

# Revelation Part Six, Part Two Of The Philadelphia Church.

To each of the seven churches in Revelation chapters 1-3 Jesus says he who has ears to hear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches and in Rev.1: <sup>3</sup> Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. In these three chapters and seven churches Jesus shows us all that he wants His churches to be, His rules, His ways, His rewards and His disciplines. Five of the churches Jesus has complaints against them and two He hasn't. This morning we will look at the church at Philadelphia. Rev chapter three. For those who were not with us last time I preached about the Philadelphia church on verse ten only. : <sup>10</sup> **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.**

## A short recap of the trial to come.

This is just one of the rewards given to the Philadelphia church, being delivered from the hour of trial to come. From Revelation six, hide us from the wrath of the lamb to Revelation nineteen is the trial to come the wrath of God, The trial to come is also The Great Tribulation. Math.24: <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. <sup>22</sup> And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. The trial to come is also Daniels 70<sup>th</sup> week. Math 24:15. When you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of by Daniel the Prophet standing in the Holy place .Daniel chapter 12:11. The trial to come is also The Day of the Lord. Joel.2:2-3. For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand: <sup>2</sup> A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, <sup>30</sup> "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. <sup>31</sup> The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. Joel. 3:1 "For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there . Zechariah.14 is the same thing it's the day of the Lord, the day of Judgement, it's the great tribulation it's the end of the 70<sup>th</sup> week, when all nations gather against Jerusalem. This ties in with Rev chapter 19 where Christ destroys His enemies and puts the beast and the false prophet in the lake of fire. We are kept from this trial to come and 1.Thessalonians.5:1-11 says the day of the Lord will catch people like a thief but not us for we are not appointed to wrath and 1.Thessalonians 4:16-18 says we have been caught up to be with the Lord. Revelation chapter 4:10 through to chapter 5 verses 1-10 shows saints in heaven casting their crowns their reward before the Lord and worshiping Him before the seals are opened and the trial to come starts. We don't get our rewards till He comes Luke.14:14.. We are at the marriage supper of the Lamb in Revelation chapter 19 while the war is still raging on. Persecution we face today is the wrath of satan and man not the wrath of God. God will not pour His wrath on His children. He does keep Israel safe for they have to be kept safe for all Israel to get saved in Zech.12. just before He brings the nations down to Jerusalem to deal with them there. Joel 3 and Zeh.14.

Israel is kept safe for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. Rev.12. The three men in the furnace were not touched by the fire. God could vaporize a city and you could still be standing there. He could keep us safe, but He doesn't. How can you be kept safe and be killed at the same time. You cant. Rev.13: <sup>15</sup> and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. : Rev.20 . If you don't worship him you are beheaded . How can you be kept safe and walk around with no head. The reason the church is not mentioned after chapter four and only the 144,000 Jewish converts, two witnesses and the angel preaching the gospel to everyone is because we are not there. Revelation.14:6. People saved after the church has gone are called saints . When the full number of gentiles come in God saves Israel.Rom.11:25-26. In Daniel chapter nine the seventy weeks of Daniels are for Gods people the Jews. Some believe this last week, seven years took place after Christ died and when the temple was destroyed in 70.A.D., all end times prophecy finished and all prophecy about national Israel has ceased. There is no antichrist no great tribulation, the Devil is now bound and the millennium is happening now.. However, the fact that Christ has not come back and prophecy about Israel is literally coming to pass means the 70<sup>th</sup> week is future and Mathew chapter 24 is about Daniels week and the elect being gathered is Israel and not the church for the church has not started and our rapture verses, the resurrection have not been written yet. Being kept from the trial to come is as a part of the overcomers reward.

## Philadelphia Church. Rev.3:7-13

**The Faithful Church. Revelation.3:** <sup>7</sup>“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things say 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”: <sup>8</sup>“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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. <sup>12</sup>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.*<sup>13</sup>“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

**Who are the church angels.** In the five churches the Lord was not happy with He would say to the angel of the church I have this against you repent. Angels don't sin or repent and they don't read out letters or preach in churches. The Greek word angel . **Greek 32 ággelos – properly, a messenger** is used of God angels and it is also used of satan. 2. Corinthians 11:14: Satan "himself is transformed into an angel of light. It is also used of human messengers. Luke 7:27: "I send my messenger before to prepare the way. Speaking of John the Baptist. Galatians 4:14: You "received me as an angel of God. So, The Lord is writing to the church angels, His human messengers, His Pastors Elders and leaders.

**Introduction from verse seven.** The Lord is Holy, righteous, pure and the source of all truth. Keys mean authority and David ruled from Jerusalem. Jesus was born from the line of David and will rule from Jerusalem one day.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; **And the government will be upon His shoulder.** And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, (Isa. 9:6-7)

### Open Doors

<sup>8</sup>“I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it;

A Pastor I know used to say if a door is closed kick it in. No when God opens doors you go through continuing in prayer faith and patience, walking in the Spirit asking God for wisdom, but before we start, we let Him open the door. This is what the apostle Paul did

**1.Cor.16:** <sup>9</sup> for a wide door for effective *service* has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

**2.Cor.2:** <sup>12</sup> Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord,

### Paul says I am going through this door and God says no its shut

**Acts.16:** <sup>6</sup> Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were **forbidden** by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. <sup>7</sup> After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the **Spirit did not permit them.** <sup>8</sup> So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup> Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them. **New King James**

**Forbid. Strong's 2967:** koluo prevent (by word or act) forbid, hinder, keep from, withstand.

**Permit. Strong's 1439:** to let be, permit or leave alone: **Our text says not permitted**

Paul's ban from preaching in Asia, however, was only temporary. God, during the latter part of his second journey, did not forbid him but rather allowed him to preach in Ephesus for a short time (Acts 18:18 - 21). He later returned to the city and served in it for more than three years (Acts 19:1 - 20)!

### How Did The Spirit Stop Him

Acts.13:2. the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

- Maybe He spoke in a Voice
- Maybe it was a still small voice 1.Kings.19:12-13
- Maybe it was that feeling don't go
- Maybe a vision or dream not to go, for that's what he had to go to Macedonia. Acts.16:9
- Maybe an Angel came with a message
- Maybe an invisible force told stopped him
- Maybe a Christian brother had a word for him

**We don't know how God spoke to him the point is only walk through open doors**

**Proverbs.16:9. A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps**

That's what happened here Paul made his plans in with passion and vision but they were not Gods plan

Once upon a time many years ago a young man called Kevin heard a noise in his bedroom and when he turned around his Bible had fallen off the bed onto the floor with Rev.3:8 standing up a meter from the page. <sup>8</sup> "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it. That verse stayed in the young mans heart and mind for he was excited that God was going to open a door for him. As time went by, he began to drift away from the Lord. Many years later in a meeting the preacher wrote a note and gave it to him. It was Luke 4:18. The spirit of the Lord is upon me for He has anointed me to preach the gospel. He went and told his Pastor that he was called to preach and he said it might not mean that but it did. Not long after the Pastor asked with to work with the youth and street outreach. A few years later he married a beautiful lady called Wendy and they both went to bible college with nothing. They worked in churches and planted churches with nothing. When God opens the door, He pays the bills. They had four cars given to them a church supplied to use and a church manse built on the property all paid for by donations. Also, two houses rent free to live in and they had one house given to them as a gift which wasn't from family. Also, a thousand dollars here and a thousand dollars there and to many others to mention. So, to keep the long story short, the point is things work out better when He opens the door for you that no one can shut unless the assignment is finished or we ourselves we give up.

**You have little power but you have kept my word. There is power in the word.**

**8: For you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. New King James**

**8: I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. Niv**

**The only power I have is The Word, His Word**

**Story. Don't take the word for granted.** The young man's story was as teenager, he worked at a restaurant. One very busy Friday evening an older man approached me with a look of both amusement and irritation. He said to me "Son, I've been coming to this restaurant for 10 years, and in all that time I have never seen a sign like that!" He pointed to our "Please wait to be seated" sign sitting at the entrance to the toilets. In all the hectic scramble, one of the other employees moved the sign because it had gotten in the way. But in his rush to get on with things, he forgot that that sign bore a message! It had become, for him, just another piece of restaurant furniture. That's what happens when you work around a sign long enough-you forget its message.

**Application:** As Christians, it's easy for us to become so familiar with God's Word that we forget that we need to hear its message. We forget that God intends to do more than just speak to us--He intends to change us with His Word. We must take the time to look at God's Word carefully. We must pray that God, by His Spirit, would show us how relevant it is to our lives. James.1:22 "we are just not to hear Gods word but also to do it

**The only power I have is His Word**

**Paul says Ephesians.3:** <sup>7</sup> of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

**Hebrews.1:** <sup>3</sup> who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power

**2.Pet.1:** <sup>3</sup> as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, <sup>4</sup> by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

**John.1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

The above verses show that Jesus is the word and His divine power is in His word and His word holds all things together.

- 1. Start in the bible,
- 2. Stay in the bible,
- 3. Finish in the bible

### **We know that the Bible is His**

- 1. Written words
- 2. Written Ways
- 3. Written Will.

The Bible says I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phillipians.4:13. No! not all things, all things that are in His will, led by His spirit, following His plans walking through the Doors He opens.

### **Proof that the spoken word and the written word are the same**

**Joh 10:35.** To whom the word of God came and Scripture cannot be broken

**Matthew 4:4** . <sup>4</sup> But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God

**John.17:17.** <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

### **The Christian and persecution**

<sup>9</sup> 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.*

**What is a synagogue of Satan?** A synagogue of Satan refers to ethnic Jews who were very religious but rejected Jesus as the Messiah and persecuted people who did believe in Him. Jews are the specific culprits here because Jesus mentions a "synagogue" – a synagogue was the local place of worship for Jews. But does Jesus mean that this synagogue worshipped Satan? Like with statues of Baphomet and inverted pentagons and all that? I thought Jews worshiped Jehovah? Well, they were deceived – they thought they were serving God but in reality, they served Satan. This is a reality: religious people – even Christians – can be manipulated by Satan and used for his purposes. Turn to 2 Timothy 2:25-26 [read]. They didn't worship Satan, but, because they rejected Jesus, they unwittingly became Satan's puppets. How can that happen? They rejected the truth and became slaves to the lie. They thought they were serving God. Religion is Satan's best tool when that religion expels Jesus.

**1.Peter.2:** <sup>12</sup> Keep your behaviour excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God **NASB**

Sometimes you are put to death and sometimes the persecutors get saved. In our text these are not real jews like Abraham or saved Jews they are the religious who are persecuting Christian who are about to bow down and worship the Lord

### **Rewards.**

**Rev.3:** <sup>12</sup> 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,

**Rev.22:** <sup>4</sup> they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads.

Just as the 144,000 having His name on their forehead .Revelation.14:1, our foreheads are reserved for His name only while everyone else who receives the mark of the antichrist their righthand or forehead will have the antichrist mark. 666

Overcome (3528) (nikao) to conquer, to be victorious or to prevail in the face of obstacles.

In this verse Jesus promises to make "the conqueror" a pillar in God's temple. The Greek word *nikōn* refers to someone who overcomes or obtains victory.

It's interesting to note that the ancient city of Philadelphia was vulnerable to earthquakes that collapsed buildings. By contrast, God is suggesting that nothing could cause the conquering believers in Philadelphia to tremble and fall.

They would stand tall like firm columns in God's temple, a reference to heaven. When an earthquake struck Philadelphia, the residents left the city in search of a safe place, but the Christian overcomers would remain safe forever in heaven.

The Jewish people had a temple to worship in and God's presence was in the holy place in the temple. The temple was destroyed in 70 AD. When God is dealing with His people in the end times a temple will be rebuilt for the Antichrist to sit in it calling himself God. 2.Thessalonians. 2:4. For the believer we don't have a temple we are the temple of God and His Spirit dwells in us. 1.Cor.6:19. Since God uses us to help Him build His Kingdom, we are pillars that hold up the kingdom and so we will be pillars in His kingdom forever.

The Philadelphia church rewards are. Being kept from the hour of trial the great tribulation, Revelatio.3:10. Being a pillar in His kingdom with His name written on our foreheads

**It is also worth noting** that each church has a personal message however the message is for all the churches. He who has an ear to hear let him hear what the spirit says to the churches plural. These churches were close together so the letters would circulate. The Ephesus reward is they would get to eat of the tree of life. However, all Christians will eat from the tree of life. Revelation.22: <sup>14</sup> Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. The reward for the church at Smyrna was that they would receive the crown of life. This reward is also for all believers. James.1: <sup>12</sup> Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

**The City of Philadelphia In Modern times.** Philadelphia is the modern town of Alasehir In Turkey. Population in 2022.is 57,415. located about 130 km east of Smyrna (Izmir), on an important road junction. It was founded in the third century BC by Attalus II, king of Pergamum, who showed loyalty and love for his brother Eumenes II, so the city was named 'Philadelphia', meaning 'brotherly love'. The city suffered a devastating earthquake in AD 17. Very little excavation has been done, but the acropolis above the modern city contains the remains of a theatre. Remains of the walls of the ancient city have also been found. From Philadelphia to Laodicea, the distance is about 90 km (56 miles), which would take 19 hours (2.5 days) to walk.