

# The Revelation

by Dr. Charles "Buddy" Parrish



## Revelation 3:7-13 The Church in Philadelphia

### Introduction

- Philadelphia was by far the youngest of all the 7 cities. Founded in 189 BC by King Eumenes of Pergamum, he named the city out of love and respect for his younger brother, Attalus.
- The city was founded to carry on the missionary work of Alexander the Great, who purposed to build an empire for the expressed purpose of expanding Greek culture, language, and thought in the region.
- The area had two powerful natural characteristics: active volcanoes and earthquakes. The volcanic soil made it very fertile and the region grew wonderful grapes. The earthquakes were another matter. In 17 AD a strong earthquake hit the area and aftershocks and tremors stayed with Philadelphia for years. For many years the population lived outside the city in wooden huts. When the tremors finally stopped the Roman emperor exempted the city from taxes until the city was rebuilt.
- When the Muslims overran the area in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, Philadelphia did not fully surrender, the church was not wiped out, and there remains a strong Christian community within the modern city of Alasehir.

### Vs 7

- Here Christ holds three great titles. 1) He who is holy. It is the title and description of God Himself (Isaiah 6:3). All through the Old Testament that title is reserved for God alone and now it is given to the Risen Christ. 2) He who is true. The Greek word here for "true" is alethinos, meaning "real" or "genuine". Christ is the real Savior, the genuine reality of God Himself. 3) He who has the key of David. In the Old Testament, King Hezekiah has a faithful steward, Eliakim, who oversaw the palace and was the gatekeeper to the king (Isaiah 22:22). So it is Christ alone

who now holds the key to the New Jerusalem and is the gatekeeper to God (John 14:6).

#### Vss 8-11

- What is the “open door”? Perhaps a door of missionary opportunity (1 Cor. 16:9). The city which had been founded to be a missionary city for Greek culture would now be so for Christ. Perhaps the door is Christ Himself (John 10:7,9).
- The Synagogue of Satan will bow down at your feet (Isaiah 45:14; 60:14). In judgement, perhaps even in this life, the enemies of God and His people will be brought down.
- The reward for keeping the word of the story of Christ is that He will keep them safe from what is about to fall on everyone else. How many times in our own lives do we know of times when God has protected His own?
- Again, hold fast. An unbreakable grip on the hand of Christ.

#### Vss 12-13

- Pillars: great supports (Galatians 2:9)
- Go out no more: a promise of security, a promise of salvation
- Write on him: pillars were/are often inscribed; the branding by the owner; a blessing (Numbers 6:22-27)
- Here the faithful will receive citizenship into the New Jerusalem and they alone will know the new name of Christ (Isaiah 62:2).