



“The Message to the Church at Philadelphia”

Revelation 3:7

August 24, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

"7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. 8 "I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept 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--behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. 10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. 11 I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. 12 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, 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 from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. 13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'" [Rev 3:7-13 ESV]

Introduction

The glorified Christ commends the church at Philadelphia for their good works and for keeping His word about patient endurance in light of Jewish persecution and promises future eternal dwelling place in the New Jerusalem for those who hold fast and overcome.

"Without doubt the emphasis in Christian teaching today should be on worship. There is little danger that we shall become merely worshipers and neglect the practical implications of the gospel. No one can long worship God in spirit and in truth before the obligation to holy service becomes too strong to resist. Fellowship with God leads straight to obedience and good works. That is the divine order and it can never be reversed." — Born After Midnight, 126.

1. The church at Philadelphia is commended for _____ in persecution.

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: v7

- 1) Location:** 30 miles southeast of Sardis on the road that goes to Laodicea.
- 2) Founding:** It is the youngest of the seven cities founded in the third century B.C. by one of the Pergamenian kings and named after Attalus II (159–138 B.C.) who maintained "loyalty/love" for his brother, Eumenes II (197–159 B.C.), in spite of Roman pressure — thus the name "Philadelphia" (brotherly love).
- 3) History:** In AD 17 it was destroyed by an earthquake. Tiberius helped to rebuild it. Pagan temples were destroyed because the pillars did not have the strength to withstand. These overcoming Philadelphians who have but a little power here are promised to be pillars in the future temple of God.
- 4) Idolatry:** they were polytheistic and primary deity was the mother goddess Anaitis a Persian/ Anatolian mix. Their idolatry was expanded with both Greek and Roman deities.

2. The genuine church knows the glorified Christ and _____ in His word.

'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God says _____ things in regard to His identity...

- 1) ...the _____ One. ὁ ἅγιος**

"The words of the holy one," v7

1) **Some things are holy meaning _____ or set apart for a specific divine purpose.**

🔊 "36 "You shall make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet, 'Holy to the LORD.'" [Exo 28:36 ESV]

2) **The word _____ means "holy one."**

🔊 "2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to **those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints** together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:" [1Co 1:2 ESV]

3) **Jesus identifies Himself as _____ God taking the title "the Holy One."**

🔊 "20 In that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no more lean on him who struck them, but will lean on **the LORD [YHWH], the Holy One of Israel**, in truth." [Isa 10:20]

(1) **The presence of _____ holiness cannot be defined.**

🔊 We know nothing of divine holiness. It stands apart, unique, unapproachable, incomprehensible and unattainable. The natural man is blind to it. He may fear God's power and admire His wisdom, but His holiness he cannot even imagine. A W Tozer

(2) **Man's experiences of divine holiness in scripture threatens their _____.**

🔊 "5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." [Isa 6:5 NASB95]

🔊 "21 The LORD directed Moses, "Go down and **warn the people** not to break through **to see the LORD**; otherwise **many of them will die**." [Exo 19:21 CSB]

🔊 "19 Then they said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but **let not God speak to us, or we will die**." [Exo 20:19 NASB95]

🔊 "17 When I saw Him, **I fell at His feet like a dead man**. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last," [Rev 1:17 NASB95]

(3) **All mankind has a God _____.**

🔊 "19 because **that which is known about God is evident within them**; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, **being understood through what has been made**, so that they are without excuse." [Rom 1:19-20 NASB95]

🔊 The term numinous generally means inspiring awe, reverence, or a sense of the divine or supernatural. It implies a feeling of being in the presence of something powerfully and mysterious, often beyond normal comprehension. Rudolf Otto's work popularized the term in the context of religious experience and the "Holy," describing a sense awe and mystery before the "Wholly Other." That impersonal presence is described as "that awful Thing."

🔊 This awful presence Presence is shown [in God's revelation of Himself] to be not a Thing but a moral Being with all the warm qualities of genuine personality. More than this, He is the absolute quintessence of moral excellence, infinitely perfect in righteousness, purity, rectitude, and incomprehensible holiness. And in all this He is uncreated, self-sufficient and beyond the power of human thought to conceive or human speech to utter.

(4) **The demons were terrified that the Holy One had power to _____ them.**

🔊 "33 In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, 34 "Let us alone! What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God!" [Luk 4:33-34 NASB95]

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🕯 "We cannot grasp the true meaning of the divine holiness by thinking of someone or something very pure and then raising the concept to the highest degree we are capable of. God's holiness is not simply the best we know infinitely bettered. We know nothing like the divine holiness. It stands apart, unique, unapproachable, incomprehensible and unattainable. The natural man is blind to it. He may fear God's power and admire His wisdom, but His holiness he cannot even imagine." — The Knowledge of the Holy, 111.

2) ...the _____ one. ὁ ἀληθινός

"the true one," v7

🕯 "3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, **the only true God**, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was." [Jhn 17:3-5 NASB95]

1) There is no _____ without truth.

2) Christ is the _____ of truth in contrast with those who espouse false doctrine and gods.

🕯 "6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." [Jhn 14:6 NASB95]

3) ...the one who has the _____ of David,

who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens." v7

🕯 "18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades." [Rev 1:18 NASB95]

1) The key unlocks the blessing of the _____ kingdom on earth.

🕯 "22 "Then I will set the key of the house of David on his shoulder, When he opens no one will shut, When he shuts no one will open." [Isa 22:22 NASB95]

2) The future fulfillment of the _____ of _____ on earth occurs at Christ's 2nd coming.

🕯 "10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven." [Mat 6:10 NASB95]

3) The church saints are promised _____ over the nations.

🕯 "26 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; 27 AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received [authority] from My Father;" [Rev 2:26-27 NASB95]