

CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE STUDY  
LESSON 589

*Revelation*  
*Lesson # 9*

## *Who is Chapter 2 and 3 written to?*

- **The 7 Churches**

- **Ephesus** - the church that had forsaken its first love 2. 4
- **Smyrna** - the church that would suffer persecution 2. 10
- **Pergamum** - the church that needed to repent 2. 16
- **Thyatira** - the church that had a false prophetess 2. 20
- **Sardis** - the church that had fallen asleep 3. 2
- **Philadelphia** - the church that had endured patiently 3. 10
- **Laodicea** - the church with the lukewarm faith 3. 16



## The 7 Churches in Asia Minor

*Mentioned in the Book of Revelation*



## *Intro*

- **What are the 3 types of love mentioned in the Bible**
- **Phileo**
- **One who loves his brother**
- **Eros**
- **Erotic**
- **Agape**
- **All consuming - unconditional**

## Intro ~ Chapter 3

- 2 letters left
- Of the 2 final letters - Jesus either says nothing good or nothing bad about each church
- Jesus has nothing good to say to 1 of them and all good things to say to 1 of them

1. *Who is Chapter 2. 18-29 written to?*

• **The Angel of the Church in Philadelphia**

*What can you find out about Sardis at the time of this letter?*

- **The youngest of the 7**
- **Founded by colonists from Pergamum**
- **Called Philadelphia because Attalus who reigned then loved his brother Eumenes**
- **Founded for a special purpose →**
- **It was a border town – Mysia – Lydia – Phrygia met**
- **Founded as a missionary of Greek culture and language**
- **On the edge of a great volcano**
- **Fertile land → Grapes & fine wines**

*What can you find out about Pergamum at the time of this letter?*

- **AD 17 – great earthquake**
- **Tremors in Phily lasted years**
- **Over the years – other cities fell, but Phily stood tall**
- **Til 14<sup>th</sup> C – it fell**
- **Today there's a Bishop and 1000+ Christians**
- **Phily stands today**

3. *These are the words of whom?*

- **“of Him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David”**
- **“KEY OF David” → He who has the key – has the authority and control**

4. *In verses 7-11, what have the people done?*

- **“Philadelphia is an a” good church”**
- **Weak, but have kept the faith**
- **Vs 10 – kept commands**
- **Endured trials patiently**
- **They have a crown**

*What was charged against them?*

- **There was no charge**

6. From verse 7: a. What does it mean to be holy”?

- “These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.”
- Represents God’s perfection
- Holy → description of God
- A title of God
- Everything Jesus does – did – will do is God-like → perfect
- Holy = different – set apart

6. From verse 7 - b. What does it mean to be "true"?

- In the Greek → real or genuine
- He is reality
- No imitation
- No substitution → The Real Thing

c. *What is the reference to “the key of David”?*

- **Jesus has the final authority – no challengers**
- **Who was King David?**

*What do these add to our understanding of “the key of David”*

- 2 Samuel 7 –
- **Vss 4-7 – God never asked David to build Him a house**
- **God took David from the shepherd’s field to rule**
- **God is and will be with Him**
- **David will be one of the greatest men of the world**
- **David’s line will always rule**
- **Will never take away His love as He did with Saul**
- Isaiah 22. 22 –
  - **“I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.”**
- **Total control**
- **Jesus**

*What is being said in the end of vs 7 - "What he shuts...no one can open"?*

- Who is the "He"?
- **David was promised greatness and control and authority**
- **Jesus will have TOTAL CONTROL**
- **To admit to the New Jerusalem – The City of David**
- **The pathway to God in heaven is thru Jesus – ONLY**
- **Only Jesus can unlock the way**

8. *What are the “deeds” that the city did? [vss 8 – 10]*

- **“<sup>8</sup> I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup> I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup> Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.”**
- **Jesus is aware of their living and what they’ve done**
- **The key → The way to heaven is open for them**
- **They did not deny Jesus**
- **The door – Witnessing**
- **They had opportunities and they took them**

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- **They had little strength – but they allowed The Lord to work thru them**
- **They kept The Word – not denied name**
- **No Compromise like Sardis**

9. *What was the “open door” that was placed before them?*

- **Open door was an open path to salvation and heaven**
- **No man can shut the door**
- **There were many travelers passing thru this city**
- **Opportunities to witness to The Lord**
- **Ministry opportunities**

## 10. How do the following help us understand verse 9:

- **Leviticus 19. 16-**
  - **“16 ‘Do not go about spreading slander among your people. “Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor’s life. I am the Lord.”**
- **Back in Smyrna – the persecution came from other Jews – doing evil and claiming it was in Jesus’ name**
- **Smyrna – church of Satan – not so in Phily**
- **Isaiah 45. 23 –**
  - **“By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear.”**
- **Some day!**

## 10. How do the following help us understand verse 9:

- Romans 14. 11 -

- **“10 You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. 11 It is written: “As surely as I live,” says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.’”**

- **Some Day!**

- **We do not need to avenge – The Lord will – Some Day**

- 1 Corinthians 16. 9 -

- **“8 But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, 9 because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.”**

- **For Paul – a door of opportunity was opened in Troas**

- **Missionary opportunity**

## *10. How do the following help us understand verse 9:*

- **John 10. 7-9 -**

- **“7 Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.”**

- **Jesus is the gate – the door**

- **This is the way to God**

- **The only way**

11. What is the “special reward that the City of Philadelphia will receive?”

- **“ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.”**
- *They will not have to go thru some trial or test*

12. What are the promise and the warning in verse 11?

- **“I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”**
- **KJV “Behold....”**
- **Be on the lookout – watch**
- **Jesus is coming – be ready**
- **“Hold on to what you have”**
- **What do they have?**
- **What do we have?**

13. To those who “overcome”, what will be given?

- **“The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.”**
- **Reward for believers → Salvation**

14. How does 1 John 5. 4 relate to verse 12 & 13?

- **“<sup>12</sup> The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. <sup>13</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”**
- **1 John 12-13**
  - **“for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.”**
- **Overcoming = holding fast to faith during hard times**
- **No denying Christ**
- **They will enter heaven (Salvation) and never leave it**
- **Born again – new name**

15. How is the letter to Philadelphia different from the previous letters?

- **Positive letter**

- **Key → Jesus and they know Him**