



CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

<p>7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of <u>the holy one, the true one</u>, who has the <u>key of David</u>, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.</p>	<p>*Holy (agios) can mean 'set apart' (Jesus is God's one and only Son) or 'morally pure' (Jesus never sinned). True (alethinos) can mean 'genuine' (Jesus is the real Messiah) or 'reliable' (Jesus is faithful to keep His promises). As titles, both The Holy One and The True One are used for God. So, this also reflects Jesus' divinity.</p> <p>*Jesus having the key of David means that He has complete authority to admit or prohibit entrance into the city of David, the New Jerusalem (both ways to describe God's Kingdom in the future).</p>
<p>8 I know your works. Behold, I have set before you <u>an open door</u>, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have <u>not denied my name</u>.</p>	<p>Encouragement</p> <p>*Christians were often excommunicated from the local Jewish synagogues (John 9:29). So, this open door that no one could shut would remind them that they have access into God's Kingdom. The open door could also refer to an opportunity for witnessing because of Philadelphia's strategic location on trade routes.</p> <p>What open doors do you have? What open doors does our church have?</p> <p>*Some Jews tried to force Christians to be circumcised and follow all the laws of Moses. They thought these external regulations made them God's people (Galatians 1:6-7; 3:1-6). But Jesus taught that only those who are born from above are truly members of God's Kingdom (John 3). The church in Philadelphia would not deny Christ by disregarding His teachings.</p> <p>Has there ever been a time that you failed to mention something about your relationship with Jesus because you were afraid of the other person's reaction?</p>
<p>9 Behold, I will make those of the <u>synagogue of Satan</u> who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and <u>they will learn that I have loved you</u>.</p>	<p>Hope</p> <p>*Those who trusted in Jesus were persecuted by the Jews who thought Jesus was not the Messiah. So, Christians were kicked out of the synagogues which Jesus says are under Satan's dominion.</p> <p>*The passages, Isaiah 45:14, 60:14, 49:23, Ezekiel 37:28, and 36:23, show that the Jews expected the Gentiles to finally acknowledge that the Jews were in fact God's people. Here this is reversed and the Jews will acknowledge that Christians</p>



BLUEPRINTS OF A DANGEROUS CHURCH
STUDY KEY

	are the true people of God. (A Commentary of the Revelation of John by George Ladd)
10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the <u>hour of trial</u> that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.	Encouragement, Hope *The hour of trial could refer to the tribulation before the return of Christ or some other specific time of suffering and persecution that happened around that time.
11 I am <u>coming</u> soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your <u>crown</u> .	Hope *For the churches in Ephesus (2:5), Pergamum (2:16), and Sardis (3:3), Christ's coming was part of the warning to them, but for the church in Philadelphia it is part of their hope. *Their crown is the reward for their discipline, diligence and patient endurance. It is eternal life with Christ.
12 The one who conquers, I will make him a <u>pillar</u> in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will <u>write on him the name</u> of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. 13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'	Hope *The image of a pillar in God's temple represents honor, stability and permanence. This would have significant meaning for a city like Philadelphia that experienced devastating earthquakes which caused people to flee to temporary housing. *Having the name of God, His city and the new name of Jesus represents fellowship and identification with Christ.