

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST SERIES

RLJ-803

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PART 7: UNTO THE ANGEL OF THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

CHAPTER THREE: THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA (City of Brotherly Love)

It is very hard to find information about this city that was located on the road between Sardis and Laodicea. Of the seven cities that Jesus addressed, Philadelphia was the youngest city.

It was founded and named after King Attalus II Philadelphus (159-138 B.C.) of Pergamos, who had the town built during his reign. It was situated on the lower slopes of Tmolus, on the southern side of the valley of the Ain-e-ghiul Sou River. Its elevation was 952 feet above sea level.

King Attalus II built the city as a "missionary center" to spread the Greek culture and language into the backward highlands of Lydia, which meant that the idols worshiped by the people in Pergamos were also set up for the local people living in the region. Earthquakes were very common in this area, and when a big earthquake hit in 17 A.D., the city of Philadelphia was totally destroyed along with Sardis and ten other cities in the region.

Philadelphia was rebuilt with the generous help of Emperor Tiberius, and in his honor, the name of the city was changed to Neocaesarea. Many of the townspeople were afraid to move back into the city and remained in the countryside. When the Roman Emperor Vespasian reigned, the name of the city was changed to Flavia (A.D.69-79), but the old name persisted even attempts were made to change it.

The city remained a Roman town until 1392 A.D., when it fell into the hands of the Turks. The city has been destroyed several times by earthquakes since the first century. The city is now called "Ala-Sheher" (City of God).

People living in Philadelphia made their living through business, trade and commerce. It was not a rich city like its neighbor Sardis.

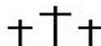
VERSE 7

Jesus greeted them with the exhortation that He is in charge of all things and no one can open or shut unless He has given permission. This was also a prophecy spoken by the prophet Isaiah some 700 years before Christ. **Isaiah 22:22**

VERSE 8

Jesus did not rebuke this group of believers, instead, He told them that He knew they had little strength, but used what they had.

Jesus always used what people had. **Mark 6:31-44**



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The believer in Christ is secure in God. **John 10:1-15, 25-30**

There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God. **Romans 8:26-39**

God has not given us a spirit of fear. **2 Timothy 1:1-7**

Have faith in God. **Mark 11:12-14, 20-26; Jeremiah 17:5-8**

VERSE 9

There were Cabalistic Jews in Philadelphia and Jesus pointed this out. Jesus stated that the most hardcore people in Judaism would be broken and confess their sins before the church and worship Jesus. We cannot project this prophecy from the city of Philadelphia to our time or some time in the future. The text does not support this thinking. It was something that was going to happen in Philadelphia, and no other place. **Isaiah 28:14-18**

VERSE 10

Jesus will keep those believers in Christ who have kept his Word from temptation. **Luke 21:10-19; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17**

VERSE 11

Don't lose your crown. **2 Timothy 4:1-9**

VERSE 12

God is looking for over comers, men and women who are faithful in all things. **Hebrews 10:32-39**

Do you have an ear to hear with?