

The House of God and the Gate of Heaven

Genesis 28:10-22

I. Individually and corporately, we are the House of God.

- A. “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it” (Genesis 28:16-17).
- B. Jesus was God’s House on the earth—Jacob’s dream fulfilled (John 1:14, 48-51).
- C. Corporately, as the Church, we are the House of God (Ephesians 2:19-22).
- D. Individually, the people of God are temples that carry God’s presence (I Corinthians 6:19-20). The bottom line is that there is an open heaven over every believer.
 - 1. When we arrive, the House of God shows up. Like Jacob and Jesus, we are connected to angels who are busy ascending and descending—carrying out their assignments to us and through us in the earth (Hebrews 1:14).
 - 2. This understanding accounts for the amazing comments Jesus made about His people in the Scriptures (Matthew 10:7-9; 21:21-22; John 14:12-14).

II. The Church is now the gate of heaven for the world to know God (Genesis 28:17).

- A. In the New Testament, heaven comes to earth through God’s people. Notice, Peter and the Church received power to bind and loose (Matthew 16:15-19).
- B. Demonic principalities set up counterfeit revelations and mindsets against God.
 - 1. Peter strayed into enemy territory with “human” thinking (Matthew 16:21-23).
 - 2. As gateway people, we release God’s authority on the earth (Matthew 18:18-20).
 - 3. The gates of hell are empowered to do whatever they choose when we do not speak the truth and pray to “demolish arguments and pretensions raised up against the knowledge of God” (II Corinthians 10:3-5) (E.g., AB 2223).
 - 4. It was the thoughts and speech of the Jews (God’s chosen people in Jesus’ time) that ultimately crucified Jesus. The government of the world (the Romans) had decided to set Him free; but His own people said, “Crucify Him” (Matthew 27:22)!
- C. Now is the time for the Body of Christ to speak up for truth in the world. We can change the way the government thinks with our public voice and our spiritual prayers. What we say and think count in the highest courts of both heaven and earth. We are the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16).
- D. We are God’s revelatory people, equipped to declare what God is doing through the Scripture and His prophetic revelation (Matthew 4:4). Knowing the Scripture and the power of God helps us to understand what to do and say (Matthew 22:29).

III. What we do as the people of the House of God.

- A. We are on the offense, not the defense. We are “normal” Christians who put ourselves at risk, drawing on the invisible resources of heaven (Hebrews 11:6).
- B. We love generosity, worship, and prayer; because they release the supernatural blessings of God in our lives (Acts 10:1-6; Luke 6:37-38).
- C. We weed out negative attitudes that give the enemy a stronghold (I John 1:5-10).
- D. We experience the love and presence of God as our highest priority and expectation. “We love, because He first loved us” (I John 4:19-21; John 5:19-20).
- E. We praise and give thanks (Acts 16:25-26; Philippians. 4:4-8; I Thess. 5:16-18).

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