

THE SEVEN LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

THE LAST WORDS OF JESUS CHRIST TO HIS CHURCH UNTIL AND BEFORE HE RETURNS FOR US.

REVELATION 3:7-13

Recording Number JHX-485

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“MY DEAR PHILADELPHIA, I’VE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER”

Endurance. Holiness. Repentance. Revival

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

The Church, End Times, Repentance, Revival, Rapture

Revelation 3:7-13

“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. 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. 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. 11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. 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. :13 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’

Its Background; Philadelphia’s Unique Historical and Illustrative Facts

Philadelphia’s Origin:

Of course the name Philadelphia means “brotherly love” or the “City of Brotherly Love”. It was founded in or around the year 140 bc by King Attalus Philadelphus.

The Location of Philadelphia:

Because of its many temples and shrines to Babylonian and Greeks gods, Philadelphia was called “The Little Athens of the Empire.” It was strategic for many reasons. (1) it was a vital stop along the great trade routes of the ancient world. (2) The region was extremely fertile for the growing of crops of almost any sort but one in particular added to its fame and its economy – Grapes! And of course where there are grapes there is the industry of wine making. Philadelphia was the “Napa Valley” of Asia Minor. Wine being so valued to the Philadelphians it was only natural for them to adopt the worship of Dionysus, (Bacchus) the god of intoxication and sex. (just how things are today? Everything is sold with a sex appeal.

You can't buy a hamburger or a car without having some half naked individual to allure you). Philadelphia was located 28 miles south of Sardis along the Royal Postal Route of the Roman Empire.

Its Geological Past:

Philadelphia was a naturally beautiful area with hills and mountains as well as canyons and valleys. However, like almost all places of the globe – the greater the geological activity, the more beautiful the area, but it comes at great expense – **EARTHQUAKES!** Earthquakes were an uneasy “normal” in Philadelphia. In 17ad. It and some (10) ten other cities were totally destroyed by a massive quake that some have estimated (guess) to be between 8 to 9 on the modern-day Richter scale.

Philadelphia prospered for more than 1,400 years until Muslim invaders brought their Jihad expansion into Europe. The Christians in Philadelphia were captured and caused to form a line as they were marched into the Great Theater of the Gods where they were systematically beheaded.

Theater at Philadelphia

<https://photos.google.com/?tab=iq&pageId=none>

Foundationally - Let's Look at The Overriding Motive
in Which Jesus is Speaking;

It's found in the latter end of verse 9
“That I have loved you”

Ephesians 3:18

That you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The Worship of Jesus Christ vs. The Appeasement of the gods.

MY DEAR PHILADELPHIA I HAVE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER

1.) To remind you that **I AM your I AM** vs.7

Revelation 3:7

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, “These things says (1) He who is holy, (2) He who is true, (3) ‘He who has the key of David, (4) He who opens and no one shuts, and (5) shuts and no one opens”

“I Am The “Great I AM” Who Loves You”

and this is why My love for you matters!

Everything You Need Is Found In Me.

“These Things Says”

Just those three words here grammatically and theologically establish that whoever is speaking is One of absolute authority. In other words there is no one else who is qualified or is able or has the authority or has the position or the place but this One alone who is speaking.

1.) He who (is) **holy,**

1 Peter 1:15-16

But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

Psalm 104:1-3

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are **very great**: You are **clothed with honor and majesty**, 2 Who cover Yourself **with light as with a garment**, Who **stretch out the heavens** like a curtain. 3 He lays the beams of His **upper chambers** in the waters, Who makes the clouds **His chariot**, Who **walks on the wings** of the wind,

2.) He who (is) **true,**

Revelation 6:9-10

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “*How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?*”

3.) He who (has) **the key of David**

I have told you many times that if you are of Jewish faith I would ask you to do yourself a favor. Go ahead and read all of your old testament and when you are finished skip the entire New Testament and go straight to the book of revelation.

(If you do read the book of revelation and if you would like to pick up extra credit then go back and start at Matthew Levi’s Account of Jesus Christ and just keep on reading...)

This word Spoken to Eliakim, whose Name Means;
“**God Will Set Up**” or “**God Establishes**”

Isaiah 22:22

The key of the house of David (Messiah) I will lay on his shoulder; so he shall open, and no one shall shut; and he shall shut, and no one shall open.

This is a promise made to the house of Judah

4.) He who **opens** and no one shuts,

Examples of what Doors God can Open.

Acts 14:27

Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had **opened the door** of faith to the Gentiles.

1 Corinthians 16:9

For a great and effective **door has opened** to me, and *there are* many adversaries.

2 Corinthians 2:12

Furthermore, when I came to Troas to *preach* Christ's gospel, and a **door was opened** to me by the Lord,

Colossians 4:3

meanwhile pray for us, that God would **open to us a door** for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,

5.) and He who **shuts** and no one opens”

“Because knowing who I AM is the answer for all of your life's issues and challenges and difficulties.
I am the God who is the becoming one.

“to lock tight”

MY DEAR PHILADELPHIA
I HAVE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER

2.) To remind you that **I AM your Defender**

vs.8-9

Revelation 3:8a

:8a “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it;

The Sovereign Hand of God (vs.) The Revealed Word of God.
These (2) two thoughts are actually one and the same.

The Corona-Virus Drama in the World and Your Active Faith.

The Sovereign Hand of God means #1 that as you pursue the Lord and desire to yield to the will of the Lord – He “unlocks doors”

I remember in school that the most **humble-looking man** on campus was the janitor. Yet that **janitor** had the keys to every room.

Revelation 3:8b

:8b for you have a little strength, (you) have kept My word,
and (you) have not denied My name.

This word “**little strength**” means to contend with weakness. It means to be moving forward yet aware of one’s frailty and inability. It is a statement that means that one is surrounded by opposition yet will not give up. It describes someone who knows and believes and lives in an ungodly world but keeps moving forward toward the goal, the prize – the finish-line .

This is an awesome thought. Look closely at what Jesus is saying.

“I’ve given you these open doors of opportunities and I have shut down other doors that you don’t need to be involved in. Do not worry about the fact that you have a little strength because you have stayed true to my word, my doctrine, my instruction, my commands and you have not tainted your witness nor in any way have you embarrassed Me by denying my Name.”

Revelation 3:9

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.

This “Synagogue of Satan”

Is the reference to those who had “come out” of the traditions of man-made Judaism and “embraced” Jesus as Messiah. But over time they began to gravitate back toward their human rules and rituals and legalism.

If a Jew were to read just The Scriptures only – they would naturally come to see that the Messiah is Ye’Shu’A.

Hebrews 6:4

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, (here is why) since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

“I Am The “Great I AM” Who Loves You”

and this is why My love for you matters!

He Is Our Protector & Defender.

The Church of Philadelphia had Enemies within and without. Jesus assures them that He would be the One to defend them.

The fact that, throughout all of eternity past and those from

now to forever, will on an appointed day - bow the knee in the end – and for most it will prove too late.

Philippians 2:10-11

that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

What is implied here is that, the One who is for you is the One who (1) will defend you. = I have set before you an open door.

(2) He is the One who loves you, creating in your life custom opportunities to be a witness. = and no one can shut it; for (because) you have a little strength,

(3) The One who loves you is the One who is inseparably linked to The Word = (you) have kept My word,

(4) The One who loves you is the One who is loved by you = and (you) have not denied My name.

**MY DEAR PHILADELPHIA
I HAVE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER**

3.) To remind you that **I AM your Coming One** vs.10-11

Revelation 3:10-11

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 (all) who dwell on the earth. 11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast to what you have, that no one may take your crown.

“I Am The “Great I AM” Who Loves You”

and this is why My love for you matters!

I AM Coming Again For Those Who Are Waiting For Me.

These verses are some of the most powerful and undeniable teachings on the Rapture of the Church.

Titus 2:13

Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

1 Thessalonians 1:10

Wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 2:19

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, :13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with The Trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. :17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be (raptured) caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

:9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. :10 For He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. :11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,

The Bomb !

John 14:3

And if I go (he did) and prepare a place for you, (he is) I will come again (he will) and receive you to Myself; (o.k.) that where I am, (right now in real time) there (a real place) you may be also. (so let's go)

**MY DEAR PHILADELPHIA
I HAVE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER**

4.) To remind you that I AM your Identification

vs.12-13

Revelation 3:12a

12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more.

This was a very graphic reminder to the Philadelphians. When in 17ad. a massive earthquake devastated not only Philadelphia but also Sardis and 10 other cities in the region. Fear totally gripped the people for years.

Historians write that *“Almost all that was left from the violent upheaval and the opening up of the ground were the pillars that supported the gods in their temples. The deities themselves in whom the people trusted, in the end could not support themselves and were found in ruin”*
- Ramsey

“he shall go out no more”

When that earthquake struck - it is said that many thousands were killed as they ran out of the pagan temples and shrines and places of worship to get outside and away from the massive stones falling.

Flavius Josephus tells us that people *“Refused the going into the city-center from that time forward. Instead they began to build their homes more like tents or makeshift dwellings out in the countryside and away from anything that could fall.*

“He who overcomes,
I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God”

In the Greco-Roman world the practice was that the kingdom or the realm or the empire would celebrate the life of a notable hero by inscribing their name upon a pillar. That pillar was then placed in a strategic spot or even adopted in a great temple location for all to see.

Jesus is saying – like those pillars there in Philadelphia that remained in the day of trouble – you will stand even better. There is no need for you to worry about the shaking and noise and the fear that is all around you.

Revelation 3:12b

I will (3) write on him the name of My God and (4) the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God.
And (5) I will write on him My new name

Verse 13

. :13 “He who **has an ear**, let him hear **what the Spirit says** to the church(es).” ’

“I Am The “Great I AM” Who Loves You”
and this is why My love for you matters!
I AM Coming Again For Those Who Are Waiting For Me.

End of Study