

The Church of Open Doors
The Church of Philadelphia
Revelation 3:7-13

Background:

Review 7 churches map

Located 22 miles southeast of _____ in a broad valley that leads to the Aegean Sea. It is found in the modern city of _____.

Ecologically it was in a very vulnerable place. It was susceptible to _____ and volcanic eruptions.

It was called the “_____ to the East” because it was the juncture of trade routes leading to Mysia, Lydia, and Phrygia.

Commerce based on agriculture and industry (e.g. one of the largest _____ producers)

Called “little _____” because of the religious festivals.

Cult worship of Dionysus was prominent in their culture, also known as “_____.”

The church survived until the _____ century – existing for at least 700 years after the area had been overtaken by _____. It was a small congregation during John's day and continued to be a small but faithful church up until its demise.

The Description: 3:7

⁷ "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. (Rev. 3:7 NIV)

Question: How does Jesus describe himself to this church?

Answer:

He is _____ – a direct claim to deity.

He is _____ claim to authenticity in the midst of things that are false.

He holds the _____.

Whatever he opens _____ open, and whatever he shuts _____ shut.

Question: What is the key of David?

Read 2 Samuel 7:8-16

Answer (1)

Read Isaiah 22:15-24

Answer (2)

1. A key gives one _____ to the possessions and people within the house.
2. A key gives one the _____ over the possessions and people within the house.
3. A key also makes one _____ for the protection and stewardship of that within the house.
4. A key gives one the _____ to permit or restrict others from coming into the house.
5. This authority is firmly put in place by _____.
6. Eliakim is a picture of _____.

Summation: Jesus has the _____ and divine _____ as an earthly descendant of King David to _____ or _____ people from entering the Father's presence.

The Commendation: 3:8

Notice the Jesus is aware of what's going on in the church.

Question: What is the open door before this church?

Read Isaiah 45:1

Read Acts 14:27.

Answer:

Note: A Historicist would hold that this is the missionary sending era from the late 1800's to the 1950's.

Question: What two things does he commend them for?

Answer:

1. Even though they had little strength, they kept his word and... cp 3:10 – the “word” is to endure patiently.
2. did not deny his Name.

Look at verses 9 and 10.

Question: What two promises are attached to this commendation?

Answer (1)

This is also a futuristic statement that is based on Zechariah 12. That someday a remnant of the Jewish people will recognize the one they historically killed was the Messiah. They will repent and believe.

¹⁰ Since you have kept my command [to obey, to hold on to, to preserve] to endure patiently, [the persecution, the trials of being a follower] I will also keep you [preserve you, hold on to you, guard you] from the hour [an event of divine timing] of trial that is going to come on the whole world [global event] to test the inhabitants of the earth. [(Rev. 3:9-10 NIV)

Observations:

1. There is a _____: You have kept and therefore, I will keep.
2. They _____ the word and kept it, obeyed it; the Word will keep his word and preserve them.
3. He will _____ them from an event that will be focused globally.
4. There will be a divine _____ to the inhabitants of the earth.
5. The phrase "the inhabitants of the earth" in Revelation always refers to _____, e.g. 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8, 12, 14; 17:2, 8.
6. The use of the term "test" coming from God toward people is always used to reveal what is in the heart, a test of _____, e.g. Ex.

15:25; 16:4; Deut. 8:2; Judges 2:22; 1 Chron. 29:17, 2 Chron. 32:31; Psalm 26:2; Jer. 11:20

7. We are not told how Jesus will _____ us from this hour.
- a. It could mean the _____ of the church, i.e. 1 Thess. 4:13 – 5:11; 1 Cor. 15:51-55; John 14:1-2.
 - b. It could mean _____ the church through this time of testing, i.e. Exodus 7:14 – chpt. 11 (see especially 8:22-23; 9:4, 26; 10:23; 11:7; see also John 17:11-15)

Answer (2): It means that Jesus will keep his promise to the church and _____ and _____ her from the trial that will come upon the unbelieving world.

Short Excursus: Rapture

The word “rapture” does not appear in the Scriptures but neither does the word, _____. It is from the Latin, *rapturo*, and the Greek word, *harpazo*, which means “to catch up” or “to seize by force” or “to snatch up or away.”

The main biblical reason for the rapture is that we are promised, as believers in Jesus Christ, not to experience the _____ of God (which is mentioned 95 times in the Bible), e.g. 1 Thess. 1:8-10; 5:9-10.

The Condemnation: There is no condemnation for this church. It is a good church.

The Command: v. 11

¹¹ I am coming soon [with speed; _____; Cp. 1:1] . Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. (Rev. 3:11 NIV)

Question: What is meant by “coming soon”?

Answer:

1. Per the Preterist approach, it would mean a coming _____ of some sort. It was something that the people who received this letter experienced in their lifetime.
2. Per the Historist approach, it would represent a time in the church's history where an open door was given for _____, as in His *Holy Spirit coming*. This would have been the 18th and 19th century global missionary movement.
3. Per the Idealist approach, it would represent any _____ or _____ that the church would go through – in the contextual present or throughout history.
4. Per the Futurist approach, the focus is not on the historical present but on the future coming. _____ you see certain biblical events taking place, his personal coming will be near.

Question: What crown is being spoken of in this text?

Answer: "Stephanos" = Stephen's crown, martyr's crown, or the crown of _____.

The Counsel: vv. 12-13

Question: What does it mean to be a "pillar in the temple of God"?

Answer: It communicates that we will be something _____ in a place of _____ worship.

Question: What names will we receive and what does this imply?

Answer: The _____, relational name of God [Yahweh], the name of the city of God, the new Jerusalem, and a new name. It implies covenantal relationship, eternal dwelling with God, and a new type of relationship that speaks to the eternal relationship we will have with God.

Question: What can we learn from the Church of Philadelphia?