

## 1 A WORD TO THE FAITHFUL

Revelation 3:7-13

## 2 VS. 7 A BIT ABOUT PHILADELPHIA

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- Very little worldly power
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- Culturally, the gateway to Asia, likely influencing Christ's intro
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- Received financial aid from Rome after the earthquake hit that region in 17BC (Interestingly, the pillars were often the last thing standing after the frequent earthquakes in that region. See verse 12)
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## 3 A GLIMPSE OF JESUS

"He is holy and true" These applied to the Father in the OT, now applied to the Christ in the NT. A confirmation of Christ's deity

"He holds the key of David" Eliakim, a king in David's line who held the key to the king's treasure (Isa. 22:20-23)

Jesus holds the key to the Kingdom and entrance into eternal life (Jn 14:6)

## 4 VSS. 8 AND 10 COMMENDATIONS

In spite of having little strength: (2 Cor. 12:9)

You have kept my word  
 You have not denied my name  
 You have kept my command for patient endurance  
 (See 2 Peter 1:5-9; James 1:2-4)

Zero rebuke!

## 5 VS. 9 THE SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN?

Perhaps unbelieving Jews who had become servants of Satan through their opposition of the Gospel

- Remember: there are only two choices for whom we worship. We either worship the triune God on purpose or Satan by default
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Perhaps Gentiles who had been circumcised ("who say they are Jews but are not")

## 6 VS. 9

"I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you"

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- Phil 2:9-11
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- Matt. 5:11-12
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- 2 Tim. 2:19 "The Lord knows those who are His"

#### 7 **VS. 10 GREAT NEWS FOR THE FAITHFUL!**

"I will keep you from *the hour* of trial that *is going to come*" suggests a relatively brief future event. Its scope will include the whole world, to test those living on the earth.

I believe the hour of trial to be a reference to the Tribulation, the 7 year period of the unleashing of God's wrath described in Rev. 6-19. Further, I believe this promise to the Faithful Church supports the understanding of the pre-trib rapture of the Church.

See John 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:50-53; 1 Thess. 4:13-18

#### 8 **VS. 11 A JOY AND A CAUTION**

"I'm coming soon!"

From a sense of "Don't make me come down there!" (Pergamum) to a sense "Hang in there! I'm coming to rescue," evoking the heart cry of "Lord Jesus, come quickly!"

"Hold on to what you have..." Your crown, your reward.

John 10:10

#### 9 **VS. 12**

The overcomer will be a pillar in the temple. Speaks of the believer's security in Christ. (An interesting visual, as the pillars were often the only things standing after the destruction by quakes.) Pillars always remain and are prominent

"I will write on him the name of God, the name of the new Jerusalem and the new name of Christ" Christ joyfully marks the faithful as His own, offering assurance of their place in the Kingdom and their heavenly Home.

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#### 10 **VS. 13**

- If you have ears, pay attention