

## Gates of Heaven

(Ge 28:12) <sup>12</sup>Then he (Jacob) dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

(Ge 28:16-17) <sup>16</sup>Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.” <sup>17</sup>And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God (Bethel), and this is the gate of heaven!”

point for heaven to interact with earth

(Jn 1:51) <sup>51</sup>And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

open heaven shifted from temple to a man (Jesus is temple Jn 2:19-21)

(1Co 3:16) <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

implications: open heaven, activity of kingdom

Don't go back to thinking in terms of a building.

ascending and descending (order): we initiate, heaven responds

Jer 29:13, Lk 11:9, Mt 6:33, Jam 4:8

(Jdg 13:16) <sup>16</sup>And the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah (Sampson's father), “Though you detain Me, I will not eat your food. But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the LORD.”

(Jdg 13:19-20) <sup>19</sup>So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the LORD. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on— <sup>20</sup>it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar—the Angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar!

angels ascend on our sacrifice?

(Ps 50:5) <sup>5</sup>“Gather My saints together to Me, those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.”

God responds to sacrifice. (not animals, heart Ps 51:16-17)

Site of Temple

(1Ch 21:24) <sup>24</sup>Then King David said to Ornan, “No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, for I will not take what is yours for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing.”

(1Ch 21:26) <sup>26</sup>And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called on the LORD; and He answered him from heaven by fire on the altar of burnt offering.

Dedication of Temple

(2Ch 7:1) <sup>1</sup>When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

Pentecost ~ Dedication of Temples

10 days of sacrificial prayer – individual tongues of fire, Holy Spirit

(1Pe 2:5) <sup>5</sup>you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house (corporate), a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

sacrifice of thanksgiving (Ps 116:17)

sacrifice of praise (Heb 13:15)

Primarily: House of Prayer (Is 56:7, Mt 21:3)

(Rev 5:8) <sup>8</sup>Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

(Rev 8:3-5) <sup>3</sup>Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. <sup>4</sup>And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. <sup>5</sup>Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth.

God will answer the Sacrifice of Prayer with Fire from Heaven

We don't earn an open heaven through prayer,  
we have an open heaven through Jesus (torn veil).  
Yet somehow prayer is essential to accessing it.