



Letters	to	Seven	Churches
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<u>PAUL</u>	<u>JESUS</u>	The Seven Kingdom Parables
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Rev. 2 & 3 Matthew 13

Ephesus Ephesus The Sower and 4 Soils Philippians Smyrna The Tares and the Wheat

Corinthians Pergamos The Mustard Seed

Galatians Thyatira The Woman & the Leaven Romans Sardis The Treasure in the Field

Thessalonians Philadelphia The Pearl of Great Price

Colossians Laodicea The Dragnet

Paul's letters to Individuals Written by others

Titus James Matthew
Philemon Jude Mark
Timothy (1st / 2nd) 1 / 2 Peter Luke - Acts

Hebrews (Unsigned) John – 1/2/3 John - Revelation

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Why These Seven Churches?

- 1) Local: "to the angel of the church of" actual churches; valid needs.
- Admonitory: "Spirit says to the churches"
 ...all seven letters apply to all seven churches.
- 3) Homiletic: personal: "He that hath an ear...."
 It applies to you and me personally
- **4) Prophetic:** In their particular order, they lay out the entire history of the church. .

Any other order--it doesn't fit!

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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For Reference Read Ahead

1) **Ephesus** Acts 18-20; Ephesians 3; 5

1 John written to Ephesus

2) **Smyrna** Acts 15

3) **Pergamos** Num 22-24; Balaam, Num 33;

Acts15; 1 Cor 6

4) Thyatira 1 Kgs 16; 21; Jezebel and Naboth's

vineyard; 2 Kgs 9:36

5) **Sardis** Galatians; Romans

6) Philadelphia Thessalonians

7) Laodicea Colossians

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Ephesus > Smyrna > Pergamos > Thyatira > Sardis > Philadelphia > Laodecia

Ephesus: - the believers lost their first love,

- became occupied with other things, and

 developed a class which was a sort of clergy, entrusted the preaching of the Gospel to them

lowered doctrine to suit the coldness of their hearers

Smyrna: - doctrine of true grace diluted with legalism

until the synagogue of Satan was in the midst of the church

Pergamos: - married to the world,

- exalted clericalism to a doctrine

- low levels of conduct became common.

Thyatira: - last step to apostasy is taken.

"Jezebel" is exalted in the church and from her throne

ministers unto Satan.

Sardis: - dead religion: doing instead of living / activity; no action

complacency and form without "life"

Philadelphia: - consistent endurance vs false profession; one size fits all

doctrine of tolerance and relevancy

Laodecia: - self reliance; self satisfaction; self gratification; self rule

comfort and ease vs mission and sacrifice

A View of Churches

Letter Church Name Character

Ephesus "Darling; maiden of choice"

Focus on keeping doctrine brought abandoned relationship with our Lord

Smyrna "Myrrh; death and suffering"

Remnant in "church" held on and stood fast even to death

Pergamos "Mixed, Improper Marriage"

Watch! Hold on

I'm coming for you!

Watch Out! Judgment Ahead Compromise; joined with the world; error and falsehood brought in, integrated and adopted as truth

Thyatira "Daughter; continual sacrifice"

Seeking power and worldly authority; The authority of the 'daughter' replaced relationship with the 'Son'

Sardis "Red ones; Remnant" (of uncertain derivation)

Remnant finds relationship which quickly become dead orthodoxy; Religion vs Relationship

Philadelphia "Love of/for the Brethren"

Ecumenicalism; Tolerance; Relevance replace separation; uniqueness;

sanctification to God; Make one out of all

Laodicea "Rule of the people; Self-Satisfication"

Apostasy; Great self delusion/deception; the turning away

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IAM		These things sath he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candidaticks;		These things swith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive:		These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;		These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like line brass.		These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars,		These things swith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that operath, and no man shutteth, and shutteth, and no man speciety.		These things saith the Arsen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of Go	
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Rad	90500	Nevertheless I have contential against thee, because those hast left day trait love.			870	Dut I have a levithings against three, because thou hast three them has he had because thou hast three them had he had because of Balasm, who tayght Balas to cast a shreatingfallow before the children of Irrael to east things sanification and so cast things sanification. So hast thou also then that hold the doctarior of the Alocatalans, which things that.	00-20	Ricosimptanding I have a few things against thes, because those sufferes that upons a learned which called herself a proghetest, to teach and to senior end sevents to commit increased sevents to commit increased and to set them and to set themps a scribed union and to set themps a scribed union increased increased and the set of the committee of separate of her formisation; and she reperced not.		I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou live st, and art dead.			00.00	I know thy works, that thou are reither cold nor hot. I would the sent cold or hot.	
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Overcomers		To him that oversometh will I give to ear of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradite of Got.		He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.		To him that overcometh vill I give to eat of the hidden manna, and vill give him a viriler stone, and in the stone a new name written, visition to man knonesh saving he the receiveth it.		And he that overcometh, and to begin my sort's surion the end, to him will give poved over the mallionic. And he shall rule them with a stod of long, as the vessels of a potter shall finely be broken to shorter when all received of my Fasher. And I will give him the monthing state.	9000	He that overcomets, the same shall be elethed in white earners; and i will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess on his name before mg Father, and before his engels.		Him that overcometh will I make a plittar in the temple of my God, and he mail go no more out, and self write upon him the name of the God, and the name of the object of god, which in new Jerca alem, which certrish down out of heaven from my God, and I will write upon him my new name.	8	To him that oversometh will i go to sit with me in my throne, ever I also overcome, and am set do with my Father in his throne.	
Close		1					659	He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the charches	9000	He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the obscobes	000	He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the obscites	0322	He that hath an ear, let him hea what the Spirit saith unto the	

A View of Church Ages

Letter Church Age Dates (A.D.)

Ephesus Apostolic Age < 100

Smyrna Age of Persecution 100 – 313

long. 27° 25' E., lat. 38° 28' N.

Pergamos Imperial Church 313 – 590

long. 27° 0' E., lat. 39° 13' N.

Thyatira Age of Papacy 590 – Tribulation

long. 27° 49' E., lat. 38° 16' N.

Sardis Reformation 1517 - Tribulation

long. 28° 5' E., lat. 37° 51' N.

Philadelphia Missionary Church 1730 - Rapture

long. 28° 15' E., lat. 38° 28' N.

Laodicea Apostate Church 1900 – Tribulation

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev 3:7-13

- [7] And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;
- [8] I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.
- [9] 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.
- [10] 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.
- [11] Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.
- [12] Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.
- [13] He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Background History

189 BC Youngest of the 7 church cities, Philadelphia was built in the area acquired by Pergamos..

King Eumenes II, then King of Pergamos, had a younger brother, Attalus II, who was his successor

Attalus II (reigned as king of Pergamos 159 BC to 138 BC) became known as Philadelphus ("One who loves his brother")

The city was named, for his loyalty and affection for his brother, Eumenes.

Philadelphia:

The City of Brotherly Love

Philadelphian coins show the two brothers as completely alike in height, features, and dress.

Today Philadelphia is known as Alashehir or Allah-shehr ("the city of God").

Acts 17:11

Background History

Philadelphia: The City of Brotherly Love

- The word Philadelphia is used in slightly different forms 7 other times in the new testament.

ROM 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

G5359 philadelphia Rev 1:11, Rev 3:7

G5360 philadelphia

Brotherly love/kindness Rom 12:10, 1Th 4:9, Heb 13:1, 2 Pet 1:7

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

Love of the brethren 1 Pet 1:22 G5361 philadelphos (verb form) Love as brethren 1 Pet 3:8

Geographic Position

Well suited for wine production located in the province of Lydia

Dionysys (Greek name for the Roman Bacchus), the god of wine, was its principal deity.

On the imperial post road from Rome and Troas to Pergamos, Sardis and the interior of Phrygia about 28 miles southeast of Sardis.

Gateway to the high central plateau of Asia Minor

Became a "missionary" center for spreading the Greek language and manners into the eastern parts of Lydia and Phrygia.

This missionary character of the city seems to be stressed in the letter to the church of Philadelphia.

The area was called Katakekaumene, "the Burned Land" was a highly volcanic region and suffered repeatedly from earthquakes.

Situated on the Cogamus River, a tributary of the Hermus (modern Gediz)

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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New Testament History

17 AD Almost completely destroyed in the earthquake disaster which devastated Sardis and ten other cities.

Tremors were reported for years afterwards.

Civic and economic disruption lasted for more than twenty years.

Assistance and financial relief from Tiberius caused the citizens to name the rebuilt city Neo-Caesarea ("New City of Caesar").

Later, in the time of Vespasian, it was changed to Flavia, his family name.

The name changes were short-lived and the old name Philadelphia was soon revived.

Prosperity was never fully regained.

New Testament History

The city was under a legal jurisdiction of which Sardis was the center.

The church suffered at the hands of the large Jewish community in the city.

Ignatius, the bishop of Antioch, writing to the Philadelphian church a few years after John wrote <u>The Revelation</u> referred to the Jews, who had so long persecuted the Christians there, as being converted and turning in contrition to those whose adversity they had caused.

This trend is reflected in the letter itself.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

Philadelphia Church The state of the state







Later History

During the 14th century, the city of Philadelphia stood alone against the entire Turkish empire as a free, self-governing Christian city in the midst of a Turkish land.

Twice besieged by great Turkish armies, its people reduced to the verge of starvation, they had learned to defend themselves, and resisted to the end.

At last, about 1379-1390, it succumbed to a combined Turkish and Byzantine army.

Until then, Philadelphia had held fast.

In 1922, Turkey and Greece fought in Philadelphia.

Today, the few remaining Christians remain under-ground, as they generally have to in an Islamic country.

Rev 3:7: Title

[7] And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

"Holy": Hagios Sacred; an awesome thing

Rev 6:10; Lev 11:44; 21:8; Isa 57:15.

Song of the Seraphim, Isa 6:3 (3X = Trinity?).

Holy at His birth (Luke 1:35);

Holy at His death (Acts 2:27);

Holy in His present priestly office (Heb 7:25).

"True": Alethinos, real, genuine; vs. alethes, truth in contrast to falsehood (Jn 17:3; 1 Jn 5:20). Prophecy of Zecharias (Lk 1:75).

His kingship rests upon the bedrock of His character (Ps 2; 24, etc.)

From such a one you do not exhibit disloyality or distrust. There is no room for disbelief and apostasy.

Apostasy => to reject of refute a once held belief.

Jesus assures the faithful that he is in control, no matter what others claim, say or believe nor what things appear to be like –

He is in control. He opens and closes and no one contramands his actions.

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Rev 3:7: Key of David

[7] And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

KEY OF DAVID: Full administrative authority.

One with the authority to open or close off admittance and access to the king and his throne Isa 22:22 (19-24).

The promise is given to Eliakim who served under king Hezekiah. (His predessor, Shebna had been unfaithful in his duties.)

The key to the house of David was a specific reference to the vault room where the treasures of Israel were stored.

Eliakim effectively controlled the government of the king, administering the daily duties of running the kingdom - he was in effect the prime minister.

Eliakim carried a heavy key on a loop slung over his shoulder, indicating his power to grant or deny others an audience with the king. Hence, access. He alone can admit to the presence of God.

Kingdom term: Isa 9:6,7; Lk 1:32-33; Mt 28:18; Rev 1:18.

Janus, god of doors and hinges (also called Patulcius and Chusius, "opener and closer"). Later assumed by the Pope; and cardinals (from cardo, a hinge).

Rev 3:7: Key of David

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KEY OF DAVID: Full administrative authority.

The same promise was made to Jesus in effect prophetically Isa 9:6-7

JESUS ALREADY HAD THE KEYS OF DEATH AND HADES Rev 1:18
HERE HE STATES HE POSSESSES ALL THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOMS OF THE EARTH AS WELL

- He hold the keys of government.
- He owns all the keys
- He possesses them.
- He is in control.
- He is in charge.
- He decides what is open and what is closed.

Note: His power of attorney given to the Church: Matt 16:19, 18:18, 2 Thes 2:6-7

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev 3:8: Commendation

[8] (#1) I know thy works: behold, (#2) I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: (#3) for thou hast a little strength, and (#4) hast kept my word, and (#5) hast not denied my name.

"Open doors": 1 Cor 16:9; 2 Cor 2:12; Col 4:3.

Door(s) of deliverance:

"I Am the Door," John 10:7, 9;

Noah's Ark (Gen 7:16) was closed by God, 7 days before the flood.

The door at the wedding (Mt 25:1-10).

"...kept my word":

In a day when there was a denial of the inspiration of the Scriptures, this church believed the Bible to be the authoritative, inspired Word of God.

They were measured by faith, not works (Josh 1:8).

Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word (Rom 10:17

"...and not denied my name":

In a day when the deity of Christ is blatantly denied by seminary and pulpit, they proclaimed the God-man and His substitutionary death for sinners.

Rev 3:9: Commendation

[9] Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; (#6) behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

False Jews = cf: Rev 2:9

They will be compelled to worship (Phil 2:10,11).

Vengeance: Isa 61:2 (vs. Luke 4:18-20); 2 Thess 1:7-8.

The common opposition in Smyrna and Philadelphia was from those who called themselves Jews but in God's view were not - their physical heritage not withstanding.

These were the legalists - the Judiasers of the day.

Any church or person, regardless of appearances who places conditions on relationship with God that God has not is in this group.

Anyone who says, 'to be a christian you must first become a.... Or you must first adhere to this practice....' And does take the restriction and requirement clearly, correctly, and only from God's word -- reject and avoid.

These legalists desire worship of themselves as experts

- They step beyond God's word and truth replacing it with a lie
- Disloyal to the Lord and the Word they claim to represent they make Him to be a lier.

Jesus says that these worship and status seekers will one day fall at the feet of the faithful and worship the Lord, forced to acknowledge that God loves you inspite of the false conditions they would have placed on your relationship with Him.

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Rev 3:9: Commendation

[9] Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; (#6) behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

False Jews = Reconstructionists?

Today there is another group no less wrong and dangerous who claim to be Jews but are not...

Those who claim that the Church has replaced Israel in God's plan

- That God has abandoned Israel and the specific covenant and promises He made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David and Israel
- That the church has been substituted for Israel and will enjoy the promises to Israel do to Israel's unfaithfulness.

These forget it is not about man's faithfulness but God's

God cannot lie and break a promise

They mix up God's plan for Israel and the Church not seeing that they have 2 different beginnings, destinies and places in God eternal plan...

Rev 3:10: Commendation

[10] (#7) 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.

"Word of His patience": 2 Thes 3:5.

He awaits the millennial kingdom (Ps 110; Heb 10:12,13).

[One of the principal truths recovered by the evangelical movements of the nineteenth century was the Lord's return for His Church.]

Kept from the time of tribulation:

From the period of, not only the actual tribulation (Lk 21:35-36) vs. Thyatira (2:28).

"from" G1537 ek / ex = out of, from, by, away from

NOT G1722 en = in NOR G1223 dia = through

"Time": hora {ho'-rah}: Used 108 times:

"hour" 89,

"time" 11,

"season" 3.

miscellaneous words, 5

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Rev 3:10: Commendation

[10] (#7) 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.

"Tribulation": peirasmos (pi-ras-mos'): Trial, temptation, adversity, affliction, trouble, tribulation.

Tribulation = relying on other gods (Judg 10:14).

Revelation Chapters 6-19, in contrast to those sealed out of the 12 tribes of Israel in 7:4.

Wrath?

Read Rev 6:17 and 1 Thess 1:10; 5:4,9 vs. those who dwell on the earth (Rev 13:8; 6:10 8:13 11:10 12:12 13:8,12,14 14:6 17:8).

"Dwell" = not oikeo, katoideo = not just located with it but identified with it (Phil 3:20; Heb 11:13).

In the Greek it is very clear; upon all mankind; geographically comprehensive.

1 Thes 5:21 28 Acts 17:11



Both Smyrna and Philadelphia receive no criticism;

- Both of these cities are the ones remaining still today.
- Both were small and weak materially.
 - Smyrna existed among great persecution
 - Philadelphia among general apostasy (abandoning previous loyalty) and unbelief.

Each of the churches had a different perception of themselves than the Lord Himself had.

How sobering for us given our own potential for blind conceits.

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Rev 3:11: Exhortation

[11] Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Jesus will return, just as He promised (John 14:3).

"Quickly" = "suddenly" in the Greek; imminently

[If the gathering of His own were to occur after the 70th week of Daniel rather than before, there would be an intervening period of seven years after Anti-Christ is revealed... Christ's return could be timed; there would be no "imminent" return!]

Nowhere are we told to prepare for the Great Tribulation...

IT APPEARS THE LORD WILL RETURN WHILE THERE ARE PHILADEPPHIA TYPE CHURCHES STILL OPERATING JUST AS THERE WILL BE THYATIRA TYPE AND SARDIS TYPE CHURCHES ON THE FARTH.

- THYATIRA'S FALSE MEMBERS WOULD BE CAST INTO THE GREAT TRIBULTAION
- SMYRNA WOULD BE CAUGHT UNAWARE SATISFIED, COMPLACENT AND VERY EMBARASSED.
- PHILADELPHIA, FAITHFULLY GUARDING AND WATCHING WOULD BE KEPT FROM THE COMING TIME OF TRAVAIL.

HOLD TIGHT TO TRUTH SO YOU DO NOT LOSE YOUR CROWN

Rev 3:11: Exhortation

[11] Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

"Hold fast": Let no man rob you,

Colossians 2:18: "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind" (1 Cor 9:24).

- Esau lost his place to Jacob (Gen 25:34; 27:36);
- Reuben, the eldest son of Jacob, lost his place to Judah (Gen 49:4, 8); for his action at Meribah.
- Moses was superseded by Joshua (Num 20:12; Deut 3:26-.Page 49 28);
- Saul lost his place to David (1 Sam 16:1,13);
- Shebna lost his place to Eliakim (Isa 22:15-25);
- Joab and Abiathar lost their places to Benaiah and Zadok (1 Kgs 2:25); for his lack of faith,
- Elijah was superseded by Elisha (1 Kgs 19:13-16).
- After Peter's denial, it was to the younger John that our Lord entrusted His mother (Jn 19:26,27).

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev 3:11: Exhortation

[11] Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

"Thy crown": They already have it!

HOLD TIGHT TO TRUTH SO YOU DO NOT LOSE YOUR CROWN

CROWNS ARE ALWAYS REFERED TO IN THE NEW TESTAMENT AS REWARDS FOR SERVICE

- THEY CAN BE EARNED AND THEY CAN BE LOST

SALVATION IS GOD'S GIFT

- A GIFT IS NOT A REWARD TO BE GIVEN AND TAKEN AWAY
- A GIFT IS A POSSESION I HOLD UNLESS I CHOOSE TO GIVE IT AWAY

1 COR 3:14-15

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Eph 2:8

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Rev 3:12: Promise

[12] Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Ephesus had lost its first love; the overcomer returned to it.

Smyrna was in the midst of persecution; the overcomer stood fast in the face of it.

Pergamos was about to be drowned with worldliness; the overcomer resisted the flood and stayed above it.

Thyatira was being seduced by Jezebel; the overcomer resisted her blandishments.

Sardis had a name to live but was dead; the overcomer did not defile himself with the corpse.

In **Philadephia** there is only commendation; there is no blame but there is a Warning!

The danger for the believer in Philadelphia is that he will let slip his true character, while keeping the Word and loving the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Many believers having begun in the Spirit, seek to be made perfect by the flesh (Gal. 3:3)!

The crown of righteousness is for them who love His appearing (II Tim. 4:8),

It can be lost by putting any event or conditions between the believer and the rapture.

Apostasy in good works is a real danger. Failure to live according to holiness "is contrary to sound doctrine" (I Tim. 1:10), and the believer must ever be "careful to maintain good works" not to earn the right to keep his salvation – which is God's gift, but to please His returning Lord who is the single object of his love and devotion.

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Rev 3:12: Promise

[12] Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Fourfold reward to him who maintains the Word and the Name of Christ

- He shall be made a pillar in the sanctuary of Christ's God, and he shall not go out any
 more. Once more, let the concordance reveal to us the meaning of this promise.
- 1 Kings 7:15-22. Solomon had two pillars cast by a fine workman.

"And he set up the pillars in the porch of the temple: and he set up the right pillar, and called the name thereof Jachin: and he set up the left pillar, and called the name thereof Boaz" (vs. 21).

Jachin means "He establishes" Boaz means "in Him is strength."

It was a tradition in the ancient world to inscribe the names of important leaders and influential individuals on the pillars of buildings that were centers of the causes they supported as a memorial to their faithfulness. To have it done was a great honor.

Those that are God's are to be manifestly marked (Rev 7:3: 9:4: 14:1: 22:4).

Each believer - member of God's family - the church - is now called a living stone in the temple God is building

FPH 2:19-22

1 PFTFR 2:5

Rev 3:12: Promise

[12] Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

EPH 2:19-22

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

1 PETER 2:5

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

The overcomers of the church will be pillars of God's dwelling:

- The will carry on them the name of God their authority
- The name of their dwelling their citizenship credentials
- And the new name they have been given by Jesus himself

This is a fitting reward for the Philadelphia overcomer.

- He has had a little strength, so he is made a pillar of strength.
- His very reward will testify that he has been sustained from the beginning by the Word and the Name of the Lord. Henceforth, he does not go out of the presence of God anymore.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev 3:12: Promise

[12] Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

IN THE COMING KINGDOM OF GOD, THE OVERCOMERS OF THE CHURCH WILL BE PILLARS OF GOD'S DWELLING:

THE WILL CARRY ON THEM THE NAME OF GOD - THEIR AUTHORITY

"New name (Rev 2:17; 19:16; Jer 23:6; Rev 21:2)":

A name written which no one knows but He Himself (Rev 19:12):

YHWH Shammah, "The Lord is there" (Ezek 48:35);

Yeshua name is preeminent (Phil 2:9).

"My God" = Used four times (cf. Ps 22:1).

and each of His own will be marked with His new name: a badge of triumph.

THE NAME OF THEIR DWELLING - THEIR CITIZENSHIP CREDENTIALS AND THE NEW NAME THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY JESUS HIMSELF

Rev 3:12: Promise

[12] Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

In addition to his own new name, three names are also written on the overcomer:

- The Name of God, will be upon the believer.
 - All He is in character, and power, and authority will written upon us
 - He has been the object of his vision, so he shall see Him and be like Him (I John 3:2).
- The name of the city of Christ's God, the new Jerusalem, a mark of citizenship in God's city; Heaven.

Not naturalized citizens but citizens by right of birth...

They "looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:10); and since they desired a better country, that is, a heavenly, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He hath prepared for them a city (Heb. 11:16).

- Christ promises that the believer will bear His new name.
 - "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Rev. 19:16).

The overcomer, then, is to reign with Christ forever and ever (Rev. 22:5).

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev 3:13 : Close

[13] He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

IF YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR THEN HEAR IT - DO IT

PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT IS SAID

LET IT CHANGE THE WAY LIVE AND THE REASON YOU DO WHAT YOU DO.

Rev 3:7-13 Free Translation: Church name

- 7 And to the messenger of the Church in Philadelphia write: These things saith the Holy, the True, He that hath the key of David, Who opens and no one shuts, Who shuts and no one opens; 8 I know thy works; behold, I have set before thee an opened door, and no one can shut it; because thou hast a little strength, and thou didst keep My Word, and thou didst not deny My Name.
- 9 Behold, I give out of the synagogue of Satan, those who say they are Jews, and are not, but lie; behold, I will compel them that they shall come and worship before thy feet, and may know that I have loved thee.
- 10 Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of the tribulation, the one which is about to come on all the inhabited world, to test those dwelling on the earth.
- 11 "I come speedily; hold fast that which thou hast, that no one take thy crown. 12 The one who overcomes, I will make a pillar in the sanctuary of My God, and he shall not go out any more; and I will write on him the Name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, that cometh down out of Heaven from My God; and My new Name.
- 1213 Let him who has an ear hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Old Testament references in Rev 2-3

Chapter 3

3:7 Isa 22:22

3:9 Isa 43:4; 49:23; 60:14

3:12 Isa 62:2; Ezek 48:35