



4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. 6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains. - Matthew 24:4-8



Class notes, info & Directory posted to www.SJCalvaryBerean.com or scan the QR code

- i. **Understanding The Times:** Jan Markell plays a message given by Mondo Gonzales (ProphecyWatchers.com) from a recent "Understanding the Times" conference in Minneapolis regarding the rapture. Also discussed: Are those of us who believe in a Pre-Trib Rapture in some sort of 'Delusional cult'?; Does the Bible teach a 'rescue' as a comfort us prior to God's judgement?; How are we to respond to discouraging news?; What is "Hope in perilous times" & are we living in perilous times?
 - a. **OliveTreeViews:** <https://bit.ly/31WMM0s> YouTube: <https://bit.ly/49VBrvb>
- ii. **Amir Tsarfati Weekly Update:** <https://bit.ly/49VdZhA>
- iii. **Discerning Reality from Speculation & Sensationalism:** <https://youtu.be/DRqm9ZQh7GQ>
- iv. **Curtis Bowers Weekly Agenda:** "The JFK Assassination & why it still matters": <https://bit.ly/49GeZWM>

II. A Reading of Revelation 3:7-13 - A Study of The church at Philadelphia

- a. **Background on the church of Philadelphia**
 - i. **Philadelphia: The name means 'brotherly love'**
 - ii. The youngest of the 7 cities; originally founded as a missionary outpost for Hellenism, the culture of ancient Greece.
 - iii. "Philadelphia had been built with the deliberate intention that it might become a missionary city. Beyond Philadelphia lay the wilds of Phrygia and the barbarous tribes; and it was intended that the function of Philadelphia should be to spread the Greek language, the Greek way of life, the Greek civilization, throughout the regions beyond." (Barclay Bible Commentary)
 - iv. "Philadelphia commanded one of the greatest highways in the world, the highway which led from Europe to the East. Philadelphia was the gateway from one continent to another." (Barclay Bible Commentary)
- b. **How Jesus Describes Himself to the church at Philadelphia (verse 7)**
 - i. **'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"**
 - ii. **Holy & True:** These aren't 'traits' of Jesus, but His **very being**. They also show that **Jesus is Yahweh**, because He alone is absolutely holy
 - iii. **2 ancient Greek words translate as "true"**. One means "true, not false". The other means "**true and not fake**" attesting to it's genuine nature.
 - iv. The Greek word used here ('*alethinos*') is the second, with the idea of "real" or "genuine." Jesus is 100% GENUINE; He is the *real* God and the *real* man.
 - v. Jesus reveals He is the keeper of the keys and doors. He quotes [Isaiah 22:22-23](#), showing His power & authority to **admit and exclude ... THAT IS AN AUTHORITY HELD ONLY BY GOD**
- c. **What Jesus knows about the church of Philadelphia (verse 8)**
 - i. **I know your works:** The church at Philadelphia had served God well in difficult circumstances ... and Jesus knew it!
 - ii. **I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it:** The church in Philadelphia had an open door set before them. An open door speaks of evangelistic opportunity
 - a. [1 Cor 16:9](#) - "a wide door for effective service has been opened to me"
 - b. [2 Cor 2:12](#) - "a door was opened for me in the Lord"
 - c. [Col 4:3](#) - "... that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; ..."

- iii. Jesus told them He had opened the door of evangelistic opportunity, and they must go through that door in faith.
- iv. In its history, Philadelphia had a great “evangelistic” calling. The city had the mission of spreading Greek culture and language through the whole region. Now Jesus opened the door for the Christians of Philadelphia to spread the culture of His kingdom through the whole region.
- v. **Jesus told them to see that they had this open door.** Sometimes God sets an open door of evangelistic opportunity in front of us, but we don’t see it.
- vi. Once we see the open door, we then have to **walk through it**. God wants us to take every evangelistic opportunity that He gives us.
- d. **The Promise of “an open door which no one can shut” (verse 8)**
 - i. There may be another sense to this open door. It seems Christians in Philadelphia were excluded from the synagogue ([Revelation 3:9](#)). The open door may also speak of their opportunity to enter God’s kingdom in contrast with exclusion from the synagogue.
 - ii. God opens doors for ministry & ministers today. Because Jesus has opened the door, **He gets the glory for it.**
 - iii. “Neither wealth or influence, neither promotional schemes nor the eloquence of its pulpit, nor the harmonies of its musicians can give it an effective ministry. The Lord alone has opened the door; the Lord alone ‘giveth the increase.’” (H. Morris)
- e. **The Proper attitude of the Philadelphian Believers (verse 8)**
 - i. “... **for you have a little strength**”: doesn’t imply weakness, but ‘real’ strength. They were ‘weak’ enough to be strong in the Lord (2 Cor 12:9-10)
 - ii. We can be “too strong” or too sure of ourselves for God to really use us. The church in Philadelphia had the “poverty of spirit” to know they really needed God’s strength.
 - iii. “... **have kept My word, and not denied My name**”: The church in Philadelphia **lived** (i.e. they ‘walked the walk’) in a way that was faithful to the **words, name & character** of Jesus.
 - iv. The ‘Woke Church’ of today distorts the word of Jesus, denies His name, and redefines His character. They represent the manner and style of Jesus as something very different from what the Bible records.
- f. **Contrasting the Spiritually Awakened Church with Today’s “Woke Church”**
 - i. **Look at the features of the Spiritually Awakened Church in Philadelphia:**
 - a. Evangelistic opportunity: ‘I have set before you an open door’
 - b. Reliance on God: ‘You have a little strength’
 - c. Faithfulness to Jesus: ‘... have kept My word, and not denied My name’
 - d. Jesus was **completely** pleased with this church. He had **nothing** negative to say to the church at Philadelphia.
 - ii. **Compared to today’s Woke Church:**
 - a. A church that caves to societal dictates & embraces ‘redefined morals’
 - b. Reliance on society, new science, & government mandates (local/state/national)
 - c. Embraces ‘new science’, media, & trends (lies, false interpretations)
 - iii. **What Jesus will do for Believers in Philadelphia ... & us if we copy them (vs 10)**
 - a. “I will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world”:
 - i. Most Commentaries see this “hour of trial” as a prophetic reference to the Great Tribulation, which precede Jesus’ earthly kingdom.
 - b. “... to test those who dwell on the earth”: The test is directed against those who dwell on the earth. This phrase is used 9 times in the Book of Revelation, and it speaks of those who are **not** saved in Jesus.
 - c. [Revelation 17:8](#) makes the term synonymous with the **lost**: “And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world.”
 - i. This test is for **unbelievers**, not Christians.
 - d. **A Christian’s dwelling place is in heaven!** We have been seated in heavenly places in Jesus ([Eph 2:6](#)). We do not ‘dwell on the earth’, our life is hidden in Jesus ([Col 3:3](#)).
 - e. “... **keep you from the hour of trial**”: Does this imply an escape **before** the Great Tribulation, or does it promise **protection in it**? Each ‘side’ believes this passage supports their position... **IN EITHER CASE, IT’S A PROMISE!**
 - f. Those who believe the church will be here on earth during the Tribulation focus on Jesus’ command to persevere, & say the context demands seeing this as **protection** that enables the faithful to persevere.
 - g. Those who believe that Jesus will come for His church before this time of Tribulation believe that protection is promised from the very hour of trial, & the trial itself. They also point to the worldwide, cataclysm predicted in the Great Tribulation ([Matthew 24:21](#) and Revelation chapters 6, 8-9, & 16).
 - h. Additional Commentary on Verse 10 from Dr. John Walvoord (www.walvoord.com/article/261)
 - iv. **What Jesus wants the church of Philadelphia to do (verse 11)**
 - a. Recognize Jesus is coming quickly, and they must prepare for His coming.
 - b. “The expression ‘quickly’ is to be understood as something which is sudden and unexpected, **not necessarily immediate**.” (Dr. John Walvoord)
 - c. “**Hold fast what you have**”: The church at Philadelphia (and WE) must not depart from our solid foundation, as described in [Revelation 3:8](#):
 - v. **Christ’s promise of reward to the Church in Philadelphia ... & us (vs 12)**

- a. Pillars are pictures of strength, a 'new name' is a sign of an eternal life & relationship with God