

ENDGAME

A Study On Revelation (Week #24)

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Ephesus: Promise of _____ (vs. Love Grown Cold)

Smyrna: Promise of _____ (vs. Physical Death)

Pergamos: Promise of _____ (vs. Social Compromise)

Thyatira: Promise of _____ (vs. Avoiding Confrontation)

Sardis: Promise of _____ (vs. Lack Of Significance)

PHILADELPHIA: The Promise Of An _____ (vs. _____ Door)

Revelation 3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this: **8** 'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. **9** Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you. **10** Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. **11** I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. **12** He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and 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 My new name. **13** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.' (NASB)

Revelation 3:7 "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. **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." ' (NKJ)

Revelation 3:7 "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Philadelphia. This is the message from the one who is holy and true, the one who has the key of David. What he opens, no one can close; and what he closes, no one can open: **8** "I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me. **9** Look, I will force those who belong to Satan's synagogue—those liars who say they are Jews but are not—to come and bow down at your feet. They will acknowledge that you are the ones I love. **10** "Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world. **11** I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown. **12** All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it. And I will write on them the name of my God, and they will be citizens in the city of my God—the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God. And I will also write on them my new name. **13** "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. (NLT)

Previous Churches

- Ephesus
 - Local: Political Center
(*Important, Capital, Pagan pilgrimage temple, Lost harbor*)
 - Church: Devotion, not just doctrine
 - Prophetic: Apostolic Church
 - Personal: Neglected Priorities
 - Promise To Overcomer: Eat of the Tree of Life
- Smyrna
 - Local: Commercial Center
(*City of beauty, Destroyed several times, Caesar tribute, Synagogue of Satan*)
 - Church: Endure persecution
 - Prophetic: Persecuted Church
 - Personal: Satanic Opposition
 - Promise To Overcomer: Not hurt of the Second Death
- Pergamos
 - Local: Religious Center
(*City of Satan, Multiple pagan temples, Asclepion healing temple, Treasury*)
 - Church: Purify ambassadorship
 - Prophetic: "Married" Church
 - Personal: Spiritual Compromise
 - Promise To Overcomer: Manna, Stone, New Name

- Thyatira
 - Local: Industrial Center
(*Guilds, Known for dyes (purple), Marsh area*)
 - Church: Pagan Practices (not question of if, but how much)
Shabbat, Christmas, Easter
 - Prophetic: Medieval Church
 - Personal: Pagan Practices
 - Promise To Overcomer: Power Over Nations
- Sardis
 - Local: Superficial Center
(*Unknown origin, no significance, false security, city of failure, "Walking Dead"*)
 - Church: Remember, Repent, Wake Up,
 - Prophetic: Denominational Church
 - Personal: Watchfulness, Diligence
 - Promise To Overcomer: Walk with Him in white; name not blotted out
- Philadelphia
 - Local: _____ Center
(*Youngest city, name changed several times, missionary center, held off attack*)
 - Church: Missionary Outreach
 - Prophetic: _____ Church
 - Personal: Loyal Ambassadorship
 - Promise To Overcomer: Pillar in Temple, name of God, name of His city, new name

PHILADELPHIA: PERSONAL APPLICATION

Learn about God during expositional time (Church: Sunday, Wednesday)
Develop reverence for God during your devotional time (personal)

Do not go after what God allows - go after what God prefers
Not about what I can or cannot do - what does God want me to do

He is the Holy One

- "These things saith he that is holy;"
 - He's not just saying that he is pure and holy
 - As opposed to all that is impure and unholy
 - He is claiming that He is the One from whom everything Holy _____
 - He is Holy. He is Holiness
 - Acts 13:34-37
- Only God is holy
 - He is also identifying himself as one with God the Father
 - This is our breaking point with other religions

- We do not all believe in the same God
- Our God is One and Three in One at the same time

He is the True One

- "...he that is true;"
 - The _____ of Truth
 - Not just true as opposed to that which is completely false
 - He stands in opposition to all partial truth and seeming truth
- True One above all
 - John the Baptist, "burning and shining light" John 5:35
 - Jesus, "the true Light" John 1:9
 - Manna, "bread from heaven" John 6:34
 - Jesus, "true Bread from heaven" John 6:35
 - Israel, "a vine out of Egypt" Psalm 80:8
 - Jesus, "the True Vine" John 15:1
- John 14:6 "I am the way, the Truth, and the life!"

Matthew 19:16 Someone came to Jesus with this question: "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" **17** "Why ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. But to answer your question—if you want to receive eternal life, keep the commandments." (NLT)

- He is completely God
 - He is Holy
 - He is True
 - He is the full representation of God in physical form

Isaiah 9:6 For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen! (NLT)

The Proclamation Jesus Made

- "I have opened a door for you that no one can close"
 - Launching point for spread of the Gospel
 - Opportunity for _____

The Reason for the Proclamation

- "You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me."
 - This might seem like a rebuke, it is not
 - Not spiritual weaklings, spiritual _____

- Supernatural strength
 - Greek: δύναμις (dunamis)
 - power, ability, might
- What they lacked in experience, they made up for in _____
 - Did not deny faith
 - Did not deny name of Jesus

Making Excuses

- Ever excuse yourself when giving into temptation?
 - "Nobody's perfect; everyone fails"
 - "I'm only human; no one could stand the pressure"
- We excuse our outbursts of temper
- Our yielding to lust, greed, or gluttony
- Our lack of defense of Christ when others profane His Name
- That was not what the Philadelphians did
 - They stood strong
 - They knew they weren't, but "when I am weak, He is strong."
 - And in that, they realized an intimacy with Christ

The Foundation of the Proclamation

- What was the foundation for all of this?
 - Of course, it is _____
 - He is the Foundation on which this whole enterprise of moving among the nations rests
- Whether the door is open or shut, He is the door

John 10:7 So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. **8** All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. **9** I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. (NASB)

- No man can shut that door
 - We always have access if we were in the worst prison
 - If were we sick, old, young
 - Whether we achieve much or fail at much we have access to that open door
- The door by which we enter is always open for us
 - It is only the thief and the robber which the good shepherd wishes to keep out
 - And Christ has something to say about them, too

The Proving Jesus Foresaw

- Verse 9

- Here is a definite promise
- One day they would be _____
 - One day their faith would become sight
 - Those that fought so hard against them would be forced to bow down
 - They will acknowledge the loved of God

The Promises Jesus Made

- The Promise of _____ (v 10)
 - The command that the Philadelphians obeyed...the command to persevere
 - More accurately it is not just patience, but cheerful patience
 - Being cheerfully patient signals that we are trusting and grateful

2 Corinthians 9:7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." (NLT)

- The Promise of His _____ Coming (v 11)
 - Not soon, quickly
 - Not quick enough?
 - Hold on so it's not stolen? Crown (Hope?)

Psalms 90:4 For you, a thousand years are as a passing day, as brief as a few night hours. (NLT)

- The Promise of their _____ (v 12)
 - Eliakim promised the keys - Christ is the fulfillment
 - Christ promises the keys to His church - we are the fulfillment

Isaiah 22:15 Thus says the Lord God of hosts, "Come, go to this steward, To Shebna, who is in charge of the royal household, **16** 'What right do you have here, And whom do you have here, That you have hewn a tomb for yourself here, You who hew a tomb on the height, You who carve a resting place for yourself in the rock? **17** 'Behold, the Lord is about to hurl you headlong, O man. And He is about to grasp you firmly **18** And roll you tightly like a ball, To be cast into a vast country; There you will die And there your splendid chariots will be, You shame of your master's house.' **19** "I will depose you from your office, And I will pull you down from your station. (NASB)

- Why Shebna is removed from his position?
- When you try to make a name for yourself, what are you doing?
- God gives us greater "status" than you or I could ever achieve.
- In the old economy of God, priests were established, but they died

- Even Eliakim, the one driven in like a tent stake, would be uprooted.

Revelation 3:12 All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it. *(NLT)*

Revelation 21:22 I saw no temple in it (New Jerusalem), for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. *(NLT)*

- We will be made pillars in the presence of God
- The one established in Christ is a pillar never to go out again

Revelation 3:12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and 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 My new name. *(NASB)*

Giving Of A Name

- The important and revered people were honored by having their names engraved on stone, on pillars
 - But Jesus promised that we would be the pillars
 - We would have the honor of being engraved with the names He chose
- The name of my God, to show who owns us
- The name of the city of God, to show where he owns us
- The new name of Christ which is in itself a promise of infinite worth
 - You see, we know the old names
 - Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace
 - But there is even greater in store for us
 - We will know Him by a new _____. How good must that name be?

NEXT SESSION

- Read Chapters 2 & 3
 - Outline the Letter to Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22)
 - What are the distinctives of this letter?
 - What remedies were necessary?
- Read Matthew 12 & 13
 - Why did Jesus speak in parables?
 - After chapter 12, Jesus only speaks this way, why? What happened?
 - What secrets were revealed?
 - What personal lessons were gained?