

Praise for *When He Opens the Heavens*

“Dr. Alemu Beeftu has an amazing ability to take a profound spiritual truth and make it easy to understand. He *epitomizes* what can occur through a mature blending of Christ’s apostolic and teaching anointings. Alemu’s personal story *epitomizes* God’s grace, mercy, and supernatural ability. And his latest of more than 50 books, *When He Opens the Heavens*, *epitomizes* what a great book should do: change the reader. God wants to open the heavens over your life, home, family, business, city, and nation. This tremendous book will show you how.”

—**Dutch Sheets**, Founder and President of Dutch Sheets Ministries
and author of *Intercessory Prayer*

“In his new book *When He Opens the Heavens*, Alemu Beeftu gives us a behind-the-scenes look into how God manipulates the heavens over us. It is a revelational, educational, and instructional masterpiece on how to discern the activity of God in our lives. This is a phenomenal book.”

—**Isaac Pitre**, II Kings Global Network

“Dr. Alemu Beeftu unlocks much-needed revelation and understanding of the concepts of what Scripture teaches about open heavens in this new book. By weaving wisdom and revelation out of the Scriptures, Dr. Beeftu provides solid Biblical teaching in regard to open heavens as related to people, places, opportunities, processes, purpose, and so much more. This book overflows with deep spiritual wisdom, revelation, knowledge, and understanding that promises to bring greater weight to our prayers and pursuit of God opening the heavens over us in our generation. Keep reading and expect to encounter the God who opens heavens as you do.”

—**Jacquie Tyre**, Apostle, CityGate Atlanta

“In his book *When He Opens the Heavens*, Dr. Alemu Beeftu provides biblical foundation to help us to understand God’s desire for humanity to access him. Recommend this book to all who desire not only to live under an open heaven but also to access God’s presence in an incredible way.”

—Dr. Venner Alston,

author of *Next Level Believers* and *Image Bearers*

“Dr. Alemu Beeftu has written a kingdom book for the strange and uncertain times in which we now live. In *When He Opens the Heavens: Responding to God’s Invitation with Praise and Purpose*, Alemu lays a clear path for you to build your life and destiny—a blueprint from Father God’s heart. As you read, you will find yourself shedding off religious ideologies, philosophies, and bad theology that have held you in bondage. You have not picked up this book by accident. There is a strategy to your journey and your assignment. A solution is at hand. In the pages of this fantastic book, you will discover what you need to fulfill your assignment as a mighty Kingdom advancer. I am honored to endorse this much-needed manuscript. Don’t just read this work. Study it! Embrace it! Practice it! Then, get ready for change.”

—Dr. Greg Hood, ThD,

President, Kingdom University, Apostolic Leader at Network of Five-Fold Ministers & Churches and Kingdom Life Ekklesia, Franklin, Tennessee; author of *The Gospel of the Kingdom*

When He *Opens* the Heavens

Responding to God's Invitation
with Praise and Purpose

Alemu Beeftu, PhD



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FOREWORD

Jesus's disciples asked Him to teach them to pray. He responded by saying, "*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,*" then went on to explain how they needed to bring His will from heaven into the earth realm. Dr. Alemu's book, *When He Opens the Heavens: Responding to God's Invitation with Praise and Purpose*, is a wonderful tool to help you learn to pray.

Connecting heaven and earth releases the glory of God into our realm, and the release of that glory is no small thing! Moses cried out for it in Exodus 33:18, "*Show me Your glory!*" (NASB). The word for "glory" in Hebrew is *kabowd*, which means "weighty or heavy." Glory signifies authority. The word can also mean wealthy or prosperous, from the sense of being heavy with goods. When heaven and earth connect and God's glory is released, His weighty presence and great authority are tangible in this realm.

The New Testament word for glory, *doxa*, has in its root meaning the recognition of something—or someone—for what it really is. When the glory of the Lord is released, He is recognized! Saints and sinners alike will recognize Him, and His weighty presence will change things. A bold people will wear this glory. I think the greatest war ahead is in this realm. The enemy knows that if God's people are recognized as wearing His glory, the moving ark of His presence in them will dethrone Satan, just as the Ark of the Covenant toppled Dagon.

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This is a time for us to “be” the people we read about in the book of Revelation. We need not be afraid to venture into new places where the Lord leads us. Many new doors of harvest will open in days ahead. We must be ready to go through, defy the enemy, release what he has captured, and restore it to God’s rule and authority. Though many adversaries stand in our paths, our shield of faith will quench their fiery darts. Jeremiah 46:3 is encouraging: *“Prepare your shields, both large and small, and march out for battle!”* Let us go forth with confidence, with our shields lifted high, and our victory will be assured. It is time to break through, rise up, and advance into a new movement that rearranges history!

We are living in a time when we must open the gates for the King of Glory to come in. *“Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory”* (Psalm 24:7–10).

The King of Glory is approaching the gate with His procession. Who is this King of Glory? He is the LORD of Hosts, Yahweh Sabaoth. The One with strength who can come through our gates and enable us to secure and defend our sphere of dominion. He is the Captain of all the angelic armies, the armies of Israel, the hosts of nations, ruler of everything in heaven and earth. When that heavenly portal opens, we allow this King access to our life, city, corporate worship, nation, and every sphere of our authority. Intercessors, take your stand! Open the portals of glory so He may come in. As you enter into the Throne Room with confidence and stand before the Father, you gain authority. As you stand on earth in the place the Lord has assigned you and connect with God’s Presence in the Throne Room, you have authority to rebuild walls that have fallen.

FOREWORD

Another word for gate is portal. A portal is a doorway, gate, or entrance, and there are many kinds. Even in our bodies, we have portal veins. These carry blood from our intestines and stomach to the liver, where it's filtered and then sent all through our body. The process is very intricate and complicated; however, the principle is the same. Once there is an opening, what comes through the opening can infiltrate all over. Therefore, if we open a door to God's Glory, we can stand in battle on His behalf and allow His fragrance to overcome the death all around us. Stand and open up the Portal of Glory and let the King of Glory in! Once the gates are opened, the "gatekeepers" of a city or territory can then fully execute God's plan. Open the gates! The King of Glory is ready to come in!

We are in a time of prophetic declaration and apostolic proclamation. God's people are becoming bold to say what He is saying. This creates an open heaven and brings heaven and earth into agreement. I call this an open portal or door in heaven. The book of Revelation provides deep insight into doors of heavenly access and the warfare that we will encounter. The apostle John had a supernatural visitation during an extreme time of persecution. In the midst of this persecution, he began to see that the Lord God omnipotent reigns! He recognized that those who would follow the Lord in their daily life would be involved in continuing spiritual conflict. As the Lord visited John, He gave him a message concerning the seven key churches of that region. This message also reveals to us God's heart concerning the Church today.

We then find John sharing with us in Revelation 4:1 the following: *"After these things, I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, 'Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.'"* This open heaven causes our faith to soar. Faith overcomes! The shield of faith is closely related to the concept of a door—the Greek word

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is *thureos*, from *thura*, a square shield that can also be seen as a door. A door is an opening for entering or leaving a building, tent, or room. The door is used symbolically in the Bible in many ways. In Joshua 7:26, the Valley of Achor is a place of trouble, but later, in Hosea 2:15, it becomes “a door of hope,” a reason for God’s people to trust Him again. Our place of trouble can become the entry point into a new place of victory.

Jesus called Himself “the Door” (John 10:7, 9), and faith in Him is the only way to enter the kingdom of God. He calls all people to Himself, but He will not come in unless we open that door in faith (see Rev. 3:20). We need to give the Lord permission to take us through new, opportune doors, and He will give us the power to enter them successfully. Let us open the door of our hearts so that we can go through our new door of opportunity.

There are many doors of opportunity ahead for all of us and, as for the Apostle Paul, adversaries at each one—1 Corinthians 16:9, “*For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.*” Let us lift up our shield at the door! We do not need to be afraid to go through the opening and into the new places where the Lord will lead us. Even though many adversaries will be on our path in days ahead, our shield of faith will quench all of their fiery darts. *When He Opens the Heavens* will help you quench every fiery dart by keeping your shield of faith in place. This book will also help you make sure that important piece of armor is on you as you learn to pray the prayer of faith. Receive your ascension commission to live and walk from an open heaven!

—Dr. Chuck D. Pierce

President of Glory of Zion International, Kingdom Harvest Alliance

INTRODUCTION

The book you hold in your hands is born out of years of public ministry and a journey that has had many twists and turns, spanned numerous continents, and had an abundance of doors opened by the God of life. It is also born out of a deep reflection on biblical narratives on open heavens, open doors, open gates, and open hearts that embrace the spiritual power of a life in Christ.

During my years of ministry, many people have asked about my story. As I reflect on all that has happened in my life, I give glory to God for the great things He has done. But given my humble beginnings, even I question how so many incredible things have happened in my life. For example:

- How did I, having grown up in a remote farming community in Ethiopia, earn a PhD from one of the largest universities in the United States?
- How have I, raised in a pagan home, traveled to more than 54 nations teaching and preaching the gospel?
- How have I written more than 50 books?
- How could I possibly have envisioned the journey and future God had for me?

Those are just a few of the questions I'm asked when I teach and preach around the world. Typically, when I am asked, I give a brief response, yet people are amazed—and I am amazed as

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well! So many miracles have happened in my journey toward my prophetic destiny. I have written elsewhere (in the memoir *Breakout for Breakthrough*, 2019) in more detail about my story.

The call of God that I accepted 53 years ago still burns in my heart. That is why I am committed to continue preaching the gospel, training and equipping emerging leaders, encouraging and empowering the Body of Christ to fulfill the mandate of the gospel. And that is, above all else, why I have written *When He Opens the Heavens*.

In this book, I'm inviting you to much more than an understanding of how God has used me, a most unlikely vessel, for His good purposes. I'm inviting you to embrace your divine invitation from God and walk in obedience through the doors He opens, to fulfill your calling by opening the gates for the King of Glory, the Lord Jesus Christ. At the conclusion of each chapter, I have offered a few questions for reflection individually or in a small group context. For further clarification on the terms used in this book, at the end I have also provided a Note on Terms. I hope the words found in the pages that follow serve as a light for you on your path.

Amen! May it be so.

Alemu Beeftu

PART ONE

Open
HEAVENS

CHAPTER 1

OPENING AND CLOSING



The word “open” is a simple word we use daily in the English language. Yet, it’s a powerful word in its implication, both spiritually and culturally. It is a rich word that has been used to express value, both metaphorically and practically, in daily life. Most things in life start with opening and closing, a beginning and an ending. Human life on earth begins when the birth canal opens to let out a baby. That is what we celebrate by calling it a birthday for the rest of our lives. Life ends with the closing of a coffin and the burial ground. Life starts with opening and finishes with closing. At birth we open our eyes and mouth; at death we shut our mouth and close our eyes. The dictionary¹ defines *open* and includes the following:

- having no enclosing or confining barrier; accessible on all or nearly all sides
- being in a position or adjustment to permit passage; not shut or locked
- completely free from concealment; exposed to general view or knowledge
- having no protective covering

1 Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition.

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- not restricted to a particular group or category of participants
- fit to be traveled over; presenting no obstacle to passage or view
- having clarity and resonance unimpaired by undue tension or constriction of the throat
- available to follow or make use of
- characterized by ready accessibility and usually generous attitude; as generous in giving
- willing to hear and consider or to accept and deal, free from reserve or pretense
- being in operation (and so forth)

In the biblical context, the Hebrew word for open is פָּתַח , *gālāh*, “to uncover,” referring to the opening of the eyes in vision (Numbers 22:31; 24:4). In the New Testament, the usual word is ἀνοίγω, *anoigō*, referring to the opening of mouth, eyes, heavens, doors, and so forth.²

Opening implies giving full access by removing all the obstacles or hindrances on all sides without restrictions. It is a sign of welcoming with an accepting attitude and a free-will invitation. Conversely, closing is preventing or denying entrance by restricting accessibility by shutting or blocking passageways.

The process of opening and closing is not limited to physical aspects of doors or gates. It also includes the unseen realm of authority. A person can open or close access or opportunities by using legal or spiritual authority. Jesus has been given all necessary authority to open and close since He was given the master key, called the key of David. “These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open” (Revelation 3:7). This is also true in the legal sense. Subsequently, everything starts with opening.

2 *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia.*

OPENING AND CLOSING

This is true for spiritual life and our relationship with the Lord. Jesus opened the heavens and came to give us access to the Father. He became the only entry point to having an eternal relationship with God. He referred to Himself as the only true door that no one can shut, for those who would like to come to the Father through Him. That is why He said, “I am the door; by me if any man enters in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and go out, and shall find pasture” (John 10:9, ASV).

We are born again when we open our heart to the Lord and invite Him in as our Lord and Savior without restriction. This opening of our heart also means a willingness to invite Him into our lives. It shows our availability to follow Him all the way with all our heart and live for His purpose and do His will on earth. We are a new creation because of the new relationship with Him. Our spiritual journey begins by coming to the Father through Jesus Christ, Who is the true door. The sign of our willingness to go through the open door, Jesus, is to open our lives and invite Him in to dwell with us by the person of the Holy Spirit. He knocks at the door of every person for a new beginning. When a person opens his heart to the Lord, the Lord opens the door of salvation for an eternal relationship. This individual is called to become a new creation.

Our spiritual well-being is the result of opening our lives to the Lord for ongoing fellowship. When we open our heart to Him, we give Him full access into our lives, since our heart is the entry point where Jesus came into our being. He comes to dwell in our heart by the person of the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus said, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them” (John 14:23). When we open our heart to Him, He comes to seal us for the day of salvation and dwell in us. That is what makes us a new creation. As a person opens their heart to the Lord, the Lord opens the heavens to a person

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to be seated on the throne with Him (Ephesians 2:6), and to enjoy all spiritual blessings in Jesus Christ in heavenly realms.

Salvation is the result of open heavens. The Lord Jesus came in the flesh to dwell among us to open the heavens, the dwelling place of God, as Jesus is the door of entrance. The desire and prayer of Prophet Isaiah was, “Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!” (Isaiah 64:1). Yes, the heavens were opened, and the curse was broken. The good news of salvation was declared by the angels on the day the Word became flesh in the tabernacle among us. Open heavens over us means a divine invitation to start a lasting relationship by opening our hearts to come and dwell in us and with us to establish His Kingly authority in our lives and on earth through us. That gives us not only authority but also responsibility to open the gates as a trusted servant for the King of Glory to come in and into our spheres of influence. This is called opening the gate for the King of Glory.

When we open our heart to the Lord, He opens the heavens over us by removing all the curses of sin and iniquity for our blessing of having a lasting relationship with Him. That gives the authority and the key to open the gates for Him to come in. As the result of our ongoing relationship with Him as children, He gives us open doors to do His will on earth in obedience to His voice.

OPEN HEAVENS, DOORS AND GATES

Before we go too far in dealing with this topic, in the context of opening and closing, it is very important to look closely at the concepts of open heavens, open doors, and gates together, so we see the full picture. These three concepts have been mentioned throughout the Bible. Understanding their relationship and balancing among them is the key for our relationship to Him, as

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well as establishing our prophetic destiny and understanding our role in Kingdom work. Open heavens are a divine invitation for a relationship with Him for covenant and intimacy. Open doors are a divine invitation for our destiny to live a life of obedience, to run the race faithfully, to be fruitful for the glory of God. Open gates are a divine invitation for the Kingdom mandate to honor Him as we prepare the way for the full manifestation for the nations to see and honor the King of Glory, Who is coming soon.

When He opens the heavens over us for a true and lasting relationship that is being established, fellowship is affirmed. A true identity is being realized for God's blessings to be released and for His approval to be declared. When He opens doors, the calling is realized and a true commission for the purpose of God is affirmed to do His will and fulfill His purpose on earth. The bridge between the heavens and earth becomes tangible, and the Lord's prayer is answered. "Let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." This gives kingdom workers the keys of the kingdom to open the gate for the King of Glory to come in, as well as their receiving the authority to speak to the ancient gates to open up. "Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in" (Psalm 24:7). He comes in to reign and rule. This is the proclamation of Revelation 11:15, spoken with loud voices in Heaven.

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever."

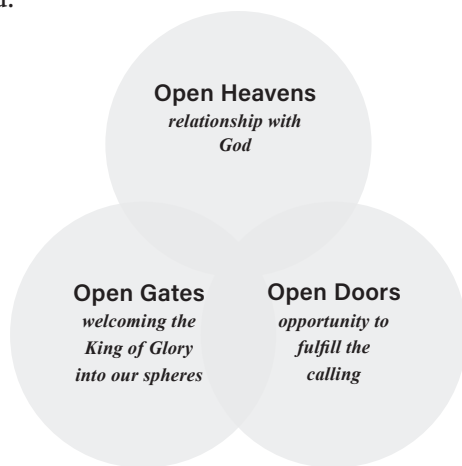
Open heavens over you are a divine invitation (Revelation 4:1), not only for a new relationship but also for a lasting relationship, while open doors represent the opportunities He provides to be fruitful for us to walk through in obedience and by faith to fulfill our calling. The core of our calling and prophetic destiny to declare the glory of King Jesus on earth is

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opening the gates and introducing Him as the King of kings and Lord of lords and the Savior of the world.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

As we look closely at these interrelated concepts of opening, let us make a firm decision. First, stay under open heavens by protecting our ongoing relations and responding to the heavenly invitation, “Come up here” (Revelation 4:1). Second, receive the power of the Holy Spirit and the revelation of His Word to know and walk through open doors that He places before us every day in spirit obedience and sincere faith (Revelation 3:7–8). Third, know our values with a biblically based belief system, establish our identity, and commit to our purpose. They make us in the Kingdom of God a VIP (an individual with value, identity, and purpose), creating a difference in our generation by service, fulfilling His purpose and impacting our generation for the glory of God.



With that conceptual framework in our hearts and minds, let's go deeper into the open heavens and our desire for God's presence in our world.

OPENING AND CLOSING

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What does it mean to “open our hearts” to God?
2. In what ways have you seen your own spiritual well-being connected directly to fellowship with the Lord?
3. In what ways have you perceived yourself as being a “kingdom worker”? How does that motivate you in your spiritual life?