

Start audio file 09

Philadelphia part 2

Commendation

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.*

I have set before you an open door.....

"Open doors": 1 Cor 16:9; 2 Cor 2:12; Col 4:3 For the Gospel to be preached.

Finding God's will - we must make sure we only go through the doors that God has opened for us and not try to go through those that He has shut.

There are 7 commendations and encouragements

1. I know your works, behold
2. I have set before you an open door and no man can shut it
3. For you have a little strength
4. And have kept My word
5. and have not denied My Name
6. Indeed I will make them (of synagogue of Satan) come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

Door(s) of deliverance:

- "I Am the Door," (John 10:7, 9); only one way in.
- Noah's Ark: closed by God (Gen 7:1-4; 16 - seven days before the flood they were safe in the Ark before the wrath of God was poured out on the earth.
- The door at the wedding (Matt 25:1-10) when the Bridegroom came only those who were ready went in and then the door was shut.

09 Letters to the 7 Churches Rev. ch 3:7-13 Philadelphia Part 2

Student copy

- Little strength (but persevered)
- **Kept God's Word.** Emphasis on the Scriptures. Many today don't believe in the inerrancy of the Bible. They were loyal and steadfast in difficult times. The remnant in a pagan world.
- not denied my name": To take the Name of the Lord is to put on His Name when you become a Christian. **2 Tim 2:19** from then on you should live a life worthy of that Name. When you say or do anything that is contrary to God's ways we are denying the Lords Name or Taking it in Vain. Being a bad witness. Not being Holy. Everyone who has taken the Name of the Lord must depart from iniquity.
- In a day when the deity of Christ is blatantly denied by colleges, universities and pulpit, what kind of "ambassador" are we? We live in a world that is increasingly critical and disparaging of Biblical Believers. Even many Christians do not believe in the inerrancy of God's word.
Most churches teach a view of the scripture that because Israel rejected her Messiah, the promises she was given and therefore heir to are no longer accessible to the Jews and they are now given to the Church.

Their whole theological system is built on the idea that the Church had replaced Israel as the apple of God's eye. There is a whole theology taught and is called replacement theology. And because the Jews and Israel is no longer part of mainline Christian teaching certain changes have been made to accommodate this.

For example Jesus isn't really going to come back and rule the earth and the Millennium is only allegorical. It actually laid the foundation for the Holocaust in Europe. Anti-Semitism is on the rise again.

V9. *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.*

John 8:42-44 Here Jesus is speaking to Jews and says 'you are of your father the devil.'

These who say they are Jews but are not will be compelled to worship (**Phil 2:10,11 and Rev 3:9**).

There is clearly a Day of Vengeance coming **Isaiah 61:2 (Luke 4:18-20)** **2 Thess 1:7-8**

God loves Israel

Isaiah 43:1-5

*But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, **O Jacob**, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you;*

*I have called you by your name; **You are Mine.***

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.

*3 For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One **of Israel**, your Saviour; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place.*

4 Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honoured, And I have loved you; Therefore I will give men for you, And people for your life.

*5 **Fear not, for I am with you**; I will bring your descendants from the east, And gather you from the west;*

A Key verse in this letter. An incredible promise to the church at Philadelphia.

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.*

V10 KJV Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

"Word of His patience": **2 Thess 3:5**. He awaits the millennial kingdom. Jesus has been patient for over 2,000 years waiting to take charge of that which He purchased and He's asking us to be patient with him. To endure patiently.

In return for keeping His command to persevere He tells the Philadelphian church what He will do for them but this is so prophetic because it relates to the end times true church **V10** 'I will also keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon all the world.'

It's one of the most important promises we will find regarding the Tribulation. The hour of trial is synonymous with the Tribulation (world wide devastation) that will take place during the Final seven year period of time on earth before Jesus comes back.

09 Letters to the 7 Churches Rev. ch 3:7-13 Philadelphia Part 2

Student copy

(Ps 110; Heb 10:12,13). [One of the principal truths recovered by the evangelical movements of the early 19th century was the Lord's return for His Church.]

If you want to know what the great Tribulation is about go to **Hosea 5:15**.

Here God says 'I will return to My place' meaning He must have left it.....(which is what Jesus did when He came to earth and then returned to Heavenand He would stay there "Until they acknowledge their offence. Then they will seek My face. **In their affliction** they will seek Me earnestly."

In other words the Tribulation is for the Jews. God is now giving them an opportunity to acknowledge their offence (rejection) and turn to Him wholeheartedly.

Another is in **Daniel 9:27** a reference to the Tribulation (one week equals 7 years)

Paul says all Israel will be saved but the condition for His return to earth to the mount of Olives to rescue them is that they will acknowledge their offense and seek His face. The Tribulation will press them into doing this.

There is a parallel with King David.

King David

The anointed King of Israel, for a time exiled from his kingdom and took refuge in a cave in Adullam (**1 Sam 22:1; 2 Sam 23:13; 1 Chr 11:15**).

- Refused by his people, he gathered three classes of people around him
- men in debt, danger, and discontented—and
- he transformed them into the mighty men of David who were known everywhere and you didn't mess with them.
- Ultimately he left Adullam for his crowning as King of Israel.

There is a parallel here with Jesus Christ.

Christ was the anointed King just as David was the anointed King before he was born.

Jesus came to His own and His own did not receive Him.

Jesus gathered Himself the riff raff of the times. The poor and disadvantaged. Poor fishermen and those who were outcasts.

Today Christ is earth's rejected King, but the Anointed King will soon return to take His rightful throne. He will give His city—the New Jerusalem—its new name, and each of His own will be marked with His new name: a badge of triumph.

09 Letters to the 7 Churches Rev. ch 3:7-13 Philadelphia Part 2

Student copy

'I will keep you from the hour of **(the)** trial or temptation ...' Generally accepted that this refers to the tribulation period.

In the Greek there is a definite article before hour and temptation and in Greek that's very emphatic.

Greek: tes horas; **the** hour, **the** time, **the** season. 'The' is specific to a particular time.

He is not saying I'm going to keep you *from* tribulation, for we all go through trials and tribulations our entire life. But THE trial or THE time of Tribulation is specific to a particular time. There is a big difference.

He is not saying I'm going to preserve you through this time.

How do we know?

Because it says *which shall come upon* **all the world**, to try them that **dwell upon the earth**.

This is speaking of the entire world. This is not just persecution of the Jews or just of Christians which will come. Its for the whole planet.

For what purpose? To try them that **dwell upon the earth**.

So who are the earth dwellers.?

There's a class of people consistently through the Book of Revelation, that dwell upon the earth. It becomes obvious throughout the rest of the Book that these are those who consistently are against God.

"Earth Dwellers"

- "Dwell" = katoideo = to be identified with (Phil3:20; Heb 11:13). These people are identifying with the earth. That is their world they do not recognise another world, a spiritual home or God Himself.

Worldlings as opposed to pilgrims passing through.

Oikoumene (Gr. οἰκουμένη) was not only a political and religious term, but first and foremost a geographical one. The Greek word οἰκουμένη means "inhabited," a participle to which the noun γῆ, "earth," is implied.¹ Literally, *oikoumene* is the "inhabited earth.": In the Greek it is very clear: upon all mankind; geographically comprehensive.

Some will teach that all Christians go through the Tribulation but the Greek does not say that.

09 Letters to the 7 Churches Rev. ch 3:7-13 Philadelphia Part 2

Student copy

Wrath? Read **Rev 6:17** and **1 Thess 1:10; 5:4,9** vs. those who "dwell on the earth" (**Rev 13:8; 6:10 8:13 11:10 12:12 13:8,12,14 14:6 17:8**).

Removal or Immunity?

- "From": is a Greek preposition **ek** meaning = "out of," keep you out of is a removal word. It is very specific
- Definite articles in the Greek: **The** hour and **The** temptation. Also very specific. In the Greek it is very emphatic

Upon all the world (**Rev 6 - 19**)... will detail the time and the things that will happen to the Earth dwellers *during* that 7 year period. It will be totally catastrophic. So this sentence reads in the Greek . 'I will also keep you out of (or remove you from,) **the** hour of trial which shall come upon all the world.'

- What is the purpose of this time. The Purpose is: "to try them that dwell on earth" (the unbelieving earth dwellers)
- Gentile believers in the tribulation are **not protected**: they are killed! **Rev 7:9-17; 11:7; 13:7, 15; 17:8; 20:4**

There are certain Jews who are sealed and protected. They will be doing what the early church did. Picking up where they left off. Evangelising the world. The Gentiles who become believers at this time will be murdered, beheaded. Their souls will be seen in **ch 6:10** waiting for the Lord to avenge them.

The Antichrist is going to overcome the saints. This is the whole issue during this time. The rule will be 'If you take the Mark you're ok and if you don't you will be killed.' But if you take the Mark **you can't be saved, ever**. So the idea that Jesus is going to give immunity to all the saints during this time cannot be applied. The promise is that **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.*

This is a very prophetic verse.

This is the only letter with a promise of keeping them out of the time of the "Great Tribulation." [Nowhere are we told to prepare for the Great Tribulation...]

09 Letters to the 7 Churches Rev. ch 3:7-13 Philadelphia Part 2

Student copy

Concerns

NONE

Note: No expression of "Concern"! (Only Philadelphia and Smyrna are so encouraged) . Rev 2:9 "Synagogue of Satan" only mentioned in Smyrna and Philadelphia

Exhortation

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

It's like He is saying you have the crown, its there for you you're nearly there so just hang in there and keep persevering to the end. Not much longer.

In these letters crowns are mentioned twice. Once in Smyrna's letter and once here. Note these are the only two churches about whom Jesus has no concerns.

"Crown" : the subject of great importance in the following chapter!

Rev 2:10 crown promised Smyrna (also without "concerns").]

Jesus will return, just as He promised (John 14:3).

"Behold I am coming Quickly" = "suddenly" in the Greek. [If the gathering of His own were to occur after the 70th week of Daniel, there would have to be an intervening period of seven years... no "imminent" return! It would be totally expected it could even be timed. For instance people would be able to say when the terrible earthquake happens, oh no, here's the earthquake, look the sun has turned black as sackcloth and the moon is blood red so we must be at the 6th seal we're in the 1st half of the tribulation now we've got to go through all that stuff in Revelation but at least we know its only 7 years and then Jesus will come) There's no imminency in that. No not knowing when. It would be totally known!!!

For us we need to simply be in **a place of readiness** for His catching up of the ready and waiting church.

As there are so many warnings about not losing the crown it must be possible that we won't all receive the crowns. We saw this in our study in Hebrews 12. We are exhorted to persevere to the end and we will receive our reward.

09 Letters to the 7 Churches Rev. ch 3:7-13 Philadelphia Part 2

Student copy

Old Testament instances where future possessions were lost.

"Let No Man Rob You"

(earthly examples of losing what should have been yours)

- Esau lost his place to Jacob (*Gen 25:34; 27:36*).
- Reuben lost his place to Judah (he was the firstborn but lost his rights as a firstborn son and they were given to Judah. (*Gen 49:4, 8*).
- For his action at Meribah, (disobeyed God and struck the rock) Moses was superseded by Joshua (*Num 20:12; Deut 3:26-28*).
- Saul lost his place to David (*1 Sam 16:1,13*).
- Shebna lost his place to Eliakim (*Isa 22:15-25*).
- Joab and Abiathar lost their places to Benaiah and Zadok (*1 Kings 2:25*).

Local Application: Holding Fast

- During the 14th century, (the Muslims have now arisen) the city of Philadelphia stood alone against the entire Turkish empire as a free, self-governing Christian city in the midst of a Turkish land.
- Twice besieged by great Turkish armies, its people reduced to the verge of starvation, they had learned to defend themselves, and resisted to the end.
- By 1379-1390, it finally succumbed to a combined Turkish and Byzantine army. Until then, Philadelphia had held fast. They continued to hold fast but had to go underground to survive. Today, the few remaining Christians remain underground, as they generally have to, in an Islamic country.

Promise to the Overcomer

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.*

09 Letters to the 7 Churches Rev. ch 3:7-13 Philadelphia Part 2

Student copy

Sardis had a name but was dead.

Philadelphia was

going to be given a new name, the Name of My God.

4 times He says My God.

There is only one other time that Jesus ever said My God. (don't lose sight of the fact Jesus is saying this which is why the word my has a capital M) The one and only time Jesus said this was His cry from the cross 'My God, My God why have You forsaken Me.' The only time when He didn't call Him 'Father'

Why was this? Because He was in our place.

"Pillar": **1Kings 7:15-22**; Jachin = "He shall establish," "In His counsel";

Boaz = "In him is strength."

"New name (**Rev 2:17; 19:16; Jer 23:6; Rev 21:2**)": A name written which no one knows but He Himself (**Rev 19:12**): YHWH Shammah, "The Lord is there" (**Ezek 48:35**); Yeshua name is preeminent (**Phil 2:9**). "My God" is used four times (**Psalms 22:1**). No tremors here; no need to vacate in fear again.

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

Admonitory Level (an application to all churches)

- Ephesus - Devotion, not just doctrine. (lost first love)
- Smyrna - Endure persecution.
- Pergamos - Purify their witness. (need to stand fast against the world) and pagan practices. It's not Easter it's Passover, come out of them)
- Thyatira - Pagan practices. (all the paganism that came out of Babylon, re-packaged and became part of the State Church)
- Sardis - Watchfulness, diligence. (wake up, you are dead)
- Philadelphia - Missionary Outreach. (they were doing well, just keep at it)
- Laodicea ...

Both Smyrna and Philadelphia have no criticism; both of these cities are the ones remaining still today

"Open doors": **1 Cor 16:9**; For a great and effective door has opened to me and there are many adversaries.

09 Letters to the 7 Churches Rev. ch 3:7-13 Philadelphia Part 2

Student copy

For the Gospel to be preached. Looked at earlier. Just because a door is open doesn't mean that there are no adversaries. If the door God is opening is a big one for preaching the Gospel there will be opposition.

Also God sometimes applies pressure in one place to release His power in another.

It may sound extreme until you also remember that God had the whole of the world in Roman times to go back to their place of birth to register in order to get 2 people to move from their home in Nazareth and go to Bethlehem in order for the Messiah to be born there. And the same God put the whole of the middle east into a famine in order to get a family of seven to uproot and move to Egypt where there was food in order to fulfil His purposes.

God is in control. God's ways are higher than ours.

Personal Application (Homiletics)

- Ephesus Neglected Priorities.
- Smyrna Satanic Opposition.
- Pergamos Spiritual Compromise. There should be no wavering
- Thyatira Pagan Practices.
- Sardis Watchfulness, Diligence.
- Philadelphia Loyal Ambassadorship. Wearing God's Name on their hearts and being faithful missionaries

Laodicea?

Overcomer's Promises

- Ephesus Eat of Tree of Life.
- Smyrna Not hurt of second death.
- Pergamos Manna, Stone, Name.
- Thyatira Power over nations.
- Sardis Walk with Him in white; name not blotted out.
- Philadelphia Pillar in Temple, name of God, name of His city, new name.
- Laodicea ...

The last four churches contain an explicit reference to the second coming of Christ.

Thyatira has a threat that if they don't pull their socks up and repent they will go into the tribulation.

Sardis is silent on that

09 Letters to the 7 Churches Rev. ch 3:7-13 Philadelphia Part 2

Student copy

Philadelphia, the missionary church has a promise to be out of here before the tribulation.

Prophetic Profile

Philadelphia represents the Missionary Church.

Next Session

Read Chapters 2 & 3. Outline the Letter to Laodicea (**Revelation 3:14-22**).