



T H R E A D I N G T H E P E A R L S . o r g

Threading the Pearls of the Book of Revelation

An Expository Study

Session 8: Seven Letters to Seven Churches, part 6
Philadelphia — the 'doors'

REVELATION 3:7 — 3:13

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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...
¹⁰"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 3:8-10]



REVELATION 3

7 And to the angel of the church of Philadelphia, write: These things saith the Holy One and the true one, he that hath the key of David; he that openeth, and no man shutteth; shutteth, and no man openeth:

Angel of the church

1PET 4:7-11, ...¹¹*If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Philadelphia – “friendly city”

1THES 4:9-10, concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for *you yourselves are taught by God to love one another*; ¹⁰and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more.

These are the words of him

JOHN 6:63, It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. *The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*

Him who is holy

ACTS 13:34-35, He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: 'I will give you the sure mercies of David.' ³⁵"Therefore He also says in another Psalm: 'You will not allow *Your Holy One* to see corruption'; ISA 54:5, your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and *the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer*, the God of the whole earth he is called; LUKE 1:35, the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, *also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God*;" MARK 1:23-24, there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴saying, "Let us alone! What

have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? *I know who You are-the Holy One of God!*"

Him who is... true

1JON 5:20, we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so *that we may know him who is true*; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

Key of David

ISA 22:22, *I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.*

What he opens

PSM 78:23-24, He had commanded the clouds above, And *opened the doors of heaven*, ²⁴Had rained down manna on them to eat, And given them of the bread of heaven; 1COR 16:8-9, I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. ⁹*For a great and effective door has opened to me*, and there are many adversaries; 2COR 2:12, Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and *a door was opened to me by the Lord.*

No one can shut

ACTS 16:25-26, at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that *the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened* and everyone's chains were loosed; MATH 16:18-19, I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and *the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it*. ¹⁹"And I will give you the keys of the

CONSIDER THIS —

Most everyone is familiar with the translation of Philadelphia: the city of brotherly love (from the Greek word: phileo). We will find that the theme for this letter, however, is ‘doors’.

REV 3:7, 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

kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

What he shuts

LUKE 13:23-28, one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them, ²⁴"Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵"When *once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door*, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' ²⁶"then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' ²⁷"But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' ²⁸"There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out.

No one can open

GEN 7:15-16, And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. ¹⁶And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and *the LORD shut him in*.





REVELATION 3

8 I know thy works. Behold, I have given before thee a door opened, which no man can shut: because thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

I know your deeds

1PET 1:22-23, you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit *in sincere love of the brethren*, love one another fervently with a pure heart, ²³having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever;

1THES 1:2-4, We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, ³remembering without ceasing your *work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ* in the sight of our God and Father, ⁴knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God;

1THES 5:12-13, we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³and to *esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake*. Be at peace among yourselves.

See

1THES 5:15-18, See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always *pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all*. ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you;

HEB 10:24, let us consider one another *in order to stir up love and good works*.

I have placed before you

1THES 1:6-8, you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. ⁸For *from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth*, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything;

1TIM 1:12-13, I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because *He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry*, ¹³although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

An open door

ACTS 14:27, when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that *He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles*.

Door that no one can shut

JOHN 17:22-24, the glory which You gave Me *I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one*: ²³"I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. ²⁴"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

CONSIDER THIS —

The church of Philadelphia has not denied *Jesus' name*, in contrast to Sardis —

REV 3:1, to the angel of the church in Sardis write... "I know your works, that *you have a name* that you are alive, but you are dead.

I know*

JOHN 10:14, I am the good shepherd; and *I know My sheep*, and am known by My own;

2THES 1:3-5, We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, ⁴so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, ⁵which *is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God*, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer.

* NOTE – ὅτι = Hoti, hot'-ee, conjunction, Strong#3754: that, because, since.

You have little strength

2THES 2:16-17, May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, ¹⁷encourage your hearts and *strengthen you in every good deed and word*;

MATH 12:29-30, Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and *with all your strength*;

2THES 3:13, as for you, brethren, *do not grow weary in doing good*.

Kept my word

JOHN 8:51, Most assuredly, I say to you, *if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death*;

1JON 2:5-6, *whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him*. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked;

1THES 4:1-5, brethren, we urge and exhort *in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more*, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; ²for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus...

Not denied my name

MATH 10:32-33, whoever *confesses Me before men*, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³"But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven;

ACTS 4:9-10, If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, ¹⁰"let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that *by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth*, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.





REVELATION 3

9 Behold, I will bring of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie. Behold, I will make them to come and adore before thy feet. And they shall know that I have loved thee.

I will make* those

*NOTE - "give" in some translations

JOHN 15:22, If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now *they have no excuse for their sin*;
2THES 3:6-7, we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you *withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly* and not according to the tradition which he received from us...

Synagogue of Satan

JOHN 14:30-31, "I will no longer talk much with you, for *the ruler of this world is coming*, and he has nothing in Me. ³¹"But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do;
2THES 2:1-4, ...³Let 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, ⁴who 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.

Claim to be Jews

JOHN 15:6, If anyone does not abide in Me, *he is cast out as a branch and is withered*; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned;
ACTS 17:1-9, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ²Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." ⁴And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas. ⁵But the

Jews who were not persuaded, *becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar* and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people...;

MATH 23:2-5, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. ³"Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. ⁴"For *they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers*. ⁵"But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. ⁶"They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷"greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi'.

They are not

2THES 3:14-15, if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and *do not keep company with him*, that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother;

ACTS 17:13, when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, *they came there also and stirred up the crowds*;

JOHN 15:23-25, He who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴"If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now *they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father*...

CONSIDER THIS —

JOHN 14:21, He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and *manifest Myself to him*.

Jesus said that He *will* manifest Himself to us, who keep His commandments and love Him. Read in other translations, check it out for yourself, realize what Jesus said there. He will be *revealed* to us – 'be *seen clearly*', in the Basic English version!

Liars

JOHN 8:44-47, You are of your father the devil, and *the desires of your father you want to do*. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. ⁴⁵"But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. ⁴⁶"Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? ⁴⁷"He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God".

I will make them... fall down at your feet

2THES 3:1-3, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, ²and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith. ³But the Lord is faithful, who *will establish you and guard you from the evil one*.

I will make them... acknowledge

1JON 2:27-29, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. ²⁸And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. ²⁹If you know that He is righteous, *you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him*.

I have loved you

JOHN 14:21, He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And *he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him*.





REVELATION 3

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I will also keep thee from the hour of the temptation, which shall come upon the whole world to try them that dwell upon the earth.

You have kept my command

1THES 4:11-12, you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, ¹²that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and *that you may lack nothing*;

2THES 3:4, we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and *will do the things we command you*.

Endure patiently

1THES 5:14, we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, *be patient with all*. ¹⁵See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all;

JAM 5:7-8, *be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord*.

See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

⁸You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand;

2THES 3:5, may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and *into the patience of Christ*.

Keep you from the hour of trial

2PET 2:9, the Lord knows how *to rescue the godly from trials*, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment;

1THES 1:10, wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come*;

1THES 4:17, we who are alive, who are left, *will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord* in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord;

1THES 5:9, *God has not destined us for wrath*, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ;

ZEPH 2:3, seek righteousness; seek humility; *perhaps you may*

be hidden on the day of the anger of the LORD;

ISA 26:20, Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; *hide yourselves for a little while* until the fury has passed by;

PSM 57:1, Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, *Until these calamities have passed by*.

Trial* that is going to come

LUKE 22:45-46, When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. ⁴⁶Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? *Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation* [πειρασμόν]";

MATH 26:40-41, He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour? ⁴¹*Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak*".

* NOTE – πειρασμός = Peirasmos, pi-ras-mos', Strong#3986:

1. an experiment, attempt, trial, proving; 1a. trial, proving: ...; 2. the trial of man's fidelity, integrity, virtue, constancy; an enticement to sin, temptation, whether arising from the desires or from the outward circumstances; an internal temptation to sin;... [Strong, James. The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible. New York: Abingdon, 1958.]

Trial... upon the whole world

MATH 24:29-30, Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then *all the tribes of the earth will mourn*, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory;

CONSIDER THIS —

Let's consider this word: Trial/Temptation.

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (Strong, James. The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible. New York: Abingdon, 1958) defines the Greek word 'Pi-ras-mos' as a trial, or, proving; a trial of man's —

- Fidelity (who or what he is loyal to),
- Integrity (whether his words match his heart),
- Virtue, constancy, or: enticement to sin (that is, his susceptibility to temptation!)

LUKE 21:34-35, 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. ³⁵"For *it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.*

To test those

EXO 16:4, the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, *that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not;*

JUDG 7:4, the Lord said to Gideon, "The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' the same shall go with you; and of *whomever I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' the same shall not go";*

ZECH 13:8-9, it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the Lord, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: ⁹I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And *test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The Lord is my God'".*

Live on the earth

1JON 4:5, *They are of the world.* Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them;

ISA 51:6, Lift up your eyes to the heavens, And look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, The earth will grow old like a garment, And *those who dwell in it will die in like manner;* But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not be abolished;

LAM 3:33-36, He does not afflict willingly, Nor grieve the children of men. ³⁴To crush under one's feet *All the prisoners of the earth,* ³⁵To turn aside the justice due a man Before the face of the Most High, ³⁶Or subvert a man in his cause-The Lord does not approve.





REVELATION 3

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold fast that which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

I am coming soon

PSM 96:12-13, Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the Lord. ¹³For He is coming, for *He is coming to judge the earth*. He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with His truth;

JOHN 16:16-22, A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father. ¹⁷Then some of His disciples said among themselves, "What is this that He says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father?'" ¹⁸They said therefore, "What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is saying." ¹⁹Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, "Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'?" ²⁰"Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. ²¹"A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²"Therefore you now have sorrow; but *I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.*

Hold on to what you have

MATH 11:28-30, Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰"For *My yoke is easy and My burden is light*";

JOHN 13:34-35, A new commandment I give to you, that you

love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵"By this *all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another*";

1COR 1:20-22, all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. ²¹Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, ²²who also has sealed us and *given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.*

Your crown

1THES 2:19, For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of glory? *Are not you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?*

JAM 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*;

2TIM 4:8, there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also *to all who have longed for his appearing.*

CONSIDER THIS —

Hold on to what we have: receive our crown only by following His way.

2TIM 2:5, if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.



REVELATION 3

12 He that shall overcome, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God; and he shall go out no more; and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God, and my new name.

Him who overcomes

NUM 13:28-30, the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there...³⁰Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for *we are well able to overcome it*"; ROM 12:21, Do not be overcome by evil, but *overcome evil with good*.

A pillar in the temple

2CHR 3:17, He set up *the pillars in front of the temple*, one on the south, the other on the north; that on the south he called Jachin, and that on the north Boaz; 1KING 7:21-22, Then *he set up the pillars* by the vestibule of the temple; he set up the pillar on the right and called its name Jachin, and he set up the pillar on the left and called its name Boaz.²²The tops of the pillars were in the shape of lilies. So the work of the pillars was finished.

Temple of my God

1TIM 3:15, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself *in the house of God*, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Never again will he leave it

EXO 16:29, See! For the Lord has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; *let no man go out of his place on the seventh day*"; EXO 21:5-6, if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,'⁶then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear

with an awl; and *he shall serve him forever*.

I will write on him

HEB 10:16-17, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and *in their minds I will write them*,"¹⁷then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more".

The name of my God

EXO 3:14-15, God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' " ¹⁵Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. *This is My name forever*, and this is My memorial to all generations.

The name of the city

DAN 9:19, O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for *Your city and Your people are called by Your name*".

City of my God

PSM 48:1-8, Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised In the city of our God, In His holy mountain. ²Beautiful in elevation, The joy of the whole earth, Is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, The city of the great King. ³God is in her palaces; He is known as her refuge... ⁸As we have heard, So we have seen *In the city of the Lord of hosts, In the city of our God: God will establish it forever*. Selah.

CONSIDER THIS —

A people with His name:

JOHN 1:12-13, as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to *those who believe in His name*:¹³who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

ACTS 15:14, Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them *a people for His name*.

The new Jerusalem... coming down out of heaven

REV 21:2, the holy city, *new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God*, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; HEB 12:22-26, you have come *to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God*, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel...

From my God

1THES 5:23-24, may the *God of peace Himself sanctify you completely*; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

My new name

ISA 62:2, The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, And all kings your glory. *You shall be called by a new name*, Which the mouth of the Lord will name;
 REV 19:12, His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and *he has a name written that no one knows but himself*.





REVELATION 3

13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches.

He who has an ear

MATH 13:44, Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and *sells all that he has and buys that field.*

Let him hear

1THES 5:21-22, Test all things; *hold fast what is good.*

²²Abstain from every form of evil;

JOHN 6:67-69, Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" ⁶⁸But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? *You have the words of eternal life.* ⁶⁹"Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God".

Spirit says

1THES 5:19-20, *Do not quench the Spirit.* ²⁰Do not despise prophecies.

Churches

1THES 5:27-28, I charge you by the Lord that this epistle *be read to all the holy brethren.* ²⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen;

ACTS 9:31, the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And *walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.*

CONSIDER THIS —

REV 3:13, He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to *the churches.*

Notice the plural ending (all the churches)!

ACTS 9:31, *the churches* throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.



GROUP DISCUSSION

REV 3:8, I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it...

- ⊕ **1a. What might be signified by the idiom of ‘an open door’?**

ACTS 14:27, when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that *He had opened the door* of faith to the Gentiles.

- ⊕ **1b. How can we best take advantage of the opportunities that God has provided us?**

REV 3:8, I know your works... for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

- ⊕ **2a. How can we, too, *keep* the word of the Lord?**

- ⊕ **2b. What does it look like to *keep from* denying His name?**

REV 3:10, 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.

- ⊕ **3a. Considering how great the reward, being kept ‘from the hour of trial’, how important is the Lord’s command to persevere?**

- ⊕ **3b. To what event might the ‘hour of trial’ refer?**
(see also LUKE 21:33-36)

1THES 1:10, ...wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1THES 5:9-10, God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

- ⊕ **3c. How might these verses from 1st Thessalonians help support Jesus’ statement, “I also will keep you from the hour of trial”?**

(see also ZECH 13:8-9)

- ⊕ **3d. How might, or might not, the ‘trial’ and ‘wrath to come’ be two separate events?**

(see also REV 15:1, I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.)

NEXT SESSION —