

# An Open Heaven

January 12, 2020

John 1:51 - *And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."*

- This is a reference to the story of Jacob having a divine dream where he saw a ladder extending from heaven to earth and angels descending and ascending on it.
- Jacob declared, *This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!* (Genesis 28:17)

That's the title of today's message - "An Open Heaven"

So, how does Jesus' coming bring us 'an open heaven'?

## The Blood of Jesus

Hebrews 10:19 tells us we have *"boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus."*

- This allows us to have fellowship or communion with God Himself!
- "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.: - John 14:23

## Worship

Psalm 100:4 - *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise.*

Eph 2:22 - *in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

- Mike Park's testimony with Veda

## Intercession

1 Timothy 2:1-4

*Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. <sup>3</sup> For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

- Notice the connection between intercession, society's well-being, and people getting saved.
- "intercede" - to intervene between parties with a view to reconciling differences (Merriam/Webster)
- God has to be invited in to a situation. He does not override our free will. Intercession invites Him in.

## Spiritual warfare

- This is a type of intercession
- Matthew 16:18,19
- *<sup>18</sup> And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*
- Some of the newer translations use the word 'forbid' instead of 'bind'.
- There is nothing in the original Greek to support this. "bind" = 'to bind, tie, fasten with chains'

- An example of this is found in Matthew 14:3 - For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put *him* in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife.
- Jesus called Satan "the ruler of this world" (John 12:31)
- Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4,
- <sup>3</sup> But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them (2 Corinthians 4:3,4).
- This is why we have to do spiritual warfare. We bind the powers of darkness and loose the convicting, drawing power of the Holy Spirit.
- Matthew 12:28-30  
<sup>28</sup> But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>29</sup> Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. <sup>30</sup> He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.
- This is in the area of evangelism.
- These passages suggest the need for intensity, and not just sweet gentle prayers.
- This is why Daniel had to pray and fast (partial) 21 days. There was war in the heavenlies between Michael and a demonic prince called the Prince of Persia (Daniel 10).

### Response

God wants an open heaven for you, and for those you care about. We have to intercede for that, as there is an enemy of the faith. This is why we pray.