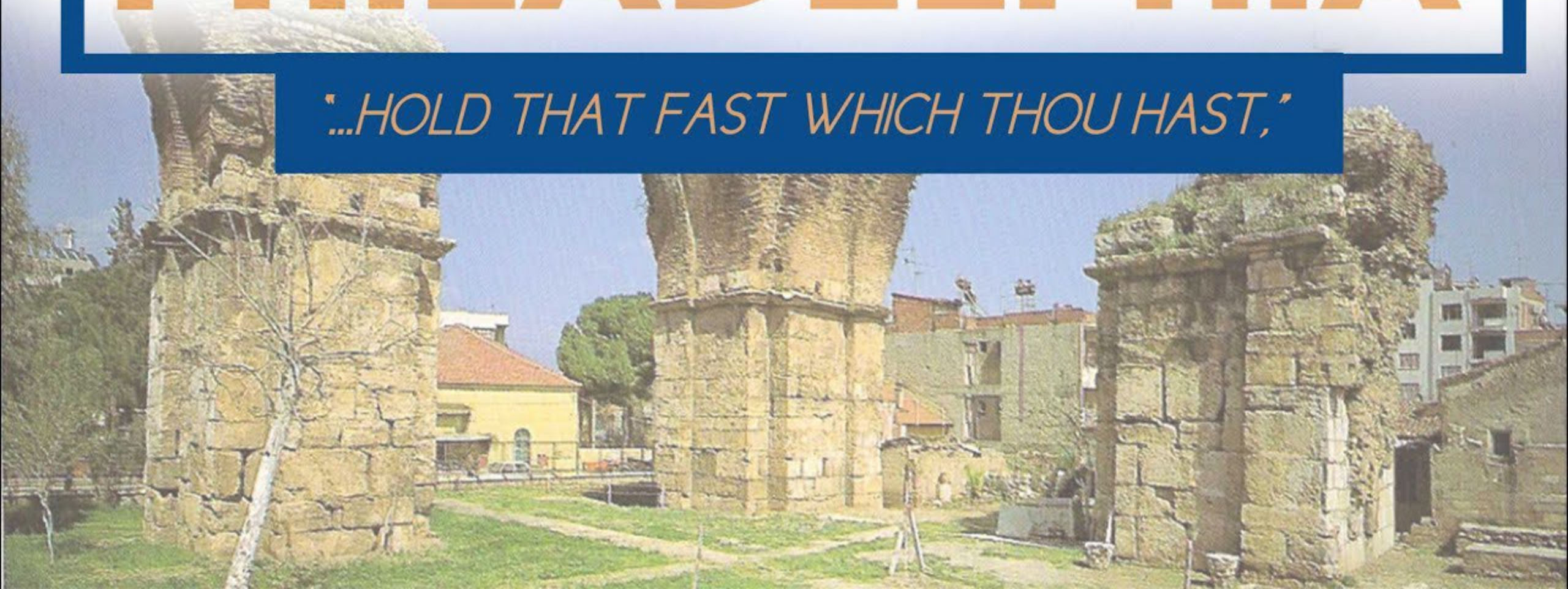


# THE CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA

*"...HOLD THAT FAST WHICH THOU HAST,"*



# Revelation 2 and 3 Report card

Name	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodiceans
Title	X	X	X	X	X		
Commendation	X	X	X	X			
Concerns	X		X	X	X		
Exhortation	X	X	X	X	X		
Promise	X	X	X	X	X		



# Revelation 3:7-13 Philadelphia

- An address to a particular congregation. (Name of the church)
- An introduction of Jesus.
- A statement regarding the condition of the church.
- A verdict from Jesus regarding the condition of the church.
- A command from Jesus to the church.
- A general exhortation to all Christians.
- A promise of reward.

# The decline of the church

- Note the decline and the progression of the church.
- Also note there is also a remnant.
- Remember that God judges His own before He will judge the world.
- Sardis, Name alive but was dead.
- And now we move to Philadelphia.

# Revelation 3:7 Philadelphia

- History
- The youngest of the 7 cities.
- Often call little Athens
  - known for beautiful buildings
- This was a *prosperous* city but...
  - Known for earthquakes, which required frequent evacuations
- Attalus the Second – who was nicknamed *Philadelphos*.
  - Attalus was the brother of King Eumenes the 2<sup>nd</sup>, King of Pergamos
  - The city was “won” for his loyalty and affection for his brother THUS....
- Philadelphia = the city of him who loves his brother



# Revelation 3:7 Philadelphia

- Great wine country
  - Worshiped Dionysius.
  - In ancient Greek religion and myth, **Dionysus** is the god of wine-making, orchards and fruit, vegetation, fertility, festivity, insanity, ritual madness, religious ecstasy, and theatre. He was also known as **Bacchus**



# Philadelphia

- Name change to Katakekaumene (the burnt land)
  - Almost destroyed in 17 AD, including Sardis and 10 other cities .
  - Made everyone very insecure!
- A few more **name changes** but came back to Philadelphia and now...





# Allah-Shehu

- Modern name  
Alaşehir Turkey.
- 2022 @ 104 k



# Revelation 3:7 Jesus

- Holy
  - He is pure
  - Holiness also calls for judgement
  - Holy, Holy, Holy
  - The song of the Seraphim
    - Birth Luke 1:35
    - Death Acts 2:27
    - Present day Heb 7:25
- True
  - Alethinos (real or genuine)
  - Contrast to falsehood
  - Opposite of the church of Sarids?



# Revelation 3:7 Jesus

- Jesus' Kingship according to Ps 2:6 & Ps 24 tells us, is based upon His character. (His foundation is)
  - Holy and True (He can be trusted, no need to second guess nor live in worry)
- Has the key of David
  - Isa 22:22,23
  - A peg is a reference to the nail.
  - VS 25 is liken to Dan 9:27 He will be cut off, or killed
  - Hosea 5:15 Part of the purpose of the Great Tribulation.
  - Eliakim was Hezekiah's treasure
    - He had a physical key that was wore around his chest that would show his power to grant access to the king.

# Revelation 3:7 Jesus Key to the Kingdom.

- But wait,
- What about Peter?
  - Matt16:19
    - But whom do you say that I am. (key question)
    - Peter's faith is the rock.
    - 1 Peter 2:4-9 ( you too are stones that build the house/ church)
    - THE LIVING STONES build the church, not just one, we all do
    - Note royal priesthood oxymoron
      - Oxymoron link two opposing things together as one.
      - Oxy = sharp Moron = dull
      - The priest were from Levi and kings from Juda and to never cross.
      - That is US (Pocket until chapter 4)
      - Melchizedek, Jesus and THE CHURCH!
    - He is the chief building/ corner stone.
- All the Apostles Matt 18:18
- Acts 10? Open to the Gentiles.



# Revelation 3:8 Commendation

- I know your works
- Set before you an open door, No one can shut it
- A little strength
- Kept My Word
- Not denied my name.
- They will come worship at your feet
- Will keep you from the hour of temptation.

# Revelation 3:8 Commendation

- I know your works
- Set before you an open door, No one can shut it
  - Open doors
    - Ministry
    - Deliverance John 10
    - Noah's ark 1 door (7 days before the flood)
    - Door at the wedding Matt 25:1-10
    - Rev 4
  - Shut door
    - It seems Christians in Philadelphia were excluded from the synagogue
    - The emphasis is on unhindered openness
    - Hindering does not mean closed
    - Also open does not mean by God
    - In this case Jesus is talking about Salvation and giving the gospel.

# Revelation 3:8 Commendation

- A little strength.
  - This is interesting term
  - Does not imply weakness, but *real strength*.
  - They were weak enough to be strong in the Lord.
  - We can be “too strong” or “too big” or too sure of ourselves for God to really use us.
  - It is not a matter of great strength, not great ability but great dependability. Samson had great ability but poor dependability
  - The more ME= the less God
  - The more God= the less of ME.

# Revelation 3:8 Commendation

- Kept His word.
  - In a day of denial
- Not Denied My name (Think Sardis)
  - They *lived* in a way that was faithful to the name and character of Jesus.
- So far we have....
  - Evangelistic opportunity (I have set before you an open door).
  - Reliance on God (You have a little strength).
  - Faithfulness to Jesus (**have kept My word, and have not denied My name**).
- Impressive?
  - Success in Christian work is not to be measured by any other standard of achievement.



# Revelation 3:8 Commendation

- Synagogue of Satan (Smyrna)
  - Most think in terms of legalism.
  - Legalism denies the work of Christ
  - What to wrestle legalism, read Galatians.
  - Another view (Missler)
    - False Jews/ False Christians AKA replacement theology.
    - They are not Jews at all!
    - They may not even be any type of believers but in name only.
  - They will be compelled to worship. (can still be saved)

# Revelation 3:10 Promise

- Kept my command to persevere.
  - continue in a course of action even in the face of difficulty or with little or no prospect of success:  
The Word of my patience.
- I will keep you!
  - From the hour of trial
- This is the
  - *pi-ras-mos'*
  - A putting to *proof* (by experiment [of good], *experience* [of evil], solicitation, discipline or provocation); by implication *adversity*: - temptation, X try.
- Note not keeping them from the tribulation but the HOUR or the time of the tribulation.
  - He is not saying He will preserve us in the tribulation

# Revelation 3:10 Promise

- The Whole World
  - Not the Jews or the Christians but upon the earth dwellers.
  - Geographical.
- Purpose
  - To test them
  - Dwell
- *kat-oy-keh'-o*
- From G2596 and G3611; to *house permanently*, that is, *reside* (literally or figuratively): - dwell (-er), inhabitant (-ter).
- To identified with (AGAIN THINK SARDIS)
  - Christians are not of this world! (John 17:16)
  - From is EK= out of
  - The hour
  - The temptation (Rev 6)

# Revelation 3:10 Promise

- To test them
  - All Gentile believers will be killed!
    - Think mark of the beast
    - Take the mark live
    - Don't take the mark die
    - THINK SARDIS
  - Some Jews will be protected (144,000)
  - Other Jews will be Protected



# Revelation 3:11

## Concerns



# Revelation 3:11 Exhortation

- I come quickly
- BUT keep holding on
  - Evangelistic opportunity (I have set before you an open door).
  - Reliance on God (You have a little strength).
  - Faithfulness to Jesus (**have kept My word, and have not denied My name**).
- No one will take your crown.
  - 2 crowns
  - Philly and Smyrna
  - But wait take it from you, you must already have it.
  - Sometimes we think we have to, do something new, not the case. Keep doing what your doing

# Don't let anyone rob you

- Esau
- Reuben
- Moses
- Saul
- Many more.....

# Revelation 3:12 Overcomer

- Make him a pillar (remember the great earthquakes)
  - In the temple of God
  - He shall go out no more (had to leave the city a lot due to earthquakes)
  - Write him on the name of My God (often the names of those who were honored were writing upon the pillars)
  - God is the foundation the pillar.
  - Name of the City of My God (their name was changed so much)
  - Write on him a new name (Just like Peter, Just like Sardis)
  - 4 times Jesus says My God, only other time was upon the cross.
    - Why, He was in our place. Same as the readers of this letter)



# Revelation 3:1-6 Levels of application

## Personal

- Stick it out (The foundation of God, Holy and True)
- Persevere
- You/ HE holds the keys to the door of heaven (evangelism)
- Rely on God and His strength
- Keep His name (Think Sardis)

## • Churches

- Stick it out.
- Hold on to what you have
- Rely on God
- Don't Deny God


## • Prophetic

- Missionary age

# Revelation 2 and 3 Report card

Name	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodiceans
Title	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Commendation	X	X	X	X		X	
Concerns	X		X	X	X		
Exhortation	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Promise	X	X	X	X	X	X	

- Ephesus
  - The first church
  - Don't lose your first love
  - Devotion over doctrine
- Smyrna
  - Endure persecution
- Pergamos
  - Mix marriage.
  - Stand fast against the world
  - Don't compromise
  - Not what can't I do
- Thyatire
  - Perverted marriage
  - Abandon Pagan Practices
- Sardis
  - Name that was alive
  - But was dead
  - Watchfulness and Diligence
- Philadelphia
  - Faithful to keep to the simple gospel.
  - Loyal ambassadorship.

 <b>Apostolic church</b>  <b>Try to distract</b>	<b>The Persecuted Church</b>  <b>Try to crush</b>	<b>The Compromised Church</b>  <b>Try to mix</b>	<b>The perverted church (mid-evil)</b>  <b>Baal worship in the church.</b>	<b>The denominational church</b>  <b>The dead church</b>	<b>The missionary church</b>  <b>The taken church</b>	
<b>Ephesus</b>	→→→→→→→→→→→→					
	<b>Smyrna</b>	→→→→→→→→→→→→				
		<b>Pergamos</b>	→→→→→→→→→→→→			
			<b>Thyatira</b>	→→→→→→→→→→→→		
				<b>Sardis</b>	→→→→→→→→→→→→	
					<b>Philadelphia</b>	→→→→→→→→→→→→
						<b>Laodiceans</b>