



Rev. 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; 8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. 9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. 10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. 11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. 12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. 13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

To the angel (Messenger or Pastor) of the church in Philadelphia – Philadelphia (means brotherly love) was named after the 2nd century Lydian King, Attalus II Philadelphus, and he indeed loved his brother, Eumenes. Key words highlight the city's geography and history: "key," "open door," "pillar," and "new name."

The key of David and he that openeth relates back to the prophecy of Isaiah about Eliakim who foreshadowed Christ (Isa. 22:14-19; 22). The Bible talks about the keys of death and hell (Rev. 1:18) and the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The open door is the commission of the baptized assembly (Matt. 16:18-19; 18:19-20; 28:18-20; Acts 13:46-48; 1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor. 2:12; Col. 4:3). The Bible talks about the door of service (Rev. 3:8); the door of the heart (Rev. 3:20); the door opened in Heaven [a picture of the Rapture] (Rev. 4:1); the door of the Second Coming (Rev. 19:11).

Little strength – little flock (Lk. 12:32), remember little is much when God is in it (Matt. 14:13-21; 15:29-39). They were commended for two things:

1. Kept the word of my patience - The Written Word
2. Not denied my name – The Incarnate Word

The Synagogue of Satan, these Satanic Jews will bow down before the New Testament churches that they persecuted (Isa. 60:14). These represent the false professors, or false brethren or apostates.

They will be kept from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. – to be kept from means to be excluded or taken out of so as to avoid the tribulation period. The hour of temptation is synonymous to "the hour of judgment" (Rev. 14:7), and the time of Jacob's trouble (Jer. 30:7, and Dan. 12:1). The believers are kept because they are not appointed to wrath (1 Thess. 5:19).

The believer/church member is likened unto a pillar (stability and support within the building). The name of my God, the name of the city of my God (cf. Ezek. 48:35), and the "my new name" – the Lord Jesus Christ will be given a new name. (Isa. 62:2; 65:15).