THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Revelation 3:7-13 (PART 4)

"Philadelphia - The Faithful Church!"

> The seven churches and their historical reference:

(2:1-7) *Ephesus*- The Apostolic Church (1st Century)
(2:8-11) *Smyrna*- The Martyr Church (A.D. 100 – A.D. 314)
(2:12-17) *Pergamum* - The Worldly Church (A.D. 314 – A.D. 590)
(2:18-29) *Thyatira*- Church of the Dark Ages, "Romanism" (A.D. 590 – A.D. 1000- continues today)
(3:1-6) *Sardis*- The Protestant Church, "Reformation" (A.D. 1517 – A.D. 1800)
(3:7-13) *Philadelphia*- The Revived or Faithful Church (A.D. 1800 to Rapture)
(3:14-22) *Laodicea*- The Apostate Church (Last Days & into the Great Tribulation)

>TWELVE KEYS FOR THE PHILADELPHIA FAITHFUL:
> KEY # 1 - (v7a) Philadelphia – "Brotherly LOVE"
> KEY #2 - (v7b) Jesus is *"HOLY"*
> KEY #3 - (v7c) Jesus is *"TRUE"*
> KEY #4 - (v7d) Jesus has the *"KEY OF DAVID"*
> KEY # 5 - (v7e) Jesus provides an *"OPEN DOOR"*
> KEY #6 – (8a) Jesus has given the church of Philadelphia an *"open door"* and the church has a *"little strength"* to preach the gospel in the last days.
(v8b) Jesus said this church *"KEPT HIS WORD"*

> KEY #7 - (v8c) Jesus said this church had *"NOT DENIED HIS NAME"*
> KEY #8 - (v9) Jesus reveals a *Synagogue of Satan and liars:*
> KEY #9 - (v10) Jesus will *"KEEP"* His Bride, the Church, from the *"HOUR OF TRIAL"* - The word *KEEP* in Greek is *Tereo*, which is a verb, an action to be kept for Jesus, and preserved from the Tribulation. *it is used of the "keeping" power of God the Father and Christ, exercised over His people*.

- What is the *"HOUR OF TRIAL"* – The *"HOUR OF TRIAL" is* also known as the *"The Tribulation or also called the Great Tribulation"* (ref. - Rev. Ch. 6 – 19) – Jesus said in Matthew 24:21-22 - *For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.*

- True Christians will not go through the 7-year Tribulation, they will be *raptured* to heaven! (Matt. 24:36-51; Matt. 25:1-13; John 14:1-4; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:13-17)

> <u>KEY #10 - (v11a) CHRISTIANS be ready for the RAPTURE!</u>
<u>"BEHOLD I COME QUICKLY!"</u>
– The Greek word for *quickly* is *tachu* (takh-oo'); meaning *shortly, i.e., without delay, soon, or (by surprise) suddenly, or (by implication, of ease) readily.* Our Lord's statement continues to confirm the <u>*doctrine of imminence*</u>, that is, <u>Christ coming for His church at any moment.</u>

- <u>Note the *doctrine of imminence* in the following New Testament passages</u>:
• 1 Corinthians 1:7 - *"awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,"*
• 1 Corinthians 16:22 - *"Maranatha."* - (*Our Lord, come!*)
• Philippians 3:20 - *"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;"*
• Philippians 4:5 - *"The Lord is near."*
• 1 Thessalonians 1:10 - *"to wait for His Son from heaven,"*
• 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 - *"For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of {the} archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."*
• 1 Thessalonians 5:6 - *"so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober."*
• 1 Timothy 6:14 - *"that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,"*
• Titus 2:13 -*"looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;"*
• Hebrews 9:28 - *"so Christ . . . shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him."*
• James 5:7-9 - *"Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. . .. for the coming of the Lord is at hand. . .. behold, the Judge is standing right at the door."*
• 1 Peter 1:13 - *"fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."*
• Jude 21 - *"waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life."*
• Revelation 3:11; 22:7, 12, 20 - *"'I am coming quickly!'"*
• Revelation 22:17, 20 - *"And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let*

the one who hears say, 'Come.'" "He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming quickly.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

~ The *doctrine of imminence* disproves mid-tribulation, and post-tribulation rapture ideas.

> In regard to the RAPTURE three questions must be answered:

#1 - What is the RAPTURE?
#2 - When will the RAPTURE happen?
#3 - The RAPTURE, are you ready?

> Answer to Question #1 - What is the RAPTURE?

- First, let us read to 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

- Observe four secrets unveiled in this mystery (v51-54):
(1) *We shall not all sleep* (die);
(2) *We shall be changed* (to make different);
(3) *In a moment* (Gk. - *atomoo* – an atom of time);
(4) *This corruption* (decayed, perishable) *puts on incorruption* (unending existence, genuineness), *this mortal puts on immortality* (deathlessness). This all happens in *the twinkling of an eye*, faster than a wink! Are you listening for *the trumpet of God?*

- Second, let us turn to 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- In verses 13–14 we have hope for those who have died as believers, they are already with Jesus in heaven! - Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 - *So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.*
(Stephen, the first martyr of the church shares in Acts 7:55-58 - *But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him.*)

- Notice in verse 17 that we are *"caught up"* is *harpazo* in Greek, it means to *"to catch up or grasp hastily, to snatch up, to lift, to transport, or to rapture."* In the Latin Vulgate we have the word "rapturo," thus the term in English "rapture." In verse 18 we are called to *"comfort one another with these words."*

- Let us continue in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11. This day will come like a *"thief in the night"* (v2). *God has not appointed us to wrath* (the great tribulation) *but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ* (v9). As with all early Christians, Paul believed the event was near (cf. Rom. 13:11; 1 Cor. 6:14; 10:11; 16:22; Phil. 3:20,21; 1 Tim. 6:14; Titus 2:13).

> Answer to Question #2 - When will the RAPTURE happen?

- The rapture will happen when the gospel has gone out to the entire world (Matthew 24:14).

- The rapture will happen when Israel has become a nation once again (Matthew 24:32-35).

- The rapture will happen when the world is full of sin and corruption like the *"days of Noah"* (Matthew 24:36-39)

- The rapture will happen when there is a revived Roman Empire; today we have the European Union, which is the revived Roman Empire (Daniel Ch. 7 & Ch. 9).

- The rapture will happen at the conclusion of the church age (Rev. Ch. 2 & Ch. 3); the last days church will become *lukewarm* (Rev. 4:14-22) and *apostate* (to fall away from the faith, which is the Word of God - 2 Thessalonians Ch. 2).

- Turn to Revelation Ch. 3:7-13, pay close attention to verse 10.

After the rapture then comes the *"Great Tribulation"* (Matthew 24:15-28), also known as the *"day of Jacob's trouble"* (Jer. 30:7) (Jacob represents Israel). Daniel 12:1 reads *"And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time."*

- Once the church is raptured there will be the revealing of the Antichrist, Paul writes in 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8 - *And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed* ("He" is the Holy Spirit working through the church, of which we are removed from earth, and all restraints against "lawlessness" are removed.)

- Chuck Smith writes, "Why is this Great Tribulation coming? The Scripture says that its purpose is threefold: (1) *to try men who dwell upon the earth* (Rev. 3:10); (2) *that God might vent His wrath upon the wicked* (Rev. 15:7); (3) *to destroy those who destroyed the earth* (Rev.

11:18). Those who fall in one or all of these categories will be on the earth to experience the Tribulation period."

> Answer to Question #3 - The RAPTURE, are you ready?

- The PROMISE!

– John 14:1-3 - ***"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know."***

- The PRECEDENCE! (the law of first mention)

– Enoch was taken before the wrath of God was poured out in the Global flood of Noah's time (Genesis Ch. 6 – 9); (Genesis 5:24 - ***And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.*****); Lot removed before God's wrath came upon Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis Ch. 19).**

- Be PREPARED!

– Let us turn to Matthew 24 :40-51 - the word ***"taken"*** **in verses 40-41 is** ***para lombanomi*****, this Greek word is also found in Mt. 1:24 when Joseph** ***takes*** **Mary as his bride; and in Mt. 17:1 when Jesus** ***took*** **Peter, James and John to the Mt. of Transfiguration and was glorified; also John 14:3 –** ***"I will come again and take you unto myself that where I am there you may be also."***

- Notice, a bride is taken like the church to Christ; up to glory (the Mt.), the bride glorified in heaven; and we are forever with the Lord.

- REJOICE IN THE RAPTURE!

Philippians 3:20-21 - ***For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.***

> KEY #11 – (v11b) Jesus gives all believers a ***"CROWN!"***

- James 1:12- ***Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.***

- 2 Timothy 4:8- ***Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.***

- 1 Peter 5:4- ***when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.***

> <u>KEY #12 – (v12) Jesus gives His church "PHILADELPHIA" a "*FUTURE!*"</u>
- *"pillar"* = speaks of strength;
- *"go out no more"* = speaks of security;
- *"name of My God"* = speaks of Sustainer (I Am);
- *"name of the city, the New Jerusalem"* = meaning "City of Peace;"
- *"His new name"* - Old name- Jesus = Joshua = Jehovah is Salvation!

- <u>Possible new name ideas are found in Revelation 19:11-16</u> - ***Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was <u>called Faithful and True</u>, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. <u>He had a name written that no one knew except Himself</u>. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and <u>His name is called The Word of God.</u> And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh <u>a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.</u>***