

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

A REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

REVELATION CHAPTER 3:7-13

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX-511 NOVEMBER 30, 2003

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“ WHAT KIND OF CHURCH ARE YOU? ”

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Jesus Christ, Prophecy, The Church, Rapture

INTRODUCTION to the text:

Revelation 3:7-13

Revelation 3:7-13

“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” 8 “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 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. 10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. 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. 13 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’

The Last Words from Jesus Christ are not to be found in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, but in the book of Revelation and to the Seven Churches. Those churches were aligned in a circuit throughout Asia Minor.

The Apostle John, The Postman of Patmos, Delivers a Letter to Philadelphia.

Then Philadelphia, Today the Muslim city of Ala-saw-art, is what's left of one of the roman empires most important cities.

POLITICALLY

The city of Brotherly Love” was Founded by Attalus Philadelphus. Philadelphia was commissioned as ‘the city of vision” or The Mission City of the Empire. That mission given to it by Rome was to spread the Greek language and Roman Influence toward the east. Philadelphia became Rome’s Cultural Mission Outpost to the world on behalf of Caesar. Philadelphia as a city existed longer than any of the seven other churches.

LITURGICALLY

The physical church at Philadelphia was the typological forerunner of church chronology that brings us out to the 19th Century, into what is known as the, “**Revived Church Age**”. This is the period when the church, on the heels of the reformation period, moved out into the world with a great Missionary Movement.

The Great Missionary Movement

From the 14th to the 18th century there was a turning back to the Bible; a teaching of the Word throughout Europe and early America.

But from the 19th Century to now, there has been the greatest global effort in history to communicate the gospel – “The Revived Church or Missionary Church Age”.

And Right Now

There are billions of people around the world with the opportunity to hear the gospel message through modern technology, international churches, and personal missionary efforts.

This Bible Study Today

will be aired on a radio broadcast that will send it from the East Coast of the U.S., across the Atlantic, into Europe, Eastern Europe, The Middle East, including Iraq, the entire Continent of Africa, parts of Australia and all of New Zealand.

In the Wake of The Great Missionary Movement

Hospitals, Schools, Universities, Human Rights, and Scientific Breakthroughs have accelerated in a way never before known to mankind.

All of this is Important Background Information for where we're headed for this study.

Jesus Gives His Diagnosis of a Church

The Bible Says

Proverbs 25:25

As cold water to a weary soul, So is good news from a far country.

From the Postman of Patmos, comes,

The Letter that Jesus writes to the Pastor of the Church at Philadelphia. It's the kind of Letter that any Pastor would love to receive from Jesus Christ,

Because;

- If the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is the Chief Shepherd of His Church,
- And if it is also true that the church is made up of believers around the world through faith in Jesus Christ,
- Then it is also true, that Jesus must still be speaking to His churches, to His pastors and to each of us!

Hebrews 1:1-2

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, **2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son,** whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.

...And When the Rapture Happens

There will be a remnant of the "Philadelphian Type Christian" on Earth.

WHAT KIND OF CHURCH ARE YOU?

I.) When Jesus calls you to follow Him?

vv. 7-8

"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" 8 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, you have kept My word, and have not denied My name

When Jesus calls you to follow Him...

1st He calls us to be His example – His witness

v.7a

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, "These things says He who is holy, He who is true,

" The Structure of this is Comforting "

"These things says He who is holy, He who is true,

THERE IS NO REBUKE OR CORRECTION IN THE LETTER, ONLY ENCOURAGEMENT!

"...He who is holy", this is a case of being guilty/blessed by association.

Jesus is saying 'Because I am Holy, you are holy'.

Leviticus 20:7

Consecrate (present) yourselves therefore, and be holy, (separated) because I *am* the LORD your God.

1 Peter 1:15-16

but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, **16** because it is written, "*Be holy, for I am holy.*"

Jesus is Saying; Go ahead now, move on, I've declared you holy, because "I am" the holy one!

He who is true" = the genuine, the authentic, the real.

As a church, you know me as the Truth.

John 8:32

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

THE PASTOR AT PHILADELPHIA,
was the kind of pastor who loved the Lord, *because the church was grounded in the Bible!*

THE PASTOR AT PHILADELPHIA,
was the kind of pastor who cared for the Church, *who tended to it in its generalities and its specifics!*

1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **8** He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

THE PASTOR AT PHILADELPHIA,
had a Passion for the World, to spread the simple Gospel, simply.

THE PASTOR AT PHILADELPHIA,
was the kind of pastor who had a tenacity toward his Calling.
He could not, would not deny what God had done in his life, church and the world!

Jeremiah 23:4

I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking," says the LORD.

It is my Personal Opinion

That if there is ever going to be a true revival today,
It will be a Revival of Biblical Holiness and Biblical Truth!

When Jesus calls you to follow Him...

2nd **He calls attention to His Lordship - His kingdom v.7**

'He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens...

As We Match This "Attribute" of Jesus to Previous Scriptures,
We see here a slight variation - -

Revelation 1:17-18

... "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. :18 I *am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen.
And I have the key(s) of Hell and of Death.

A Messy-an-ic Prophecy

Isaiah 22:22

The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; (Eliakim) So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open. :23 I will fasten him as a peg in a secure place, And he will become a glorious throne to his father's house. = **Eliakim had the key to David's bank**

Hebrews 3:6

but Christ is - as a Son over His own house, whose house we are...

These are Key(s) of Opportunity to;

To fund a war against hell / to wage a campaign against death

Verse 7

He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens...

THESE ARE KEY(S) OF OPPORTUNITY TO;

To communicate Holiness / or to tell of the Truth

JESUS IS LORD

And These Open and Closed Doors are
God-given opportunities Custom Made for you - it's called ministry!

Luke 6:46

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

Only Here and at the Church at Smyrna are there Commendations - no judgment, no rebukes, no correction, Just Praise !!!

They Were a Faithful Church !

When Jesus calls you to follow Him...

3rd He calls through opportunities to obey - prepared by Him v.8

"I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one (man) can shut it; for you have a little strength, you have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

Commendation #1/5

"I know **your works**. See, I have set before you an open door,

**Jesus is the One who's Responsible
for Opening and Closing Opportunities (doors)**

What is "*an open door*"

1 Corinthians 16:8-9

But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. :9 For a great and effective **door** has opened to me, and **there are many adversaries.**

This church corporately could literally take stock of their ministry efforts and view the fruit of their labors.

2 Corinthians 2:12

Furthermore, when I came to Troas to *preach* Christ's gospel, **a door was opened** to me by the Lord,

Colossians 4:3

pray also for us, that God would **open to us a door** for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ,

An Opportunity to Witness

Commendation #2/5

and no one (man) can shut it!

John 10:9

I am the door. - - If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved...

REMEMBER THE INTRODUCTION TO THIS LETTER?

Attalus Philadelphus was the city's Founder and it was his intention to create a city that could "BROADCAST" The Greek Language and the Roman Culture to the World

***Scholars have referred to Philadelphia as the
"Mission or Missionary City"***

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND IT'S GEOGRAPHY

"Philadelphia The Door"

Ramsey states that the physical location fully explains the words of Jesus Christ here - - Philadelphia was located at the upper end of a long valley that makes its way to the sea. From Philadelphia, as it was situated on the roman imperial highway, that great trade and travel route of the empire. (aka. The post way), you had to travel through the city of Philadelphia to reach the interior of the Asiatic peoples.

Outside This Church is a Roadway Called
"The Appian Way"

opportunities to obey

Let Jesus Take Out the Key and Open the Door

JESUS HAS THE KEYS TO ANY DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY!

Wait for the opportunity to obey Christ, and when it comes don't sit around and wonder if this is it. - - Go through the door!

Commendation #3/5

Verse 8

...for you have a **little** strength, meaning = **Little Strength in Self**

they had very little of their OWN strength
They Were **Not Self-Reliant** as a Church

But Rather God Dependent!

2 Corinthians 12:9

for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

- It's not the talent of the worship team or of the shouts of the choir.
- It's not the seating or the windows
- And it is not the eloquence of the speaker

It's the Lord Jesus Christ Opening Doors!

#4/5

you have kept My word,

They had not left it behind, They had Replaced it with Something else.

The Word was Authoritative

#5/5

and have not denied My name.

others had been shy about the Deity of Jesus Christ

They Believed in His Deity

WHAT KIND OF CHURCH ARE YOU?

II.) When the world comes against you

vv. 9-10

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. :10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

When the world comes against you

1st For believing in "the gospel" truth

v.9

Acts 20:24

But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to **the gospel of the grace of God.**

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

We've Heard about "The Synagogue of Satan" Before - **Back in Revelation 2:9**

These were "Jews" by name only,
And not having Faith in the Messiah of the Jews - Jesus
Their Attempt was to Lead Christians back
into a Legal Relationship with God.

That Salvation was of birthright - the blue bloods
That Salvation was of human effort - good works
That Salvation was of citizenship - hierarchy
That Salvation was of religion - ascension

Galatians 2:21 – amplified version

I don't turn my back on God's undeserved kindness. If we can be acceptable to God by obeying the Law and being good enough, Then that would mean that Jesus' death on the cross was for nothing!

Galatians 5:12

I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!

Romans 3:20-22

Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin. :21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, :22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ,

SOME VERY POWERFUL WORDS HERE FROM JESUS

Verse 9

Indeed - I will make them to come and to worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you

Jesus is going to see to it that they understand that He has Loved you!

to know that I have loved you

When the world comes against you

2nd For continuing on "with who" you know v.10a

*Because you have kept My (word) command to **persevere**,*

Hey Church Listen

What does it mean "to persevere" ?

υἰρπομονη/ **hupomone**, *hoop-om-on-ay*; from 5278; to stay cheerful (or hopeful) to keep enduring, a constancy, being patient at continuance = **(the waiting)**

#1 THE PHILADELPHIAN'S CARED -- MORE FOR WHAT THE BIBLE HAD TO SAY – NOT MEN!

#2 THE PHILADELPHIAN'S DEDICATED -- THEMSELVES TO OBEYING THE BIBLE – NOT TRADITIONS!

#3 THE PHILADELPHIAN'S COMMUNICATED -- THEIR FAITH TO OTHERS – ANYTHING BUT STERILE!

When the world comes against you

I will also keep you from **the hour of trial** which shall come upon **the whole world**, - (why?) to test those who **dwell on the earth**.

NOW AGAIN - REMEMBER THEIR "SHAKY" HISTORY

Earthquakes Ravaged the Cities of Sardis, Thyatira, and Laodicea
But no city was hit by earthquakes like Philadelphia

Jesus Himself is Saying

"I also will keep you

#1 - from the hour of trial #2 - which shall come upon the whole world..." #3 - to test those who dwell on the earth.

1 Thessalonians 1:10

and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

The Wrath to Come - it's not hell

1 Thessalonians 2:19

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

1 Thessalonians 3:13

so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. In the rapture, those who have died in Jesus, He will bring with Him.

1 Thessalonians 4:17

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:9

For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

CHURCH, WRITE THIS DOWN, NEVER FORGET IT

Jesus Put His First Mention of the Rapture This Way...

John 14:1

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. :2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. :3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

Verse 10b

...I will also keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. = earth dwellers

Isaiah 26:20-21

Come, (heb = by being carried away, taken,) my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. :21 For, behold, the LORD comes out of his place to punish **the inhabitants of the earth** (earth dwellers) for their iniquity:

#1

This is not a Regional Prophecy or It is a **Global** One

#2

He does **not promise** to take us through that terrible time

#3

He did promise to **keep** us, **deliver** us, **remove** us from that terrible time

According to Jesus Christ

YOUR VIEW OR OPINION ON THIS MATTER OF THE RAPTURE IS VERY IMPORTANT

Are you "Pre-Tribulational" in your biblical understanding ?
Are you "Mid-Tribulational" in your biblical understanding ?
Are you "Post-Tribulational" in your biblical understanding ?

Your Understanding of this Greatly Affects

"How" You See the Doctrines of the Bible and How You "Apply" them to Your Life.

...I will also keep you **from** the hour not **through** the hour, **in** the hour, or **by** the hour but **from** the hour !

Bible Students - Take Note

That from chapter 1 to 3 the church is mentioned 19 times

From chapters 4 to 18 there is no longer a mention of the church on earth, at all.

It's not until chapter 19 when the church is seen again but it's in heaven, with Jesus - - returning to earth with Him in the second coming!

The Church Will Not See The Great Tribulation Period
But will be kept from it, in heaven with Jesus Christ

WHAT KIND OF CHURCH ARE YOU?

III.) With all that He has given us

vv. 11-13

:11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. :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

The city of Philadelphia and the Church at Philadelphia
Shared (4) Four interesting Parallels

#1

THEY WERE BOTH "MISSION MINDED"
INFORMATION

#2

THEY BOTH LIVED UNDER CONSTANT THREAT OF DISASTER
EARTHQUAKES

#3

AND THEY BOTH DESIRED TO LIVE OUTSIDE THE CITY RATHER THAN LIVE IN IT
PILGRIMS

#4

PHILADELPHIA TOOK ON A NEW NAME WHICH WAS NEOCESEREA IN HONOR OF CEASER
CHRISTIANS GET A NEW NAME

With all that He has given us

1st

We need to be Philadelphian – about our readiness

v. 11

Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

The Example of the Philadelphian Believers

- They were excited about **the Bible**.
- They were excited about **ministry**
- They were excited about the **Lord's return**

The Suddenness of His Return

Jesus is Saying:

If you think an earthquake is quick and without warning,
you haven't seen anything yet...

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, 5:1-4

:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. :17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. :18 Therefore comfort one another with these words. 5:1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. :2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. :3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. :4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

Behold, I am coming quickly!

Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

Hold fast what you have

They don't need anything else, nothing more

That no one may take your crown

they didn't need to fear losing what they had gained

With all that He has given us

2nd We need to be Philadelphian – about our holiness v.12

He who overcomes, (conquers, gains control of = fear)

I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more

After the earthquake of 17 a.d.

Many people lived in fear and would carefully work inside the city during the day but would retreat outside the city walls and away from the pillars of the pagan temples because it was in those places where most of the people were killed.

Jesus is Saying

"Dear church at Philadelphia, don't let fears rob you anymore, I am so firm of a foundation for you, that I will make you a pillar in the Temple of Almighty God, and you will never need to run outside again anymore looking for safety."

With all that He has given us

3rd We need to be Philadelphian about - our future v.12-13

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

This is Fantastic in History / and for the Future

After the great earthquake of 17 a.d. - - The Roman Emperor ordered Philadelphia "Tax Free from Rome" for five years so that it could regain its footing in the empires economy. The city was so grateful for the tax break that it declared its new name to be - - Neoceasera, or Caesar's City. In gratitude, many people in Philadelphia tattooed Caesars name and The cities name - Neoceasera on their bodies!

Jesus Promises One more Name in Addition; His Own 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. And I will write on him My new name

Jesus' Tax Free, Ownership upon my life!

Verse 12-13

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." "

Ignatius, the bishop of Antioch, stopped in the city on his way to his martyrdom in Rome (A.D. 107) he comments how the church at Philadelphia had become the center of eschatology, the study of the prophecies of scripture, during the post-apostolic age. "Philadelphia – was the place where Christians were fearless in their worship and aggressive in their witness for the faith, as they looked for the return of the Savior.

**I IDENTIFY MY OWN PERSONAL LIFE
WITH THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA**

Personally Church;
"I am so glad to have my weakness as a Christian man"
I am so glad to be in a church that has a little strength
I am so glad to have been given so many open doors

As a Church - If we do not go through the doors which Christ has opened
We will grow timid, fearful, and unbelieving

An opportunity neglected
is a nail in the coffin for any church that fails to obey Jesus

As a Christian
If I do not go through the doors which Christ has opened
I will grow timid, fearful, and unbelieving
An opportunity neglected
Is the first step to backsliding as a Christian.

For This Church to Succeed in Christ
Our **Faith** Must Have **Feet**
And Our **Vision** has to have a **Vitality**.

END OF STUDY