

Thyatira & Philadelphia 9-14-2025 Seven Letters - Part 4

September 11, 2025

Seven Letters / Seven Churches Part Four

Thyatira

The Corrupt Church
Revelation 2:18-29

Philadelphia

The Faithful Church
Revelation 3:7-13



Thyatira - The Corrupt Church

1. Jesus identifies Himself as the Son of God with eyes like a flame of fire and feet like fine brass
2. Unlike the first three churches, Thyatira was a smaller church
3. The city was full of “blue collar” workers
 - a. Numerous trade guilds (Textile dyers, leather workers, potters, copper and bronze smiths, and blacksmiths)
 - b. The guilds functioned like unions but also included social and religious activities
 - c. The guilds were very “close-knit” groups
 - d. One’s economic wealth and status depended upon their relationship with their guild
4. The Temple to Apollo (the Greek sun god) was located in

Thyatira

- a. Apollo was considered the son of god - god of poetry, music and immorality
- b. The temple to Apollo was not just a religious center, but it was at the center of the culture and the guilds of Thyatira
5. Early Christian Church in Thyatira
 - a. Jesus noted their works, love, service, faith and patience
 - b. It was a church on the move - Jesus said their last works are more than their first. This was not a waning church.
6. Jesus said, "I have a few things against you"
 - a. That woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess...
 - b. In the Old Testament (I Kings) Jezebel is wicked wife of King Ahab - one of the most wicked kings Israel ever had
 - c. Jezebel undermined the authority of her husband. She manipulated the Kingdom and drove out the priests. She brought in false prophets and priest to enable the worship of the false god Baal.
7. Jezebel represents a spirit that is still at work in the world today
 - a. Although it is named after the queen, it can work through men or women
 - b. This spirit opposes and undermines authority
 - c. This spirit seeks to remove unwanted authority
 - d. This spirit manipulates from behind the scenes
 - e. This spirit intimidates
 - f. This spirit is defiant and prideful
 - g. This spirit is seductive - trying to get others to go along
 - h. This spirit will interrupt a work setting, it will destroy a marriage, it will split a church and it's about to bring our nation to the point of civil war!
8. If my people...II Chronicle 7:14

Philadelphia - The Faithful Church

1. Jesus identifies Himself as the one who is holy and who is true
2. When the Romans began persecuting the early Christians, they began to scatter throughout the known world and would settle into cities like the one here in Philadelphia.
3. At first, the Jews would let them worship in the Synagogues, but when they began to teach and preach that Jesus was the Son of

God and that in Him was Salvation, the Jews began to kick them out.

4. They closed the doors. They would check to see if you were a Jew or Christian before you were allowed inside.
5. So the letter to the Church at Philadelphia is a beautiful letter of encouragement to the church.
6. Jesus said
 - a. I have the key of David
 - b. I have the ability to open and shut doors
 - c. I see your works and have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it
 - d. You have kept My word
 - e. You have not denied My name
7. I will make you a pillar in the temple of My God - an eternal unmovable pillar
8. I will write on you the name of My God and they will be citizens in the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God
9. I will write on him My new name