

Revelation and Daniel – Revelation 3:7-13

Church and Passage	Characterization Verse 7	Commendation Verses 8-10	Criticism	Charge Verse 11	Consequence Verse 12
Philadelphia 3:7-13	He who is holy, true, has David's key, and permanently opens and shuts	Their deeds, a little power, they had kept His word, they had not denied His name, and had persevered	None	Hold fast what you have	Made a pillar in God's temple that will endure, have the names of God, His city, and Christ written on him

Philadelphia – Founded by a Pergamenian king, Attalus II (159-138 B.C.). The town received its name from his nickname, “Philadelphus” or “brother lover.” This king had a special devotion to his brother, Eumenes II.

The city stood in a wine-producing area and was the so-called gateway to central Asia Minor. The modern name of this town is Alasehir.

Christ:

He who is holy – In birth, Luke 1:35, in death, Acts 2:27, and in resurrection Hebrews 7:26.

He who is true – John 1:14, 14:6, 1 John 5:29
Revelation 6:10, 15:3, 16:7, 19:11

He who has the key of David – Jesus has authority as supreme ruler. Note Isaiah 22:20-23, Luke 1:32-33

He who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens – Jesus has sovereign control over the opportunities He gives to each church

Commendation:

- Their deeds
- They have kept His word
- They have not denied His name

Open door – The opportunity to be a spiritual blessing

A little power – Their limited influence because of their small number

Those of the synagogue of Satan (the Jews) will ultimately have to acknowledge that Christians are indeed the true followers of God. They will realize that God has loved those who are not Jews by birth.

The future repentance of Israel at Messiah's Second Coming will result in the Jew's respectful treatment of “Gentile believers.”

I will keep you from (Greek - *ek*, out of) *the hour of testing* –

A reference to the rapture of the church
Whole world – The Greek is not *kosmos* but a word that means “the inhabited earth” or all those who dwell upon the earth.

To test those who dwell upon the earth – The tribulation period will be the greatest time of testing the world has ever known.

Criticism – None

Charge:

I am coming quickly – This will be an imminent event that will come suddenly and unexpectedly.

Hold fast to what you have – Continue in the good deeds and faith for which they have already been commended.

In order that no one take your crown – Crowns are rewards for believers who serve faithfully.

Consequence:

I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God – This most likely refers to a position of closeness and prominence in God's eternal kingdom. In the new heavens and earth there is no temple (Revelation 21:22) as the Lord God, and the Lamb are its temple.

I will write upon him... Writing one's name on something indicates ownership.

-*The name of My God*

-*The name of the city of My God*

-*My new name* - Perhaps the name mentioned in Revelation 19:12 or 19:16, “*King of Kings and Lord of Lords.*”