**REVELATION—PHILADELPHIA 10.29.23**

**Revelation 3:7-13 (NIV) "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 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.
8  I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. 9  I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars--I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. 10  Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.
11  I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.
12  Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.
13  He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

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**Philadelphia—**Means one who loves his brother – this was a picture of the church at Philadelphia. The believers at Philadelphia loved Jesus; therefore, they gave their hearts and lives to Christ. They lived like Christ said to live and they carried out the mission of Christ upon earth. The church at Philadelphia was alive and faithful. It represents all the churches down through the ages that are alive and faithful. It shows us exactly what Christ wants a church to be. Note: there is no complaint or warning against this church. Jesus Christ has only praise and exhortation for the church that is alive and faithful.
**JESUS:**

 **Holy—**Pure, blameless… When John saw Him, he fell at His feet though dead!

 **True**—Also truthful (not concealing) True, not false, Real, not counterfeit

**Holds the key of David--** What is the key of David? There is an event in the Old Testament that tells us. King Hezekiah had a faithful servant named Eliakim. This servant was the personal secretary to king Hezekiah; he was put in complete charge of the king's affairs. No one could gain entrance into the king's presence without coming through Eliakim. God spoke to Isaiah the prophet one day and said the following words:

**"And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his [Eliakim's] shoulder; (Isaiah 22:22)**

 The key of David is the symbol of authority, which ultimately Jesus was given, towards access to God.

**Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV) For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder.**

**so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open" (**[**Isaiah 22:22**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+22%3A22)b**).**

Eliakim is able to open a door or shut a door, that no one else can…as is Jesus.

 The key keeper alone was allowed to open/close the doors to the king’s treasures, and come into His Presence.

 **Jesus—the key keeper—He alone can open/close doors to you.**

 He alone can pour out blessing or withhold it. He alone can close you out, or open to you a new way of life.

 He alone has the keys to the life of blessing… of salvation… of your deliverance… of healing, etc.

Jesus Christ alone opens and shuts the door into God's court and presence. He alone determines who gets access to God while on earth, and ultimately in eternity. No other person or being has that authority. Jesus Christ alone holds the key to open and shut the door to life eternal.

**Isaiah 22:23 (NKJV) I will fasten him *as* a peg in a secure place,** Eliakim was to be **like a** well-driven **peg** ([v. 23a](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+22%3A23)), a firm foundation for the nation. JESUS, WAS NAILED (peg) TO THE CROSS, THUS BECOMING the CORNERSTONE OF OUR FIRM FOUNDATION!

**Isaiah 22:23b “…And he will become a glorious throne to his father's house**.”

Eliakim (Jesus) would be an honorable person ([v. 23b](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+22%3A23)), and would cause **his family** name to be well known to humble people
**Ephesians 2:20 “built on the foundation of the**[**h**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/ephesians/2/20#footnote2)**apostles and prophets,**[**i**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/ephesians/2/20#footnote3)**Christ Jesus himself being**[**j**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/ephesians/2/20#footnote4)**the cornerstone,**

[**Isaiah 28:16**](https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/Isaiah/28/16) Therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.

**8  I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.**

**LITTLE STRENGTH—**Possibly small in numbers… possibly up against massive opposition and felt powerless.

**Revelation 3:8 (YLT) I have known thy works; lo, I have set before thee a door--opened, and no one is able to shut it, because thou hast a little power, and didst keep my word, and didst not deny my name;**

 **BECAUSE THEY HAVE LITTLE POWER/KEPT HIS WORD/DIDN’T DENY HIM… THE LORD GAVE THEM AN OPEN DOOR**

**Isaiah 40:28-31 (NLT2) “…The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. 29  He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. 30  Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. 31  But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.**

**The Philadelphia church kept God’s Word, did not deny His Name, and went through the open doors God provided.**

**9  I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars--I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.**

**Synagogue of Satan – Used here and in Rev. 2:9 in Smyrna…** **“I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.”**

**In Philadelphia there were those who claimed to be God-followers, yet who slandered the true God-followers [made up false stories]; like in Smyrna, he says they’re actually worshippers of Satan.**

**1 John 4:20 (NLT2) If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?**

 **He says “I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.”**

1. Believers shall be vindicated before all their persecutors, who shall either be saved or judged. True believers need not fret…Jesus would vindicate! And…EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW! **Romans 14:11 It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'"**

**10  Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.**

**Philadelphia endured patiently –** put up with all kinds of things (including Jews slandering), yet they endured

**“KEEP YOU FROM THE HOUR OF TRIAL”—**Not keep you through, but from. The hour of trial refers to a specified time period…most likely the wrath of the Great Tribulation. He will keep us from it—we won’t have to experience it.

**1 Thessalonians 5:8-11 (NIV) But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 9  For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10  He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11  Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.**

**11  I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.**

**Written in 95-96AD, it’s obviously NOT in the next day, week, month.**

 **So, it must be when Jesus comes, it will be quick, swift, sudden.**

**Therefore, hold on to what you have—your salvation, your faith, your integrity, your witness! Eternal things!!!**

**12  Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. https://www.gracepointechurchofchrist.org/blog/pillar-in-the-temple-of-God**

**Philadelphia was home to many pagan temples. Because of its volcanic fertile soil, there were many grape vineyards, which gave rise the Greek god Dionysius, the god of wine. The city was known for its many earthquakes—and was destroyed by an earthquake in 17AD. While most other cities recovered, the after-shocks continued—so much so, that many people chose to live in huts outside the city in the open country.**

**“Never again will he leave it.”**

**The Lord said we will become a pillar…a permanent fixture in God’s house –THE EARTH MAY QUAKE, BUT YOU WILL STAND!!! You’ll no longer have to live on the outside—I’m building a stable house and you will be part of the stability of it. I’m building a city! You can now live on the inside!!!**

 **JOHN 14:1-3 “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. 2There is more than enough room in my Father’s home.[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014&version=NLT#fen-NLT-26636a)**] If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?[**[**b**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014&version=NLT#fen-NLT-26636b)**] 3When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.**

**Hebrews 11:8-10 (NLT2) It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going.
9  And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise. 10  Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.**

**John 1:42 (NLT2) Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, “Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas” (which means “Peter”).**

 **Both Cephas (Aramaic) and Peter (Greek) mean rock… Peter became a piece of the Rock, Jesus Christ!**

**You were lost, now you’re found**

**You were bound, now you’re free**

**You were an outcast, now you’re a son/daughter**

**In John 1:42 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”**