

A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

August 16, 2020

Revelation 3:7-13

You "... have kept my word and have not denied My name."

1. Keeping His word is a test of love for Him and His Father (John 14:23ff), yet to deny His word is to reject Him, and to reject Him is to reject His Father (Luke 10:16).
2. With no words of condemnation offered, it is quite evident they were continuing to keep His word. (Psalms 119:11; Luke 8:12; John 8:51; 1 John 2:3)
3. They were not ashamed of the gospel or Christ! (Hebrews 3:14; Luke 9:26; Romans 1:16)

Revelation 3:7-13

"When Christians were brought before heathen magistrates in times of persecution, they were required to renounce the name of Christ, and to disown him in a public manner. It is possible that, amidst the persecutions that raged in the early times, the members of the church at Philadelphia had been summoned to such a trial, and they had stood the trial firmly. It would seem from the following verse, that the efforts which had been made to induce them to renounce the name of Christ had been made by those who professed to be Jews, though they evinced the spirit of Satan."

- Albert Barnes,
- Notes on the New Testament: Revelation, Pages 93-94

Revelation 3:7-13

PROMISES (Verses 9-10,12)

"I give of the synagogue of Satan ..."

Satan has synagogues! Religious people, who are religiously wrong. (1 John 4:1; Acts 17:11)

- This is a strong description of those who say they are Jews and they are not. (Note: The same description in the letter to Smyrna (2:9).)
- Not just "national Jews" but God's Jews today are those who have obeyed him. (Galatians 6:16; 3:28-29; Romans 2:28-29).
- They will come and bow down at your feet. These who were opposing the Christians would be exposed and punished and the Christians completely vindicated.
- *"They will know that I have loved you"* cf. Galatians 2:20

Revelation 3:7-13

PROMISES (Verses 9-10,12)

"I will keep you from the hour of trial ..." (3:10)

- Not specifically identified.

Conditional ... *"Because thou didst keep the word of my patience"* (1 Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10; 17:14; Galatians 6:9).

- Be kept ... Whether by immunity from, or by being brought safely through, is not clear.
- All will suffer trials (2 Timothy 3:12), but it is certain that if we *"keep his word and persevere"* (patience and steadfastness) we will be blessed.
 - To be loyal, faithful, and true are constantly demanded in Scripture. (Hebrews 10:32ff)

Revelation 3:7-13

PROMISES (Verses 9-10,12).

"Those that dwell upon the earth" describes sinners ... "earth dwellers" as opposed to "heaven dwellers" (Philippians 3:20), those whose names are written in the book of Life" (Revelation 6:10; 11:10; 13:1,14).

Revelation 3:7-13

PROMISES (Verses 9-10,12).

"He that overcometh, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God ..." (3:12)

- The ancient world considered many pillars an addition of grandeur to their great edifices.
- The church is the Lord's temple (1 Corinthians 3:17; Ephesians 2:16, 22).
- Church also described as the *"pillar and ground of truth"* (1 Timothy 3:15).

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PROMISES (Verses 9-10,12).

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"Pillars" suggest three things:

1. Incorporation – surely a part of the temple.
2. Permanence – for the pillar stands as long as the temple stands.
3. Strength – Galatians 2:9.

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PROMISES (Verses 9-10,12).

"He that overcometh, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God ..." (3:12)

- We can be "pillars" too as James, Cephas, John, Paul, etc.
- The victors are allowed to go into the heavenly city where God and the Lamb are its temple (Revelation 21:22). The saints are the pillars thereof.
- We can obtain the one thing David desired (Psalms 27:4).

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Revelation 3:7-13

PROMISES (Verses 9-10,12).

"He will not go out any more" (3:12).

- Philadelphia and Sardis lay in the Anatolian fault system and was especially subject to earthquakes.
- In AD 17 there was a destructive earthquake in the region which affected 12 cities. Sardis suffered worst, but Philadelphia is also mentioned. The cities were exempted from direct taxation, and Tiberias provided personal funds for relief (Tacitus, Annals 2:47 quoted by Ferrell Jenkins in Studies in the Book of Revelation, page 68).

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Revelation 3:7-13

PROMISES (Verses 9-10,12).

"He will not go out any more" (3:12)

- When an earthquake occurred, to escape the effects of aftershock the people would leave the city and go out into the open fields and live in tents. When the danger was passed, they would go back into the city.
- As *"pillars"* in God's heavenly temple it would not be necessary to *"go out any more."* No peril will ever fill them with fear or drive them out of the heavenly city. They will abide there. No need to ever leave again! Eternal!

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Revelation 3:7-13

PROMISES (Verses 9-10,12).

"I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God, and mine own new name" (3:12).

- The practice of writing the name of a person on a pillar was common. Indeed, this would be an honor.
- Solomon placed two pillars at the porch of the temple and named them Jachin and Boaz (1 Kings 7:21; 2 Chronicles 3:15,17).

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Revelation 3:7-13

PROMISES (Verses 9-10,12).

"The name of my God." This would identify one as a child of God (Romans 8:13-17), a part of God's family (1 Timothy 3:15).

"The name of the city of my God ..." This would identify one as an inhabitant thereof (Philippians 3:20).

"Mine own new name." When the city of Philadelphia was rebuilt by Tiberias after the AD 17 earthquake, the city was renamed Neocaesarea to honor the emperor. The name did not stick. Later, in the reign of Vespasian, the city assumed the name Flavia (Jenkins, page 68).

➤ Jesus here symbolizes the relationship of his followers to Himself by speaking of His new name branded on them. He is *"King of Kings, and Lord of Lords"* (19:16; cf. 22:3-5). 13

Revelation 3:7-13

ADMONITION AND WARNING (Verse 11).

"I come quickly" (cf. 2 Peter 3:8-10; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; James 4:14).

- Don't be caught unprepared.
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Revelation 3:7-13

ADMONITION AND WARNING (Verse 11).

"Hold fast what you have ..."

- The saints were to hold fast lest someone take their (victor's) crown (Revelation 2:10; 2 Timothy 4:8; cf. Colossians 2:18). Implies one's crown can be taken.
 - They had much to hold on to: His name, His word of patience, His coming in judgment from which they would be spared, His opportunity for service.
 - Sardis was threatened by His coming (3:3). Philadelphia was encouraged.
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Revelation 3:7-13

ADMONITION AND WARNING (Verse 11).

"He that hath an ear, let him hear ..."

- Listen, learn, and make proper application!
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Revelation 3:7-13

ADMONITION AND WARNING (Verse 13).

"He that hath an ear, let him hear ..."

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A Faithful Church

Revelation 3:7-13

- I. The Salutation (verse 7)
 - II. The Praise (verses 8, 10)
 - III. The Encouragement (verses 8, 9, 11)
 - IV. The Promise (verses 10, 12)
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Revelation 3:7-13
<p>It is possible for a church to reach a state that brings no condemnation from the Lord</p>
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