

“I Stand at the Door and Knock”  
Letter to Laodicea – Pt 2  
(Rev 3:20-22)



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

# The Seven Churches of Revelation



# Scripture Reading



Revelation 3:14-22 (NASB)

14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. 16 So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, 18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.

# Scripture Reading



19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. 21 He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

# Exposit 3:20



20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

✧ This verse is a popular go-to verse for evangelism

✧ “Jesus knocks on the door of your heart” I will put a pause on that for now

✧ I looked at every mention of door (thura 39x) and not once was it in reference to the heart or mind



# Exposit 3:20



- ❧ Furthermore, no one can come to Jesus apart from the Father dragging him/her to Jesus
  - ❧ John 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws [drags] him; and I will raise him up on the last day.
- ❧ So what does Jesus mean by this statement “I stand at the door and knock”?
- ❧ Let’s exposit further





# Exposit 3:20



20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

❧ “I stand” - in the 1<sup>st</sup> Person

❧ “at the door and knock” - “door” is thura which can also mean gate, entrance

❧ i.e. thura of the tomb; temple, city gate, kingdom

❧ There are two things I’d like to do to exposit this verse

❧ Look to Scripture when the phrase “at the door” was used

❧ Look to the Gospels to see if Jesus mentions knocking on a door

❧ With that, let’s look at mentions of “at the door”

# “at the door”



- ✧ In the OT: “at the door” is mentioned 2x; 1x literal, 1x figurative and I’d like to look at the 1 figurative mention:

Genesis 4:6-7 (God favored Abel’s offering over Cain; Cain became very angry)

6 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up?

And if you do not do well, sin is crouching **at the door**; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”“

- ✧ How many of us assumed “at the door” = heart? Me too!
- ✧ Is that what this was communicating?
- ✧ Let’s look further



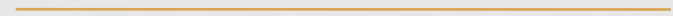
# OT: “at the door”



Genesis 4:6-7 (God favored Abel’s offering over Cain; Cain became very angry)  
6 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching **at the door**; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”“

- ☞ God told Cain “if you do not do well, sin is crouching (rabats) at the door”
- ☞ ‘rabats’ is a Hebrew verb which means to stretch oneself out, lie down, lie stretched out
- ☞ How many of us pictured sin “crouching” as this?

# OT: “at the door”



# OT: “at the door”



It could mean that, but it could also mean to lie, rest in place, to lie helpless

According to Strong's rabats is a primitive root; to crouch (on all four legs folded, like a recumbent animal); by implication, to recline, repose, brood, lurk, imbed:--crouch (down), fall down, make a fold, lay, (cause to, make to) lie (down), make to rest, sit.

# OT: “at the door”



# OT: “at the door”



Genesis 4:6-7 (God favored Abel’s offering over Cain; Cain became very angry)

6 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching **at the door**; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”“

- ✧ What I want to point out from this passage is sin is personified
- ✧ Did not Paul too personify sin in Romans 7? It’s not me, but sin living in me is the culprit
- ✧ Sin is described as lying, resting in place, even helpless
- ✧ God warned Cain, sin’s desire is for him, but he must master it, what’s “it”?

# OT: “at the door”



Genesis 4:6-7 (God favored Abel’s offering over Cain; Cain became very angry)

6 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching **at the door**; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”“

- ✧ What I want to point out from this passage is sin is personified
- ✧ Did not Paul too personify sin in Romans 7? It’s not me, but sin living in me is the culprit
- ✧ Sin is described as lying, resting in place, even helpless
- ✧ God warned Cain, sin’s desire is for him, but he must master it, what’s “it”? **His sinful nature**



# OT: “at the door”



Thus:

- ✧ In the OT: “at the door” by implication is our sinful nature
- ✧ Our sinful nature is likened to an animal stretched out, resting in place, even helpless unless you give it life
- ✧ It’s instructive to not only Cain, but all mankind
  
- ✧ Now let’s look to the NT for “at the door” references

# NT: “at the door”



☞ In the NT: “at the door” is mentioned 9x times; 5x literally, 4x figuratively (including here in Rev 3), but I’d like for us to look at the other 3x figurative mentions, 2of3 are in the Olivet Discourse:

Matthew 24:32-33 (Parable of the Fig Tree)

32 “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; 33 so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right **at the door**.”

Mark 13:28-29 (Parallel account)

28 “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right **at the door**.”

☞ “at the door” of what?

# NT: “at the door”



☞ In the NT: “at the door” is mentioned 9x times; 5x literally, 4x figuratively (including here in Rev 3), but I’d like for us to look at the other 3x figurative mentions, 2of3 are in the Olivet Discourse:

Matthew 24:32-33 (Parable of the Fig Tree)

32 “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; 33 so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right **at the door**.”

Mark 13:28-29 (Parallel account)

28 “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right **at the door**.”

☞ “at the door” of what? **HIS RETURN!**

☞ **TRANSLATION: “at the door” is at the cusp of HIS RETURN!**

☞ Other 3<sup>rd</sup> and final mention apart from letter to Laodicea...

# NT: “at the door”



James 5:8-9 (Exhortation)

8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right **at the door**.

✎ What's “at the door” referring to? Hint: it's the same as the Parable of the Fig Tree

# NT: “at the door”



James 5:8-9 (Exhortation)

8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right **at the door**.

✎ What's “at the door” referring to? Hint: it's the same as the Parable of the Fig Tree - **HIS RETURN!**

# CONJECTURE



- ❧ In the NT: “at the door” is in reference to Jesus return
- ❧ But what about ROE#4: Thou shalt interpret Scripture w/literal fulfillment?
- ❧ That’s true too!
- ❧ Jesus is at the door of something!
- ❧ SPOILER: Just as Hades has a Door or Gates, so does heaven!
  - ❧ Rev4:1a After these things I looked, and behold, a **door standing open in heaven**
- ❧ So not only is this in reference to His return, but is in reference to Jesus standing at heaven’s door!
- ❧ With this in mind, let’s now look to the Gospels to see if Jesus mentions knocking on a door
- ❧ And Lo and Behold, it was mentioned only 1x time at that was in Luke’s gospel and a parable taught by our Lord... so let’s look at that



# “Jesus knocking”



Luke 12:35-40 (Sermon on the Mount; Jesus addresses His disciples)

35 “ Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit. 36 Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, **so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks.** 37

Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them. 38 **Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.**

39 “But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have allowed his house to be broken into. 40 You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect.”

# Exposit 3:20



A few things from this parable:

- ❧ This parable of readiness was addressed to His disciples (His slaves)
- ❧ They were instructed to be like men waiting for their Master to return from the Wedding Feast
- ❧ And when the Master returns from that Wedding Feast and knocks, they were to open the door to Him
- ❧ IMPORTANT TIMING: This knocking will be AFTER Jesus returns from a Wedding Feast
- ❧ And this knocking can be in the 2<sup>nd</sup> watch (9pm-12am) or even the 3<sup>rd</sup> watch (12am-3am)
  - ❧ The disciples and no one knows the day or hour of that
- ❧ More on this Wedding Feast when we get towards the end (Rev 19)
- ❧ But for now I'd like to amplify this parable by entering the subjects

# Return from Wedding Feast



Luke 12:35-40 (Sermon on the Mount; Jesus addresses His disciples)

35 “ Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit. 36 Be like men who are waiting for their master when he [Jesus] returns from the wedding feast, so that they [His slaves] may immediately open the door to him [Jesus] when he [Jesus] comes and knocks. 37 Blessed are those slaves whom the master [Jesus] will find on the alert when he [Jesus] comes; truly I say to you, that he [?] will gird himself [?] to serve [who?], and have them [?] recline at the table, and [who?] will come up and wait on them [?]. 38 Whether he [?] comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them [?] so, blessed are those slaves.

# Return from Wedding Feast



Luke 12:35-40 (Sermon on the Mount; Jesus addresses His disciples)

35 “ Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit. 36 Be like men who are waiting for their master when he [Jesus] returns from the wedding feast, so that they [His slaves] may immediately open the door to him [Jesus] when he [Jesus] comes and knocks. 37 Blessed are those slaves whom the master [Jesus] will find on the alert when he [Jesus] comes; truly I say to you, that he [Jesus] will gird himself [Jesus] to serve [His slaves], and have them [His slaves] recline at the table, and [Jesus] will come up and wait on them [His]. 38 Whether he [Jesus] comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them [His slave] so, blessed are those slaves.

✧ TRUTH MYSTERY: Jesus will appear to certain slaves during the end times between 9pm-3am, knock on their door and will even serve them a meal!

✧ Just like how Jesus appeared to His disciples when the doors were shut!

# Exposit 3:20



20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

- ✧ Thus, when Jesus says I stand at the door and knock, I believe there is a dual truth
- ✧ In tying in Cain's account, I'm inclined to believe this is reference of Jesus Personally standing and knocking at the door of their sinful nature!
- ✧ In context, they believe they are rich, have treasures, and can see
- ✧ But in truth, they are poor, wretched, pitiful, blind and naked
- ✧ So I believe this was a reference to them not recognizing their sin and sinful nature

# Exposit 3:20



20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

- ❧ In tying in the Parable of the Fig Tree and Marriage Feast, I'm also inclined to believe this was a reference to His return! Which comes with it mystery
- ❧ I believe this is also an end times prophecy that applies to certain slaves (just as it applied to His disciples) by which Jesus will make a Personal visit at a day and hour between 9pm-3am that no one will think He will
- ❧ TRANSLATION: this is a call for the Laodiceans to repent of their sinful deeds, turn to Christ in saving faith for true riches and true eyes to see. Lest, they be shut out of the kingdom when the King arrives from His long journey
- ❧ And finally to the promise...



# Exposit 3:21



21 He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

- ❧ “He who overcomes” is a universal truth that extends beyond the 7 churches
- ❧ “I will grant” - we covered this in part in the “I Wills of the Lord Jesus”
- ❧ Jesus will Personally grant believers to sit down with Him on His throne, the throne of David when it is established on earth
  - ❧ This must be the most exhilarating experience ever! To sit on the throne of the Living Son of God!
- ❧ As He also overcame and sat down with His Father on His Father’s throne!
  - ❧ Again, the throne in heaven is the Father’s throne and the Son has authority to sit on His Father’s throne

# Exposit 3:22



22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

- ❧ And for the final time; not just a catchy phrase
- ❧ But a call to repent and believe OR ELSE
- ❧ This call to repent and believe is NOT just for the unbelieving world, but for the dead members of His body, the Christian Church
- ❧ And IF we repent and believe the gospel and its entire message, we have ears to hear what the Spirit says to the churches and KNOW what's in store for us when our King and Savior finally arrives
- ❧ This call to repent and believe is NOT just limited to Laodicea, but all churches to follow

# END OF CHAPTER 3



- ❧ And that finally takes us to the end of our study of the 7 letters to the 7 churches.
- ❧ Next Up: John is taken up into heaven in Ch.4 and gives us details on the majestic scene in heaven.
- ❧ More on that when we pick up our study next time