

Revelation: Church of Philadelphia

Text: Rev 3:7-13

1. Salutation

"To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write"

- o established in 189 BC by King Eumenes II
- o chose his successor, "Philadelphos" = "one who loves his brother".
- o city youngest of the seven churches.
- o Missionary endeavours – to expand the Greek culture and language to Lydia and Phrygia.
- o Positioned in highly volcanic region - 17AD - devastating earthquake - affected people economically and mentally.
- o Eph 5:25-27

2. Title

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.

- o God's holiness - linked to essential need for justice & judgment.
- o Holy, holy, holy (Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 10 & Rev 1):
Jesus is declared holy at His birth (Luke 1.35); His death and His present office as He intercedes for us.

"holds the key of David"

Read Isa 22:21-25

Key - symbol of authority - Jesus holds the key - Isaiah 9:6-7

Matthew 16 - "Who do people say I am?" Peter, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Matthew 16:17-19; 1 Peter 2:8-9

Tribe of Levites – priests; Tribe of Judah - Royalty

3 people kings and priests at the same time: Melchizedek in Genesis 14 (Psalm 110);
Jesus (Hebrews 5-7) and _____?

3. Commendation

Vv. 8-10

See 1 Corinthians 16.8-9

"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice that I could ever make for him could ever be too great." C. T. Studd

Door speaks of opportunity and deliverance (John 10).

Key verse: Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

Jesus says he will keep them from the hour of trial.

What does this mean?

Parallel: David (1 Samuel 22) and Jesus

Trial = Great Tribulation

4. Condemnation

None

5. Counsel

I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

6. Promise

The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.

"My God" repeated 4 times. Where else?

Prophetic Era: Evangelicalism and Mission: 18th -19th century

Chariots of Fire

"I run the first 200 as fast I can, and then, with God's help, I run the second 200 even faster."

"Christ for the world, for the world needs Christ!"

*Jesus shall reign where'er the sun,
Doth his successive journeys run,*

*His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.*

7. Exhortation

¹³Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

GBM/Revelation 3/Church of Philadelphia/Aug 2023