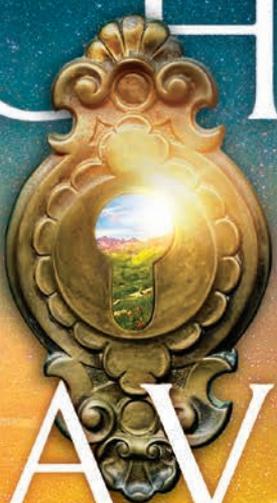


ACCESSING
THE
RICHES
OF
HEAVEN

A decorative brass keyhole is centered on the cover. The keyhole is ornate with scrollwork and a central circular opening. Through this opening, a bright, glowing landscape is visible, featuring a green field, a small house, and a bright sun or light source. The background of the cover is a gradient from a dark, starry night sky at the top to a warm, orange and yellow sunset at the bottom. A dark silhouette of a forest line is visible at the very bottom.

KEYS TO EXPERIENCING
GOD'S LAVISH PROVISION

FOREWORD BY SHAWN BOLZ
PATRICIA KING

ACCESSING
THE
RICHES
OF
HEAVEN

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PATRICIA KING



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Foreword

I just read *Accessing the Riches of Heaven* and went on a true learner's journey. I feel as if I had an experience and deepening of some core truths that have expanded in me. And you will, too!

Growing up as a second-generation Christian, I noticed a stark difference between my parents and me. They had escaped hard lives and some really difficult family dynamics and came into an amazing church experience that redefined their identities. They were excited about one day going to heaven and, like most Christians in the 1980s, loved the concept of bringing people to salvation so that they, too, could enjoy eternal life in heaven.

One of my deepest character flaws, I realized as I was growing up, is impatience. I get crowd anxiety in Disney because I just want to be on the ride. When planes are landing, I get frustrated waiting as we circle the airport trying to find the perfect landing conditions. When I am hungry, I want to eat instantly. With my faith, I realized I was frustrated because

I had been taught all my life that the Kingdom of heaven does break in, but only as a taste or glimpse of what is to come. That discouraged me, and I had only two options in my young faith: (1) to go to heaven faster or (2) to find an alternative truth.

So began my quest for trying to find out what fullness of faith looks like in my life. I studied and meditated on what the prayer of John 17 really means when Jesus asked the Father to let us be one as they are one, and to see His glory. He was praying for access for all believers to the Father's original intention and for the power through the Holy Spirit to manifest His original plan. I realized—through an albeit aggressive pursuit—that I could never be satisfied with one day going to heaven as my primary divine motivator. I became obsessed with seeing the riches of heaven manifested on the earth, on this side of eternity, the way Jesus modeled it.

When you see the Bible this way—that God has given you the gift of time on earth but that He wants to fill your time with His beautiful nature and original plan for you while you become a catalyst for breakthrough for others through your own faith—it changes the way you live. It changes the way you pray. And it especially changes your expectations in life.

Because of the glimpses I have seen of the Kingdom of heaven manifesting, I am living a radically different life than if I were made by my own desires, skills and talents, navigating even the Bible with my own understanding. Accessing heaven has led me personally into experiencing the power of His healing in my life and body. It has led me to discover the destiny and purpose He has revealed to me. And accessing heaven has allowed me to walk in justice over major social issues. He has given birth to compassion in me. I have had

supernatural encounters that have created a different life from what I could scarcely have hoped for or dreamed of (see Ephesians 3:20).

So I am grateful for Patricia's book. It is honest and vulnerable. You will find spiritual intelligence inside these pages for some of the hunger pains you have felt for a very long time. She brings out beautifully a model of what accessing the riches of heaven looks like for a believer's life now. The biblical truth through the filter of Patricia's experience with God and with life will mentor you and give you a huge new divine motivator (or reinforce the one you already have)—that God wants to be with you where you are now and give you access to what He always intended for you and the world around you through you.

This book will also act as a reset in some areas that may have blocked you from seeing what holds heaven back in your life. Patricia is a teacher, and you are going on a well-constructed, step-by-step process to rebuild your faith to access heaven and gain the perspective that you really are seated in heavenly places. She takes charismatic words that have been buzzwords—sometimes scary or marginalizing words—and places them back within their context, so that when you hear words like *ascending* or *portals*, it is not just poetry or fringy experiential slang but part of your biblical truth of ways that God can give you access.

We have so much more to live for if only we can gain perspective for what is available through Christ. This book will take you on a heart and faith journey to access what is already yours. Ultimately, we are called to fill this earth with the riches of heaven, and I want to encourage you to answer the questions Patricia includes here very personally,

and make the declarations she gives you, as you allow God to transform your perspective and give you one of Jesus' main divine motivators He promised you: that His Kingdom will come in your life on earth as it is in heaven.

Shawn Bolz, host, *Exploring the Prophetic* podcast;
author, *Translating God*, *God Secrets*, *Modern Prophets*
and *Growing Up with God*; bolzministries.com

1

On Earth as It Is in Heaven

Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth
as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:10

I just want to get out of here!”

I was caught off guard by this blunt expression of anguish from a middle-aged Christian woman whom I knew fairly well. We were enjoying an amiable visit together during a walk on a beautiful sunny day, so I was shocked when these dark and despairing words were injected into our conversation.

“Out of where?” I asked. I stopped walking and turned toward her in order to hear her explanation. “Do you want to move out of this area?”

Her eyes dropped from my gaze and fell into a solemn and depressed stare toward the ground. After a few seconds of

silence she whispered, “No, I mean out of ‘here.’ . . . I want to go to heaven.”

I had no idea she had been struggling, as she appeared outwardly to be quite happy and content. What had prompted this sudden desire to exit the earth?

“Living here is just so hard,” she confided. “I am dealing with health issues, financial restraints and some domestic hardships, and I am just tired. I want out. I want to go to heaven.”

She is not the only one who has ever felt that way. Perhaps you are thinking, *Hmmm, I have had some of those thoughts myself at times*. Having such ponderings does not mean you are suicidal. My friend was not suicidal either. She just wanted to escape the pressures and trials of living in this world. In fact, I have had such thoughts myself. I remember thinking years ago, when I was going through some intense pressures, *I just want to be in heaven*. I was neither suicidal nor depressed; I simply wanted to enter a place of peace that I could not seem to find.

Every human has innate knowledge that he or she was created for a heavenly and divine state—a realm of peace, tranquility, pleasure and abundance where everything is reconciled into God’s goodness and righteousness. In heaven there is no injustice, no sin, sickness, sorrow, death, oppression, depression, lack or poverty. The atmosphere of heaven is one of ecstasy, peace, worship and extravagance. God’s victorious “love presence” fills every moment and every place in heaven with eternal bliss.

The Devastating Event

You and I were created for this glorious state of existence. It has been God’s intention from the beginning of time. We

read in the first chapter of Genesis that when God created the earth and everything in it, it was all good—very good! There was no sin, sickness, disease, oppression or poverty. To Adam and Eve, those were all foreign and unknown. They lived in a heavenly atmosphere with God at their side, spending time together in unbroken fellowship. In the days prior to their fatal fall, it was indeed “on earth as it is in heaven.”

Then a cataclysmic event took place in the Garden: Humans sinned. As a result, all the consequences of sin flooded into the earth and were infused into the very nature of man. Romans 6:16 explains:

Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

Adam and Eve disobeyed God willfully and submitted to the devil, becoming his slaves. God had entrusted them with the authority to rule the earth, but at that moment the earth became the devil’s domain. Satan became the “god of this world” and exercised his legal right to usher his evil kingdom into the earth—complete with all its darkness, pain and oppression. As centuries went by and the population of the earth increased, the weight of oppression intensified because the masses yielded to the devil’s temptations and deceptions. Instead of the earth bearing fruit unhindered, it bore thistles. Instead of peace in the atmosphere, there was unrest. Instead of people receiving abundance without effort, they now had to labor with intensity to overcome lack.

You and I understand only too well the pain and discomfort of this fallen state. At times, all of us have expected fruitfulness and abundance, only to discover that unfulfilled dreams and expectations were our portion. This type of outcome will always leave us discouraged because life was never intended to be that way.

What if I told you that you can live on earth in a realm of riches and abundance in all things? Would you think this possible? Would you want to lay hold of that promise?

God's Original Intent

God's original intent was to create humankind in His image and likeness and to set this pinnacle of creation on the earth as His children to enjoy unbroken fellowship with Him and with one another. He wanted them to be encompassed by and saturated with His glory, to exercise dominion and to experience the abundance of every good and glorious thing in life—"on earth as it is in heaven."

Even though we sinned and erected a barrier of separation that seemingly sabotaged His original intent, He had already planned from before the foundation of the world to overcome it all and to restore us as His children.

What was His plan? To become a man and pay the full price of redemption for our sin. In other words, His solution was to buy us back with His own life. In order to accomplish His goal, the Son of God laid aside His prerogatives as God (see Philippians 2:6–8¹) and became man. As a man He would need to fulfill all the Law and the prophets, living without sin in thought, word and deed. One slip would destroy everything. If He yielded to just

one temptation, then even as the first man, Adam, became ruled by the devil, so also would Jesus. This was a tight-rope to walk on. His love for us and His desire for us to live in His heavenly realm were greater than the risk He was compelled to take. His motivation? His great love and unquenchable desire for us.

Jesus was undeterred by the impossible task before Him. We can see a picture of His determination in the life of David. While he was on the run from King Saul, David and his men were living in a town named Ziklag, in Philistine territory. When they returned from battle one day, they found the town burned to the ground and their women and children taken into captivity. “David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep” (1 Samuel 30:4 NIV). David’s men were so bitter that they talked about stoning him (see verse 6).

Then the Bible offers us two keys. First, “David found strength in the LORD his God” (verse 6). And second, David got the go-ahead from the Lord to pursue, overtake and recover from the enemy their women, children and all their possessions. He and his men were successful: “Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back” (verse 19).

Like David at Ziklag, Jesus’ goal was to pursue, overtake and recover everything plundered by the enemy. Jesus was empowered by the Holy Spirit at His baptism when the Holy Spirit came upon Him, and He set out with unconditional, passionate love to redeem the human race from their sin.

You, too, may have or currently are experiencing loss and devastation in your life. Even though you have been

saved by the blood of Jesus and by His death and resurrection on your behalf, you may, like David, have experienced loss and wept until you had no more tears to weep. I encourage you, like David, to find strength in the Lord, and then to pursue, overtake and recover everything that has been lost. We will explore in the rest of this book just how to do this, and how it is that you can access the riches of heaven, bringing them into manifestation in your life here on earth.

Two Kingdoms Reign

A kingdom is the domain and jurisdiction of a king's rule. A kingdom is not a democracy because the king is sovereign. The majority does not rule; the king does.

We find in Christ's teaching that there are two conflicting kingdoms in the realm of the spirit. For instance, when the Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebul, the ruler of demons, He explained:

Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste. . . . If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. . . . But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

Luke 11:17–18, 20

Jesus made clear His intention to conquer the devil's kingdom and to establish God's Kingdom.

The following chart offers you an overview of the two kingdoms:

	Kingdom of God	Kingdom of Satan
Rulers	Jesus is King (1 Timothy 1:17)	Satan is king (Luke 11:18)
Spiritual entities	Angels sent by God (Hebrews 1:14)	Rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world and spiritual forces of evil in heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:12)
Citizens	The redeemed (Colossians 1:13)	The lost (Colossians 1:13)
Atmosphere	Light, love, peace, righ- teousness, bliss, goodness, blessing (Galatians 5:22–23)	Darkness, hate, fear, evil, terror, malevolence (Galatians 5:19–21)
King’s word that prevails in the kingdom	Truth (John 14:6)	Deception, error, lies (John 8:44)
Law that governs	The law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:2)	The law of sin and death (Romans 8:2)
Economy	Abundant and stable, based on faith, generos- ity and God’s provisional promises (John 10:10; 2 Peter 1:3–4)	Unstable, based on worldly currencies, selfishness and greed (Revelation 18)
Eternal state	In glory for all eternity: rewards (2 Timothy 2:10)	In torment for all eternity: hell, fire, brimstone (Revelation 20:10)

Both kingdoms are very real, and we choose which kingdom we will live in by choosing which king we serve. Clearly it is wisest to choose Him, the King of all kings. Jesus came to take us out of the kingdom of darkness and to translate us into the Kingdom of light. His Kingdom is not something that will come in the future. His Kingdom is *now*. When a person comes to Christ, he or she enters the Kingdom.

The Kingdom of Heaven Is at Hand

As I mentioned earlier, when Jesus came to the earth He had to fulfill all righteousness as a man (even though He was God) in order to purchase us back from our sinful state:

Although He existed in the form of God, [He] did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:6–8

Christ began His ministry by submitting to the waters of baptism. John did not understand at first, even though he recognized that Jesus was the Lamb of God—the Messiah. But it was necessary because the waters of baptism represent repentance from sin, and although Jesus did not need to repent because He had never sinned, He knew that unless all righteousness could be fulfilled, no mere human could be made right with God. We could not do it on our own, so in the waters of baptism Jesus repented on our behalf.

In other words, you have the ability to repent because He already repented “as you.” You have grace to enter repentance due to Christ’s actions on your behalf in the waters of baptism. Everything Jesus engaged in to fulfill righteousness was “as you.” We cannot take credit for anything. Worthy is the Lamb! Oh, how this stirs deep worship in us when we realize that we cannot even repent without His grace!

After Jesus' baptism, the heavens were open over Him: "Behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him" (Matthew 3:16). We read in Deuteronomy 28:23 that due to our sin and disobedience the heavens are like brass. Through repentance, however, the heavens are opened. Through Christ's act of obedience in baptism, the heavens were opened over him, and they still are. If Jesus lives in you, then the heavens are opened over your life, too, and you have access into that heavenly realm of blessing through your faith.

Following His baptism, Jesus was led into the wilderness to endure the devil's temptation on our behalf. Through this experience and throughout His life He was tempted "in all things as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). Like Christ, you have power to resist temptation also, because He did it for you and *as* you.

Following His wilderness experience, He settled in Capernaum and preached repentance, saying that the Kingdom of heaven "is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). That was His message. He did not preach church growth; He preached the Kingdom of heaven (although authentic, God-initiated church growth will most likely follow powerful preaching about the Kingdom of heaven!).

Through the fall of humankind, sin "brassed over" the heavens to prohibit people from entering into the Kingdom of heaven, but in Christ, we now have access to the Kingdom of heaven with all its riches! He repented "as us" and resisted sin as us in order to grant us this very access. When you are one with Christ, living the life He graciously gave you through His finished work on the cross, sin is no longer blocking your way, brassing over your access to heaven.

Kingdom Power on Earth

Jesus not only preached, “Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand,” He modeled the Kingdom of heaven. Where there was sickness, He healed. Where there was demonization, He cast out devils. Where there was death, He resurrected. Where there was defilement, He cleansed. And where there was hunger, He filled and satisfied. He brought the atmosphere of heaven to earth. He ushered in the Kingdom of heaven everywhere He went.

Look at this account of Christ’s ministry:

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. Great multitudes followed Him.

Matthew 4:23–25 NKJV

Wherever the Kingdom of heaven is made manifest, crowds will gather. That is why even to this day crowds gather around authentic heavenly manifestations of miracles, signs and wonders. We are drawn to this heavenly dimension. We were created for this glory. We were not created for sickness and oppression. We were created for the realm of heaven—the realm of God. This realm is full of His riches—riches of peace, health, wholeness, provision, safety and freedom.

Jesus’ very purpose was to destroy the works of the devil, to remove his power over the earth and break his rulership

over man (see 1 John 3:8²) in order for us to receive the fullness of His riches in heaven.

The Dream of God

Bill Johnson preaches, “The dream of God is to be discovered and embraced until it becomes our dream.”³ God’s dream is that the Kingdom of heaven will come to earth and that we, His children, will experience all the blessings of His riches in heaven. When it becomes our dream to see His dream come to pass, we will experience what we were created for. We can get a picture of the revelation of God’s dream revealed in the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

If heaven is to manifest itself in the earth, we will see a demonstration of the power of heaven fully attacking every work of the enemy and replacing it with God’s glory, riches and purpose. This is not just a pleasant thought or idea—this was a reality in the life and ministry of Jesus.

God anointed Jesus “with the Holy Spirit and with power” (Acts 10:38). It was this anointing and miracle-working power that enabled Him to bring the presence, will and purpose of heaven to earth.

This display of power was not only to demonstrate to us how powerful He was. He was also modeling it for us because His plan was that we would also receive this anointing in His name. He promised His disciples that they would even do greater works, and He promises this to you also (see John 14:12⁴). Like Jesus, you can manifest the riches of heaven in the earth.

I love the gospels, and the book of Acts in particular, because they contain demonstrations of Kingdom power and glory. In the Bible, we read not only about Jesus performing miracles but also His disciples. The gospels and the book of Acts are full of accounts of His disciples performing the same miracles of heavenly intervention that He did.

One testimony that excites me is the miracle of the man at the Gate Beautiful (see Acts 3:1–10). Here is a man who had been lame from birth. Peter and John released “heaven on earth”—and he was healed. He began walking and leaping and praising God. The Bible says that the people who witnessed this “were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him” (verse 10).

I remember a similar miracle when I was ministering in Africa years ago. A father brought his little girl to us for prayer. She was perhaps four or five years of age, but she had never walked. He showed us her legs and they were twisted and deformed from birth.

To be honest, I did not have a lot of faith at the moment. I knew Jesus was well able to do it, but I doubted that He could work such a miracle through me. I was, however, filled with compassion for both the father and the little girl. So motivated by love and out of simple obedience to the Word, I laid my hands on her and believed for a creative miracle.

She began immediately to smile and squirm, muttering something to her father in her native language. He put her down on the floor, and her legs were perfectly straight! She began to walk around the room without effort or strain; it was as if she had always walked. Her father was weeping and praising God. He was jumping up and down with ecstatic

joy. Heaven's riches touched that family that day: "On earth as it is in heaven."

Jesus lived in the realm of heaven while on the earth. He brought the riches of heaven with Him everywhere He went. The blind saw, the mute spoke, the deaf heard, the lepers were cleansed, the demonized were set free and the hungry were fed.

What about you? Would you like to live in this realm? You can—God dreams about you doing this very thing! Are you willing to fulfill His dream? If you are willing, He is able!

The Divine Exchange

Jesus went to the cross and gave His life for us. He exchanged our cursed life for a blessed one. He became sin so that we would become His righteousness. He became poor so that we would be rich. He endured pain so that we would be healed. He paid the penalty for our sin in hell and was raised triumphant as He overcame all the works of the devil. Death, hell and the grave have been fully conquered through Christ. Jesus is ruler over all forever. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He ascended to the right hand of the Father and gave us His Spirit so that we would exercise His authority and bring heaven to earth.

No one has to live in torment or oppression. No one has to live in bondage or lack. We can live on earth as it is in heaven. That is how Jesus taught us to pray.

All of the riches of heaven have your name on them. Christ accomplished everything needed to bring you into the fullness of all you were created for. I want to invite you to dream about the possibility of the riches of heaven filling your life

and flowing through you to others in the world you live in. All things are possible, so dream big. Dream about laying hold of all the riches in glory and living in the earth as it is heaven. You are well able to access the riches of heaven: This is what you were created for.

Do you wonder why so many believers fail to access the riches of heaven or minister the blessings of heaven in the earth? Follow me into the next chapter as we look at hindrances that keep us from accessing these glorious blessings.

SUMMARY

1. God's original intent was for people to live in a heavenly atmosphere and environment filled with His presence and every good thing.
2. Human beings were created to rule and have dominion over the earth while living in harmonious fellowship with God.
3. Due to the fall of humankind into sin, the devil became the god of this world and ruled over them. The earth was then subject to darkness, oppression and evil.
4. God's plan from before the foundation of the world was to redeem the human race through Christ and restore us to relationship with God and our heavenly state. The Son of God became man and came to earth to redeem us and destroy the works of the devil.
5. Jesus preached the Kingdom of heaven and modeled the Kingdom.
6. Jesus fulfilled all righteousness and established His eternal authority through His death on the cross.

7. Jesus gave power to His people to do His works and even greater ones.
8. God's dream is for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. This is to be fulfilled by His people.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. What areas of your life need the manifestation of the riches of heaven?
2. What would those areas look like if they were adjusted into heavenly alignment?
3. God's intent is for you to be His instrument to bring heaven to earth—how can you see Him using you?

MAKE THIS DECLARATION OVER YOUR LIFE

Jesus, I position myself in alignment with You for Your Kingdom to come and for Your will to be done in my life on earth as it is in heaven. I am committed to seeing Your dream fulfilled. I thank You for Your finished work on the cross to secure me in Your Kingdom with all its blessings. I believe that You have filled me with the Holy Spirit and power, and that I am anointed to do the works You did in the Bible—and even greater works because You have gone to the Father. I am called and committed to manifest the Kingdom of heaven in the earth for Your glory.