



WEDNESDAY STUDY JOURNAL

SERMON NOTES OF THE HIGHLAND CHURCH

AN OPEN HEAVEN

Written by Valerie Surrett, Associate Pastor

The Open Heaven: Understanding God's Interaction with Humanity

God's Abundant Provision and Blessing

God consistently blesses and provides for His people.

- **Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 12:** God promises to elevate those who diligently obey His commandments, showering them with blessings. These blessings include abundant rain for the land, success in their endeavors, and the ability to lend to nations rather than borrow.
- **Malachi 3:10:** The Lord challenges His people to bring their tithes, promising to open the "windows of heaven" and pour out blessings so great there won't be room enough to receive them.

God's Manifestation and Revelation

God reveals Himself in various powerful ways, even amidst trials.

- **God Answers by Fire When We Worship Him**
 - **1 Chronicles 21:26:** David's worship and offerings at the altar led to God answering him from heaven with fire.
- **God Reveals Himself in the Midst of Your Trial**
 - **Ezekiel 1:1:** Ezekiel, while among the captives, experienced the heavens opening and saw visions of God.
 - **Isaiah 6:1:** Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up, filling the temple, in the year King Uzziah died.
 - **Revelation 1:9-11a:** John, in tribulation on the isle of Patmos, was in the Spirit and heard a great voice, revealing Jesus as the Alpha and Omega.

God's Judgment and Warnings

God is righteous in judgment and warns humanity of coming consequences.

- **God Judges the Wicked**
 - **Revelation 19:11:** Heaven opens to reveal a righteous judge who makes war.
 - **Psalms 11:6:** The wicked will face snares, fire, brimstone, and a horrible tempest as their portion.
 - **Genesis 7:11:** During Noah's time, the "windows of heaven were opened," signifying the onset of the great flood that judged the earth.
- **God Warns Us of Coming Judgment**
 - **Genesis 7:4:** God gave Noah a seven-day warning before the forty days and nights of rain that would destroy all living substance.

God the Father Testifies of the Lord Jesus

The Father unequivocally affirms Jesus' divine identity.

- **Matthew 3:16-17:** At Jesus' baptism, the heavens opened, the Spirit descended, and a voice from heaven declared, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Entering God's Open Heaven

To experience God's open heaven, specific actions and understandings are required.

- **Follow Jesus - He is the Way**
 - **John 14:1-6:** Jesus assures His disciples not to be troubled, stating that in His Father's house are many mansions. He proclaims, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Following Him is essential for entering the Father's presence.
- **Understand the Signs of the Times - We Are in the Last Days!**
 - **Luke 21:25-28:** Jesus describes signs in the sun, moon, and stars, distress among nations, and the roaring of the sea and waves. These events signify the nearness of the Son of Man's coming and the redemption of believers. When these things begin, believers are to look up and lift their heads.