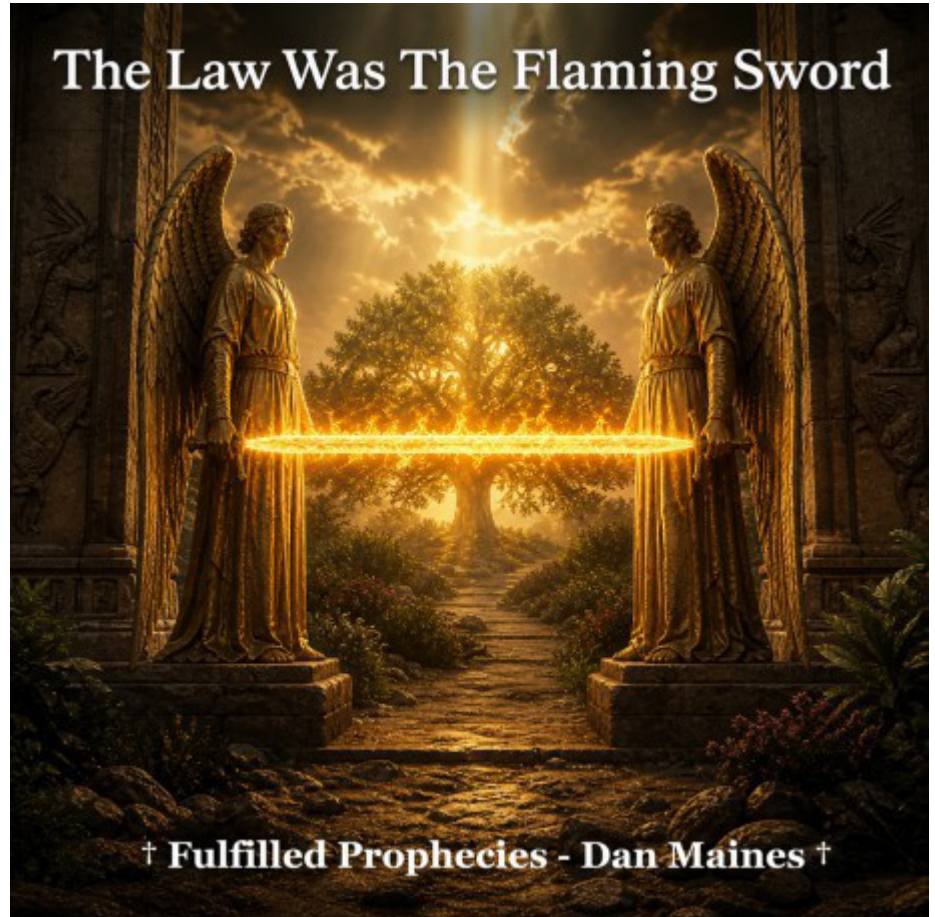


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The Law Was The Flaming Sword



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† From the fulfilled perspective, Genesis 3 is not just about a garden, it's about access to life being restricted through covenantal means (Genesis 3:24).

† What stood between man and the Tree of Life was not random, it was intentional, God placed a barrier that would later

be revealed and fulfilled in Christ (Genesis 3:24; Hebrews 9:8).

† The shocking truth is this, the flaming sword was not just a physical defense, it pointed forward to the Law itself as the barrier keeping man from life (Hebrews 10:1).

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 cherubim were not random angels, they were covenant guardians, later seen directly tied to God's dwelling place in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:18-20).

† The flaming sword turning every direction shows complete restriction, no access, no path around it, life was completely blocked off (Genesis 3:24).

† This wasn't temporary confusion, it was a divinely established barrier that would remain until fulfillment came (Hebrews 9:8).

Exodus 25:18-20

You shall make two cherubim of gold; make them of hammered work at the two ends of the atoning cover. Make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim of one piece with the atoning cover at its two ends. And the cherubim shall have their wings spread upward, covering the atoning cover with their wings and facing one another; the faces of the cherubim are to be turned toward the atoning cover.

† The same cherubim from Eden now appear over the mercy seat, showing that access to God is still guarded and restricted (Exodus 25:18-20).

† The tabernacle becomes a living picture of Eden, with barriers, separation, and controlled access through the Law (Hebrews 9:6-7).

† This shows continuity, the guarding of life didn't end in Genesis, it continued through the covenant system (Hebrews 8:5).

Exodus 26:31

"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.

† This explicitly connects the veil to the cherubim of Eden, proving the temple barrier is the same guarded way to life (Exodus 26:31; Genesis 3:24).

† The veil was not decoration, it was a visual declaration that access to God was still blocked (Hebrews 9:8).

† When the veil tore, it was the removal of the same guarded system established in Genesis (Matthew 27:51).

Hebrews 9:6-8

Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle, performing the divine worship, but into the second, only the high priest enters once a year, not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance. 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,

† The Holy Spirit makes it clear, the way into life was not open under the Law, it was still blocked (Hebrews 9:8).

† The priestly system didn't remove the barrier, it proved the barrier was still there (Hebrews 10:3-4).

† This is the flaming sword in operation, the Law itself guarding access to life (Hebrews 10:1).

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 veil tearing was not symbolic only, it was the removal of the barrier that had stood since Eden (Matthew 27:51; Genesis 3:24).

† The veil contained cherubim imagery, directly linking it back to Genesis 3 and the guarded way to life (Exodus 26:31).

† What the flaming sword prevented, Christ removed through His death (Hebrews 10:19-20).

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 Law system was not permanent, it was aging and ready to disappear (Hebrews 8:13).

† This proves the barrier to life was temporary and designed to be removed (Hebrews 10:1).

† The flaming sword was never meant to last forever, it pointed to a fulfillment (Galatians 3:24-25).

Galatians 3:24-25

Therefore the Law has become our guardian to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

† The Law functioned as a guardian, just like the cherubim guarding the way (Galatians 3:24; Genesis 3:24).

† Once Christ came, that guardianship ended, meaning the barrier was removed (Galatians 3:25).

† This directly parallels Genesis 3:24, showing the Law was the flaming sword keeping man from life until Christ (Hebrews 10:1).

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.

† The way is now open, something that was impossible under the Law is now reality in Christ (Hebrews 10:19; Hebrews 9:8).

† The veil, the Law, and the barrier are all fulfilled and removed in Him (Hebrews 8:13).

† This is the fulfillment of Genesis 3:24, access to the Tree of Life restored (Revelation 22:14).

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

† The way that was blocked in Genesis is now a person, Christ Himself (John 14:6; Genesis 3:24).

† The flaming sword blocked the way, Christ became the way (Hebrews 10:20).

† Access to life is no longer guarded, it's fulfilled in Him (Revelation 22:14).

Historical References

† Josephus describes the temple veil as a massive barrier separating the holy place, reinforcing the idea of restricted access, Wars of the Jews, Book 5, Chapter 5.

† The Epistle of Barnabas speaks of the old covenant as a temporary system pointing forward to Christ, Barnabas Chapter 14.

† Eusebius records the destruction of the temple in AD 70 as the end of the old system, Ecclesiastical History Book 3.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We're not waiting for access to God, it's already been opened through Christ (Hebrews 10:19-22).

† We're not under a system that blocks life, we're in the reality where life has been fully given (John 5:24).

† The barrier is gone, the Law has been fulfilled, and we now live in direct access to God (Romans 8:1-2).

Q & A Appendix

Q Was the flaming sword a literal weapon or symbolic?

A It was both real in the narrative and symbolic of a greater covenant reality, pointing to the Law as the barrier to life (Genesis 3:24; Hebrews 10:1).

Q How do we know the Law was the barrier?

A Hebrews explicitly says the way into the holy place was not open while the first tabernacle stood, meaning the Law system itself restricted access (Hebrews 9:8; Hebrews 10:1-3).

Q What changed at the cross?

A The veil tore, meaning the barrier was removed, and access to God was opened through Christ (Matthew 27:51; Hebrews

10:19-20).

Q Are we still waiting for access to the Tree of Life?

A No, Revelation shows access restored, and in Christ we already have life (Revelation 22:14; John 5:24).

Q Why couldn't the Law give life?

A Because it was designed to expose sin and restrict access, not to give life, the barrier itself could not be the solution (Galatians 3:21; Hebrews 10:4).

Q Why were cherubim chosen to guard the way to life?

A Because cherubim are consistently shown as guardians of God's presence, from Eden to the tabernacle, showing restricted access until fulfillment (Genesis 3:24; Exodus 25:18-20; Hebrews 9:8).

Q Does the flaming sword represent judgment?

A Yes, it represents divine judgment and separation, enforcing the barrier between sinful man and life (Genesis 3:24; Isaiah 59:2; Hebrews 10:27).

Q How does the temple system prove access was still blocked?

A Only the high priest could enter once a year, and not without blood, showing that the way to life was not yet open (Hebrews 9:6-8; Leviticus 16:2).

Q Why did the veil have to tear from top to bottom?

A Because God removed the barrier, man didn't open the way, God did, ending the guarded system (Matthew 27:51; Hebrews

10:20).

Q What does it mean that Jesus is the way?

A It means access to life is no longer through a system or Law, but through a person who fulfilled it completely (John 14:6; Hebrews 10:19-20).

Q How do we know the Tree of Life is accessible now?

A Scripture shows access restored to those in Christ, meaning what was once guarded is now open (Revelation 22:14; John 5:24).

Q Did the Law ever give life at any point?

A No, it was never designed to give life, only to reveal sin and point to Christ (Galatians 3:21; Romans 3:20).

Q What ended the barrier completely?

A Christ's death and the end of the old covenant system removed the barrier fully (Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 10:9-10).

Q Are believers still separated from God today?

A No, in Christ we have direct access with no veil, no barrier, and no restriction (Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 10:19).

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

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Source Index

† Genesis 3:24; Exodus 25:18-20; Exodus 26:31; Hebrews 9:6-8; Matthew 27:50-51; Hebrews 8:13; Galatians 3:24-25;

Hebrews 10:19-22; John 14:6

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 5, Chapter 5; Epistle of Barnabas Chapter 14; Eusebius Ecclesiastical History Book 3

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