

The Revelation of
Yeshua The Messiah To Yochanan (John)
Study Notes
Philadelphia PT. 1

Revelation 3:7-13 (NASB) - “⁷And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

⁸ ‘I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have followed My word, and have not denied My name. ⁹ Behold, I will make *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and *make them* know that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Because you have kept My word of perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of the testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who live on the earth. ¹¹ I am coming quickly; hold firmly to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² The one who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and 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 My new name. ¹³ The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”

Philadelphia - Derived from two words: (Greek)-*Phileo*-to love, and ***adelphos***-brother. This city was 28 miles southeast of the city of Sardis.

Note: This is the Church that had no rebuke and only encouragement from Jesus. But, of all the seven Churches in Revelation, this is the Church that has been given the least amount of attention, neither is their very much left of it to even be seen.

- This Church existed in a time parallel to when missions started.
- This was a small Church of exceptional believers that remained faithful to God, to the name of Jesus, and His teachings.

Key: This city was established by Eumenes II who loved his brother Attalus II so deeply, hence the name meaning, city of “brotherly love”.



- Also known by its nick name “Little Athens” (Capital of Greece).



Ancient Athens

- Philadelphia was a fabulous and wealthy city.
- Philadelphia’s architecture was over the top.
- Philadelphia had vast vineyards with visitors from around the world.

Key: Philadelphia was known throughout the region for its top agricultural commodity: wine. So, it only makes sense that this city was dedicated to the god, Dionysus.



Dionysus: The Romans called him Bacchus. Dionysus was the son of the supreme god Zeus.

- Called the god of wine.
- Called the god of orgies.
- Call the god of revelry/festivals.
- If the wine is dulling your senses, you're more likely to give in to the sin around you.

Understanding: You must understand what this small group of believers was up against. But even still, the Church in Philadelphia thrived. **We are without excuse. Will you choose the flesh or the Spirit?**

- At this time the Church was experiencing a revival of godliness. They rejected sin or even the **appearance** of evil.
- At this time the Church believed that Jesus was the Son of God. They lived it at their own cost.
- The love of Jesus had returned to the Church that was lost in Ephesus.

The Faithfulness of A Few

- These believers were persecuted in a much different way than Smyrna. They were shamed by their families and the Jewish culture of this time.
 - Often times, one can be too close to the anointing on someone, leading to dishonor (Mark 6:4).
- The Synagogue was everything to the life of a Jewish person.
- These Christians were kicked out of the Synagogue for their belief in Jesus and the teachings of the Gospel.
- They had to deal with the shame of being separated not just from a building but their families.
- They were excluded and rejected by their community.
- Their lives were literally at stake for proclaiming Jesus.
- The Jewish authorities that once welcomed them turned on them.

An Open Door Opportunity

Note: They did not allow this rejection to stop them. It only served to push them to take the Gospel into the East to replicate the Greek culture and language and colonize new areas.

- Because of the location of Philadelphia, it was an open door to the east.
- The door was wide open to easy trade in the east.
- The door was wide open to commerce in the east.
- This city was formed to be like a missionary city.

Key: Eventually the Church in Philadelphia took on this same role as a city of missionaries. Only they saw easy access to carry the gospel. They had an open door to go to an area that other churches did not have.

The Destruction of Philadelphia - A Church That Was Always Shaking

Understanding: Philadelphia was very prosperous until 17 AD when a devastating earthquake hit and totally demolished this city and left it in ruins.

Question: Have you ever asked the Lord to show you why you are where you are?

Three Pillars Remain - St John Basilica



Remember:

- They were not big, but they remained faithful even in a shaky environment.
- They chose Jesus, even above their families.
- They saw their location as an advantage, not a disadvantage.
- They knew they had a divine purpose that no other Church had **but them**.
- They were faithful to do **only what God said**.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NASB) – “‘For **I** know the plans that **I** have for you,’ declares **the LORD**, ‘**plans** for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.’”

Key: Philadelphia knew God had a plan in putting them where they are. They became a missionary church. They took rejection and turned it on its head. They loved Him and it showed through their works.

I asked the LORD a question.

Question:

Why was a city that represented Jesus so beautifully given the least amount of attention?

Answer:

Man seeks mostly for themselves.

- The love of Jesus is the healing to the rejection that the world gives you. Philadelphia showed us love is the answer and Jesus encouraged them to keep going. And they did.

1 Corinthians 13:5 (KJV) – “Doth not behave itself unseemly, **seeketh not her own**, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;”

When you really love like the love of God the way Yeshua loved us, you **can't** think about yourself. So, if self is the priority, the only time you want to make yourself the priority is to get to Jesus. To learn of Him. To be made a disciple and not a dependent. To get to know who you are through knowing who He is. So you can walk out the purpose and plan He has for your life, for He has a plan. And it is a privilege to serve Him. The plan is good. The journey might be rough but keep being faithful. Love made them faithful. What you love, you will be faithful to. Love sustains. Jesus is the litmus test of love. Until we match Him, we haven't arrived yet. We serve learn to serve well because we love well. Love is the gas to fuel the engine to remain faithful like Philadelphia.

The End