

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

The Church at Philadelphia

Revelation 3:7-12



7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. 8 “ ‘I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. 9 Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. 10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. 11 I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. 12 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, 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 from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.



Revelation 3:7



- “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:



Revelation 3:7

- 'The words of
the holy one,
the true one,

more descriptions of Jesus

Revelation 3:7



**who has the key of David,
who opens and no one will
shut, who shuts and no one
opens.**

**“Key of David” is one of 1000s of
connection points back to the OT**

From Isaiah 22:22 the “key of David” symbolically represents Christ’s Sovereign power to grant or exclude entrance into the eternal kingdom of God to whomever He chooses.

He alone NOW has “the key of David.”

Isaiah 22:20–22

**In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah,
²¹ and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. ²² And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.**



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**this reference to
“the Key of David”
reminds us of the
“Keys to the Kingdom”**



Matthew 16:17–19 (ESV)

And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”



Revelation 3:8



• “**I know your works.**

**this exact sentence is used
5x in 7 letters**

Ephesians 2:8-10

- For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.



What works does HE know for you?

Worship

Prayer Life

Service

Pursuit of Holiness

Charity

Generosity

Evangelism

Parenting



Matthew 5:16

- “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.



**The world will NOT glorify
your Father in Heaven if they
do not know about your
faith in the Father in
Heaven.**

**Closet Christian's works
don't glorify God.**



Revelation 3:8



- Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut.

What does the open door represent?

Revelation 4:1

- After this I looked, and behold, **a door standing open in heaven!** And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”



The “open door” is the entrance into the eternal kingdom of God.

We know this because of the reference to the key which locks and unlocks the door.

And the context of the letter; every other promise in the letter deals w/ things in heaven. See vs. 12.



Revelation 3:8



- I know that you have but little power,

This is a big deal!

- and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

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Look @

The Promise in the Next Vs.



Revelation 3:9



- Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet

Six Promises

- **Open Door v. 8**
- **Enemies will bow down before them v. 9**



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Back to Vs. 9



Revelation 3:9



- Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you.

There is a tension or struggle within conservative evangelical churches between the emphasis on God's pursuit of His own Glory and/or God's love for His people as the motivation behind this epic story of God redeeming a people for Himself.

But there should NOT be!



Isaiah 43:7

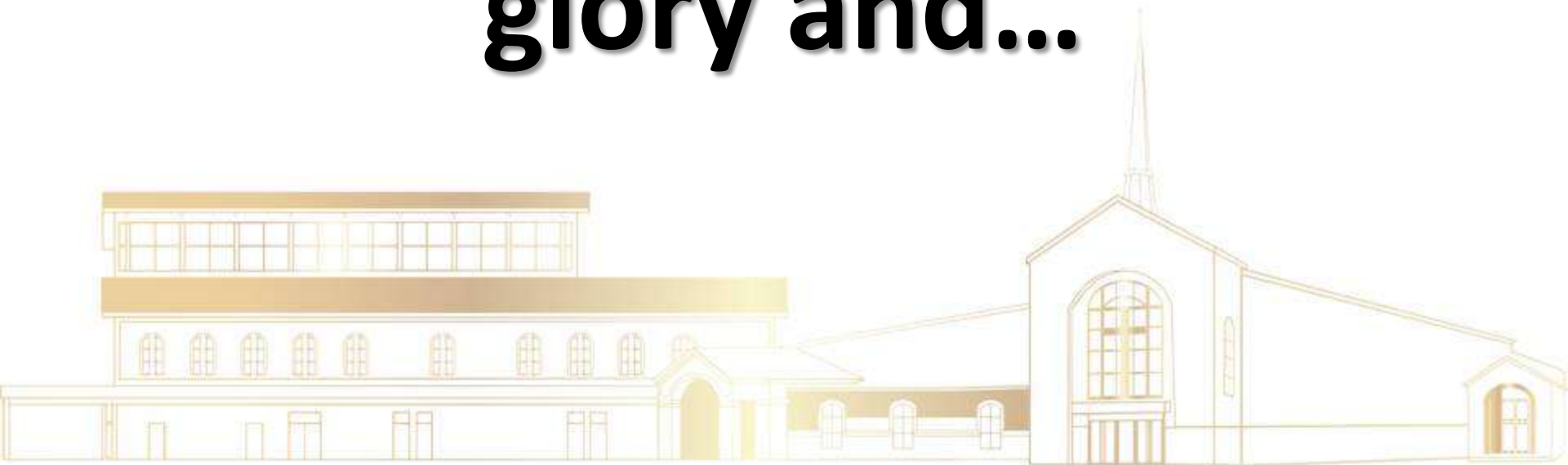
The fact is:

- everyone who is called by my name, **whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.**”



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**If you are a human you
were created for God's
glory and...**



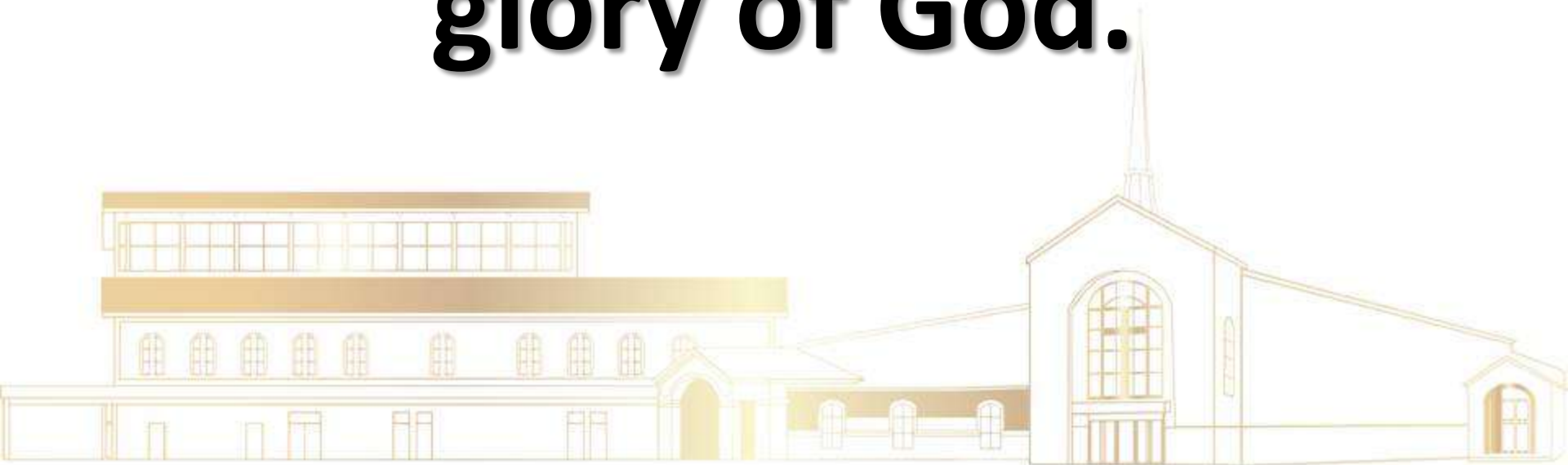
Psalm 19:1

- The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.



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**We understand that
CREATION reveals the
glory of God.**



John 3:16 (NET)

- For this is the way **God loved the world:** He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.



Romans 5:8

- but God demonstrated **his love for us** in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.



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**The NT is replete with
declarations concerning
both the Father and
Christ's love for humanity
and in particular the elect.**



Ephesians 1:4-6

- **In love** ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ **to the praise of his glorious grace,**



John 14:21

- Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. **And he who loves me will be loved by my Father,**
and **I will love him** and manifest myself to him.”



Romans 1:7

- To all those in Rome **who are loved by God** and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



Galatians 2:20

- I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith **in the Son of God, who loved me** and gave himself for me.



Ephesians 2:4-5

- But God, being rich in mercy,
because of **the great love
with which he loved us,**
- even when we were dead in our
trespasses, made us alive together
with Christ—by grace you have
been saved—



Ephesians 2:4, 5:2

- But God, being rich in mercy, because of **the great love with which he loved us,**
- **And walk in love, as Christ loved us** and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.



1 Thess 1:4, 2 Thess 2:16

- For we know, **brothers loved by God**, that he has chosen you,
- Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, **who loved us** and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace,



1 John 3:1

- See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.



1 John 4:10-11

- In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹

Beloved, if God **so loved us,**
we also ought to love one
another.



1 John 4:16

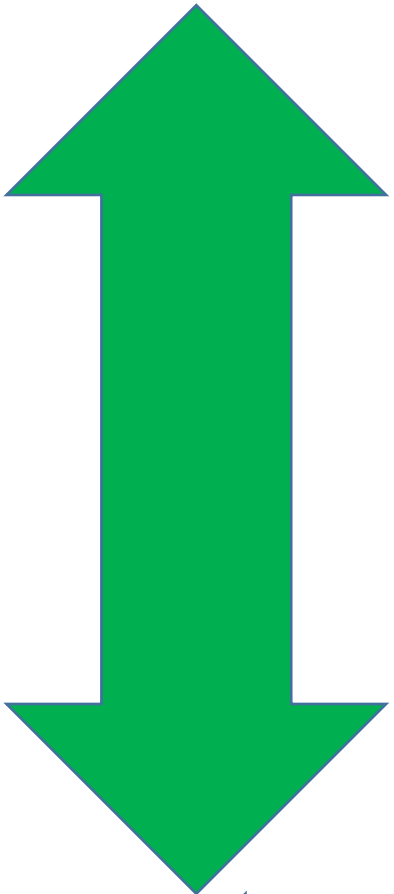
- So we have come to know and to **believe the love that God has for us.**
- God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.



1 John 4:19

- We love because he first loved us.





**There is a point to all
these references to
being loved by God.**

Revelation 3:10



- Because you have kept my word about patient endurance,

What does
this mean?

AV—the word of patience

NKJV—My command to persevere

NASB—My perseverance

NET—my admonition to endure steadfastly

ESV—my word about patient endurance

CSB—my command to endure



Although NOT readily seen in the four gospels according to Revelation 3:10 Jesus has commanded His followers to hold fast to the faith or to persevere until the end.

Notice He says, because you have kept my command to persevere...

Revelation 3:10



Revelation 3:10



- Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

What is the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world?

Is it a particular period of global tribulation?

If the answer is yes only the church at Philadelphia is promised to be protected from the hour of trial?



Those who hold to pre-tribulation rapture of the church use this text as proof that it is Christ's intent to protect all churches from the tribulation by means of the rapture.

This is a difficult interpretation to endorse because of the words "Because you have..."

Because you have seems very conditional.



Finally, the text does NOT say the church at Philadelphia is being raptured or removed.

KJV Translation Count — Total: 75x

The KJV translates Strong's G5083 in the following manner: keep (57x), reserve (8x), observe (4x), watch (2x), preserve (2x), keeper (1x), hold fast (1x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I. to attend to carefully, take care of
 - A. to guard
 - B. metaph. to keep, one in the state in which he is
 - C. to observe
 - D. to reserve: to undergo something

Revelation 3:11



- **I am coming soon.**

**Is this to render
judgment?**

Revelation 3:11



- **Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.**

What is the only thing they must hold fast to that will keep them from losing their crown?

Six Promises

- **Open Door**
- **Enemies will bow down before them v. 9**
- **Crown v. 11**



1 Corinthians 15:2

- and by which you are being saved, **if you hold fast to the word** I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.
- by which also you are saved, **if you hold fast the word** which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.



Revelation 3:12



- The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, 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 from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

Six Promises

- **Open Door**
- **Enemies will bow down before them v. 9**
- **Crown v. 11**
- **Pillar in the Temple of God**
- **Permanent residence in the Temple**
- **Ownership (Name)**

