

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION 23

*The Church at Philadelphia*

*Pressing Through the Open Door*

I. (Rev. 3:7-13 NKJV) <sup>7</sup> "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": <sup>8</sup> "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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." "

A. The key of David in (v.7) signifies the authority Jesus has as the heir of David's throne, over all the earth.

1. Keys were emblems of authority in ancient times.

2. Since He is the highest authority, what He opens no one can shut, and what He shuts, no one can open. (Isa. 22:22 NKJV) *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.*

B. Jesus set before them and open door in (v.8).

1. He was pleased with their works and so He had opened a door for the preaching of the Word to them. (Col 4:3 NKJV) <sup>3</sup> *meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains.*

2. When God opens a door for the Word He makes a great opportunity available, and His people must be faithful to seize the opportunity and press through that door by faith to advance the Kingdom of God.

C. Three reasons the Lord had opened the door for them.

1. They had a little strength. (v. 8).

a. Some of the other churches He spoke to did not even have a little strength.

b. They had lost their first love, permitted compromise, become luke warm, and on o these churches was at the point of death.

c. This is why revival in the church is so essential. Until these issues are death with, a church cannot go through the open door.

2. They had kept His Word. (v.8). They were holding fast in faith to the Word of God and were obeying it.

3. They had not denied His Name. (v.8). They were holding fast to the Name of Jesus and confessing Him as the Son of God before men.

D. He commanded them to persevere. ( v. 10)

1. Jesus has commanded us to persevere in faith until the end of our lives on earth.

2. Those who continue in faith in Jesus will be kept from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world to test those who dwell on the earth.

3. Not an hour of trial, but the specific hour of trial. Believers are currently experiencing trials and there have been seasons of persecution throughout the church age.

4. The word "hour" is not referring to 60 minutes but to an unparalleled period of time, coming in the future on everyone dwelling on the earth.

5. The word "from" means out of in the Greek. Jesus will keep believers "out of" this period of time known as the Tribulation Period, the last 7 years of this age, because they are faithfully enduring trials and tribulations now, and keeping His command to persevere in faith.

6. The Tribulation Period will come upon those dwelling on the earth; the whole world.

7. The way Jesus will keep us out of this period is by means of rapture. (Luke 21:34-36 NKJV) <sup>34</sup> "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. <sup>35</sup> For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

E. The Lord is coming quickly! (v. 11).

1. Therefore, we are to hold fast what we have until He comes for us or we go

to heaven, whatever the case may be. (v. 11)

2. We are commanded to hold fast our strength, hold fast His Word, and hold fast His Name.

3. If we allow anyone to deceive us out of our faith in Jesus, we will lose our crown.

4. That means we will not be saved and reign with Christ.

5. The saved are the crowned of (Rev. 2:10b NKJV) ...*Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*