

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST – LETTER TO THE FAITHFUL CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA! – OPEN DOORS! 3:14-22

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by Pastor Chuck Smith, Vernon McGee, David Hocking, Warren Wiersby and others.

Rev 3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write,

"These things says He who is holy, He who is true,
"HE WHO HAS THE KEY OF DAVID, HE
WHO OPENS AND NO ONE SHUTS!, AND
SHUTS AND NO ONE OPENS":

Rev 3:8 "I know your works.

See, I have set before you an open door,
and no one can shut it; for (because) you
have a little strength,

have kept My word,

and have not denied My name.

Rev 3:7 The holy one, the true one - Two great and glorious names He that hath the key of David - A master of a family, or a prince, has one or more keys, wherewith he can open and shut all the doors of his house or palace. So had David a key, a token of right and sovereignty, which was afterward adjudged to Eliakim, Isa_22:22. Much more has Christ, the Son of David, the key of the spiritual city of David, the New Jerusalem; the supreme right, power, and authority, as in his own house. He opens this to all that overcome, and no one shuts: He shuts it against all the fearful, and no one opens. Likewise when he opens a door on earth for his works or his servants, none can shut; and when he shuts against whatever would hurt or defile, none can open.
"He who is holy, He who is true" cf. 6:10;

"He who has the key of David – cf. Isaiah 22:20-25; Matthew 16:19 (to church-keys of the kingdom of heaven) ; Acts 10 (Peter given the “key” to the gospel/Holy Spirit to the Gentiles); John 6:37- “All that the Father gives me shall come to me and him that comes to me I will in no wise cast out” Acts 16:14 “the Lord opened her heart”

Rev. 3:8 This church is commended: *You have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.*, In this there seems to be couched a gentle reproof: “*You have a little strength, a little grace, which, though it be not proportionate to the wide door of opportunity which I have opened to you, yet is true grace, and has kept you faithful.*” True grace, though weak, has the divine approbation; but, though Christ accepts a little strength, yet believers should not rest satisfied in a little, but should strive to grow in grace, to be *strong in faith, giving glory to God.* True grace, though weak, will do more than the greatest gifts or highest degrees of common grace, for it will enable the Christian to keep the word of Christ, and not to deny his name. Obedience, fidelity, and a free confession of the name of Christ, are the fruits of true grace, and are pleasing to Christ as such.

"See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it"
Cf. 1 Corinthians 16:8-9 “open door” - entrance to Messianic kingdom/salvation “adversaries” – opponents, enemies!!

"have kept My Word" - cf. Matt. 7:24-27 (build on rock); James 1:22-25 (be doers)

"and have not denied My name" - cf. 2:13; 1 John 2:22-23 (Liar, antichrist, unsaved); 4:2-3 (Spirit of God; spirit of antichrist)

v. 7 In addressing the church in Philadelphia, Jesus is saying these things to them (and to us).

His character is defined as He who is holy, He who is true.
He who has the key of David. Messianic kingdom
hope-the coming Messiah.
He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens.

Philadelphia (Little Athens) was being used by the Greeks & Romans to provide an “open door” throughout the area for the expansion of their language, culture, manners and adherence to Caesar. It was the gateway to the whole ancient

world of the Asia provinces !

v. 8 He is challenging them (and us) to recognize the open door that He has set before them. It's been opened by Him and no man can shut it. ARE WE (YOU) TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENT OPEN DOOR?
 He further tell them (and us) that they were selected or chosen because of three things that He mentions!

1. They were DEPENDENT UPON HIS STRENGTH—“for you have a little strength”;

2. They were DEDICATED TO HIS WORK – “have kept My Word”;

3. They have CONTINUED IN THEIR DEVOTION AND LOYALTY TO HIM—“and not denied My name!”

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Rev 3:9 Indeed I will make *those* of the **synagogue of Satan**, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed **I will make them come and worship before your feet,**

and **to know that I have loved you.**

Rev 3:10 *Because you have kept My command to persevere, **I also will keep you from** (ek – out of – removal) **the hour of (the) trial***

which shall come upon the whole world,

to test (try) those who dwell on the earth.

Rev 3:9 I will make them - Show them to be, of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews, pretending thereby to be of the synagogue of God, and consequently his true and peculiar children. I will make them to come and worship - I will so dispose of matters in the course of my providence, that the Jews shall be obliged to seek unto the Christians for toleration, support, and protection, which they shall be obliged to sue for in the most humble and abject manner. To know that I have loved thee - That the love which was formerly fixed on the Jews is now removed, and transferred to the Gentiles.

“synagogue of Satan” - cf. 2:9 ; Isaiah 45:14(promise of/to Cyrus); 49:23 (God will remember Zion); 60:14 (Gentiles bless Zion)

“I have loved you” - cf. Isaiah 43:1-4 (Redeemer of Israel); Jer. 31:3- “with an everlasting love”!

from The word “from” is *ek* “out of” - natural sense **is removal!!**

the hour of the trial - The definite article (very important in Greek) “the”, appears before “hour” and “trial” – a special hour, a special trial, **a special period**, not just trials in general –the hour of the trial-referring to the Great Tribulation!

which shall come upon the whole world - This time will “**come upon the whole world**” - phrase **can only be used** of the coming tribulation of Rev. Chaps 6-19

“to test those who dwell on the earth” The purpose is **“to test those who dwell on the earth”** -used 10 times, **only of unbelievers**. The purpose of the Tribulation is to test the unbelievers not believers. - Rev.6:10, 17 (cry of the Martyrs);

The Gentiles (see 7:9-17 for who the multitudes are) who become believers during the tribulation are not protected, but in fact are killed!

Rev. 11:7(“overcome”) 13:7, 15; (beast to overcome and kill the saints;

17:8 (“whose names are not written” - unbelievers);

20:4 (beheaded souls-cannot be martyrs of the past)

1 Th. 4:17 – “then we who are alive and remain”(cannot be Post Trib. because all the believer would be dead!)

The Jews – Zech. 13:8,9 (“I will bring 1/3 through the fire”); The 144,000 -Rev.7:3 (“sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads”)

v. 9 **Notice His protection which He give to us believers.** He will honor us in the eyes of unbelievers who have been hostile to us. This protection is for us to know that He has loved us! He will honor us!!!

v. 10 **Notice also that Jesus Christ will keep us from the hour of the trial which shall come upon the whole world.** This is a verse that puts you on the Pre-Trib side or on the Post-Trib, depending on your interpretation. **It appears to be removal (Pre-Trib view) as compared to immunity! (Post-Trib view)- use (John 17:15)**

The purpose of the Tribulation is to test the unbelievers not believers. – God’s vengeance against the world!

The Bible always refers to “*those who dwell on the earth*” that are tested, as unbelievers.

The Gentiles who become believers during the tribulation **are not protected, but in fact are killed!** This is different from the Jewish ones who become believers, as we see in Zech. 13:8,9 and Rev. 7:3!

Jesus has promised to take us out of the Tribulation! We will not be here!

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Rev 3:11 **Behold, I am coming quickly!**

Hold fast what you have,

that no one may take your crown.

Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, **I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more.**

I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God!!!, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God.

And I will write on him My new name.

Rev 3:13 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' "

Rev 3:11 - **Behold, I am coming quickly** - These things will shortly take place; and I am coming with consolations and rewards to my faithful followers, and with judgments to my adversaries. cf. 22:7, 12, 20 ("I come quickly"- NOT the same as 2:5, 16 ; 3:3(come to you quickly), cf. 1 Cor. 15:51-52-"we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye..."

"hold fast what you have" cf. 2:13, 25; 3:3; 1 John 2:28 (abide in Him)

take your crown - God has provided mansions for you; let none through your fall occupy those seats of blessedness. cf. 2:10; 2 Timothy 4:7,8 (crowns of life & righteousness)

Rev 3:12 - **A pillar in the temple** - There is probably all allusion here to the two pillars in the temple of Jerusalem, called Joachin and Boaz, stability and strength. The Church is the temple; Christ is the foundation on which it is built; and his ministers are the Pillars by which, under him, it is adorned and supported. St. Paul has the same allusions, Gal 2:9.

I will write upon him the name of my God - That is, I will make him a priest unto myself. The priest had written on his forehead קודש ליהוה kodesh laihovah, "Holiness to the Lord."

"I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out" (double negative) cf. 1Pe 2:5; Rev. 21:22 - no literal temple

Isaiah 56:5(salvation for the Gentiles); Psalm 23:6; Romans 8:38-39 (nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God!)

And the name of the city of my God - As the high priest had on his breastplate the names of the twelve tribes engraved, and these constituted the city or Church of God; Christ here promises that in place of them the twelve apostles, representing the Christian Church, shall be written, which is called the New Jerusalem, and which God has adopted in place of the twelve Jewish tribes.

My new name - The Savior of All; the light that lightens the Gentiles; the Christ; the Anointed One; the only Governor of his Church; and the Redeemer of All mankind.

There is here an intimation that the Christian Church is to endure for ever; and the Christian ministry to last as long as time endures: He shall go no more out for ever.

I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. - cf. Rev. 14:1(Father's name on forehead of 144k); 19:12-13, 16 (name on Christ); 22:4(names on foreheads of believers/servants)

Rev 3:13 - The Lord has a message that He gives to each one of these churches. It applied to that local church, but it also applies to us today.

v. 11 We see the purpose behind this message from our Lord is that;

All believers:

SHOULD BE READY to heed His coming;

As a challenge TO HOLD FAST what you have

And the consequence of not—THAT NO ONE MAY TAKE YOUR CROWN OF LIFE!

v. 12 We need to note the promise to overcomers. Note the promise of security to those who overcome—**I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more!** Nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God or from our eternal position with Him!!

There also is that promise of special identity—the name of My God; the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem; and him My new name!

I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. After a terrible earthquake in 17AD, Rome rebuilt the city and tried

to change its name to Neo-Caesarea.!!!

And I will write on him My new name.

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Questions:

1. In verse 7, what does “*key of the house of David*” mean?
2. Who opens the heart of an unbeliever? Who can shut that?
3. What three things does Jesus tell them (and us) why they were selected or chosen to have “an open door” set before them? (v. 8)
4. How do you interpret verse 10? –“*I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world,*” – removal/immunity? All trials or “the trial”?
5. Is the purpose of the Great Tribulation to test believers or unbelievers?
6. Does the Bible use the term, “*those who dwell on earth*” for believers or unbelievers?
7. Is there a difference in protection between the Jews and the Gentiles during the Tribulation for those who come to the Lord during the Tribulation?
8. What great news do we have in today’s study regarding believers not going through the Tribulation? (v.10)
9. Can you name three things as to why the letter to the Philadelphia church was written? (v. 11)
10. How many names are going to be written on us overcomers by Him? What are they?(v. 11)

INTERPRETATION

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: Philadelphia was located 25 miles SE of Sardis in a beautiful valley - a great trade route. In Byzantine times, it was the greatest city and trade center in the whole country. The road of the imperial government of Rome, coming from Troas, Pergamos, and Sardis, went right through the city.

The name comes from loyalty to Attalus II, king of Pergamos (159-138 b.c.), to his brother, king Eumenes. The original purpose of the city was to spread Greek language, culture, and manners throughout Asian provinces such as Lydia, Phrygia, Mysia, etc. By 20 a.d., the Lydian language ceased to be used and was replaced by Greek.

The earthquake of 17 a.d. was very severe. Strabo says that the aftershocks continued for several years leaving the people in a state of panic. Volcanoes have erupted frequently - black lava is visible. In gratitude for the support of the Roman Senate in rebuilding the city they thought briefly about changing the name to “Neocaesarea.”

The city resisted Moslem influence and remained Christian until the 14th century a.d. Arthur Gibbon paid eloquent tribute to the city for its resistance to the Muslim invasion and called it a “standing pillar” (cf. 3:12). Greek culture, however, abounds. It was often referred to as “Little Athens” because of the magnificence of its temples and other public buildings.

Coins reveal that they worshipped gods such as Artemis of Ephesians, Asklepios of Pergamos, and Dionysius, god of wine and revelry. The main crop of the area was grapes. The Roman poet, Virgil, spoke of the excellence of the wine produced in Philadelphia - a very fertile area.

Today, the city still exists with about 20,000 inhabitants, 5 churches with about 1000 members, and one bishop. The city is called ALLAH SHE HU’ today, which means “city of God” (cf. 3:12) or ALA SHE HER’, meaning “reddish city,” probably for the red hills behind it.

APPLICATION

MORNING & EVENING - SPURGEON

“He openeth, and no man shutteth.”

Revelation 3:7

Jesus is the keeper of the gates of paradise and before every believing soul he setteth an open door, which no man or devil shall be able to close against it. What joy it will be to find that faith in him is the golden key to the everlasting doors. My soul, dost thou carry this key in thy bosom, or art thou trusting to some deceitful pick-lock, which will fail thee at last? Hear this parable of the preacher, and remember it. The great King has made a banquet, and he has proclaimed to all the world that none shall enter but those who bring with them the fairest flower that blooms. The spirits of men advance to the gate by thousands, and they bring each one the flower which he esteems the queen of the garden; but in crowds they are driven from the royal presence, and enter not into the festive halls. Some bear in their hand the deadly nightshade of superstition, or the flaunting poppies of Rome, or the hemlock of self-righteousness, but these are not dear to the King, the bearers are shut out of the pearly gates. My soul, hast thou gathered the rose of Sharon? Dost thou wear the lily of the valley in thy bosom constantly? If so, when thou comest up to the gates of heaven thou wilt know its value, for thou hast only to show this choicest of flowers, and the Porter will open: not for a moment will he deny thee admission, for to that rose the Porter openeth ever. Thou shalt find thy way with the rose of Sharon in thy hand up to the throne of God himself; for heaven itself possesses nothing that excels its radiant beauty, and of all the flowers that bloom in paradise there is none that can rival the lily of the valley. My soul, get Calvary’s blood-red rose into thy hand by faith, by love wear it, by communion preserve it, by daily watchfulness make it thine all in all, and thou shalt be blessed beyond all bliss, happy beyond a dream. Jesus, be mine forever, my God, my heaven, my all.