

The Seven Churches - Philadelphia

Revelation 3:7-13

Borders three countries, Mysia, Lydia and Phrygia. A missionary outpost for Greek culture—Hellenism. "Burnt Land" - volcanoes and earthquakes (17AD)

"The Holy One, the True one" - Isaiah 43:15; 54:5; Habakkuk 3:3; "genuine, authentic and real" (John 14:6). The one who "has the keys of David" - Jesus stands at the entrance to eternity.

What I Learn: Isaiah 43:13; John 14:9 - What will we do with Jesus?

"I have set before you an open door" - Revelation 3:8 - This 'open door' assures their access to God and then success at leading others to him.

What I Learn: First, Christ has opened the door of salvation and no one can close that door. Second, God opens doors to share the gospel.

"I know you have little power" - Revelation 3:8 - They are weak in influence; but obedience keeps doors open.

What I Learn: Do what we can for the glory of God and leave the results to God. This is the way and the thinking of a faithful believer.

"I will make those of the synagogue . . . come and bow down before your feet" - Revelation 3:9-10

What I Learn: I may not get relief from the issues that plague my life, but I will be free of the judgment that is coming to those around me that live in rebellion against God and his ways.

"Hold what you have" - Revelation 3:11 - A description of "patient endurance".

What I Learn: Patient waiting has two challenges: First, it is taking so long. Second, 1 Peter 4:12-13 & James 1:2-4 - It may be a calling.

"A pillar in the temple of my God" - Revelation 3:12-13

"I will write on him the name of my God . . . the city of my God . . . my own name" - Revelation 3:12 - Isaiah 62:2; 65:15; Revelation 21:1

What I Learn: My spiritual inheritance is all of Christ and is all only from Christ; it is his gift to me and whatever doubts I may have in no way affect this gift.

Conclusion: It is ironic that God's chosen people, Israel, are to be wooed back to Jehovah via the Gentiles, and they are the people before whom the Jews will bow. (Romans 11:21-22)

Some will have it much worse than others and when we learn of that we can do our part to relieve their pain and encourage them in their struggle—but the end will be different from the present or the past.

Jewish community: First, we are of the Jews, our redeemer was Jewish, God first loved the Jewish people and God is not done with the Jews. Second, Romans 11 warns the New Testament Church to honor the Jews without backing down to their incomplete gospel and missing Messiah.