

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Revelation 3:7-13

“Philadelphia - The Faithful Church!”

> The seven churches and their historical reference:

(2:1-7) *Ephesus*- The Apostolic Church (1st Century)

(2:8-11) *Smyrna*- The Martyr Church (A.D. 100 – A.D. 314)

(2:12-17) *Pergamum* - The Worldly Church (A.D. 314 – A.D. 590)

(2:18-29) *Thyatira*- Church of the Dark Ages, “Romanism” (A.D. 590 – A.D. 1000- continues today)

(3:1-6) *Sardis*- The Protestant Church, “Reformation” (A.D. 1517 – A.D. 1800)

(3:7-13) *Philadelphia*- The Revived or Faithful Church (A.D. 1800 to Rapture)

(3:14-22) *Laodicea*- The Apostate Church (Last Days & into the Great Tribulation)

> History of PHILADELPHIA - (brotherly love) - a city of the province of Lydia in western Asia Minor (modern Turkey) and the site of one of the seven churches of Asia to which John wrote in the Book of Revelation (Rev 1:11). Philadelphia was situated on the Cogamus River, a tributary of the Hermus (modern Gediz) and was about 45 kilometers (28 miles) southeast of Sardis. It was founded by Attalus II (Philadelphus), who reigned as king of Pergamos from 159 BC until 138 BC Philadelphia was a center of the wine industry. Its chief deity was Dionysus, in Greek mythology the god of wine (the Roman Bacchus).

In the Book of Revelation, John describes the church in Philadelphia as the faithful church and the church that stood at the gateway of a great opportunity (Rev 3:7-13). Christ said to this church, “*See, I have set before you an open door and no one can shut it*” (v. 8). The “open door” means primarily access to God, but it also refers to opportunity for spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. Still a city of considerable size, Philadelphia is known today as Alasehir, or Allah-shehr (“the city of God”). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

>TWELVE KEYS FOR THE PHILADELPHIA FAITHFUL:

- KEY # 1 - (v7a) *Philadelphia* – “Brotherly LOVE” - John 13:34-35 - **A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**”

- KEY #2 - (v7b) *Jesus* is “HOLY” - **Luke 1:26-35**- *Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.* (Mark 1:24; John 6:69)

- KEY #3 - (v7c) *Jesus* is “TRUE” - **John 14:6** - *Jesus* said to him, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*” In the last days *Jesus* tells us not to be deceived by false Christs in **Matthew 24:4-5**.

- KEY #4 - (v7d) *Jesus* has the “KEY OF DAVID” – **Why is this mentioned?** This means the Church has not replaced Israel and God will deal them once again in the Great Tribulation and establish the promised “*Davidic Kingdom*” in the millennial kingdom, governed by the King of kings, our Lord *Jesus Christ*. (***Jesus* said in Matthew 19:28-30** - *So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.* **Paul writes in Romans 11:25-27** - *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”* The Bible promises peace and prosperity to Israel in the future, including its borders (Genesis 15:18-20; Numbers 34:1-12); a promise of a King from the line of David (2 Samuel Ch. 7); and a promise that Israel would one day be wholly devoted to God (Jeremiah 31:31-24); these are a few of the prophecies promised to Israel in the Millennial Reign of Christ.)

- **KEY # 5** - (v7e) Jesus provides an **“OPEN DOOR”** - The term *“open door”* means primarily access to God, but it also refers to opportunity for spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus said in **John 10:7-10** - *Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”* (7f) Jesus also **“shuts the door and no one opens”** - **Luke 13:22-30** - *And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. Then one said to Him, “Lord, are there few who are saved?” And He said to them, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open for us,’ and He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know you, where you are from,’ then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.’ But He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.’ There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last.”* (Also **Matthew 25:1-13**).

- **KEY #6** – (8a) Jesus has given the church of Philadelphia an *“open door”* and the church has a *“little strength”* to preach the gospel in the last days, Jesus said in **Matthew 24:14**- *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.* (v8b) Jesus said this church **“KEPT HIS WORD”** – **Matt. 13:1-9; 18-23; John 15:1-8**

- **KEY #7** - (v8c) Jesus said this church had **“NOT DENIED HIS NAME”** - **Romans 10:9**- *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in you heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. John 14:13-14 -And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

- **KEY #8** - (v9) Jesus reveals a **“LIE”** – Paul wrote in **Romans 2:28-29**- *For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.*

- **KEY #9** - (v10) Jesus will not allow His church to go through the **“HOUR OF TRIAL”** - Also known as the *“The Great Tribulation”* (Mt. 24:21); & *“The Time of Jacob’s Trouble”* (Jer. 30:7); *“Daniel’s Seventieth Week”* (Dan. 9:25-27). True Christians will not go through this event, but will be *raptured* to heaven! (Matt. 24:36-51; Matt. 25:1-13; John 14:1-4; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:13-17) In the Old Testament during the time of *Noah* (Genesis Ch. 5 & 6) we see a preview of the “rapture” when *Enoch* was taken off the earth before God’s judgment came through the flood.

- **KEY #10** - (v11a) Be ready for the RAPTURE, **“BEHOLD I COME QUICKLY!”** – The Greek word for *quickly* is *tachu* (takh-oo’); meaning *shortly, i.e. without delay, soon, or (by surprise) suddenly, or (by implication, of ease) readily*. Our Lord’s statement continues to confirm the doctrine of imminence, that is, Christ coming for His church at any moment.

- **Note doctrine of imminence in the following New Testament passages:**

• **1 Corinthians 1:7** - *“awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,”*

• **1 Corinthians 16:22** - *“Maranatha.”* - (Our Lord, come!) - The meaning seems to be, “Our Lord is coming soon, and he will judge all those who do not love him.” (from Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

• **Philippians 3:20** - *“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;”*

• **Philippians 4:5** - *“The Lord is near.”*

• **1 Thessalonians 1:10** - *“to wait for His Son from heaven,”*

• **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18** - *“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of {the} archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 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. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”*

• **1 Thessalonians 5:6** - *“so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.”*

• **1 Timothy 6:14** - *“that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord*

Jesus Christ,"

• **Titus 2:13** - "looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;"

• **Hebrews 9:28** - "so Christ . . . shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him."

• **James 5:7-9** - "Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. . . . for the coming of the Lord is at hand. . . . behold, the Judge is standing right at the door."

• **1 Peter 1:13** - "fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

• **Jude 21** - "waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life."

• **Revelation 3:11; 22:7, 12, 20** - "I am coming quickly!"

• **Revelation 22:17, 20** - "And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.'" "He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming quickly.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

- **KEY #11** – (v11b) **Jesus gives all believers a “CROWN!”** - **James 1:12**- *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.* **2 Tim 4:8**- *Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.* **1 Peter 5:4**- *when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.*

- **KEY #12** – Jesus gives His church “PHILADELPHIA” a “**FUTURE!**” - (v12) “**pillar**” = **Strength**; “**go out no more**” = **Security**; “**name of My God**” = **Sustainer (I Am)**; “**name of the city, the New Jerusalem**” = meaning “**City of Peace**”; “**His new name**” - Old name- **Jesus = Joshua = Jehovah is Salvation!** (New name ideas are found in **Revelation 19:11-16**)