

God Is Government

Isaiah 33:22

**“For the LORD is our judge, the
LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is
our KING; he will save us.”**

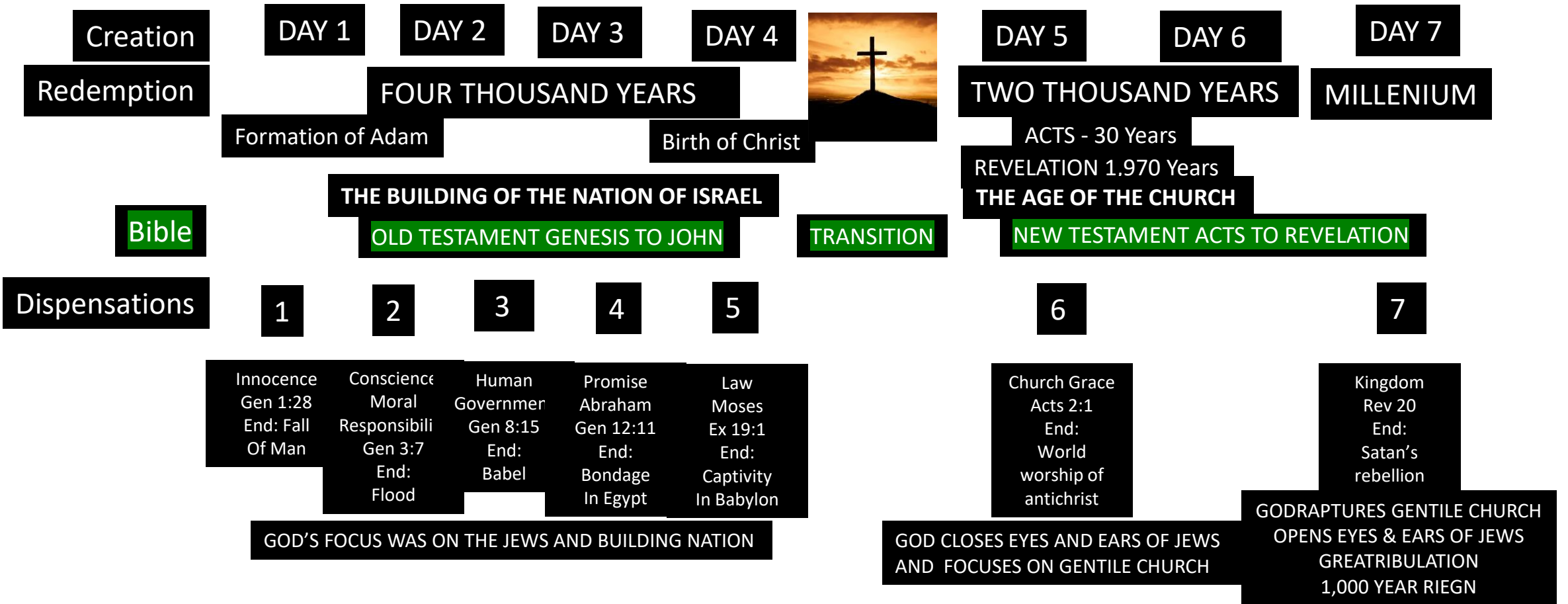
**TEACHINGS OF YESHUA HAMASHIACH
BIBLICAL AND WORLD HISTORY MASTERCLASS**

A Study of Revelation

Letter to the Church at Philadelphia

Chapter 3

April 18, 2024



The Seven Churches

- The seven churches are
 - ❖ Ephesus
 - ❖ Smyrna
 - ❖ Pergamos
 - ❖ Thyatira
 - ❖ Sardis
 - ❖ Philadelphia
 - ❖ Laodicea
- These seven, somehow are completely representative of the Church in total – the age of the church history.
- The degree, the way they are ordered, are anticipatory of history (prophetic) is astonishing!

Revelation 1:10-11 – VISION OF THE SON OF MAN

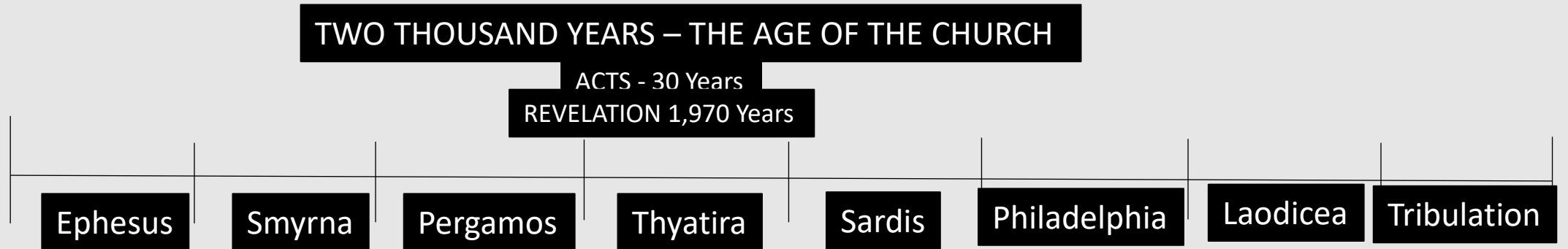
“I WAS IN THE SPIRIT.....” John says four times

- On the “day of the Lord” (At Patmos) Revelation 1:10
- To the Throne in Heaven Revelation 4:2
- Carried away in the wilderness Revelation 17:3
- Carried to a mountain Revelation 21:10

John was “in the spirit” but the key phrase here is “On the day of the LORD” (Revelation 1:10). John, through the spirit was brought forward through time and was given the ability to “SEE” what was going to happen. He was able to “SEE” “the day of the LORD,” even though he is on the island of Patmos. In chapter 4, he is in the spirit and at the throne room in heaven.

There is another phrase to pay attention to. “Thunders, voices, lightening's, and an earthquake.” The first time we see the phrase it is in regard to the Throne (Rev 4:5) and another referring to the opening of the seven seals (Rev 8:5), Trumpets (Rev 11:9) and Bowls (Rev 16:18).

REDEMPTION (REVELATION) TIMEFRAME



Revelation 1:10-11 – VISION OF THE SON OF MAN

The Seven Churches: “The Things That Are”

- There is Divine outline of the book of Revelation. The entire book is like a cover letter that is then sent to the seven churches. Each letter to the seven churches contains the same closing phrase “He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” There are four levels of interpretation or application of these seven letters:
 - ❖ **LOCAL:** There were actual churches (researched extensively by Sir William Ramsey and found these churches existed and they had problems that the letters were relevant to.)
 - ❖ **ADMONITORY:** It says “churches” meaning all of them. Each message applies to each, to some extent.
 - ❖ **HOMILETIC:** the phrase “He that hath an ear” is a personal letter that applies to us.
 - ❖ **PROPHETIC:** In their particular order they profile and lay out the history of the church. (They fill the gap implied in Daniel 9:26 and between Revelation 12:5 and 6).

Revelation 1:10-11 – VISION OF THE SON OF MAN

Seven Design Elements In Each of the Letters

- Name of the Church: Each church name proves to be significant to its particular unique message.
- Title of Christ Chosen: Jesus will select a title, from those listed in Chapter One, to represent Himself to each church, a title characteristic for the unique letter.
- Commendation: Some good news.
- Concern: the bad news.
- Exhortation: what to correct.
- Promise to the Overcomer: this will prove to be an interesting structural element.
- “He that hath an ear what the Spirit says to the churches”: the close.

Every detail will prove important: even the placement of the closing phrase will prove illuminating.

The Church at PHILADELPHIA

Historical Background – Philadelphia

The youngest of the seven cities, now known as Alashehir, was built in the area acquired by Pergamos in 189 B.C. King Eumenes II, the King of Pergamos, had a younger brother, Attalus II, who was his successor, and won the cognomen Philadelphus (“One who loves his brother”), after which the city was named, for his loyalty and affection for Eumenes. Philadelphia coins show the two brothers as completely alike in height, features and dress.

The area was well favored for wine production (Dionysus, the god of wine, was the principal deity) and the city well situated also on the imperial post road from Rome and Troas to Pergamos, Sardis and to the interior of Phrygia. It was a virtual gateway to the high central plateau of Asia Minor and thus became a missionary center for spreading the Greek language and manners into the eastern parts of Lydia and Phrygia. This missionary character of the city seems to be stressed in the letter to the church at Philadelphia. The area (called Katakekaumene, “the Burned Land”) was a highly volcanic region and suffered repeatedly from earthquakes. It was almost completely destroyed in the disaster of AD17, which devastated Sardis and ten other cities. Tremors were reported for years afterwards. Civic and economic disruption lasted for more than twenty years.

Historical Background – Philadelphia

Generous assistance and financial relief from Tiberius caused the citizens to name the rebuilt city Neo-Caesarea (“New City of Caesar”). Later, in the time of Vespasian, it was changed to Flavia, his family name. The name changes were short-lived, and the old name Philadelphia was soon revived. Today, it is called Allah Shehu, which means “city of God” (or ‘red city”). Prosperity was never fully regained. The city was under a legal jurisdiction of which Sardis was the center.

The church suffered at the hands of the large Jewish community in the city. Ignatius, the bishop of Antioch, writing to the Philadelphian church a few years after John’s Revelation, referred to the Jews, who had so long persecuted the Christians there, as being converted and trend in contrition to those whose adversity they had caused. This trend is reflected in th letter itself.

The word phile translates “friendship or affection” and delphus means “city,” in turn the name Philadelphia translates to the “friendly city,” “city of friendship,” or “friendly fellowship.” To be renamed, ultimately, in this letter to “the name of My God.”

The Church of Philadelphia

Revelation 3:7 – Title of Christ

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Who has the “Key of David?” – Christ

“HOLY”

- “Holy” (Revelation 6:10; Leviticus 11:44; 21:8; Isaiah 57:15) Song of the Seraphim (Isaiah 6:3)
- At His birth (Luke 1:35)
- At His death (Acts 2:27)
- In His present priestly office (Hebrews 7:25)

God is “Holy” and He is “True.” The “title” that Jesus picks in this letter details His character. Out of the seven letters, Philadelphia is faithful to being loyal competent ambassadors.

The Church of Philadelphia

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“TRUE”

- The word “true” is Alethinos, which means real or genuine; and alethes means “truth” in contrast to falsehood (John 17:3; 1 John 5:20)
- Prophecy of Zecharias (Luke 1:75)
- His kingship rests upon the foundation of His character (Psalm 2:24). He can be trusted! (This is opposite from the god of the Koran, which presents Allah as capricious and unpredictable) Jesus Christ delights in making and keeping His promises. His character is what He is all about. He is trustworthy.

The Church of Philadelphia

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“KEY of DAVID”

Isa 22:20 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah:

Isa 22:21 And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy government into his hand: and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah.

Isa 22:22 And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

Isa 22:23 And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house.

Isa 22:24 And they shall hang upon him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the issue, all vessels of small quantity, from the vessels of cups, even to all the vessels of flagons.

Isa 22:25 In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall the nail that is fastened in the sure place be removed, and be cut down, and fall; and the burden that was upon it shall be cut off: for the LORD hath spoken it.

The Church of Philadelphia

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“KEY of DAVID”

Eliakim is replacing Shebna, Hezekiah’s treasurer and he is given the office of treasurer of the king (Isaiah 22:19-24). He has full administrative authority. Eliakim carried a heavy key on a loop slung over his shoulder, indicating his power to grant or deny others an audience with the king. He alone provided access to the presence of the king.

Verse 22 has the same phrases Jesus is using of Himself and the illusion is Messianic (Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33; Matthew 28:18; Revelation 1:18). The “nail” and the “cross” are referred to in verse 25.

The Church of Philadelphia

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NOT “JUST TO PETER”

- “Keys to the Kingdom” given to Peter (Matthew 16:19) and to all the Apostles (Matthew 18:18)
- Door opened to Gentiles (Acts 10)
- Clarified in his first epistle (1 Peter 2:4-9)

“Keys of the Kingdom”

Mat 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

Mat 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Mat 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Mat 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

The Church of Philadelphia

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Jesus is speaking of Peter's faith. The word Petros and Peter's name means a stone. The word Petra means a rock, cliff or ledge, or large stone. Two chapters later, Jesus gives the same authority to the other apostles, so this is not unique just to Peter.

The Church of Philadelphia

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The Foundation Stone

1Pe 2:4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

1Pe 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1Pe 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

1Pe 2:7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

1Pe 2:8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

The Church of Philadelphia

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A Royal Priesthood

1Pe 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

Peter using the term “royal priesthood” is interesting as the priests were only from the tribe of Levi and royalty were from the tribe of Judah. They were to be separate and never cross. There were only three people that were both priests and kings at the same time: Melchizedek (Genesis 14; Psalm 110; Hebrews 5-7), Jesus Christ, and the church (24 Elders; Revelation 4). Peter entire presentation of “the Rock” is not himself, it is Jesus Christ.

The Church of Philadelphia

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A Royal Priesthood

Mat 18:19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

Mat 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

We have the authority and power in Christ to bind the enemy (forbid, shut the door on him) and loose his hold on us (Psalm 146:7-8). We have the authority and power to permit or open the door to give the enemy entrance and allow him to bind us (Luke 10:19)

The Church of Philadelphia

Revelation 3:8 – Commendation

I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

No expression of “Concern”! Revelation 3:8-10 lists seven commendations on how they are doing well (Only Philadelphia and Smyrna are so encouraged).

1. I know thy works; behold.
2. I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it:
3. for thou hast a little strength
4. And has kept my word,
5. And hast not denied my name.
6. Behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.
7. I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation (great tribulation), which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

The Church of Philadelphia

Revelation 3:8 – Commendation

I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

OPEN DOOR

I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it. “Open doors” are discussed throughout Scripture (1 Corinthians 16:9; 2 Corinthians 2:12; Colossians 4:3). Jesus talks about the doors of deliverance and says, “I Am the Door” (John 10:7-9). Noah’s Ark had only one door in or out, and it was closed by God seven days before the flood (Genesis 7:16). Matthew talks about the door at the wedding being open to this ready and then shut to those who were not (Matthew 25:1-10).

KEPT MY WORD

The Philadelphians keep God’s word and were loyal and steadfast (in a day of denial).

NOT DENIED MY NAME

Today, the deity of Christ is blatantly denied even by seminary, pulpits and churches. What kind of “ambassador” are we?

The Church of Philadelphia

Revelation 3:9 – Commendation

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

The Synagogue of Satan was also referred to in the letter to Smyrna (Revelation 2:9). This maybe an illusion to the Legalists and those that want to be under the law, which is denying the completed work and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The entire book of Galatians is all about the legalists. But there is another ideal of what He is referring to. He speaks of “False Jews” which maybe referring to the Reconstructionist. Most denominational churches teach a view of the scripture that because Israel rejected the Messiah, the promises she was heir to, fall upon the church has replaced Israel and this is also called replacement theology. The scripture also says they will be compelled to worship (Philippians 2:10-11). God clearly loves Israel and has not changed His mind.

The Church of Philadelphia

Revelation 3:9 – Commendation

Isa 43:1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

Isa 43:2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Isa 43:3 For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.

Isa 43:4 Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

Isa 43:5 Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;

The Church of Philadelphia

Revelation 3:10 – Commendation

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Clearly there is a day of vengeance coming (Isaiah 61:2; Luke 4:18-20; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8). But the key verse is here in verse 10. Because thou has kept the word of my patience (2 Thessalonians 3:5) is one of the most important promises you will find in the New Testament. One of the principal truths recovered by the evangelical movements of the nineteenth century was the Lord's return for His Church. For many centuries, people lost sight of this. He awaits the millennial kingdom (Psalm 110; Hebrews 10:12-13).

The Church of Philadelphia

Revelation 3:10 – Commendation

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

KING DAVID

The anointed King David of Israel, for a time was exiled from his kingdom, and took refuge, patiently waiting, in a cave in Adullam (1 Samuel 22:1-2; 2 Samuel 23:13; 1 Chronicles 11:15). He was refused by his people, as he gathers three classes of people around him: men in debt, danger, and discontented – and he transformed them into the mighty men. Ultimately after God made a way, he left Adullam for his crowning.

There is a parallel here of Jesus Christ. Today, Christ is earth's rejected King, but the Anointed King will soon return to take His rightful throne. He will give His city – the New Jerusalem – its new name, and each of His won will be marked with His new name: a badge of triumph.

The Church of Philadelphia

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KING DAVID

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation (the Great Tribulation). It is better translated from the Greek, “I will keep thee from... THE “hour,’ or “time,” of the temptation.” It is referring to the time of the trial.

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.

The Church of Philadelphia

Revelation 3:10 – Commendation

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

REMOVAL OR IMMUNITY?

- “From” in the Greek means “out of,” or “removal” (meaning we are kept “out of” the great tribulation)
- Definite articles in Greek: THE hour and THE temptation
- Upon all the world (Revelation 6-19; details the seven year period)
- Purpose: “to try them that dwell on the earth.” Gentile believers in the tribulation are not protected they are killed! (Revelation 7:9-17; 11:7; 13:7; 15; 17:8; 20:4)

The Church of Philadelphia

Revelation 3:10 – Commendation

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

“EARTH DWELLERS”

The earth dwellers are a distinctive group. The word “Dwell” means to be identified with (Philippians 3:20); Hebrews 11:13). These are earth dwellers. We are not earth dwellers, as we are just passing through. The key phrase here is *epiteo oikoumenes holes* and in the Greek, it is very clear, that it is upon all mankind and is geographically comprehensive. These are the germinated bodies we find in Genesis 1:26-27. The lucifer crowd made in the image of him both male and female.

NOTE: For more study read Revelation 6:17 and 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and 5:4-9 and compare to those who “dwell on the earth;” Revelation 13:8; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 12:12; 13:8-14; 14:6; and 17:8.

The Church of Philadelphia

Revelation 3:11 – Exhortation

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

“Quickly” means “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. There would be no “imminent” return!) Jesus will return, just as He promised (John 14:3).

There are two “Crowns” mentioned. One is Smyrna (also without “concerns”) and one here. The crowns will be the subject of great importance in the following letter to Laodicea (See Revelation 2:10) “Thy crown” is stating that they already have it! “Hold fast” tot hat which thou hast. Let no man take thy crown.

The Church of Philadelphia

Revelation 3:11 – Exhortation

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

“LET NO MAN ROB YOU”

- Esau, as the first born, lost his place to Jacob (Genesis 25:34)
- Reuben, as the first born, lost his place to Judah (Genesis 49:4-8)
- At Meribah, Moses was superseded by Joshua (Numbers 20:12; Deuteronomy 3:26-28)
- King 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)

The Church of Philadelphia

Revelation 3:11 – Exhortation

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

LOCAL APPLICATION: HOLDING FAST

During the fourteenth century, the city of Philadelphia stood alone against the entire Turkish empire as a free, self-governing Christian city in the midst of a Turkish land. Twice besieged by great Turkish armies, its people were reduced to the verge of starvation, they had learned to defend themselves, and resisted to the very end. By 1379-1390, it finally succumbed to a combined Turkish and Byzantine army. Until then, Philadelphia has held fast. Today, the few remaining Christians remain underground, as they generally have to in an Islamic country.

The Church of Philadelphia

Revelation 3:12 – Promise to the Overcomer

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

A “Pillar” was a symbol of stability because they experienced decades of tremors from earthquakes (1 Kings 7:15-22; two pillars in the temple; also see: Jachin means “He shall establish;” Boaz means “in Him is strength;” for a deeper study, see “The Way of Agape). “My God” is used four times (Psalm 22:1). No tremors here; no need to vacate in fear again.

This “new name” is written throughout the book of Revelation (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 meaning “The Lord if there” (Ezekiel 48:325). Yeshua’s name in preeminent (Philippians 2:9).

The Church of Philadelphia
Revelation 3:13

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Perspectives

Admonitory Level (to all churches)

- **Ephesus** **Devotion, not just doctrine**
- **Smyrna** **Endure persecution**
- **Pergamum** **Purify ambassadorship**
- **Thyatira** **Pagan practices**
- **Sardis** **Watchfulness, diligence**
- **Philadelphia** **Missionary Outreach**
- **Laodicea**

STAND FAST AGAINST THE WORLD!

Perspective

Personal Level (Homiletics – to each of us today)

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| ➤ Ephesus | Neglected priorities |
| ➤ Smyrna | satanic opposition |
| ➤ Pergamum | Spiritual compromise |
| ➤ Thyatira | Pagan practices |
| ➤ Sardis | Watchfulness, diligence |
| ➤ Philadelphia | Loyal Ambassadorship |
| ➤ Laodicea | |

STRENGTHEN, PURIFY YOUR AMBASSADORSHIP. AND ACCURATELY REPRESENT YOUR KING!!!!!!

Perspective

Promises to the Overcomer

- **Ephesus** **Eat of the Tree of Life**
- **Smyrna** **Not hurt of the Second Death – satan’s grave of the fiery pit**
- **Pergamum** **Manna, Stone (DNA change) New Name (Name in Lamb’s Book of Life – your ticket to heaven)**
- **Thyatira** **Power over nations**
- **Sardis** **Walk with Him in white; name**
- **Philadelphia** **Pillar in Temple, name of God, name of His city, new name**
- **Laodicea**

Who is the “Overcomer”?

1Jn 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

1Jn 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

The Church of Philadelphia Prophetic Profile

Philadelphia represents the Missionary Church

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Name of the Church	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Title of Christ Chosen	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Commendation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	
Concern	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	
Exhortation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Promise to the Overcomer	PS	PS	PS	BODY	BODY	BODY	
“He that hath an ear what the Spirit says to the churches”	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

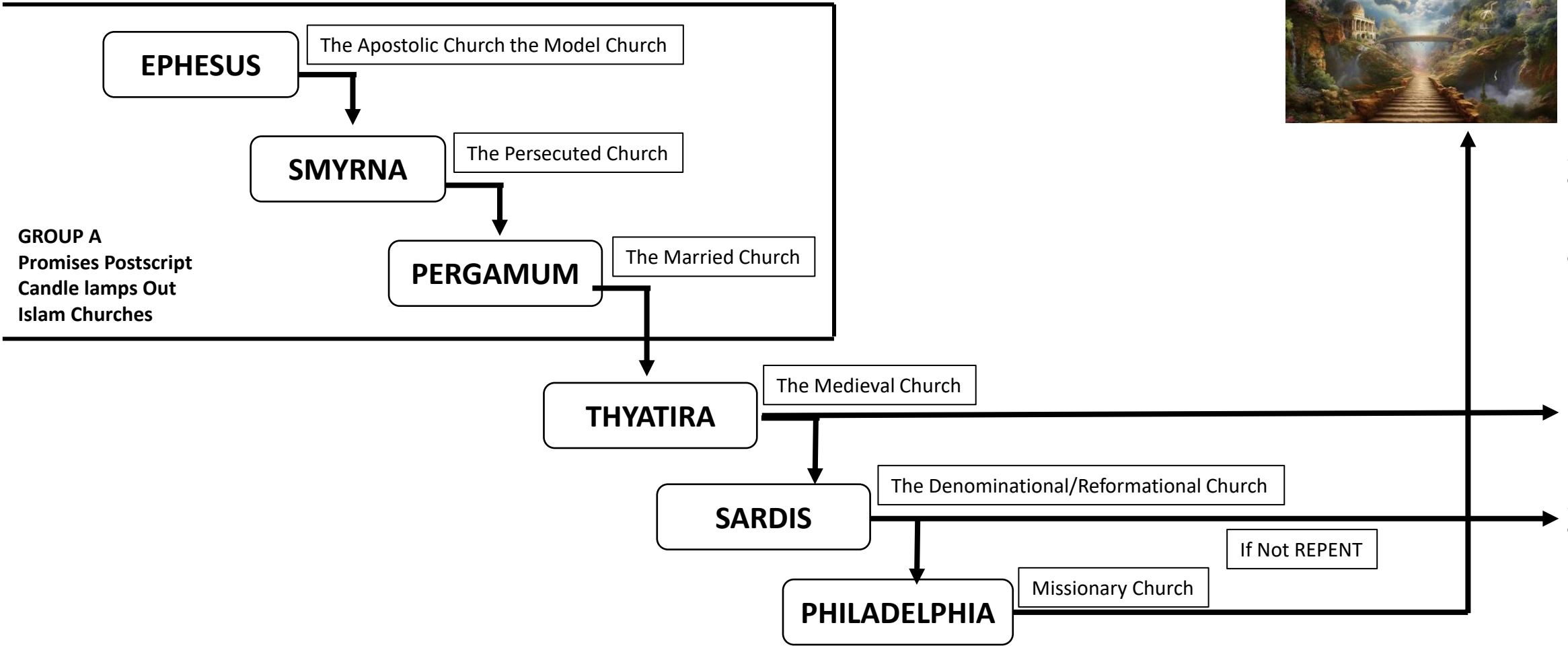
PS – Means that the Promise to the Overcomer was made after the body of the letter.

BODY – Means that the Promise to the Overcomer was made part of the letter to the churches.

Prophetic Profile of the Seven Churches



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GROUP A
Promises Postscript
Candle lamps Out
Islam Churches

If Not REPENT

Study Assignment

- Always pray first before asking to open your minds to God's reveal for you
- Have a relationship with the Author of everything – Jesus Christ
- Set aside your personal presuppositions
- Take good notes
- Start and Continue to update your personal private journal
- Read the book of Revelation each week
- Read the chapters 2 and 3.
- Download the Word Doc handout and outline the Church of Laodicea.
- From the Handout Outline the Church of Ephesus.