



AN OPEN HEAVEN

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LifeinJesus.net

‘An Open Heaven’
by
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Cover photo by Katherine Hilditch

AN OPEN HEAVEN

Do you ever feel that heaven is closed, that your prayers never get there and God doesn't care? There is a prayer in the Old Testament in Isaiah 64:1 where Isaiah prayed to God saying – *'Oh that you would tear the heavens, that you would come down.'* Well, I have brilliant news for you – God answered that prayer and He did tear the heavens open and come down 2000 years ago, and the heavens have been open ever since.

In the Beginning

When God made Adam and Eve, He put them in a beautiful, perfect garden to enjoy and look after. And God talked with them in

a direct relationship. It was literally heaven on earth. But then Adam and Eve chose to disobey the one and only rule God had given them and sin entered the world and everything went wrong – it was no longer heaven on earth.

The Law

Many years later, God gave His people the law which had detailed instructions and rules about how to live. There were blessings if they obeyed it and curses if they disobeyed it. But no-one could keep the law perfectly, so no-one could have a direct, personal relationship with God anymore because He is perfect and could never have sin in His presence. So the high priest had to go to God on behalf of the people and there were strict limits on how this was to be

done. But God wanted to have a personal relationship with people again, so through the law He showed them that they needed a Saviour.

Jesus Brought Heaven to Earth

And He sent that Saviour. He wanted an intimate relationship with each individual person so much that He sent His own Son, Jesus, to be their Saviour. Jesus said in John 6:38 – *“I have come down from heaven.”* Heaven had come to earth once more.

Jesus grew up in a town called Nazareth and when He was thirty years old, He was baptised. Matthew 3:16 says – *‘Jesus, when he was baptised, went up directly from the water: and behold, the heavens were opened to him. He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming on him.’*

God opened the heavens to bring Jesus to earth as a baby and He opened them so His Holy Spirit could come upon Jesus and give Him the power that He needed to do all that God had planned for Him to do. And later, Jesus said to His followers in John 1:51 – *“Most certainly, I tell you all, hereafter you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”* He was saying that heaven would again be permanently open.

God knew that everyone needed a Saviour, that they couldn't earn their way into heaven because they could never be perfect. So when Jesus died, God was punishing Him for all the wrong things which everyone has thought, said and done, past, present and future. 1 John 2:2 explains – *‘And he (Jesus) is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for*

the whole world.' Because Jesus took the punishment for every sin, justice has been done and forgiveness is available. And anyone who will can come into God's presence and be part of His family. Heaven was now permanently open.

When God gave the law, He gave precise instructions for the building of the tabernacle in the desert and later the temple in Jerusalem. The plans had different areas, but the most holy of them all was behind a very long curtain known as the veil. Only the High Priest was allowed to go beyond the veil and only once a year. Exodus 26:33 says – *'The veil shall separate the holy place from the most holy for you.'* At this time, God was separated from people by their sin and the veil symbolised this.

When Jesus died on the Cross, having taken all the punishment for all sin, Matthew 27:51 says – *‘Behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom.’* This was an amazingly powerful event. It meant that now everyone could have direct access to God at any time. No longer did they have to go through the priest. Jesus has opened the heavens for everyone, including you, and He hasn’t shut them. Acts 7:24 says – *‘The God who made the world and all things in it, he, being Lord of heaven and earth, doesn’t dwell in temples made with hands.’* God used to dwell behind the veil in the temple which was a man-made building, but now He lives in the hearts of everyone who has accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, what the Bible calls being born-again. Heaven is open for everyone who will believe it and receive it.

(To read about being born-again, go to the end of this booklet.)

The Open Heaven

Galatians 3:13 says – *‘Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us. For it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”’* Because Jesus took the curse of the law on Himself when He suffered the punishment for every sin, you can now be free from the curse of the law. Anyone can now come into God’s presence through faith in Jesus, despite the fact that they cannot live a perfect life. Sin has been dealt with and they are forgiven. Heaven is open because of forgiveness through Jesus.

When He went back to heaven His followers watched and wondered what was

happening. Two angels reassured them in Acts 1:11 – *“This Jesus, who was received up from you into the sky, will come back in the same way as you saw him going into the sky.”* The heavens were open for Jesus to return to God and they stay open for Him to come again when He will come as King to reign on earth.

After Jesus had gone back to heaven, God sent the Holy Spirit to His followers, just as He had sent Him from Heaven to Jesus. Acts 2:1-4 says – *‘Now when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²Suddenly there came from the sky a sound like the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³Tongues like fire appeared and were distributed to them, and one sat on each of them. ⁴They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other*

languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak.'

Heaven is open for the Holy Spirit to come and live in and give power to everyone who will believe it and receive it. It may not be as dramatic as on this first occasion, but it will be just as real.

Some years later, one of Jesus's followers called Stephen, was stoned to death for his faith. Acts 7:55-56 says – *'But he (Stephen), being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up steadfastly into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, ⁵⁶and said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"'* Stephen knew that heaven was open and he saw it with his own eyes in a vision as he died.

Jesus is the Open Door

The heavens are open – Jesus opened them. He said in John 14:6 – *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.”* There is no other way to God – no other religion or philosophy. Jesus is the door into heaven and that door stands open, but you have to choose to walk through it. Hebrews 10:19-23 – *‘Having therefore, brothers, boldness to enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by the way which he dedicated for us, a new and living way, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh,²¹ and having a great priest over God’s house,²² let’s draw near with a true heart in fullness of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and having our body washed with pure water,²³ let’s hold fast the confession of our*

hope without wavering; for he who promised is faithful.' There is no barrier anymore. Jesus's death has opened up the way to heaven for everyone who will believe.

Open Heaven Prayers

You do not have to pray to get heaven opened before God will hear your prayers. You do not have to do battle to get past demons to access heaven. You do not have to worship to open heaven before you pray, so your prayers will be answered.

I've heard of Christians saying that they feel their prayers do not get past the ceiling. They don't have to – God is this side of the ceiling! It's not God who is far away, it is they who are focusing on how they feel instead of on the truth in God's Word. 1 Corinthians

6:19 says – *‘Don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God?’*

How can God answer Isaiah’s prayer to open heaven today, when it already stands open and at such a cost to Himself? And how can He answer a prayer asking Him to come down when He has already done exactly that in Jesus and in His Holy Spirit?

Instead of asking God to open heaven and come down, praise and thank Him that He has done it. Start expecting to see and hear amazing things of heaven, and God will reveal them to you through His Word, in your thinking and in your heart. Declare the truth that heaven is open and expect to receive the blessings which are already yours. Ephesians 1:3 says – *‘Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who*

has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.'

Heaven is open over everyone. It is open over the people who you love. If they don't know Jesus, declare out loud that heaven is open over them. Say, "I declare an open heaven over (name)." Ask God to draw them to Jesus with His loving kindness and ask Him to send someone to them who will tell them about Jesus, and be prepared for God to maybe choose you.

Answered Prayer

All those years ago, Isaiah had prayed to God calling on Him to open the heavens and come down. He prayed in Isaiah 64:1 – *'Oh that you would tear the heavens, that you would come down.'* This had always been God's plan and He answered that prayer in

an amazing, powerful way. He sent Jesus from heaven as a baby to live on this earth – God Himself came down from heaven. He sent His Holy Spirit from heaven to live in Jesus. And He tore heaven wide open as Jesus died and He has never closed it again. He then sent His Holy Spirit from heaven to live in each and every born-again Christian.

Isaiah's prayer was answered 2000 years ago and God has never gone back on it. Heaven stands open for everyone who will enter by Jesus.

Choose to Live under the Open Heaven

You may feel heaven is closed to you, but it isn't. Heaven is open, but if you do not believe in what Jesus has done, it will seem

closed to you. You won't find the open heaven unless you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, and choose to believe it is open. You don't have to pray asking God to open heaven, you have to believe that it is open. Without Jesus you cannot experience the open heaven but it is there waiting for you to find it. Take that step today and start to live under God's wonderful open heaven. It will never close – you can enjoy it for the rest of your life and beyond.

Being Born-Again

When you acknowledge Jesus as God and decide to follow Him, you make Him your Lord. When you accept His sacrifice on the Cross for yourself personally, you make Him your Saviour. You are then born-again and have a new perfect spirit. God becomes your Father and you His child, and you can start to enjoy your personal love relationship with Him.

Romans 10:9 says – *‘If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.’*

Tell God you are sorry for the wrong things you do, say and think. Choose to believe that Jesus is Lord, that He died for you and is now alive. Accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. Say it with your voice and believe it in your heart.

If you've done that sincerely, you are now born-again and Jesus has come to live in you. Everything you've ever done wrong or ever will do wrong is forgiven, and after this life is over, you'll live in peace and joy with your loving Father God for ever.

As a child of God, you now have a whole new family of brothers and sisters. Tell a trusted Christian that you are now born-again so they can help you in your new life in Jesus.

And you have the Bible to help you understand and experience more of God's

love for you and all Jesus has done and won for you. It will help you to live your life in the best possible way – His way.

Life in Jesus

To read more about Jesus
and all He has done and won for us
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Does heaven feel far away?
Do you feel that your prayers never reach there?
Does heaven seem closed to you?
The good news is that it is open –
Jesus opened it and it's never been closed since.
Discover the truth that there is no barrier
between you and God when you are His child.



Katherine Hilditch has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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