

Jesus Evaluates His Churches, Part 8
PHILADELPHIA – The Living Word Church with Open Doors for the Gospel
Revelation 3:7-13 – 03/27/2016
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP
<http://NLFJL.org/MSGS>

Philadelphia – “brotherly love” (Today it is the Turkish city of Alaşehir)

REVIEW:

Our **FOCUS** → Find out what Jesus Christ **Likes & Loves** and what Jesus Christ **Dislikes** and **Hates**
FYI: There are **Only 2 Churches** in which Jesus Christ does **NOT** call to Repentance.

1. **Intro** --> The **Symbolic Picture of Jesus Christ** revealed and His Message **Intro** to the 7 Churches
2. Understanding God's **Hatred** regarding anything related to **Idolatry** and **Paganism**, etc.
3. **Ephesus** (Rev. 2:1-7) - **Lost Your First Love - Repent - Regain that First Love**
Time Period Ephesus **REPRESENTS** --> **From the Day of Pentecost** (Acts 2) until around **70 A.D.** or so
4. **Smyrna** (Rev. 2:8-11) - **sweet smelling incense, sacrifice** → characterized by **Christian Martyrdom**
Beginning with the Jewish **Bar Kockba Revolt** - which led to the Persecution of Israel by the Roman Empire. Rome viewed **“Christians”** as a new **Jewish Cult**. So, it was under that same category at the beginning. Thus, the **Destruction** of the Israeli **Temple** in Jerusalem in **70 A.D.** was the **beginning** of the **seed** of the of the **10 waves** of Persecution by the Roman Empire against Christians – it was **LINKED to Israel**. Those **10 days of Prison** → represents the **10 Distinct waves of Persecution** by the Roman Empire → this is **the KEY that unlocked** the **Mystery** of the 7 Churches → **Each “church” Represents a Period of Time** within the Church Age. In the case of **Smyrna** → represents → **67 A.D. until around 313 A.D.**
5. **Pergamos** (Rev. 2:12-17) - **BAD MARRIAGE** → Represents the beginnings of the **Roman Catholic Church ... 313 A.D until around 529 A.D.** (go to <http://NLFJL.org/Per> for more)
The Pagan Invasion and Integration after **Constantine the First** married the “church” to Rome.
The **Grand Compromise** based on the **“Doctrines of Balaam”** → **Idolatry and Immorality**
The **Nicolaitan Model of Leadership** was **Embraced** and Employed (Clergy, Cardinals, Popes)
→ **Jesus HATES** Idolatry, Immorality and the Nicolaitan Model of church leadership.
6. **Thyatira** (Rev. 2:18-29) – **Royal goddess of Purple** --> 2nd Pagan/Idolatrous Phase of the **Roman church ... Represents** the time period of 529 A.D. to the 1300's A.D. (Dark Ages into the beginnings of the Middle Ages) Massive **Integration of Paganism** and Idolatry (i.e.: “teachings of **Jezebel**”) into the Roman church **Mariolatry**, Praying to the saints, **“Christian Calendar”** (which is really a Pagan Conglomerate Calendar that was “Christianized” by the Roman church), the rise of the **POWER** of Popes/Clergy → **Nicolaitans** continue. Tremendous amounts of much false doctrine assimilated and integrated. This will lead them to a **“sickbed”** and Jesus “striking **Jezebel’s** children to **‘death’**” (i.e.: the Plague – Black Death of Europe). a **DEAD church**.
7. **SARDIS** – The **DEAD Church with a Name** – the result of being Pergamos and then being Thyatira ... **DEAD**

Each church is connected and/or related to the next and/or to the previous church, as applicable.

Ephesus **becomes** Smyrna → Smyrna **becomes** Pergamos → Pergamos **becomes** Thyatira . . .

→ Thyatira **becomes** Sardis. These are mostly **Direct** and **Progressive** connections and relationships.

BUT, this is where the **direct connections stop**. Sardis does **NOT** fully become Philadelphia. **YET**, they are related. Only, **some** of the **“children”** of **Sardis** become the **“seeds”** of **Philadelphia**, Prophetically and Historically. Today we'll look at this **“Philadelphia Connection”**. Open Door for the Gospel Mission . . .

Revelation 3:7-13 → [1400's A.D. until the Rapture of the church]

⁷“And to the angel of the church in **Philadelphia** write,

‘These things says **He who is Holy, He who is true**, “He who has the key of David, He who **OPENS** and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”: ⁸“I know your works. See, **I have set before you an OPEN DOOR, and no one can shut it; because you have a little strength, have kept My Word, and have not denied My Name.** ⁹Indeed I will make those of the **synagogue of Satan**, who say they are Jews and are not, but **lie** - indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that **I have loved you.** ¹⁰**Because you have kept My command to PERSEVERE, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.** ¹¹**Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.** ¹²**He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. 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.**

¹³“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.””

1. **'... He who is Holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who OPENS and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens" ... '** (Rev. 3:7) →
 - Why does He introduce Himself like this to the church of Philadelphia . . . ?
 - Holy, True, KEYS of David ... OPEN and SHUT Doors ... ???
 - What are Keys for? What are the keys to this passage of Holy Scripture?

2. **"I know your works. See, I have set before you an OPEN DOOR, and no one can shut it; BECAUSE you have a little strength, have KEPT My Word, and have NOT denied My Name.**

He knows everything about every person and church ... No condemnation, no critique, only a REWARD of an OPEN DOOR ... for WHAT ? What did they HAVE (hint: see the list AFTER "because")

because you have a LITTLE STRENGTH, have KEPT My Word, and have NOT denied My Name.

They Believed in, Held Fast to, Clung onto, Trusted in, and Obeyed God's Holy Word. They were **Bold** in Proclaiming His Word and the Gospel of Christ to the lost around them. They were Not Ashamed of Christ nor of His Word (see Matt 10:24-39; Mark 8:35-38). They had no earthly power, unlike "church of SARDIS"

3. **Exposing the Synagogue of SATAN** – (similar to Smyrna, the only other God-Pleasing church Rev. 2:9) Jesus is going to Publicly Shame those who are a part of that "synagogue" of SATAN ...

Expose them that they **L_____** . They will Bow down at your **F_____** . They will KNOW that Jesus **L_____** the church of Philadelphia (and **not** the Synagogue of Satan).
Who are these folks? (see the link below for more info . . .)

4. **The RAPTURE ... those of this church will exist at the Time of the Rapture ... (Rev. 3:10-11)**

“BECAUSE you have KEPT My COMMAND to PERSEVERE, I also will KEEP YOU FROM the HOUR OF TRIAL WHICH SHALL COME UPON THE WHOLE WORLD, to TEST those who DWELL ON THE EARTH. “Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

Conditional Promise to Experience the **Rapture** when it does occur. Have you met that condition, yourself? Have you KEPT His WORD, His Command ... have you Repented of your sins? Have you Trusted in Jesus Christ and **His Finished Work of Redemption** as Enough to Secure your Eternal Redemption, Forever Forgiveness, Eternal Life with Christ? Was Christ's Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection ENOUGH? That describes **KEPT My COMMAND to PERSEVERE** ... no matter what Satan or the world throws at you to DENY CHRIST and HIS Finished Work of Redemption on your Behalf, you simply Trust in Christ ... **He is Enough for you.** It also relates to **the Command of Spreading the Gospel**, as well. Since that was His last Command to His Disciples before Ascending up into Heaven (see Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:44ff; Acts 1:8). **Are you genuinely Born Again in Christ?**

The phrase: **the HOUR OF TRIAL WHICH SHALL COME UPON THE WHOLE WORLD, to TEST those who DWELL ON THE EARTH.** This what we read about in **Revelation 6 thru 19 ... the Tribulation, The Great Tribulation.**

Jesus referenced this in **Matthew 24:15-22** → verses 21-22 in particular:
²¹ **For then there will be a GREAT TRIBULATION, such as has NOT been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, NOR EVER SHALL BE.** ²² **And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.**

→ **Behold I am coming quickly!** This implies the Quickness of the Rapture, when it happens, **NOT** that the Rapture would come Quickly after John wrote this book. The Rapture, according to 1 Corinthians 15:51ff would be faster than the "twinkling of an eye" ... so very fast it would almost happen instantaneously.

5. **WARNING and REWARD ... (Rev. 3:11-13) [are we listening to God's Spirit?]**

Don't Lose your Crown – Hold onto It ... their Crown is what they already had in Christ as Christians. **How could they lose it?** (the "CROWN of LIFE" is what Smyrna's reward was - Rev. 2:10)

Rewards: They would be a **PILLAR** in His Temple (Pillar and Support of the Truth (1 Timothy 3:15ff)

NAME → instead of Having a Famous NAME like SARDIS had (so they thought) God will give these Christians a Brand New Name, related to the New Jerusalem ...

For more study on your own → go to <http://NLFJI.org/book>