

## ***The Presence of God – The Gate Of Heaven***

Jacob was running away from his brother Esau from Beersheba and went toward Haran. Weary from the journey, he came to a certain place and stayed there all night. There appears to be nothing special about the place to Jacob. He took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head and lay down to sleep. As he slept, he dreamed of an open heaven. The angels of God were ascending and descending on that place. The Lord God almighty stood above and spoke words of blessing over Jacob that would completely change his life.

**Genesis 28:16–17 (NKJV)** <sup>16</sup>Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.” <sup>17</sup>And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!”

***Something must happen for us to become aware of the glory and presence of God.***

One moment Jacob was making his bed on common ground. *Then, God opened heaven and the glory of God transformed that place to the house of God and the gate of heaven. It became a place where God was known.*

**In the wilderness, Israel camped around the presence of God, (Exodus 13)**

From the moment the people walked out of Egypt, they were constantly made aware of God’s glory and power.

**Almighty God went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.**

It would be difficult to miss the fact that God was with them.

**The pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire never left its place in front of the people.**

The one thing that distinguished the camp of Israel was the glorious presence of Almighty God.

Every nation heard about the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire.

They heard that the face of God had been seen by these people.

It was God’s presence in the camp that opened up the Red Sea.

They were people of the presence of God.

It was the presence of God among His people that brought them the victory over their enemies.

**The miracles, signs and wonders were a testimony to everyone that God was present.**

**Something glorious happens when heaven is opened.**

The atmosphere of heaven is surrounded and filled with the presence of God. When heaven opens, the glory of God is revealed among men.

***Isaiah saw heaven opened. “The Lord was seated on a high and exalted throne. The hem of His robe filled the temple.” (Isaiah 6:1)***

In His presence the angels were crying "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of Hosts, the whole earth is full of His Glory.." (Isaiah 6:4, Isaiah 6:18)

***Ezekiel saw the Lord.***

**Ezekiel 1:27-28 (NKJV)** <sup>27</sup> Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the

appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. <sup>28</sup> Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.

***John was baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.***

The angel told Zechariah that his son, John, would go out and minister in the spirit and power of Elijah. All the land of Judea and people from Jerusalem came out to John to be baptized in the Jordan River. John's ministry and baptism was having tremendous results of turning people from sin.

***The act of obedience reveals the glory of God.***

**Then, Jesus came to the Jordan River to be baptized by John.**

Mark 1 tells us what happened when Jesus was baptized.

***Mark 1:9–11 (NIV84)*** <sup>9</sup>At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

***When heaven was torn open, John tells us the Spirit came down from heaven as a dove and remained on Jesus, (John 1:32).***

From that moment, Jesus went in the power of the Spirit and news about Him spread everywhere.

***Luke 4:18-19 tells us what was happening. Jesus said: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."***

**After the heavens were torn open and the Spirit descended, Jesus ministered in the mind, will and power of the Father for the Spirit was on Him.**

**In John 2, Jesus turned the water into wine.**

**John 2:11 tells us that by His miraculous signs, Jesus revealed His glory.**

Every miracle revealed the glory of heaven.

***John said: "We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and only, Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."***

Everywhere Jesus went He did many wonderful works and miracles.

**"We have seen His glory."**

***How are we going to find this place where heaven is open to us and the glory of God is revealed among us?***

***How are we to get to the place where we discern the heart-beat, mood, and mind of God?***

***How are we to know what He is doing and thinking?***

***2 Corinthians 3:16–18 (NIV84)*** <sup>16</sup>But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

## **God is opening heaven for us.**

By the Spirit, heaven is opened and the Lord's glory is being reflected on us.

## **Every act of obedience reveals the glory of God.**

When you do acts of obedience, heaven's power is released. We want to learn and know the presence of God and His glory.

## **It is fascinating to observe the many times that heaven has been opened.**

We rejoice in the awesome majesty and glory of God.

We love to see His glory come down when He does great things.

## ***It is not enough to learn about the glory and presence of God.***

We must come into that place where we "are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

## ***It is becoming clear that God wants to open heaven on His church.***

He wants to show His glory to us, and He wants to reflect His glory through us.

He wants to pour upon us the Spirit and take us by the Spirit into His presence.

## ***Many of us started hearing the voice of God because He wanted to use us.***

We did not realize that He also wanted to know us.

He wants to draw us to that place where we know Him and His glory.

## ***God is not satisfied with the breach that was caused by Adam's sin.***

Adam lost that intimate fellowship with God.

## ***The Lord wants to bring us back into a full and free fellowship of His presence and glory.***

He wants to take us into a place where we dwell in the overflow of His presence.

This is much more than being a servant or even being used by God.

He wants to bring us to the place where we learn the mind and heart of the Lord.

This is where we know Him and are known of Him.

This is the place where we become His friend and know His heart.

## ***He wants to have us live with a constant awareness of the Spirit's presence, mind and power upon our lives.***

From that He will take us into His presence.

## **How are we to do this?**

**2 Corinthians 3:16 (NIV84)** <sup>16</sup>But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

God has made a way for us to get into the place where His presence and glory are known.