



**As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."**

*Matthew 3:16-17*

# **When Heaven Opens**

*Matthew 3:16-17*

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# What happens when heaven opens?

1. Revelation;

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## **Revelation 4:1-4**

**After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.**

# Revelation 4:5-8

From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits[a] of God. Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

“‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.’”

# Revelation 4:9-11

**Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:**

**“You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they were created  
and have their being.”**

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# What happens when heaven opens?

## 1. Revelation;

Revelation 4:1-4 & 5-11

- alone in the Spirit on the Lord's day
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## 2. Holy Spirit comes down;

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Matthew 3:16-17

- obedience

## 3. God's presence and promises;

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# Genesis 28:10-17

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

# What happens when heaven opens?

## 1. Revelation;

Revelation 4:1-4 & 5-11

- alone in the Spirit on the Lord's day

## 2. Holy Spirit comes down;

Matthew 3:16-17

- obedience

## 3. God's presence and promises;

Genesis 28:10-17

- obeying parents
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# What happens when heaven opens?

4. Help in time of difficulty;

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# Acts 7:54-56

**When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."**

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# What happens when heaven opens?

4. Help comes in time of difficulty;

Acts 7:54-56

- witnessing



# What happens when heaven opens?

4. Help comes in time of difficulty;

Acts 7:54-56

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5. Provision;

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# Malachi 3:10

**Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.**

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# What happens when heaven opens?

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Acts 7:54-56

- witnessing

5. Provision;

Malachi 3:10

- bringing the tithe
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# What happens when heaven opens?

4. Help comes in time of difficulty;  
Acts 7:54-56
    - witnessing
  5. Provision;  
Malachi 3:10
    - bringing the tithe
  6. New direction and understanding;
-

# Acts 10:9-16

About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

# What happens when heaven opens?

4. Help comes in time of difficulty;  
Acts 7:54-56
    - witnessing
  
  5. Provision;  
Malachi 3:10 & Psalm 78:23-25
    - bringing the tithe
  
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  7. Jesus enters history.
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# **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

**For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.**

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# Revelation 19:11-16

**I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:**

**KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**

# What happens when heaven opens?

4. Help comes in time of difficulty;  
Acts 7:54-56
    - witnessing
  5. Provision;  
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    - bringing the tithe
  6. New direction and understanding;  
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  7. Jesus enters history.  
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 & Revelation 19:11-16
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**I will ask God to open the  
heavens this year for myself,  
my family, and this church**

*Application*

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