**The Book of Revelation:**

**Philadelphia: The Church of Brotherly Love**

April 29, 2017

Revelation 3:7-13 (NKJV)

7“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. 9Indeed 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. 10Because 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. 11Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. 12He 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 city of Philadelphia**.

**Name of the Church**.

**Description of Jesus**.

**1. Jesus is the One Who is holy** (Rev. 3:7).

**2. Jesus is the One Who is true** (Rev. 3:7).

Isaiah 22:20-24 (NKJV)

20 ‘Then it shall be in that day,

That I will call My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah;

21 I will clothe him with your robe

And strengthen him with your belt;

I will commit your responsibility into his hand.

He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem

And to the house of Judah.

22 **The key of the house of David**

I will lay on his shoulder;

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.

24‘They will hang on him all the glory of his father’s house, the offspring and the posterity, all vessels of small quantity, from the cups to all the pitchers.

John 5:26-27 (NKJV) – 26For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

**5 Commendations.**

**1. I know your works** (Rev. 3:8).

1. The works may be *evangelism*.
2. The open door could also refer to the rapture.

John 15:1-2 (NKJV) – 1 “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

**2. I know you've kept my word** (Rev. 3:8).

Matthew 7:21-23 (NKJV) – 21“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

**3. I know that you have not denied my name** (Rev. 3:8).

Matthew 10:32-33 (NKJV) – 32“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Titus 1:16 (NKJV) – They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

**4. I know that you have at least a little strength** (Rev. 3:8).

Revelation 2:8-9 (NKJV) – 8“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: 9“I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and *I know* the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan.

**5. They are enduring patiently** (Rev. 3:10).

1. They are enduring persecution.

Revelation 3:7 & 9 (NKJV) – **7** “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.” … **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.

Revelation 2:8-9 (NKJV) – 8“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: 9“I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and *I know* the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan.

* Church – *ekklesia*is an assembly of citizens who have been called out from their homes into some public place.
* Synagogue – *sunagoge* is a congregation or an assembly.

Matthew 23:13 (NKJV) – “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

The diaspora since 586 BC when the Temple was destroyed.

1 Peter 1:1 (NKJV) – Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion…. (TLV) – Diaspora.

James 1:1 (NKJV) – James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings. (TLV) – Diaspora.

1. They are enduring earthquakes.

**Instructions to the church**. (Rev. 3:11).

**6 Promises are given to the overcomer** (Rev. 3:9-10 & 12).

**1. Make him a pillar in the temple of my God** (Rev. 3:12).

**2. Write on him the name of my God** (Rev. 3:12).

A symbol of **possession and belonging**. We belong to **God the Father.** The name is **not** already written on them.

Ephesians 1:13 (NKJV) – In Him you also *trusted,* after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

Philippians 2:12 (NKJV) – Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

2 Corinthians 2:15 (NKJV) – For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

**3. Write on him the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem** (Rev. 3:12).

**4. Write on him my new name** (Rev. 3:12).

**5. Greatly honor him before his persecutors** (Rev. 3:9).

Revelation 3:9 (**TLV**) – I will cause them to come and bow down before your feet.

Revelation 3:9 (**NIV**) – I will make them come and fall down at your feet.

To Church of Laodicea – Revelation 3:21-22 (NKJV) – 21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

**6. Keep you from the hour of trial** (Rev. 3:10).

Revelation 3:10 (NKJV) – I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world.

* from = *ek* = "out of" not dia = "through"
* hour = *hora* = hour, time, season; a certain definite time or fixed season.

Revelation 3:8 (NKJV) – See, I have set before you an open door.

1 Corinthians 16:9 (NKJV) – For a great and effective door has opened to me, and *there are* many adversaries.

Revelation 4:1 (NKJV) – After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard *was* like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.”

**Prophetic Message?**

Philadelphia represents the church from the time of the Great Awakening (1793) and beyond. This includes people like Wesley, Whitefield, Edwards, Finney, Moody.[[1]](#footnote-1)

To Sardis – Revelation 3:3 (NKJV) – Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

1. Steve Gregg, Revelation, Four Views: A Parallel Commentary, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), p. 77. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)