

The Revelation of YAHSHUA to the Churches of Asia (7)  
(Revelation 3: 7-13)  
The Church of Philadelphia- the Faithful Church

To the angel of the church of Philadelphia write: The Holy One, the True One, the One Who has the key of David, Who opens and no one will close, and closes and no one opens says: I know your works and what you are doing. See! I have set before you a door wide open which no one is able to shut; I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept My Word and guarded My message and have not renounced or denied My name; take note! I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews and are not, but lie- behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and learn and acknowledge that I have loved you. Because you have guarded and kept My word of patient endurance, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which is coming on the whole world to try those who dwell upon the earth. I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one may rob you and deprive you of your crown. He who overcomes I will make him a pillar in the sanctuary of My God; he shall never be put out of it or go out of it, and I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which descends from My God out of heaven, and My own new name. He who can hear, let him listen to and heed what the Spirit says to the assemblies (Revelation 3:7-13).

Philadelphia, the church that kept the faith, was found blameless before the eyes of her Lord YAHSHUA. He introduced Himself to her as the **HOLY ONE, THE TRUE ONE, THE ONE WHO HAS THE KEY OF DAVID Who opens and no one will close, and close and no one opens**. Here our Lord YAHSHUA reveals Himself as the Holy One, the True One, and the Sovereign One. The Philadelphia church is prophetic of the time of the great spiritual awakening of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries; the time of open doors to the Gospel everywhere in the world. In spite of her little strength or power perhaps in number, but strong in faith, the Lord had before her open doors to spread His message of love and commended her for her faithfulness to His name. He promised to cause her enemies to bow down before her, so they could see His love for her. For her endurance and patience, YAHSHUA promised to keep her from the hour of trial (tribulation) a confirmation of the catching away of His faithful Bride (I Thess. 4:15-18). YAHSHUA says, I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one may rob you of your crown. To hold on is to persevere in the teachings of YAHSHUA; it is to continue; to persist in them to the end. To the one who is victorious the Lord promised to make him a pillar in the sanctuary of YAHWEH. A pillar is a symbol of strength; the support of a superstructure. It is always noticeable in the destruction of an ancient structure that the pillars are the ones remaining standing. In the body of Christ this position is very important for the support and oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the knowledge of the Son of YAHWEH; for the spiritual maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness (Ephesians 4:12,13). Philadelphia had a position of a pillar in the future life of the church for her faithfulness to her Lord and her spiritual strength. In the prophetic frame of its representation, the church of Philadelphia stood firm spreading the message of the love of YAHWEH for many years seen in the lives of those missionaries and evangelists of the era of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Below is a detail excerpt from the writing of Ray Stedman about the heroes of the faith in the prophetic era of the church of Philadelphia:

**Viewed from the standpoint of Christian history, this church of Philadelphia foreshadows the great Evangelical Awakenings of the 18th and 19th centuries, following the time of declension among the Reformation churches: The Moravian Brethren in Germany began to meet in small groups for prayer, catching again a vision of God and what he could do, and eventually sent out missionaries to other parts of the world. It began in England as the movement which we call the Puritan Movement. John Bunyan, who wrote Pilgrim's Progress, was one of these Puritans; John Newton, whose hymns we sing so often, was another. This Awakening also encompasses the great Wesleyan Revival and George Whitefield's preaching in both England and America. In this country it includes the movement called the Great Awakening, with Jonathan Edwards as one of its leaders, and the Methodist Circuit Riders who rode horseback up and down the Eastern seaboard, later expanding westward when the nation began to move west. I personally have been benefited by one of these men, called Brother Van, who came to the Territory of Montana shortly after it began to be populated because of the gold rush. He went into the saloons and mining camps of Montana and preached the gospel, winning hundreds to Christ. He started churches all over the state, most of which are still there, but I'm afraid not doing very well. This was also a time of revival of missionary interest: William Carey in England got a vision of the need of India and eventually went out there and planted the gospel in a great work in that country. Robert Moffet and his famous son-in-law, David Livingstone, went to Africa and did marvelous work there. The American missionary, Adoniram Judson, went out to Burma and pioneered a work in that country. Hudson Taylor went to minister in inland China. We have many other great missionary names that come out of this period of history. It is also the time of the emergence of great evangelists whose names we all remember -- George Whitefield, John Wesley, Charles Spurgeon (a pastor, but also a great evangelist), Charles Finney here in this country, and D. L. Moody, who left a great work behind him. All of these were foreshadowed by this church of Philadelphia which came alive amidst the death that characterized many other churches. [www.RayStedman.org](http://www.RayStedman.org)**

The city of Philadelphia was founded by King Attalus of Pergamum, whose nickname was Philadelphus in B.C. 150. It suffered destruction from an earthquake in 17 A.D. along with other cities of the area.

Our Lord's appeal to the church of Philadelphia is to persevere in the faith, in the knowledge of Him, and to continue following Him. This appeal touches us in the view of the coming persecution, when many will abandon the faith. His promise, however, is once again renewed to us that He is coming soon. The words given to His disciples before His sacrifice on the cross was Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in YAHWEH believe also in Me... I am going to prepare a place for you. ... I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also (John 14:1-3). We must hold on to the teachings and promises of our Lord and Savior YAHSHUA to go through what we are destined to go through in this end times. May we be found faithful persevering in Him and blameless before Him as the Church of Philadelphia.