

ENDGAME

A Study On Revelation (Week #23)

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PHILADELPHIA: COOPERATE APPLICATION

Admonitory Level (to all churches)

- Ephesus - Devotion, not just doctrine
- Smyrna - Endure persecution
- Pergamos - Purify ambassadorship (stand against the world)
- Thyatira - Pagan practices
- Sardis - Watchfulness, diligence
- Philadelphia - **MISSIONARY** Outreach

Revelation 3:8 '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. (NASB)

Revelation 3:8 "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. (NKJ)

Revelation 3:8 "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. (NLT)

Commendation

- How many commendations? **7**
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.

Verse 8

- "Open doors"
 - 1 Corinthians 16:9
 - 2 Corinthians 2:12
 - Colossians 4:3
- Door(s) of **DELIVERANCE**
 - Jesus: "I Am the Door," (John 10:7, 9)
 - Noah's Ark: closed by God (Genesis 7:16; 7 days before the flood)
 - The door at the wedding (Matthew 25:1-10)
- "Not denied my name"
 - Day of denial
 - In a day when the deity of Christ is blatantly denied by seminary and pulpit
 - What kind of "ambassador" are you?
- Cults have one thing in common
 - Deny the **DEITY** of Christ

Verse 9

- "Synagogue of Satan"
 - Legalists? Deny completed work of Christ (Revelation 2:9)
 - "False Jews" = Reconstructionists?
 - Because Jews rejected the Messiah, the promises fall to the church
 - "Replacement theology" - this is NOT Biblical
 - Will be compelled to worship (Philippians 2:10,11)
- Day of Vengeance
 - Isaiah 61:2
 - Luke 4:18-20
 - 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8

Isaiah 43:1 But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. **2** When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. **3** For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I gave Egypt as a ransom for your freedom; I gave Ethiopia and Seba in your place. **4** Others were given in exchange for you. I traded their lives for yours because you are precious to me. You are honored, and I love you. **5** "Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will gather you and your children from east and west. (NLT)

Revelation 3:10 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. (NASB)

Verse 10

- "word of My perseverance"
 - "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience" (KJV)
 - "Because you have kept my word about patient endurance" (ESV)
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:5

King DAVID

- The anointed King of Israel
 - For a time exiled from his kingdom and took refuge in a cave in Adullam
 - 1 Samuel 22:1; 2 Samuel 23:13; 1 Chronicles 11:15
- Refused by his people
 - He gathered three classes of people around him
 - Men in debt, danger, and discontented
 - He transformed them into the mighty men
 - Ultimately he left Adullam for his crowning

King JESUS

- The anointed King of All
 - Anointed at birth
 - Rejected, crucified
- Today Christ is earth's rejected King
 - Those in debt, danger, and discontented, broken, hurting, sick, rejected
 - But the Anointed King will soon return to take His rightful throne
 - He will give His city—the New Jerusalem—its new name
 - Each of His own will be marked with His new name: a badge of triumph

"I will keep you"

- της ωρας
 - Greek: "Tes Horas;" THE hour, time, season
 - Does not say we will be kept from tribulation
 - I will keep you from "THE **TIME**"
- τον πειρασμου
 - Greek: "Ton Peirasmon;" THE trial, temptation, testing, adversity, tribulation
 - Does not say we will be kept from tribulation
 - I will keep you from the time of "THE **TRIBULATION**"
- της οικουμενης
 - Greek: "Tes Oikoumene;" THE inhabited world, dwelling place
 - Not **LOCALIZED** event, not a "persecution"
 - Inhabitants are included, not just the "planet"
- πειρασαι τους κατοικουντας
 - Greek: "Peirazó" To try, test, make proof
 - Greek: "Tous katoikeó" The inhabitation, Those who inhabit, live, dwell
 - Time of testing for the entirety of the world

Greek:

ὅτι ἐτήρησας τὸν λόγον τῆς ὑπομονῆς μου, κάγω σε τηρήσω ἐκ τῆς ὥρας τοῦ πειρασμοῦ τῆς μελλούσης ἔρχεσθαι ἐπὶ τῆς οἰκουμένης ὅλης, πειράσαι τοὺς κατοικοῦντας ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς.

Translation:

That you kept the word of the of perseverance of me I too you I will keep from of the of hour of the temptation of the of being about to to come upon of the of inhabited world of whole testing the residing upon of the of earth.

Revelation 3:10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, **I will keep you from** the hour of (the) trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. (ESV)

- He awaits the millennial kingdom (Psalm 110, Hebrews 10:12,13)
- One of the principal truths recovered by the evangelical movements of the 19th century was the Lord's return for His Church.

"Earth Dwellers"

- Adversaries
 - Distinctive group throughout Revelation
- NOT "dwell"
 - Greek: οἰκέω (oikeo)
 - **LIVE** in, live on reside

- "Dwell"
 - Greek: κατοικέω (katoikeo)
 - IDENTIFY with, worldlings, worldly
 - Philippians 3:20 (citizens of heaven)
 - Hebrews 11:13 (foreigners of earth)
- Geographically comprehensive
 - In the Greek it is very clear: upon all MANKIND
 - "επι της οικουμενης ολης"
- Wrath? Read Revelation 6:17 and 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:4,9
 - vs. those who "dwell on the earth"
 - Revelation 13:8; 6:10 8:13 11:10 12:12 13:8,12,14 14:6 17:8

Removal or Immunity?

- "From"
 - Greek εκ (ek) = "out of," removal
- Definite articles in Greek (they are specific, and emphatic in Greek)
 - The hour
 - The temptation
- Upon all the world (Revelation 6-19)
 - 7 year period
- Purpose
 - "to try them that dwell on earth"
- Gentile believers DURING the tribulation are not protected
 - They are killed, murdered, beheaded
 - Revelation 7:9-17; 11:7; 13:7, 15; 17:8; 20:4
 - It is not an "immunity" from these troubles
 - Believers will be "removed" from the troubles
- "...the hour of the temptation"
 - The time of the trial
 - From the period of, not only the actual tribulation (Luke 21:35-36)
 - vs. Thyatira (Revelation 2:28)

**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...]

Concern

- Note: No expression of "Concern!"
 - Only Philadelphia and Smyrna are so encouraged

Revelation 3:11 I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. (NASB)

Revelation 3:11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. (NKJ)

Revelation 3:11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown. (NLT)

Exhortation

- "Crown"
 - Revelation 2:10 crown promised Smyrna (also without "concerns")
 - Crown of **LIFE**
 - Jesus will return, just as He promised (John 14:3)
 - The subject of great importance in the following chapter!
 - When do you receive the crown? You must already have it!
 - No one can "take" something unless you already have it!
- "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!
- "Hold fast"
 - Don't need to do anything new - just HOLD ON!
 - Stay faithful, stay the course

"Let No Man Rob You"

- Firstborn
 - Esau lost his place to Jacob (Genesis 25:34; 27:36)
 - Reuben lost his place to Judah (Genesis 49:4, 8)
 - Moses (Meribah) was superseded by Joshua (Numbers 20:12; Deuteronomy 3:26-28)
 - Saul lost his place to David (1 Samuel 16:1,13)
 - Shebna lost his place to Eliakim (Isaiah 22:15-25)
 - Joab and Abiathar lost their places to Benaiah and Zadok (1 Kings 2:25)
 - Elijah was superseded by Elisha (1 Kings 19:13-16)

** Reminder: History of the city - holding fast against siege

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)

Revelation 3:12 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. (NKJ)

Revelation 3:12 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. (NLT)

Promise To The Overcomer

- "Pillar"
 - Pillar meant **SOLIDARITY**, security (especially against earthquakes)
 - 1 Kings 7:15-22
 - Jachin = "He shall establish," "In His counsel"
 - Boaz = "In him is strength."
 - For a deeper study, see The Way of Agape (Nancy & Dr. Chuck Missler)
- Name
 - Sardis had an empty name
 - "My God" Jesus says it four times (Psalm 22:1)
 - Jesus says "My God" only one other time. Where? The Cross
 - Only time Jesus did not call God "Father"
 - Why? Jesus was standing in our place
 - Revelation 2:17; 19:16; Jeremiah 23:6; Revelation 21:2
 - A name written which no one knows but He Himself (Revelation 19:12)
 - YHWH Shammah, "The Lord is there" (Ezekiel 48:35)
 - Yeshua name is preeminent (Philippians 2:9)
- No tremors here; no need to vacate in fear again

Revelation 3:13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.' (NASB)

Revelation 3:13 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' (NKJ)

Revelation 3:13 "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. (NLT)

Something To Think About

- Both Smyrna and Philadelphia have no criticism
 - Both of these cities are the ones remaining still today
 - Let's remember that each of the churches had a different perception of themselves that the Lord Himself had
- How sobering to us in our own conceits

PHILADELPHIA: PROPHETIC APPLICATION

1 Corinthians 16:8 In the meantime, I will be staying here at Ephesus until the Festival of Pentecost. **9** There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me. (NLT)

Open Doors

- Just because a door is open doesn't mean there is no opposition
 - Pray for discernment, on direction
 - If there is opposition it must be important
- Opposition does NOT mean **STOP**
 - Just because something gets difficult does NOT mean stop
 - PRESS ON, KEEP GOING
 - Asking God for direction...pray for peace (of mind, of spirit)

1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. **5** Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (NLT)

Prophetic Profile

- First three churches
 - Promises are post-scripted (after body)
- Last four churches
 - Promises are inside the body of the letter
 - Explicit reference to the coming of Christ
 - Thyatira references "Great Tribulation"
 - Sardis "unexpected return"
 - Philadelphia promises to be "removed"