

Revelation 3:7-20 Two Doors

Today we celebrate 80 years as a church and the completion of the Bible, and so we look at two other churches. One church has an open door, the other a closed one. Which church are we going to be?

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*Warner Salman- Christ at Heart's Door

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Shebna & Eliakim: Isaiah 22:15-25

Isaiah 22:22 — The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open.

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Luke 12:20-21 — “But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Luke 19:24 — “And he said to those who stood by, ‘Take the mina from him, and give it to him who has ten minas.’

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Ephesians 2:10 — For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

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Oh do not lose heart and hope in useless weeping over the closed doors of the past. Follow Him, who has the keys.” (Meyer)

Romans 8:28-29 — And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

-For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

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“for you have a little strength”

Strength = dynamis(δύναμις); 77x/120x = power, 7x = strength.

-Comes from the root verb dynamai meaning "to be able or capable to do/accomplish something."

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"Because you have kept My command to persevere,"

preserve = hypomonē(ὑπομονή); steadfastness, constancy, endurance, perseverance

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*Packer- History is His story.

1930's: Hitler begins rearming Germany in violation of the Treaty of Versailles.

-March 1938: Germany annexes Austria.

-September 1938: Munich Agreement – Britain and France allow Hitler to take the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia

-March 1939: Germany takes the rest of Czechoslovakia.

-September 1, 1939: Germany invades Poland.

-September 3, 1939: Britain and France declare war on Germany – World War II begins.

September 1939 – April 1940: "The Phoney War"

-April 1940: Blitzkrieg warfare begins.

-Germany invades Denmark and Norway. Britain attempts to defend them, but retreats and Neville Chamberlain resigns as Prime Minister

-May 10, 1940: On the same day, Churchill becomes PM, Germany attacks France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.

-Late May 1940: German forces bypass the Maginot Line and trap the Allied armies.

-May 26–June 4, 1940: Operation Dynamo

-The battle for Europe was lost, and the Battle of Britain was about to begin.

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June 4, 1940

"We Shall Fight on the Beaches"

When, a week ago today, I asked the House to fix this afternoon as the occasion for a statement, I feared it would be my hard lot to announce the greatest military disaster in our long history. I thought-and some good judges agreed with me-that perhaps 20,000 or 30,000 men might be re-embarked... [330,000 were saved]

I have, myself, full confidence that if all do their duty, if nothing is neglected, and if the best arrangements are made, as they are being made, we shall prove ourselves once again able to defend our Island home, to ride out the storm of war, and to outlive the menace of tyranny, if necessary for years, if necessary alone...

We shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight them on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender"

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July 10, 1940: The Luftwaffe begins attacks on shipping and coastal targets. Operation Sea Lion has begun.

-The RAF had approximately 640 planes compared to the 2,500 German planes.

-The RAF had few planes, but even fewer pilots.

-August 13-19th: Hitler begins "Eagle Attack" and 1,800 sorties per day take off.

"We were desperately short of pilots. At that stage in the Battle of Britain, August into September ... They came straight to a squadron ... then they'd go off for one solo practice flight ... and then they were into battle. The answer is, of course, that they didn't last."

"Exhausted. Too tired even to think straight. But you can't stop. You go when the phone rings, no matter what. And always, at the back of your mind, you know that one of you won't be coming back."

"The average life-expectancy of a Spitfire pilot was four weeks. I got used to close friends never returning... All the best ones seem to go first."

"It was nothing to end up the day with five aeroplanes, having started with 12"

"We did nothing but take off; shoot at the enemy aircraft; land, try to go to sleep; take off again; do exactly the same: three, four, five times a day. That was our life. The Battle of Britain to me was just a horrendously tough rugby match in which the penalty of losing was death..."

"One was called about four in the morning and you went down to dispersal in the half light ... then you generally scrambled about seven or eight o'clock for the first raid. And then you came back, refuelled and rearmed ... then you got scrambled again and had another battle, and probably a third in the afternoon or evening ... One night I went off after a raid ... I think I went to sleep in the cockpit ... the speed was building up and there were lights in front of me ... I realised I was upside down ... This was entirely due to fatigue."

"During the Battle of Britain we knew that we were outnumbered. But the pilots still went into the skies to protect us anyway." - Grounds crew

*Churchill- "Never before in the field of human conflict have so many owed so much to so few."

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In one lonely RAF outpost, a group of fighter pilots was gathered in the mess hall. It was a scene often repeated in those days. The men were worn out with fatigue, they were dirty and disheveled, their eyes were bleary, and beards sprouted on their chins. They were snatching a moment's relaxation before climbing the skies again to fight off more of the Nazi airwolves.

Suddenly a buzzer sounded, and a voice came over the intercom from the operations room. "Bandits at fifteen thousand feet over P25. Over!" At once the pilots were on their feet and racing for the runways. Pausing on his way, the exhausted squadron leader barked back into the intercom one short reply: "Message received and understood."

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Ephesians 6:12 — For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 — For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

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2 Timothy 2:4 — No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please Him who enlisted him as a soldier.

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So Many Similarities

America would remain on the sidelines for over another year as Britain fought for existence.
-On December 7, 1941, all that would finally change.

*"I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve,"
-Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto

** Ravenhill "At this grim hour, the world sleeps in the darkness — and the Church sleeps in the light."

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**“They should all know this: if you thought that my husband's mission was powerful before, you have no idea. You have no idea what you just have unleashed across this entire country and this world.” -Erika Kirk

**“the text does not say, ‘If the church will open the door,’ but ‘If any man hear my voice and open the door.’ It must be done by individuals: the church will only get right by each man getting right.” Spurgeon

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THREE STEPS:

- STEP 1- Be sure you have opened the door to let Jesus in.
- STEP 2- Walk through the open doors that God is giving you.
- STEP 3- Expect warfare...