

Corresponds to Program 12, 13

PHILADELPHIA - BROTHERLY LOVE STUDY GUIDE

THE FAITHFUL CHURCH

Revelation 3:7-13

The Philadelphian church is one of only two that has nothing written against it. The word Philadelphia means “brotherly love”, and it generally fits this church which describes the church age from 1798 to about 1844.

In verse 7, Jesus is pictured as the one who holds the keys to the kingdom of heaven, the keys of David. This is almost a direct quote from the Old Testament book of Isaiah:

“The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; so he shall open, and no one shall shut; and he shall shut, and no one shall open” Isaiah 22:22 NKJV.

Keys give us access to things. The keys of David give us access to the government of God as noted in Isaiah 9:

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” Isaiah 9:6 NKJV.

Notice that in Isaiah 22 the key of David is laid upon Christ’s shoulder and then in Isaiah 9 it is the government that is laid upon Christ’s shoulder. Then Isaiah 9:7 says:

“Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

A key opens a door to a pathway, house or room. God’s keys open the door to His government, to His kingdom and the way of salvation. The book of Psalms says:

“Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; who is so great a God as our God?” Psalm 77:13 NKJV.

David did not understand God’s ways until He went into the sanctuary (Psalm 73:1-17). And Jesus warned the people that the religious leaders of His day were shutting up the key of knowledge and not letting people enter in:

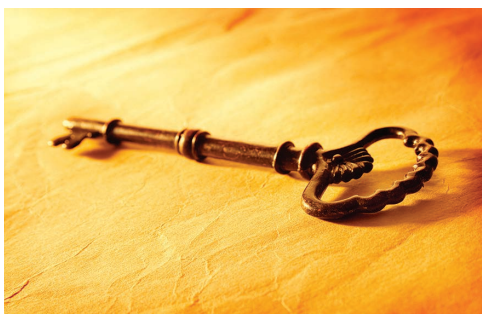
“Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered” Luke 11:52 NKJV.

Enter into what? Into a more perfect understanding of the truth of God and the plan of redemption in understanding Jesus Christ the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

In Christ’s day God was seeking to help the people enter into a fuller knowledge of the plan of salvation and His mission as a sacrifice for the sin of

the world but the religious leaders would not be taught or open their hearts to the truth. Jesus is saying to this church, “I have something that I want to unlock to your understanding regarding My government and the plan of salvation. I’m going to open to you the sanctuary and no man can shut it.” The implication here is that people try to shut out this knowledge. They tried to shut out this truth.

Christ was the Lamb that was to be slain in the courtyard of the sanctuary (Hebrews 13:10-13; 1 Corinthians 5:7). After



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KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 3:7-13 THE FAITHFUL CHURCH

Isaiah 22:22 KEY OF HOUSE OF DAVID

Isaiah 9:6 GOD’S GOVERNMENT

Psalm 77:13 GOD’S WAY IS IN THE SANCTUARY

His death Christ ascended to the Holy Place of heavenly sanctuary where He took up the next phase of salvation as our high priest (Hebrews 4:14-16; 9:12, KJV). During the age of Philadelphia God moved us from the Holy Place ministry through a door into the Most Holy Place ministry which reveals a fuller understanding of the plan of salvation. Yet as it was in Christ's day so in the Philadelphia church age it was a time of test. The message of the cleansing of the sanctuary was understood to apply to the earth and not to heaven. In 1844 thousands of people believed Jesus was returning to earth and were bitterly disappointed. Many denied their faith and most of the world concluded that the message wasn't true.

Yet Jesus was taking us from the Holy Place into the Most Holy Place. He was taking us to another door of knowledge and understanding in regards to the plan of salvation. Christ says I'm about to open a door that no man can shut and He's making reference to the door into the Holy Place. The key represents knowledge of Christ moving from the Holy Place to the Most Holy Place. This symbolizes a completed gospel restored and the beginning of judgment.

"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" Revelation 3:9.

Both Smyrna and Philadelphia include the phrase those who say they are Jews and are not. They have this in common because Smyrna is under heavy persecution and Philadelphia is filled with brotherly love. Persecution and brotherly love reveals the difference between true followers and mere professors, between those who say they are Jews and those who are really Jews, that is spiritual Jews or God's true people (Romans 2:28, 29; Galatians 3:29).

"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" Revelation 3:10.

What is the "word of My patience?" Revelation 14:12 identifies the "patience of the saints" as those who keep the commandments of God. Where are the Commandments of God? In the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary (Hebrews 9:3, 4). This further confirms the opening of the door into the Most Holy Place of ministry. The sanctuary of Moses had three compartments with two veils. As the High Priest walked through the veils, he entered a new compartment with a different function. The open veil showed

that the door of salvation was open, but the High Priest in the sanctuary was about to begin a new phase of His ministry. At the end of the time allotted for the Philadelphian church, a new phase of ministry for Christ, our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary, would take place. He would move from ministry in the Holy Place, to the Most Holy Place, and His work of final judgment would begin. This would happen in 1844, right on time.

The hour of temptation or test is found in Revelation 13. All the world will be tested regarding the mark of the beast. Yet Jesus says those will be kept who keep the word of His patience. We embrace the light that is revealed in keeping the commandments of God and having faith of Jesus. That keeps us from the hour of temptation.

"He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And 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" Revelation 3:12 NKJV.

Pillars in the temple support the temple. This promise represents those who embrace the message of the most Holy Place. They support the message of the Most Holy Place. They accept the message that God gave to them in 1844. And they support the temple. They become pillars of the temple. Pillars of the Sanctuary truth.

The new name is the name of God, it is the name of the Lamb (Revelation 14:1; 22:4). Those who become the Lamb's wife receive a new name just like a woman who marries a man receives a new name, his name.

There are many people who do not have this knowledge and the Bible says that God winks at our ignorance (Acts 17:30). Yet we are called to repent and to come out of Babylon (Revelation 18:4). Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon but he accepted the message of God through His servant Daniel as was saved (Daniel 4). God is wooing us. He is courting us. He is embracing us in His arms of love. He wants to marry us (Revelation 19:7). And as we marry into Christ and become His bride we receive a new name. May the new name of the Lamb be yours by grace through faith. ★

Note - Many believed that Jesus was to return in 1844. Some preachers preached that far and wide, and a great revival transpired. When Jesus did not return in the fall of 1844, many lost hope. Others went back to the Bible to find where they went wrong. They discovered that Jesus was not coming back to this earth at that time, but that He had moved from the Holy Place in the heavenly temple, to the Most Holy Place. Jesus had moved through the open door and a work of final judgment had begun in Heaven.

Philadelphia - Brotherly Love

Personal Application

Is it your desire to have God write His name on your heart? _____

