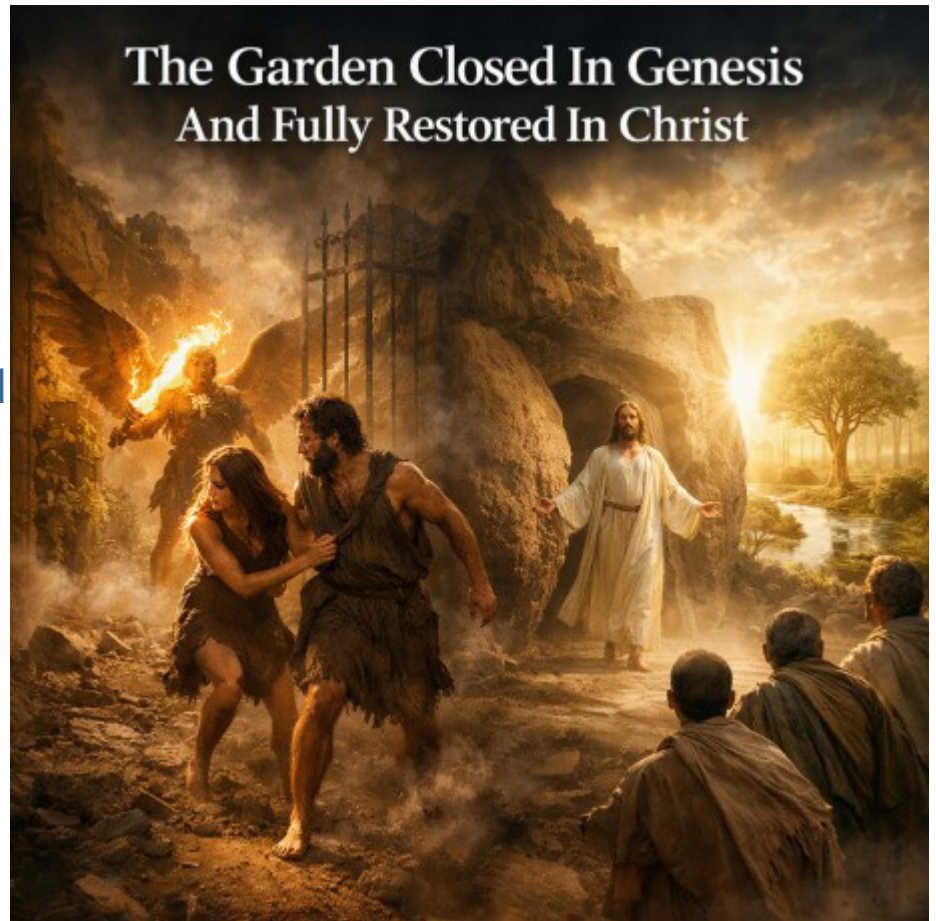


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The Garden Closed In Genesis And Fully Restored In Christ



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† From the very beginning, access to God was tied to a place, a presence, and a promise, and that place was the garden (Genesis 2:8-9).

† In Eden, man walked with God, had access to the Tree of Life, and lived in His presence without separation (Genesis 2:15-17).

† But sin brought separation, and that separation wasn't just spiritual language, it was a real removal from access to God's presence (Genesis 3:23-24).

† What was lost in Genesis wasn't partially restored over thousands of years, it was fully restored in Christ within that generation just as He said (Matthew 24:34).

† We're going to follow the pattern from Eden, to the veil, to the cross, to the destruction of Jerusalem, and finally to the full reopening seen in Revelation (Luke 24:44).

Genesis 3 The Garden Closed

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.

† Access to the Tree of Life was cut off, not symbolic only, but actual covenant access to life in God's presence was removed (Genesis 2:9).

† The cherubim guarding the way shows that access to God was now restricted, and this same imagery appears later over the ark and in the temple veil (Exodus 26:31).

† From this point forward, man couldn't approach God freely, there was separation, distance, and eventually a system built

around that separation (Isaiah 59:2).

Exodus 26 The Veil Continues The Separation

Exodus 26:31-33

"You shall also make a veil of violet, purple, and scarlet material, and fine twisted linen; it shall be made with cherubim, the work of a skilled embroiderer. Then you shall hang it on four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold, their hooks also of gold, on four bases of silver. You shall hang up the veil under the clasps, and bring in the ark of the testimony there within the veil; and the veil shall serve as a partition for you between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place.

† The veil wasn't random, it was a continuation of Eden, the cherubim are still guarding access (Hebrews 9:8).

† The Most Holy Place represented God's presence, just like Eden, but now access was restricted to one man, once a year (Leviticus 16:2).

† This proves that the garden was still closed, the way to life was still being guarded under the Old Covenant system (Hebrews 10:1).

† The temple itself was designed as a symbolic garden, with lampstands shaped like trees, carved flowers, and cherubim, showing that it represented Eden under restriction (1 Kings 6:18, 29; 7:49).

† This proves the entire Old Covenant system was a controlled, limited access version of the original garden, not the final restoration (Hebrews 9:9-10).

Matthew 27 The Veil Torn

Matthew 27:50-51

And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and gave up His spirit. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.

† The tearing of the veil wasn't just dramatic, it was the removal of the barrier that began in Genesis (Hebrews 10:19-20).

† God tore it from top to bottom, showing that access was being restored by Him, not by man (Mark 15:38).

† But this wasn't the final stage, the system was still standing, the temple was still operating, the old covenant hadn't fully passed yet (Hebrews 8:13).

Hebrews 9 The Way Not Yet Fully Open

Hebrews 9:8

The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing,

† Even after the cross, the writer says the way wasn't fully open yet, because the temple system was still standing (Hebrews 9:8).

† This proves restoration was in progress, but not complete until the old system was removed (Hebrews 10:1-4).

† As long as that temple stood, it testified that the garden was not fully reopened yet (Luke 21:6).

Hebrews 10 The Opened Access Through Christ

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.

† This shows access was opened through Christ, but Hebrews still speaks during the time when the old system was fading, meaning full removal was still approaching (Hebrews 10:19-22).

† The veil is identified with His flesh, proving the barrier was removed through His death, not through the temple system (Hebrews 10:20).

† Believers were already entering in by faith, while the physical system was about to be removed completely (Hebrews 4:16).

Matthew 24 The Timing Of Fulfillment

Matthew 24:34

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

† Jesus placed the fulfillment of all these things within that generation, not thousands of years later (Matthew 24:34).

† That includes judgment, the end of the age, and the full transition out of the old covenant system (Luke 21:22).

† The reopening of access was tied directly to that same time frame (Hebrews 12:28).

† The end of the sacrificial system was foretold in Daniel 9:27, and its complete removal in AD 70 marked the full end of the system that stood between man and God (Daniel 9:27).

Revelation 22 The Garden Reopened

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.

† The Tree of Life appears again, not in a future world, but in the fulfilled kingdom reality (Revelation 22:2).

† What was blocked in Genesis is now fully accessible, the nations now have access to life (Genesis 3:24).

† This is covenant fulfillment, not a reset of creation, but restoration of access (Ezekiel 47:12).

Revelation 22:3

There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;

† The curse introduced in Genesis 3 is now removed, proving this is the restoration of what was lost, not something entirely new (Genesis 3:17).

† This confirms the full reversal of the fall, not in a future world, but in the fulfilled kingdom (Romans 8:1).

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.

† Access is now open, no cherubim guarding the way, no veil blocking entry (Ephesians 2:18).

† The city represents the fulfilled people of God, the New Jerusalem, not a future location (Hebrews 12:22).

† The garden is no longer closed, it's fully reopened in Christ (John 10:9).

Revelation 21 The Dwelling Of God Restored

Revelation 21:3

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,

† This is the full reversal of Genesis 3, where man was driven out, now God dwells with man again without separation (Genesis 3:23).

† The presence of God is no longer restricted to a place, but fully among His people (John 1:14).

† From Genesis to Revelation, the story is not about escaping earth, it's about restored access to God, and that access was fully reopened when the old covenant system was removed within that generation (2 Corinthians 5:18).

Historical References

† Josephus records the complete destruction of the temple in AD 70, ending the sacrificial system and confirming the removal of the old covenant structure.

† Eusebius writes that the fall of Jerusalem fulfilled the words of Christ concerning that generation and marked the end of the old system.

† Tacitus also confirms the devastation of Jerusalem, showing that the temple and its system were completely removed.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We're not waiting for access to God, it's already been fully opened (Hebrews 10:19).

† There's no veil, no system, no priesthood standing between us and God anymore (Ephesians 2:14).

† We live in the reality of the reopened garden, with full access to life in Christ right now (Colossians 1:13).

† The Tree of Life isn't future, it's present in the kingdom, and we partake of it through Christ (John 15:5).

† We don't look for a future restoration, we're living in the fulfilled restoration already (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Q & A Appendix

Q: When was access to the Tree of Life restored?

A: It was fully restored when the old covenant system ended, within that generation, as seen in Matthew 24:34 and Revelation 22:2.

Q: Why was the veil torn if the temple was still standing?

A: It showed the beginning of restored access, but Hebrews 9:8 shows it wasn't fully complete until the temple was removed.

Q: What do the cherubim represent?

A: They represent restricted access to God's presence, first in Eden and later in the temple, seen in Genesis 3:24 and Exodus 26:31.

Q: Is the Tree of Life future?

A: No, it's part of the fulfilled kingdom reality described in Revelation 22:2 and Hebrews 12:22.

Q: What ended the Old Covenant system?

A: The destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, fulfilling Matthew 24:34 and removing the final barrier.

Q: If access was fully restored, why do we still see sin and death?

A: Because the restoration in Christ is about access to God and covenant life, not the removal of physical death. Spiritual death was the separation introduced in Genesis 3, and that's what

was removed through Christ (Ephesians 2:1, 13; John 5:24).

Q: Does Revelation 22 describe a future physical world?

A: No, it describes the fulfilled New Covenant reality, where God dwells with His people and access to the Tree of Life is restored, just as Hebrews 12:22 says we have already come to the heavenly Jerusalem.

Q: Why was the Tree of Life guarded in Genesis but accessible in Revelation?

A: Because sin brought separation and blocked access in Genesis 3:24, but Christ removed that barrier and restored access through His work, fully realized when the Old Covenant system ended (Revelation 22:14; Hebrews 10:19-22).

Q: What proves the temple had to be removed for full access?

A: Hebrews 9:8 clearly states the way into the holy place was not fully open while the tabernacle was still standing, so its destruction in AD 70 marked the full removal of the barrier (Luke 21:6).

Q: Is the New Jerusalem a physical city we are waiting for?

A: No, Scripture identifies it as the people of God, the bride, the church, where God dwells with His people (Revelation 21:2, 9-10; Ephesians 2:19-22).

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

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† Genesis 3:22-24, Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17, 23-24, Exodus 26:31-33, Leviticus 16:2, 1 Kings 6:18, 29; 7:49, Matthew 27:50-51, Mark 15:38, Hebrews 9:8, Hebrews 10:1-4, 19-22, Hebrews 8:13, Hebrews 4:16, Matthew 24:34, Luke 21:22, Luke 21:6, Luke 24:44, Daniel 9:27, Revelation 22:1-3, 14, Revelation

21:3, Hebrews 12:22, Hebrews 12:28, John 10:9, John 1:14, John 15:5, Colossians 1:13, 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, Isaiah 59:2, Ezekiel 47:12, Romans 8:1, Ephesians 2:14, 18

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

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