

Church of Philadelphia!

Revelation.3:7,8

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens, and no one will shut, and who shuts, and no one opens, says this:

"I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.



The earthquake destroyed both the cities of Sardis and Philadelphia! The city was again rebuilt! This church was famous for its prophets, according to Ignatius!

It was a small church, but a powerful church. It was unblemished just like Smyrna!

1. Only Jesus has the key to the Kingdom of God!

Revelation 3:7

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

Key of David opened the gates of Mt. Zion and His palace! David's throne was established through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Our God is the only true and holy God, and His Son Jesus Christ has the key of David. The throne of David will be established forever through Him!

Jesus is the one who ultimately opens the door and shuts the door.

He is the one who opens the womb, and brings us into this world!

He is the one who has the keys of the Kingdom,

He brings the souls to His church and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it!

He is the one who can shut us out for good through the horrible experience of our death!

He is the one who can open the doors of hades and hell and bring us into eternal glory! Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior holds that key!

There is no one above the heavens nor below the earth who can open and close the scrolls of our life!

When God opens the door of opportunity, we must step out by faith and go through it!

When God opens the door, move forward! But trouble comes when God opens two or more doors! In that case, we must pray hard, so we choose the best choice! Adam and Eve had two choices, and they chose the wrong one out of lust for more abundant life!

But we must understand about permissive will that is not fleshly! If we deliberately walk through the wrong door like Jonah, God will make us go through the dark passage of the belly of the fish and make us come to the right destination. If we choose the wrong path like a foolish sheep, He will come after us to seek and find us! What a great loving, caring God we have! But if we take that love for granted, and then go our way, He will allow us to suffer like the prodigal son, and make us crawl back to Him! Hear His voice today and obey!

The timing of the door opening is in God's hand also! Paul was not allowed to go to Asia (Turkey). God shut the door of Ephesus first. Then He opened it later! Timing is in God's hand!

No shut door can stop those who walk in the perfect will of God! All the heavily secured, shut doors will become automatic doors the minute such saints walk near the door! No door can stop a man of God! Jesus Christ, our Lord will open those doors for us! If God be for us who can be against us?

2. Jesus says, the Philadelphia church has only a little power!!

Revelation 3:8 "I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

When the Lord opens the door, no one can shut it. He has kept it open for us, and He is waiting very patiently! Are we going to move forward or not? Church must move forward when the door of opportunity opens up!

Philadelphia church had very little power! Some churches have a lot of power, and some churches have very little power. The question is how much can one church accomplish? If we with little power can do a 40-hour week VBS program, why a mega-church do only a four-hour/evening week VBS program? If this church gives 40 percent of its offering for missions with its limited funds, why cannot other big churches do that? Our church has very little strength, yet we try to do a lot of heavy lifting, and I am sure, God will be pleased with us. I know, I can create opportunities to go into prison ministry, soup kitchen etc. But we need a lot of extra strength to stretch ourselves

further. I do not want to overburden the church. The doors are open, but we need enthusiastic volunteers, who are committed to running with it! Otherwise, people will burn out!

When we have little power, we must be careful not to overburden people!

3. Philadelphia church had kept the Word of God!

Choose today! As far as me and my house is concerned, we will be bound by the Word of God! Will the Son of Man find faith when He comes? I doubt it! The real churches will dwindle, and not grow. Do not judge the book by its cover! If God removes the Holy Spirit today, how many churches will survive? Believe me, at least ninety-five percent of churches will thrive strong without the Holy Spirit. Let's not break the Word of God under any pressure!

Philadelphia church did not deny the name of Christ when they faced persecution.

4. Those who follow erroneous satanic beliefs will regret it!

Revelation 3:9

"Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie will make them come and bow down at your feet and make them know that I have loved you. "

Who are these synagogues of Satan?

We come across this group in Smyrna also. Are they actual Jews, or Christians who claimed that they are the real descendants of Abraham by faith?

Ignatius in the first century talks about this cult in his letter to Philadelphia:

"Now, if anyone preaches Judaism to you, pay no attention to him. For it is better to hear about Christianity from one of the circumcisions than Judaism from a Gentile. If both, moreover, fail to talk about Jesus Christ, they are to me tombstones and graves of the dead, on which only human names are inscribed.

Paul had a serious problem with the Galatians church concerning circumcision! These so-called Jews could have been one of such groups. Jesus tells the church that such people will acknowledge and confess that they are wrong! If they were real Jews, they would have done that the minute they realized that Jesus Christ is indeed their Messiah, and He is The Lord of Lords!

5. Philadelphia church kept the Word, and kept the faith also!

Revelation 3:10,11

"Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown."

Protection from tribulation does not mean that we are removed from it. Psalm 91 explains that phenomenon very clearly

Psalm 91:7-11

"A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, But it shall not approach you. You will only look on with your eyes And see the recompense of the wicked. No evil will befall you, Nor will any plague come near your tent. For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways."

Plagues for the Egyptians! Israelites were not removed from the area of plagues but they were isolated and protected by God!

Those who insist on Pretribulation rapture insist on being removed totally from the earth. We'll talk much more about that when we come to Rev.4:1.

Preterists say that the hour of testing was during Nero's time, and afterward four emperors were killed within a short period!

"I am coming quickly" probably means His Judgement at that period! Early Christians were perplexed over this statement, and we are still! If it was meant for the final great tribulation, then God changed His mind out of compassion!

6. The faithful ones will be established in the city of God, the New Jerusalem!

Revelation 3:12

" He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and 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 My new name.

Again, it is all about overcoming trials and tribulations, and they will become very important people (pillars) in God's heavenly temple, and they will not go out from there anymore! Jewish people were chased out of the temple and the temple was destroyed quite a few times, and God says that this time it will not happen because we will be that temple in God's hands!

Note also Jesus' reference to His Father! "My God" four times!

Make him a pillar in the temple of My God,

and 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 My new name.)

This speech is from The Risen Lord Jesus who is seated at the right hand of God, and who is still calling Him, "My God"!

For Jesus, the Son of God, His Father is His God still! How does this line up with our trinity doctrine? I'll let You figure that out!

Ultimately, we will belong to our God the Father, and Christ our Lord, and we will become the citizens of heavenly Jerusalem from above, and this was the true promised land for Abraham and us!

A word about the new Jerusalem. There will not be any differentiation of Jew or gentile, male or female! What a great salvation!

Conclusion:

1. The strength was so small, yet the Church of Philadelphia was outstanding!
2. This small church kept the Word of God.
3. Even through persecution, this church stood strong for the Lord!
4. The faithful ones will be established in the city of God above, the new Jerusalem of heaven!

Daniel Israel
9.1.24