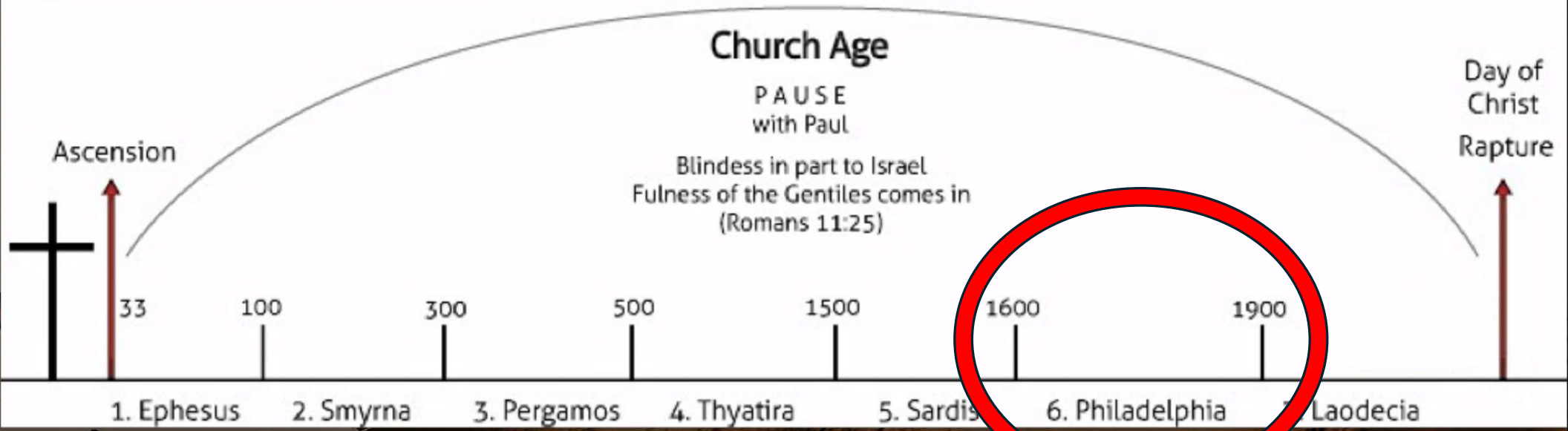
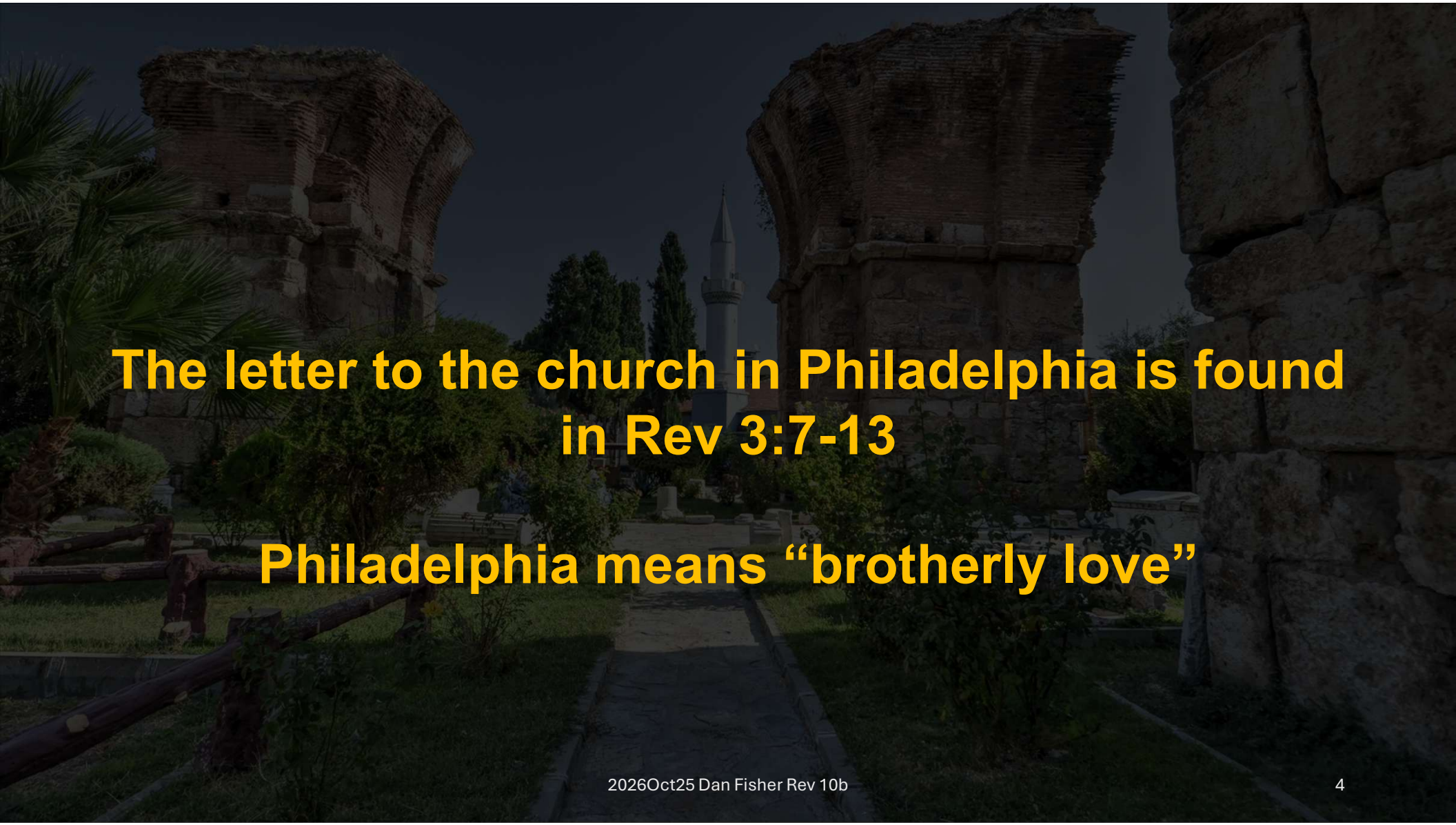
REVELATION
A STORY OF THE LAST DAYS
CHURCH
OPEN
TODAY
Part 10: Philadelphia –
the church with an open door

Message to the Seven Churches
Pergamum
Thyatira
Sardis
Philadelphia
Smyrna
Ephesus

Message to the Seven Churches

History of the Church




The letter to the church in Philadelphia is found in Rev 3:7-13
Philadelphia means “brotherly love”

3:7 – the Author introduces Himself

- He who is holy
- He who is true
- He who has the key of David
- He who opens and no shuts & who shuts and no one opens

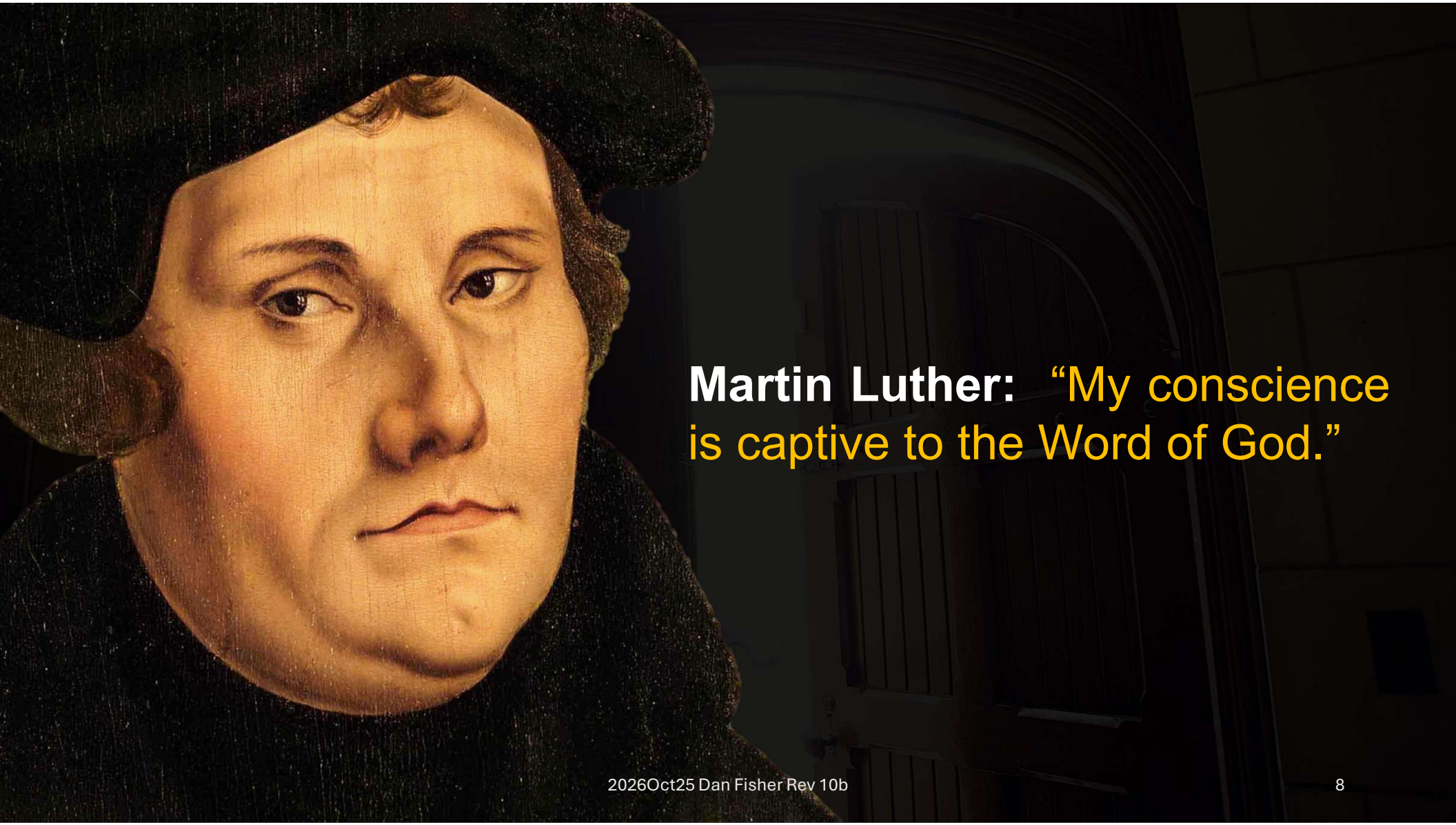
3:8 – what Jesus emphasized about the church

- They had an open door before them
- They had a little power (they were a small church)

- **They had kept Jesus' word**

"Jesus answered him, 'If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.[24] Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.'" Jn 14:23-24

"You are my friends if you do what I command you." Jn 15:14


Martin Luther: “My conscience is captive to the Word of God.”

- **They had not denied His name**

"Here is the patience [endurance] of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." Rev 14:12

"but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven." Mt 10:33

"They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work." Titus 1:16

- **They had kept Jesus' command to persevere**

"the one who endures to the end will be saved." Mt 24:13

"For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised." Heb 10:36

"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." 2 Tim 2:3

"May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ." 2 Thess 3:5

- **They had kept Jesus' command to persevere**

"For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness" 2 Pet 1:5-6

"Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. 4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood." Heb 12:3-4

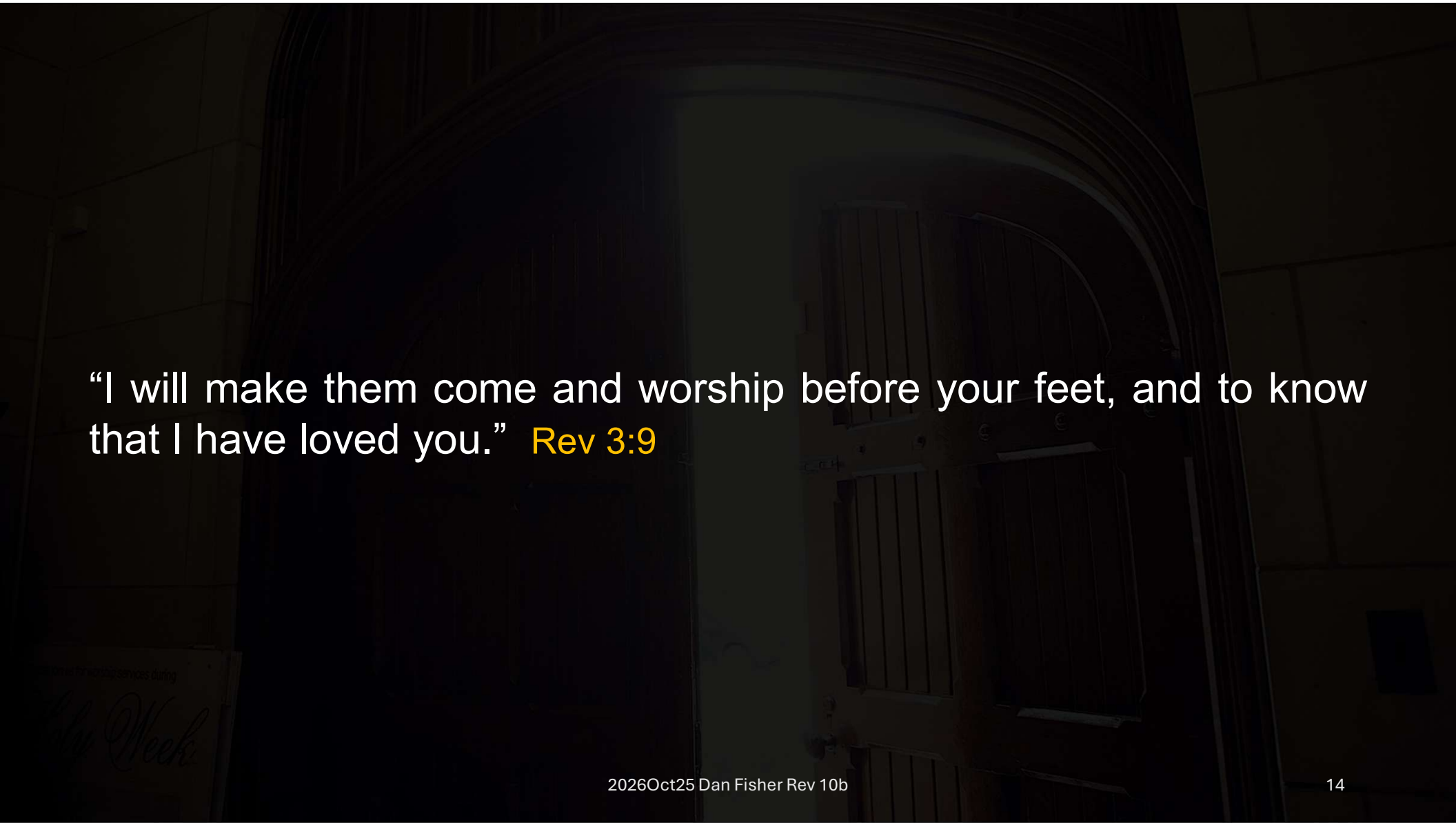
3:9 – Fake believers will be revealed

“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.” Rev 3:9

Philadelphia believers faced the same challenge as those in Smyrna (Rev 2:9)

“For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. **29** But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.” Rom 2:28-29

“For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, **7** and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” **8** This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.” Rom 9:6-8



“I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.” Rev 3:9

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you” **1 Pet 5:6**

3:10 – What is “the hour of temptation”?

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.” Rev 3:10

The key phrases of verse 10:

- “keep you from”
- “hour of temptation which shall come upon the whole world”

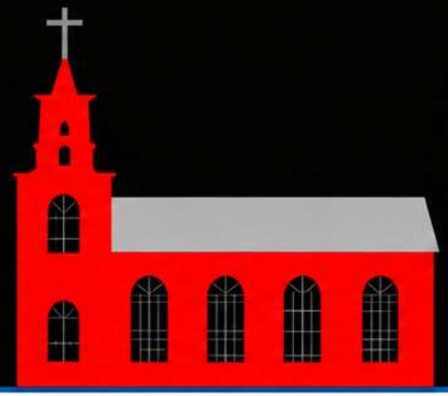
Premillennialism

Amillennialism

Postmillennialism

Great Tribulation 70AD

Church Age/Millennium
(Times of Gentiles – Church replaces Israel)



2nd Coming

Great White Throne

1. “The Great Tribulation” vs “trials and tribulations”

- **The Great Tribulation is specific**

"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be." Mt 24:21

"he said to me, 'These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.'" Rev 7:14

Greek = "Tribulation, the great one"

- **trials & tribulations are general**

“In the world you will have tribulation.” Jn 16:33

“through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.” Acts 14:22

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials” Js 1:2

- **The Great Tribulation is unprecedented & unequaled**

"At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book." Dan 12:1

"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be." Mt 24:21

- **trials & tribulations are common**

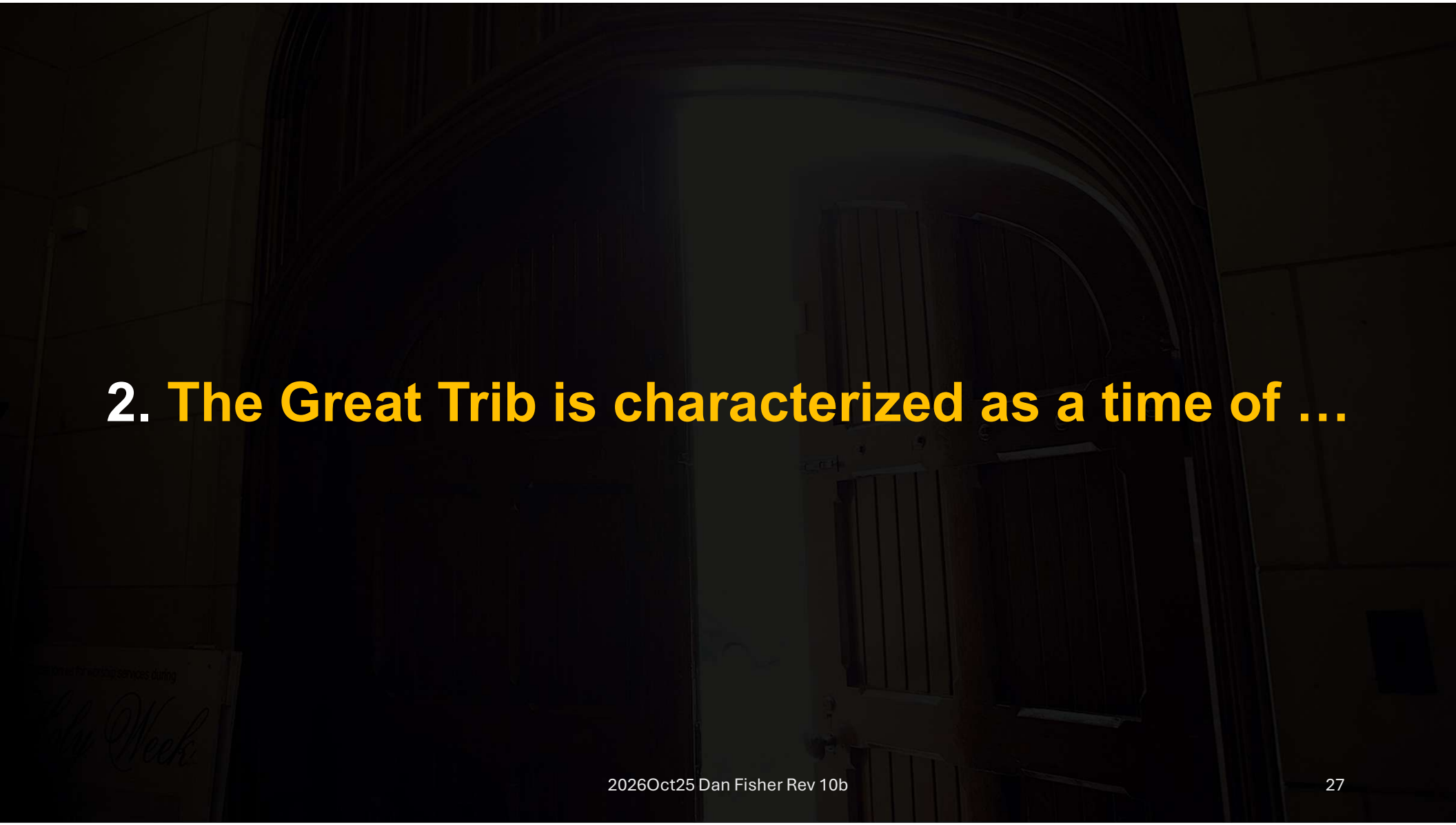
“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.”
1 Cor 10:13

- **The Great Tribulation is worldwide**

“On that day the Lord will punish the host of heaven, in heaven, and the kings of the earth, on the earth. 22 They will be gathered together as prisoners in a pit; they will be shut up in a prison, and after many days they will be punished. 23 Then the moon will be confounded and the sun ashamed,” Is 24:21-23

“the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.” Rev 3:10

Rev 6-18



2. The Great Trib is characterized as a time of …

- **time of wrath** – Rev 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:19; 15:1,7; 16:1,19; 1 Thess 1:9-10; 5:9; Zeph 1:15,18
- **time of judgment** – Rev 14:7; 15:4; 16:5-7; 19:2
- **time of indignation** – Is 26:20-21; 34:1-3
- **time of punishment** – Is 24:20-21
- **hour of trial** – Rev 3:10
- **hour of trouble** – Jer 30:7
- **time of destruction** – Joel 1:15
- **time of darkness** – Joel 2:2; Zeph 1:14-18; Amos 5:18

“When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the Lord your God and obey his voice. 31 For the Lord your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.” Deut 4:30-31

“They shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, from the terror of the Lord and the glory of His majesty, when He arises to shake the earth mightily.” Is 2:19

“Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,16 calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?” Rev 6:15-17

“Behold, the Lord will empty the earth and make it desolate, and he will twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants. … 6 Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched, and few men are left.” Is 24:1,6

“The earth staggers like a drunken man; it sways like a hut; its transgression lies heavy upon it, and it falls, and will not rise again. 21 On that day the Lord will punish the host of heaven, in heaven, and the kings of the earth, on the earth. 22 They will be gathered together as prisoners in a pit; they will be shut up in a prison, and after many days they will be punished. 23 Then the moon will be confounded and the sun ashamed, for the Lord of hosts reigns on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and his glory will be before his elders.” Is 24:19-21

“Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until the fury has passed by. 21For behold, the Lord is coming out from his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity, and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it, and will no more cover its slain.” Is 26:20-21

“Alas! That day is so great there is none like it; it is a time of distress for Jacob; yet he shall be saved out of it.” Jer 30:7

“Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes. … 1 Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming; it is near, 2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations.” Joel 1:15; 2:1-2

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light, … 20Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?” Amos 5:18,20

“The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. **15** A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, **16** a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. **17** I will bring distress on mankind, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the Lord; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.**18** Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the Lord. In the fire of His jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end He will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.” Zeph 1:14-15,18

“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. **22** And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. … **29** “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” Mt 24:21-22

“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, **26** people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” Lk 21:25-26

“the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3** While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.” 1 Thess 5:2-3

“When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, **13** and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale.**14** The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. **15** Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,**16** calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, **17** for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?” Rev 6:12-17

3. The Day of the Lord vs the Day of Christ

- **The Day of the Lord is a day of horrible judgment:** Is 2:12; 13:6,9-10; Ezk 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1,11,31; 3:14; Amos 5:18,20; Obadiah 15; Zeph 1:7,14-18; Zech 14:1-4; Mal 4:5; Acts 2:20; 1 Thess 5:2; 2 Thess 2:2; 2 Pet 3:10

- **The Day of Christ is a day of deliverance/salvation:** 1 Cor 1:8; 5:5; 2 Cor 1:14; Phil 1:6,10; 2:16

- **"Day" does not have to mean a 24 hr. period**

"For he says, 'In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.' Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Cor 6:2

- **“The Day of Christ” is incorrectly translated in some translations as “Day of the Lord”**

“Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?” 2 Thess 2:1-5