

REVELATION

Philadelphia

Revelation 3:7-13



Philadelphia: Historical Background

- **The Name**

- Brotherly Love
- Other names
 - Philadelphia (Greek)
 - Flavia (Roman)
 - Little Athens
 - Alashehir (Modern)

- **The City**

- Age
 - Youngest City
- Geography
 - Gateway to the East
 - Frequented by Earthquakes
 - Great Structures



REVELATION

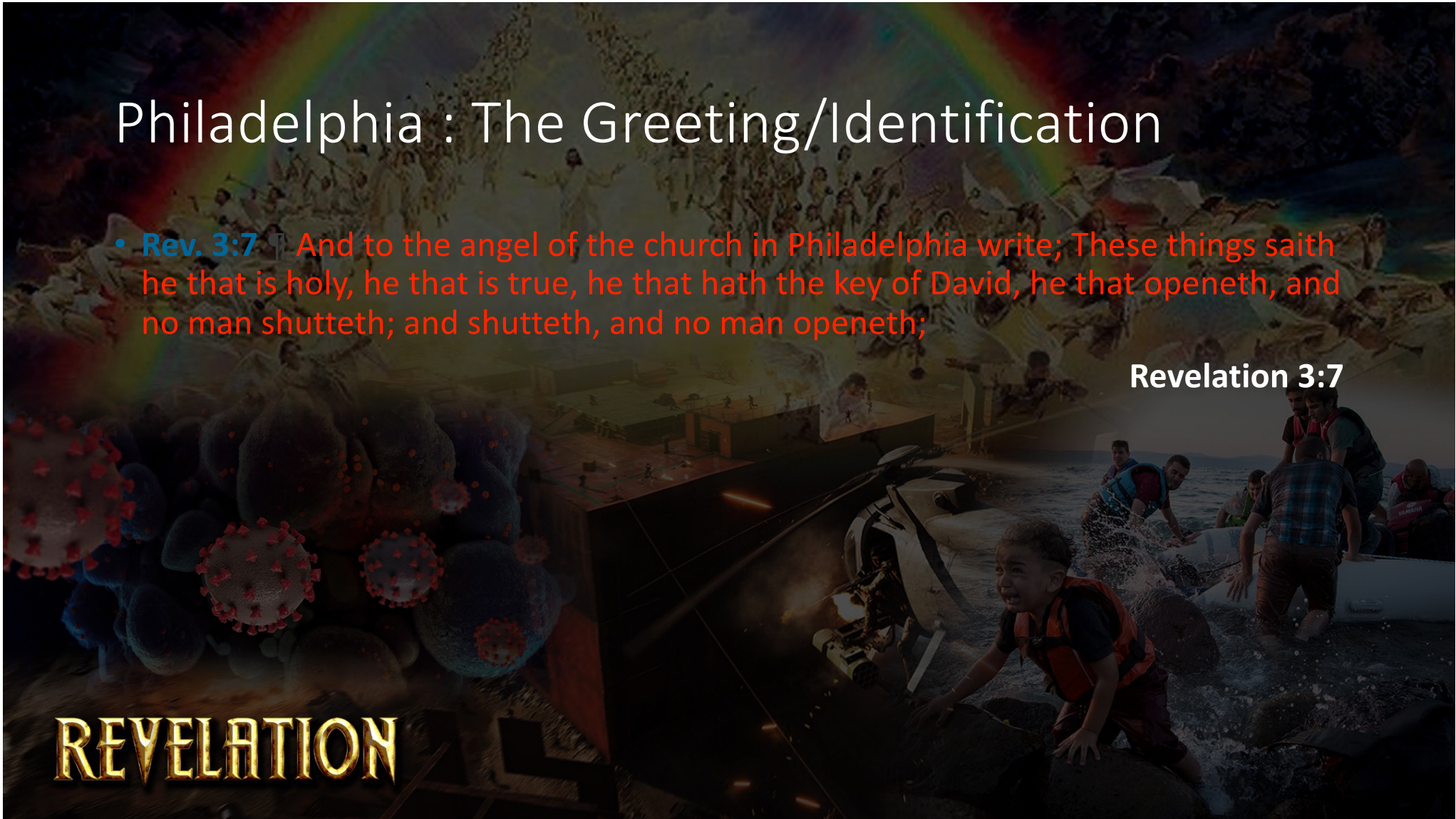
Stefanovic, Ranko. Revelation of Jesus Christ: Commentary on the Book of Revelation . Andrews University Press. Kindle Edition.

Philadelphia : The Greeting/Identification

- **Rev. 3:7** † 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;

Revelation 3:7

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Philadelphia : The Greeting/Identification

Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction
1) Who Holds the Seven Stars 2) Who walks among the lampstands	1) The First and the Last 2) Who was dead and came alive	1) He who has the sharp two-edged sword	1) The Son of God 2) Who has eyes like fire and feet like brass	1) Who has the seven spirits and the seven stars	1) Who is Holy 2) Who is True 3) Who has the key of David 4) Who opens and who shuts	1) The Amen 2) The Faithful and True Witness 3) The beginning of creation

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Revelation 3:7

- A Lengthy Introduction

- He that is Holy
 - Old Testament
 - Isaiah 6:3
 - And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.
- Isaiah 57:15
 - For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

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Revelation 3:7

- A Lengthy Introduction

- He that is Holy

- New Testament

- Mark 1:24

- Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

- John 6:69 (NASB)

- “We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.”

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• **Revelation 3:7**

- A Lengthy Introduction
 - He that is True
 - *Alethinos*
 - “genuine” or “real”
 - He that hath the key of David
 - c.f. Isaiah 22:22

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Philadelphia : The Greeting/Identification

Shebna	Eliakim
Self-regarding (his tomb, his chariots)	Servant of the Lord (20)
Like a ball (unstable) (18)	Father to the People (21)
Disgrace (18)	Like a peg -stable and dependable (23)
Deposed by the LORD (19)	Honor (23)
	Fixed like a firm peg (23)
Web, The Bible Speaks Today	

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Philadelphia : The Condition

- **Rev. 3:8** 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.

Revelation 3:8

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• The Open Door

- Figuratively an opportunity to spread the word of God.
- c.f. 1 Corinthians 16:9
 - 2 Corinthians 2:12
 - Acts 14:27
- An eschatological perspective vs an existential perspective
- Not a path free of resistance
 - c.f. 1 Corinthians 16:9

Philadelphia : The Condition

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Revelation 3:8

- An Enduring Church

- Not as popular as Sardis but precious in the sight of the Lord.
- Not as active as Ephesus but honored despite what they lack.
- They were a church with little strength that is enduring.
- What are they enduring?

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Philadelphia : The Problem

- **Rev. 3:9** 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.
- **Rev. 3:10** 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.

Revelation 3:9-10

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The Synagogue of Satan

- They endured against religious opposition.
- Those who call themselves of God may attempt to close God's door.
 - Matt 23:13
 - Luke 11:52
- Though the door is open, and opposition may come the Lord himself will deal with enemies of the Gospel. It is up to us to focus on the call that God has given to us.

Philadelphia : The Problem

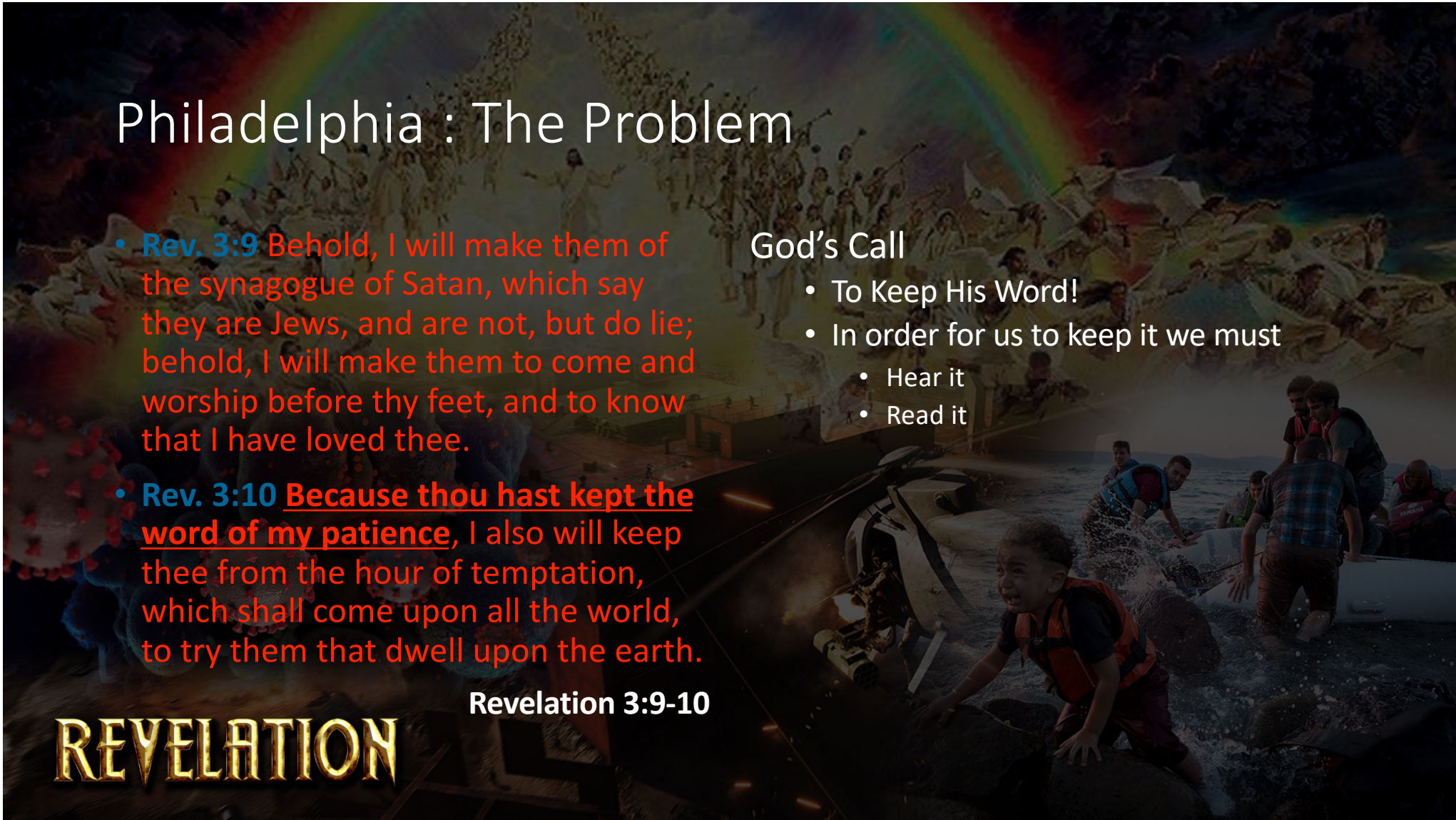
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Revelation 3:9-10

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God's Call

- To Keep His Word!
- In order for us to keep it we must
 - Hear it
 - Read it



Philadelphia : The Problem

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God's Promise

- He will keep those who keep
 - In what way?
 - c.f. John 17:15
- Those who dwell on the Earth
 - In Revelation refer to congregation of the ungodly. (c.f. Revelation 6:10, 8:13, 11:10, 13:8, 14; 14:6; 17:8)
- The Hour of Temptation/Trial
 - God's judgement against God's enemies

Philadelphia : The Counsel

- **Rev. 3:11** Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.
- Hold Fast So You Don't Lose Out.
 - Those who were found unworthy in scripture lost out
 - Esau lost his place to Jacob (Gen. 25:34; 27:36)
 - Reuben lost his place to Judah (Gen. 49:4, 8)
 - Saul lost his place to David (1 Sam. 16:1, 13)
 - Judas lost his place to Matthias (Acts 1:25);

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Philadelphia : The Counsel

- **Rev. 3:12** 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.
- **Rev. 3:13** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.
- A Promise of Safety and Security

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Philadelphia : The Counsel

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- A Promise of Safety and Security
- A promise of New Permanent Name
 - The same reward in Revelation 14:1
 - The name that designates belonging
 - The name that is the City c.f. Ezekiel 48:35, Revelation 21:3

Philadelphia : Historical Application

AD 1800 - 1900

- British Bible Society (1804)
- American Bible Society (1816)
- Missionaries
 - William Carey (1834, India)
 - Robert Moffet (1817, Cape Town)
 - David Livingstone (1841, Africa)
 - Adoniram Judson (1813, Burma)
 - Joseph Wolf (1821-1826 Egypt and the Levant)

• The Ministry of Christ

- Now of the things which we have spoken *this is* the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; ² A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

Hebrews 8:1-2

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