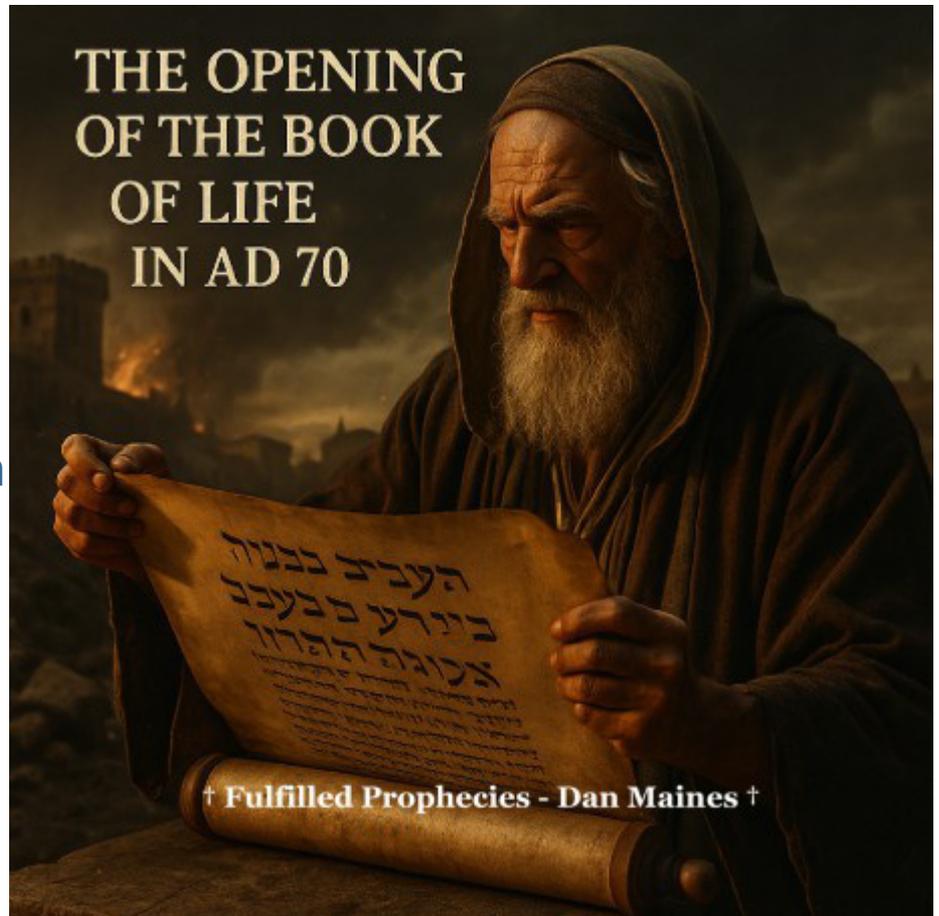


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The Opening Of The Book Of Life In AD 70



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

This study shows how Revelation 20 through 22 reveal a covenantal shift completed in AD 70 when the Book of Life was opened, when judgment fell on Old Covenant Israel, and when full access to the Tree of Life and entrance into the New Jerusalem became available. The judgment is past, the kingdom is open, and God's people now stand in the fullness of

the New Covenant.

The Book Of Life And The Judgment Of Old Covenant Israel

† Revelation 20 describes the great white throne judgment in the context of the end of the Old Covenant age, not the end of the physical universe. Jesus already said this judgment would fall on that generation. (Matthew 23:34-36)

† Jesus repeatedly said the judgment, the restoration, and His coming in the kingdom would happen before that generation passed away. (Matthew 16:27-28, Matthew 24:34)

† The apostles echoed the same timing, showing they expected the Book of Life judgment and the New Jerusalem in their lifetime. (Hebrews 10:37, James 5:8-9)

† The dead being judged in Revelation 20:12 refers to the covenantally dead of Old Covenant Israel who rejected Christ. Their works were judged because they remained under the Law, and the Law condemns. (Revelation 20:12)

† The Book of Life being opened reveals the division between the faithful remnant and the unbelieving nation. Those written in the Book were preserved through the judgment. (Revelation 20:15)

† This aligns with Daniel 12, where the resurrection and judgment occur when Jerusalem is destroyed. That happened in AD 70, exactly as Jesus and the prophets foretold. (Daniel 12:1-7)

The End Of The Old Covenant And The Beginning Of Full Access

† Revelation 21 shows that after Jerusalem fell, the New Jerusalem came down from God. This isn't a literal city, it's the

redeemed people of God in the New Covenant order.
(Revelation 21:1-3)

† God dwelling among His people is covenantal language fulfilled once the Old Covenant system was removed. The destruction of the temple finalized that transition. (Revelation 21:3)

† Revelation 21:5 declares, Behold, I am making all things new, showing the covenantal renewal brought through Christ.

Access To The Tree Of Life And The New Jerusalem

† Revelation 22 uses Eden imagery to show restored access to the Tree of Life. This access only becomes possible after the curse of the Old Covenant was removed in AD 70. (Revelation 22:1-2)

† The opening of the Book of Life marks the end of the curse of the Law, because those outside the Book remained under it, but those within entered the New Covenant life. (Galatians 3:10-14)

† Revelation 22:14 says that those who wash their robes have the right to the Tree of Life and may enter by the gates into the city. This describes entrance into the New Covenant kingdom. (Revelation 22:14)

† The Tree of Life barred in Genesis 3 is now opened. Through Christ's victory, access is fully restored. (Genesis 3:22-24)

† The opening of the Book of Life, the fall of Jerusalem, and the arrival of the New Jerusalem all show one truth. The judgment is finished, the kingdom is open, and the redeemed stand fully accepted in God's presence.

The Inseparable Reality Of The New Jerusalem, Eternal Life, And The Finished Judgment

† If we are not in the New Jerusalem, then we do not have access to the Tree of Life, because Revelation places the Tree of Life inside the New Jerusalem. To deny one is to deny the other. (Revelation 22:1-2, Revelation 22:14)

† If someone says we're not in the New Jerusalem, they would also have to say we do not have the right to enter the city by the gates, which means they would be denying the blessing Jesus pronounced on the redeemed. (Revelation 22:14)

† If someone rejects that the judgment of Revelation 20 is past, then they must say the Book of Life is not opened, which means they cannot affirm the difference between the condemned Old Covenant world and the redeemed people of Christ. (Revelation 20:12-15)

† The New Covenant hinges on the removal of the old order, the arrival of the New Jerusalem, the opening of the Book of Life, and the restoration of access to the Tree of Life. These cannot be separated. Rejecting one requires rejecting them all.

† Those who deny we are in the New Jerusalem would logically have to deny that we have eternal life, because eternal life is symbolized by access to the Tree of Life, which exists only inside the New Jerusalem. (Revelation 22:2)

† The New Covenant is a complete system. You cannot say the kingdom is open but deny that the city has arrived. You cannot say Christ reigns but deny that the curse is removed. You cannot say we are saved but deny access to the Tree of Life. It all stands or falls together.

Historical References

† Justin Martyr wrote that the destruction of Jerusalem was God's judgment for Israel's rejection of the Messiah, confirming

the covenantal shift to the new people of God. He tied the fall of the temple to fulfilled prophecy and saw it as proof that Jesus words had come to pass.

† Irenaeus taught that the fall of Jerusalem ended the Jewish sacrificial system forever and confirmed that the New Covenant had fully replaced the old. He connected access to life and immortality to Christ's work, not a future age.

† Tertullian argued that the judgment on Israel fulfilled Jesus warnings and showed that the Christian faith had replaced the Old Covenant system. He pointed to the destruction of the temple as divine confirmation that the old order had ended.

† Clement of Alexandria described the church as the true heavenly city and emphasized that believers already lived in the blessings of the New Covenant. He wrote about restored life, knowledge, and access to God through Christ now.

† Barnabas taught that the old temple was destroyed so that the true spiritual temple of God could be revealed. He said the Jews lost access because they rejected Christ, while believers inherited the promises.

† Eusebius recorded the AD 70 judgment in detail and connected it directly to Jesus prophecies in Matthew 23 and Matthew 24. He described the destruction of Jerusalem as the clear fulfillment of the Lord's words.

† Josephus provided the historical eyewitness testimony of the siege, destruction, and total fall of Jerusalem in AD 70. His writings confirm the end of the temple, the end of the city, and the end of the Old Covenant system exactly as Jesus foretold.

How It Applies To Us Today

† You're not waiting for judgment. The judgment tied to the Law and the Old Covenant has already happened. You live in the unshakable kingdom now. (Hebrews 12:28)

† You don't need to fear the future. Revelation 22 shows the gates of the New Jerusalem are open. God's presence is with His people now. (Revelation 21:25)

† Access to the Tree of Life isn't future. It's covenant life in Christ enjoyed today. The curse is gone and access is restored. (Revelation 22:2)

† The Book of Life isn't something you hope to enter someday. It identifies those who belong to Christ now, grounded in His finished work. (Philippians 4:3)

† Believers today aren't waiting to enter the New Jerusalem. They're its living stones and citizens now. (1 Peter 2:5, Philippians 3:20)

† This fulfilled reality means we're living in an age of restoration, healing, and peace. The world isn't heading for destruction. It's being renewed through the victory that's already been accomplished.

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

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Source Index

† Revelation 20:11-15, Revelation 21:1-5, Revelation 21:25, Revelation 22:1-2, Revelation 22:14, Matthew 23:34-36, Matthew 16:27-28, Matthew 24:34, Hebrews 10:37, James 5:8-9, Daniel 12:1-7, Genesis 3:22-24, Galatians 3:10-14, Hebrews 12:28, Philippians 4:3, 1 Peter 2:5, Philippians 3:20, Revelation 22:1-2, Revelation 22:14, Revelation 20:12-15

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