① INTRO & SELF-IDENTIFICATION

v.7 And to the angel of the church of Philadelphia...

- Philadelphia (modern: Alashehir) was the center of many trade routes
- As a result, the city was often called: The Gateway to the EAST
- This name and function could play a part in its "blessing" to the overcomer
- Although Philadelphia φιλαδελφία means brotherly love...
- they were not very loving to Christians
- most of the city, especially the Jews had kicked them out of their buildings, synagogues, and festivities...
- The city and synagogues had given the Christians a closed door... (so-to-speak)

★ There are a lot of similarities between Philadelphia & Smyrna
- Both churches receive all praise...
- NO rebuke or condemnation

v.7 write, "These things says He who is holy, He who is true...

ἅγιος: set apart, holy, pure dedicated, consecrated

ἀληθεια: Truth, Reality (ἀληθινός) Genuine

★ The term: The Holy One (which is used here for Jesus) is used exclusively for Yahweh in the O.T.
- very often in Isaiah (Is. 40:25)
- Also interesting: Holy and true are used to Describe God...

"And they cried w/ a loud voice, "How long, O LORD, Holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Rev. 6:10
- So often we see in the O.T. & N.T the Oneness of Yahweh & the Messiah

- These attributes come from the vision in Ch.1... specifically v.5
- The self-identification continues:

v.7 He who has the Key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens

- This next description is a beautiful and amazing attribute describing:
  1) Jesus' authority over who enters the Royal household AND
  2) a typological fulfillment of Shebna from Is. 22:15-25
- This description is also mentioned in the Ch.1 Son of Man vision "...I have the Keys of Hades and death"
- In both verses 1:18 and 3:7 Jesus is making the claim that He alone has the undisputed authority to admit OR Exclude one from the New Jerusalem (which has already Descended... John 14, Gal. 4, Heb. 12, Rev. 21, Is 65)
- As mentioned, this act of Jesus, the Messiah taking over control has a typological Fulfillment from Is. 22
- In Is. 22, Isaiah Prophesies:

-That the High Priest and Master of the Palace, Shebna
- Will be removed from office
- his attire and Keys were given to a new Chief Priest named Eliakim

"The Key of the house of David (King) I will lay on his (Eliakim's) shoulder. So he shall open and no one shall shut, and he shall shut and no one shall open" Is. 22:22

★ Jesus quotes this verbatim as His self-identification to Philadelphia...
- The physical now fulfilled in the Spiritual
- he will have complete authority over who goes in or out to see the King Hezekiah & Priesthood
- The name Eliakim means: God will establish
- As w/ Eliakim, God has established a New King and New Priesthood in the Messiah, who alone determines (has the Keys) who enters the New Jerusalem/Kingdom
- Even if the Jews kicked out the christians from their synagogue...
  - it's okay because Jesus is the true and holy One 3:6
  - and He holds the Keys of entrance to the True house of God

★ Ethnic Israel NO longer has the Keys to the Kingdom or Priesthood
- Important note: the Keys of Eliakim controlled access to the Palace (King) and to the Sanctuary (Priesthood)

Targum of Is. 22 and Midr. Reb. Esa 37 and Is 22

② JESUS' PRAISE & COMMENDATIONS

v.8 I know your works

ἔργον: works, deeds
- and there are a lot of good things they were doing

v.8 Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut
- seems this is a continued reference to the Isaiah prophecy
- In scripture, sometimes the phrase "open door" is a metaphor for an opportunity to witness / make disciples (Acts 14:27, 1 Cor 16:9, 2 Cor. 2:12, Col. 4:3) "an open door to preach the gospel"...
- However, using the context of the prior verse, it may fit better that
- the open DOOR may refer to entering the Messianic Kingdom/New Jerusalem
- despite being kicked out of the local synagogues

v.8 I know that you have little power and yet you have kept My word and have not denied My name.
- This last part of the verse would go nicely w/ evangelizing
- and fit w/ ἔργον/deeds meaning of sharing the gospel / making disciples
- ★ which is the Christians "Full-Time" WORK/JOB
- Despite having "little power/strength" they persevered and were Faithful!

v.9 Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews and are NOT, but lie...
- This now is the 3rd time the word Satan OR Devil is used to Describe people, groups, or Nations
- AND This is scripturally Typical
  1. The church at Pergamos was told they live where "Satan Dwells" and where "Satan's throne is" 2:13
  2. The church at Smyrna was warned they live next to a synagogue of Satan 2:9 and "The Devil is about to throw some of them in prison" 2:10
  3. AND now, the church at Philadelphia also battles w/ a "synagogue of Satan"

Σατάν: adversary, opponent ACCUSER

Διάβολος: slanderer, speak evil Enemy

- What we see here, is a serious conflict between the church and the synagogue in Philadelphia
- The Jews were convinced that they were the people of God
- The Christians claimed Jesus as the Messiah to make one a child of God
- Paul had to fight this battle constantly
- Paul told the Jews & Gentiles in Rome: "A Jew is NOT one outwardly, nor circumcision outwardly OR in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly and has the circumcision of the heart, in the spirit, not in letter..." Rom 2:28-29
- Paul also made it clear to Galatia - which is the same area as Asia minor "As many who walk to this rule (the Gospel), peace will be upon them, the Israel of God" Gal. 6:16

AND even TORAH taught this:
"The LORD your God will circumcise your heart" Deut 30:6
- So, although the Jews were teaching Judaism... it was adversarial (Satanic) to the Gospel AND their words slandering Christians made them liars
- One day though, they will realize the Christians are the True Temple

AND

★ The Christians are the ones He ♡'s

v.9 Behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and they will learn that I have loved you.
- This verse is a sad reversal of the prophecies given to Israel in regard to their enemies:

"All the sons of those who afflicted you shall come bowing before you. All those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet, And they shall call you THE CITY of the LORD, ZION of the Holy One of Israel." Is. 60:14

- Israel was to be the proclaimers of the Messiah... BUT many stumbled at the Stumbling Stone Ps. 118:22, Rom 9:32
- Nebuchadnezzar even "fell on his face prostrate before Daniel" Dan. 2:46
- Is. 45:14, 49:23, Zech. 8:20 also mention similar events
- The Jews were to reflect God...
- ★ Now the tables have turned... One day all will know God loves the Christians... such a sad irony. Jews play the role of the heathen & The church is the "TRUE ISRAEL"

v.10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I will also keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, which is to test those who dwell on the earth.
- The church was doing very well... they were patiently enduring

ὑπομονή: persevere, endure
- Those who support a pre-tribulation rapture have this verse as the only verse in the entire Book of Revelation to support such a claim (more scriptural support would help)
- ★ Plus, there is no mention of a "RAPTURE" anywhere in Revelation
- ★ So, is this verse promising the Believer Deliverance from OR Deliverance through Tribulation
- Let's take a look:
  - context of the verse is that since they were faithful to Christ in trial,
  - Jesus would be faithful and will make 3 promises to the overcomer/conqueror w/:
- This is consistent w/ Jesus' High Priestly prayer: "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the evil one" (spiritual protection) John 17:15
- In Both contexts, the believer is taught to persevere through trial
- ★ we see a "spiritual protection" in Both John 17:15 and Rev. 3:11
- Martyrs, in Rev. 6:9-11 are told to wait for vindication until all the other martyrs would come to completion
  - again, NO physical protection
  - Rom. 12:1 "... present your bodies as a living sacrifice..."
- Rev. 2:13 "Do not deny My faith, like Antipas who was a faithful martyr..."
- Rev. 11:10 "Those who dwell on the earth rejoice over them (TWO witnesses killed) make merry, and send gifts to one another because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth"
- Spiritual protection is mentioned in Rev.
  - the sealing of servants ch. 7
  - Flight into the wilderness ch. 12
  - Mark of God on Foreheads ch. 14
- The hour of trial

πειρασμός: Test, trial, Temptation

★ NOT θλῖψις: Tribulation
- NEXT PART: upon the "whole world"
- This verbiage almost always meant the Roman WORLD (Empire)
  - "Caesar Augustus made a decree that the whole world should be registered" Luke 2:1
  - "Agabus prophesied there would be a great famine in all the world"... Acts 11:28
  - "They dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers, saying these men have turned the world upside down..." Acts 17:6
  - "The Great goddess Diana... who Asia and the world worship" Acts 19:27 (clearly a Greek/Roman god)
  - "Paul is a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world" Acts 24:5 (Paul never left the Roman Empire)
- And lastly: Trials are literally "TESTS"
  - These trials/TESTS will come to everyone

James 1:2 "Count it all joy when you fall into various trials...

πειρασμός same word! So how can one be "raptured from them??

"... it is the testing of your faith"

③ PROMISES to the OVERCOMER/CONQUERER

v.11 Behold, I am coming quickly!
- preterist: fulfilled by Spiritual coming of Judgment 70 AD
- Futurist: Yet fulfilled Physical coming (Parousia)
- Spiritualist: applies to all NATIONS & churches who honor OR Rebel against God
- Jesus made the same warnings to Ephesus - 2:5, Pergamos 2:16, Sardis 3:3, and Now Philadelphia
- Churches who do not repent
  - lose their lampstand - Ephesus
  - Jesus will fight against them - Perg.
  - Jesus will come as a thief - Sardis

AND to Philadelphia potential threat:

v.11 hold fast what you have, that no one will take your crown
- the crown was the wreath awarded to athlete in a contest.
- 1 Cor 9:25-27
  - compete for the prize
  - earn the imperishable crown
  - Be disciplined now to be disqualified/Reprobate
- Again though, we have the teaching to remain faithful (hold fast) and keep enduring the TRIAL... NOT that they will escape the TEST

★ Also, a clear warning back to Shebna who lost its crown Is. 22 (which has been referenced already)
- For christians, it seems the crown OR "Reward" is to be in God's presence for eternity (Even 1 Cor. 3 in context has the "reward" as Paul's work of starting the church in Corinth)

v.12 He who overcomes/conquers
- their Temptations, trials, tests
- Jesus gives 3 promises

★ all different aspects of the same reward/promise: presence w/ God (Fellowship, oneness with Christ/God)

v.12 I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God and he shall go out no more.
- This is very interesting as the Pillars of the O.T. Temple were NOT FOR STRUCTURE, BUT Symbolic
  - Solomon's Temple had many columns, BUT only 2 Pillars in the FRONT
- ★ They served As a GATEWAY into the Temple/God's presence
  - They were named Jachin & Boaz "God will establish", "Quickly/Strength"
  - Some Rabbis even considered them Two witnesses upon entering God's house
- + TO which Jesus now has the "Keys"
- ★ On top of the pillars were crowns/wreaths (1 Kings 7:15-20, 1 Chron. 3:15-16!)
- These two pillars were people of crowns as a witness to enter God's house/presence

v.12 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 I will write on him My new name.
- It seems that all 3 "names" essentially mean the same thing
  - GOD's name
  - The name of "The New Jerusalem"
  - and Jesus' name
- To be identified as one is equal to all three
- Typically, writing one's name on something means possession
- ★ The overcomer becomes one w/ God, the New Jerusalem, and w/ Jesus
- This three-fold inscription shows one faithfully belongs to God
- Aaron, the High Priest, wore on his forehead a golden plate w/ the engraving: "HOLY TO THE LORD" Ex. 28:36-38
- In Rev. 7:3, the servants of God are sealed on their foreheads
- In Rev. 14:1 the servants of God have the Father's name on their foreheads.
- Rev. 22:4 also mentions those in the New City have His name on their Foreheads.
- ★ So, this is a repeated Teaching.
- Jesus "new name" most likely symbolizes a new and Full Revelation of His character.
- Isaiah even prophesied:

"The Gentiles shall see your righteousness (the New Zion) and you shall be called a new name... you shall be a crown of beauty... and no more be called Forsaken or desolate. You will be called "My Delight is in HER" and your land shall be married" Is. 62:2-4

"For Behold, I create a new heaven and Earth... but be glad in what I create. For behold I create Jerusalem" Is. 65:17-18
- A "New" Jerusalem
- "The name of the new city/Temple shall be: THE LORD IS THERE" Ez. 48:35
- This "new Jerusalem" is different in many ways...
- ★ It is a spiritual/heavenly city Gal. 4, Heb 12, Rev. 21:2
- In fact, Rev. 3:12 and 21:2 are almost verbatim: "The New Jerusalem Descends from heaven"
- John 3 born from above/ανωθεν
- ★ AND IT HAS NO TEMPLE!! Rev. 21:22 - 22:5

The Believer IS the New TEMPLE

v.13 He who has an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the churches