

LIVING UNDER OPEN HEAVENS - Roderick Belin for Insight

FOCUS TEXT: John 1:43-51

43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

44 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.

51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man. (KJV)

TRUTH: At this very moment we are living under open heavens. The resources of heaven are at our disposal right now. God, in Christ Jesus has opened to us the resources of heaven. Today, God presents us with two gifts: opportunity and resources. God has blessed us with marvelous opportunities to live our lives filled with the abundance He has promised to us (John 10:10). Be clear: God gives us opportunity *and* God gives the resources we need to exploit those opportunities to the fullest.

We are living under open heavens!

Can the Heavens be closed?

Yes, the Scripture teaches us that the heavens can be closed:

Isaiah 64:1: Oh that thou wouldst rend the heavens, that thou wouldst come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence

Deuteronomy 28:15, 23: But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee... And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron.

How do we know the Heavens are Opened now?

Jesus has opened the heavens.

John 1: **1** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

2 *The same was in the beginning with God.*

3 *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

4 *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

5 *And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

6 *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.*

7 *The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.*

8 *He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.*

9 *That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*

10 *He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*

11 *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

12 *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

13 *Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

Mark 15:38 The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

NOTE WELL: God had come out of heaven before (cf. Exodus 3:7, and David understands his victory over his enemies and Saul in this way in Psalm 18:9) But the Incarnation (i.e. the enfleshment, Jesus talking on a human body) is a unique act which causes the divine power of God to take up permanent residence in and among God's people.

What does Opened Heavens mean for us?

John selected specific miracles from among the many Jesus performed while He was living in flesh among us. Each of these miracles gives us a deeper understanding of what the Open Heavens mean for us.

Open Heavens mean that we should have our appetites ever open for the miraculous to take place in our lives through the power of God.

Turns Water Into Wine John 2:1-10

God requires absolute obedience even when we do not understand what and why

Jesus' miracle, like wine, opens our appetite for more

Jesus is concerned about all the details of our life

Jesus is concerned about the quality of our hospitality

Jesus intends for us joy and gladness which wine represents

Opened Heavens mean that no matter where we are, God has the power to heal and make us well.

Healing of Royal Official's Son John 4:46-54

Jesus uses signs and wonders to inspire belief

Jesus has the power to heal anywhere and anytime

Jesus will heal one based on the request of another

Opened Heavens mean that no matter how long we have been in the condition, we are in God has the power to bring us out healthy and whole.

Heals Man Sick 38 Years on Sabbath John 5:1-9

Jesus has compassion

Jesus knows our condition and our circumstances

Jesus will heal even when we don't fully understand where the power is

Jesus is not limited by human rules and regulations

Opened Heavens mean that no matter what it looks like, God has the power and the desire to meet our physical needs.

Multiplication of Fish and Loaves John 6:1-14

Jesus cares about our physical needs

Jesus expects us to give Him what we have

Jesus has the power to bless what we give Him to become more than enough

Opened Heavens mean that God has the power over the chaos that used to take over our lives.

Walks on Water John 6:15-21

Jesus has put chaos under His feet

Jesus has power over the elements

Jesus is sweet, tender and comforting

Opened Heavens mean that no matter what the people say or think about you, God has the power and the desire to give you sight and insight.

Heals Man Born Blind - John 9

Jesus corrects bad theology and bad thinking

Jesus uses the elements to bring healing

Jesus has the power to give sight and insight

Opened Heavens mean that even though you were dead in trespasses and sins, if you believe in Jesus, God will bring you back to life!

Lazarus raised from the dead John 11:1-44

Jesus honors our emotional life by His tears

Jesus prays

Jesus groans

Jesus has power over death

How do we live under the Opened Heavens?

- We Believe

We live a life of faith and belief. Belief is not something we possess but the way that we live our lives. Belief is not simply a resident of the mind, belief is lived out in our thoughts, conversation, actions.

- We Are Obedient

Whatever God tells us to do, we do it quickly without question or reservation.

- We Make Something Out of Nothing

God has put some of His creative power in us. We must use it to bring light into dark places and life out of death. There is nothing we cannot accomplish through the power of God!

The Heavens are opened! So, what now?

I declare...

I will...

I commit to...

I will share this message with...