

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Chapters 2-3 – Church History – Seven Letters to Seven Churches

THE PHILADELPHIA LETTER – PART TWO – REVELATION 3:7-13

Last week we were introduced to the church in Philadelphia through the letter written by the apostle John, dictated by Jesus Christ himself. Our study of the text revealed many things, but in particular the prophetic accuracy of these _____ words. Not only is this letter representative of the Philadelphian church in 90 AD, with some characteristics indicative of churches today and throughout history, but it also supernaturally speaks to the time period spanning from 1500 AD – 1900 AD. Today we will explain these things in greater detail and continue to witness the awesome _____ of the Holy Scriptures.

Basic review of part one

1. The name Philadelphia means : Brotherly love
 - There is no greater love you can show anyone than the kind of love that tells the truth of Jesus Christ and the gospel of eternal life through him alone.
2. The church was commended for being:
 - a. Hardworking, with an open door to reach the world, and the key of David to open doors everywhere. Not only did they possess the completed Bible, but they believed it and loved it.
 - b. Persevering, with just a little strength left after the dark ages ended, they kept God's word and did not deny Jesus name.
3. This wonderful church received no condemnation but rather incredible promises from God:
 - a. God's reward – lost souls that once denied Christ will get saved
 - b. God's rescue – As overcomers they will not experience *the hour of temptation* (tribulation), not from the past, nor in the present or future. As a result they will be pillars in the temple of God with God's name, the name of the city of God, and Jesus Christ's new name upon them.
 - c. God's reminder – All seven letters in Revelation 2-3 transcend time and space. They are to be received by all the churches throughout church history. Therefore any church or believer can be a Philadelphian if they display the same characteristics as these fruitful, faithful saints.

Three basic applications of the Philadelphia letter:

1. Historically – 90 AD – 96 AD

- a. Philadelphia is an inland city of ancient Lydia (modern day Turkey) located approximately 125 miles from the coast of the Aegean Sea.
 - The city is located in a very wide and beautiful valley with the Cogamis River running through its center. It is established on four or five hills with wooded laurels and gardens in such a picturesque rural setting that it would seem to make the inhabitants feel safe and secure. However, it is very susceptible to earthquakes and was almost completely destroyed on several occasions. In contrast, this made it a dangerous place to live.
 - Because of its outer distant location it was a fortress city used to waylay enemy forces who would come to destroy the greater cities of Asia Minor – Ephesus, Smyrna and Pergamos. The Greeks considered it to be a land of Barbarians.
 - The inner workings of the city's livelihood were based upon _____ trade. It was not known as a city of international commerce. The wealthy citizens were primarily a *middle class* who made their money on small business and local service trades.
- b. The Greek culture totally dominated the area—it was called “little Athens.”
 - Pagan temples and Greek cults were prevalent. The Jewish population was often persecuted by the Greeks—in turn they, along with the Greeks ridiculed and persecuted the born-again Christians of Philadelphia.
 - The Jewish population bitterly blasphemed Christ and vehemently opposed the Bible with the NT scriptures as a final authority. It was common for believers to be reported by the Jews to local magistrates for punishment. This was done in an effort to deflect Jewish persecution from the same authorities.
 - Although the church was troubled and not wealthy it reached many people for Christ, and sent out an unusual amount of missionaries to start other churches throughout Asia. This great church valued the word of God; they are known for their tenacious obedience to the scriptures, their burden for lost souls, and their love and worship of Jesus Christ.

Doctrinally – 1500 AD – 1900 AD

1. The Philadelphia Church Period begins with the close of the _____ and ends at the conclusion of the 19th Century—the time known as the “Modern Industrial Age.”

a. During the Philadelphia Church Period the Bible is back in the hands of the _____ man (Mk. 12:37). With the invention of the printing press, all men could eventually obtain a personal copy of God's word.

- This glorious period is countered by atheism and intellectualism from men like Spinoza, Hegel, Kant, Freud, Huxley, Marx, and Darwin. Human thought processes are dissected and analyzed as psycho-analysis and psycho-_____ ultimately come along in an attempt to _____ the wisdom of God given through the scriptures – Col. 2:8.

b. The church of the Philadelphian period possesses the *Key of David*. And as a result they have an _____ to the world because God said they *kept my word ... And hast not denied my name*.

- During the Philadelphian church period there are seven main English translations leading up to the _____ that launched the greatest period in church history:

*Psalm 12:6-7 – The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified **seven** times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt **preserve** them from this generation for ever. (Emphasis added)*

- 1) The Wycliffe Bible (1382)
- 2) The Tyndale Bible (1525)
- 3) The Coverdale Bible (1535)
- 4) The Matthew Bible (1537)
- 5) The Great Bible (1539)
- 6) The Geneva Bible (1560)
- 7) The Bishops' Bible (1568)

- The devil does not sit still because he knows the _____ of God rests in the preserved word being believed on in the world. Satan launches major counter attacks. Three known attempts to prohibit the next [eighth] version are:

- 1) Pope Sixtus V, King Philip of Spain and the Spanish Armada (May 29, 1588) –

Spain attempts to overthrow England—they could have conquered them, their Navy was bigger and strong

As they made their way across the English Channel the providence of God took control

A storm whipped up and destroyed the entire fleet (79 ships, 17,000+ fighting men)

- 2) The assassination attempt of King James I (October 26, 1605) –

This is famously called the “Gunpowder Plot”

The opening session of parliament with the king present is about to take place...

An anonymous warning is received as the hall is filled with occupants...

Five Papal Romanists are discovered in the basement ready to detonate barrels of gunpowder. The plot was foiled!

3) The Roman Catholic Douay Rheims Bible (1610) –

This version was translated from Jerome's corrupt Latin Vulgate (which is traced back to Alexandria, Egypt and the heretick Adamantius Origen).

The RCC is against the ropes and figures "If you cannot beat them, join them." They translate their own version to compete with God's English Bible in attempt to take over the #8 position...

- The _____ Bible cannot be prevented: The monarch of books—The King James Version of 1611 (aka the *Authorized Version*) is produced. A brief description of the events is as follows:

Queen Elizabeth dies in 1603...

She never married, thus there was _____ direct heir to the throne of England...

Her nephew, James VI of Scotland was proclaimed James I, King of England...

On his way to the throne he is approached by a delegation of pastors with a list of grievances against the Church of England. It had been signed by 1,000 Puritan ministers, thus becoming known as the "Millenary Petition..."

King James said that the grievances would be addressed at a conference to be held on January 14-18, 1604, at Hampton Court...

Invited to the conference were 4 Puritans, 9 Bishops, 9 Clergymen, and 4 professors from Cambridge and Oxford...

At the conference, John Reynolds (*A Puritan*) would make a request of the king that would change the course of history..."May your majesty be pleased... to direct that the Bible be now translated, such versions as are extant _____ answering to the original."

James recognized that England needed a translation that would _____ the country behind a single English Bible...

The Great Bible was too cumbersome...the Geneva Bible was too controversial ...the Bishop's Bible was too careless...

On July 22, 1604, King James placed his official _____ on the proposal...

"That a translation be made of the whole Bible, as consonant as can be to the original Hebrew and Greek; and this to be set out and printed, without any marginal notes, and only to be used in all churches of England, in time of Divine service."

On that same date, King James announced he had selected 54 men to translate the new Bible...

The primary qualification required of each man was that he be a proven scholar...

The meticulous work began in 1607...

- England was now destined to become the greatest, most powerful nation in the world. Its conquests would carry them to _____ continent, and they would possess an English Bible that would accompany them. Ultimately, they would propagate that glorious book to the entire planet as _____ would become the universal language!

2. The Philadelphian church period is the time when the Bible texts from Antioch, Syria were translated into German (Martin Luther's German Bible), English (King James Version of 1611), and over _____ various languages around the world.

- This is the time when _____ speaking missionaries took God's preserved word to the ends of the Earth.

Some of the key men were:

Philip Spener (1635-1705)
Herman Francke (1663-1727)
Count Zinzendorf (1700-1760)
Richard Baxter (1615-1691)
George Fox (1624-1691)
John Bunyan (1628-1688)
Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)
John Wesley (1703-1791)
George Whitefield (1714-1770)
David Brainerd (1718-1747)
Samuel Seabary (1729-1796)
Christian Schwartz (1726-1798)
Henry Martyn (1781-1812)
John Clark (1609-1676)
Samuel Mills (1783-1818)
Billy Bray (1794-1868)
Robert Morrison (1782-1834)
Joshua Marshman (1766-1837)
Samuel Marsden (1764-1838)
Peter Parker (1804-1888)
Samuel Nott (1788-1864)
Wilfred Grenfell (1866-1940)
Alfred Saken (1814-1880)
Francis Gardiner (1794-1851)
John Geddie (1815-1872)
Adoniram Judson (1788-1850)
William Carey (1761-1834)
Robert Moffat (1795-1883)
George Mueller (1805-1898)
David Livingstone (1813-1873)
Hudson Taylor (1833-1905)
Jonathan Goforth (1859-1936)
C.T. Studd (1862-1931)
William Tennent (1673-1746)

3. The church of the *open door* in Philadelphia will, in the next church period, become the church of the _____ door.

- a. God gave England his preserved Word. They fell in love with it, thus falling in love with him. When this happened, believers were _____ and burdened for the lost...
- Because England was faithful to the _____, God blessed England, she became the greatest nation on Earth.
 - Her God fearing citizens took the _____ to the ends of the world, including America!
 - God raised up more men and women to propagate his truth. They were faithful in their mission to preach the gospel, to preach and teach God's preserved words. _____ received God's supernatural blessing...
 - Doors were _____ to the entire planet for God's English speaking missionaries during Philadelphia...
 - Doors were opened because they had the _____ of David...
 - The devil was not happy with this world-wide evangelistic activity. In the past, as men and women were martyred, the church grew! His plan to stop the work of God had to be _____. The word of God (*the Key of David*) was too powerful for him to defeat!
 - What the devil could not accomplish through persecution and slaughter, he was able to do through _____ and intellectualism...
 - Ultimately, England traded in her English Bible (the Bible God gave to them to escape the power of Rome... the Bible that launched the Philadelphian Church Period) for a _____ imitation.
 - Ultimately, America too traded in her English Bible, the Bible God gave England to escape the power of Rome, the Bible that stirred our American founding Fathers to freedom, the Bible that launched the Philadelphian Church Period.
 - The Revised Version of 1881 in England gave rise to the American Standard Version of 1901... these Bibles were _____ "revisions" of the KJV, but were in fact completely _____ Bibles, translated from the texts of the Roman Catholic Church, traced all the way back to Egypt (Africa) and the false teacher, the demonic kingpin of all corrupt Bibles, the pseudo-Christian, Origen.
- b. The key is now gone, the door is now _____. We will now enter the Laodicean church period, the most _____ time in human history – 2 Tim. 3:1-17

Devotionally – 2025

- Can we be a Philadelphian church living in a Laodicean age?

NEXT WEEK: The Laodicean Letter