

Assembly at Philadelphia

Chanakya Sehgal

Location



Seven Assemblies of Asia Minor

Leading idea for each Assembly

- Ephesus – A cooling heart
- Smyrna – A crushed heart
- Pergamum - A compromising heart
- Thyatira – A Careless heart
- Sardis – A cold heart
- **Philadelphia – A committed heart**
- Laodicea – A complacent heart

Meaning of the names

Name of the Assembly	Meaning	Prophetic timelines
EPHESUS	Desirable	70-170 AD
SMYRNA	S-myrh-NA - The sweet-bitterness of myrrh	170-312
PERGAMOS	Marriage. Mixture	312-606
THYATIRA	Continual Burning	606 – Rapture
SARDIS	A Remnant escaping	1517 – Rapture
PHILADELPHIA	Brotherly Love	1750 – Rapture
LAODICEA	The Rights of the People	1900 - Rapture

Discourse for each Assembly

Destination

Presentation

Commendation

Condemnation

Exhortation

Reading from Rev 3:1-6

Re 3:7 ¶ And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Re 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Re 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Re 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Re 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Re 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is* new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him* my new name.

Re 3:13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Destination

1. The other Philadelphia was in Asia Minor and was founded in 150 B.C (it was the most modern city out of the seven).
2. It was about 75 miles (120 kilometers) east of Smyrna, and was named after Attalus II Philadelphus, who was the king of Pergamum.
3. This city was built as a tribute of loyalty to his older brother Eumenes II.
4. Today it is known as Alasehir, Turkey.
5. After an earthquake in 17th AD this city, the civic authorities were so grateful to the imperial help that they renamed the city Neocaesarea. How the name was changed to the old name of Philadelphia in about 30 years.
6. This was the last of the cities of the Roman province to surrender to the Ottoman forces in 1392 AD. Its reputation for faithfulness was retained until the end of history.
7. The highway (imperial postal and trade route) from the fine harbour of Smyrna through Sardis and Philadelphia and onward to Phrygia going East.
8. The city was the foundation of Greco-Asiatic civilization, the intent was to spread Greek language and culture in the eastern parts of Lydia and Phrygia.



Presentation – Rev 3:7

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is **holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David**, he that **openeth**, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

- 1) He that is HOLY – That which is free from sin. The Lord was sinless, he did not sin and could not have sinned – Lu 1:35, Acts 4:27 - For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together.
- 2) He that is TRUE – He is the True one, the exact representation, the genuine one. When the Lord said in Jn 6:32 – that he is the “true bread”, he did not mean that the other bread(s) was false. He meant that the bread before was in “essence” and he is the reality. The fulfilment of all shadow and type.
- 3) He that hath the key of David – This is a symbol of absolute authority. Issa 22:22 - Shebna was the steward during Hezekiah who was removed due to pride and arrogance, he was replaced with Eliakim. The key was also a symbol of trust and confidence, the final faithful steward was christ. The fulfilment of the messianic promises under in the line of David.

Presentation – Rev 3:7

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- 3) He that hath the key of David – Believers from a pagan background would have realized that Janus was the key-bearer. He had the power to
 - Open the year – therefore the first month of the year is January.
 - Open the gates of heaven (rain)
 - Open or close the gates of war and peace on the earth.
- Christ is seen here as the one with the absolute authority and no pagan deity can claim power.
- 4) he that **openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth** – the emphasis is not so much here on the key but on the usage. Doors can be opened or closed and on other may interfere with the key bearer's judgment.

Commendation

Re 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast **a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.**

Re 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

- 1) They were numerically small in number, but had displayed their loyalty to “God’s word” and had not denounced “His name”, even when they were put through the test.
- 2) There were those Jews who would ignite the civil authorities against the Christians and they were called the “Synagogue of Satan”
 - They were marked by a life of lies
 - The act of the conversion of their heart and a public display of their worship to God is indicated, this would happen in the millennium. The bitter agonistic Jews will acknowledge the blessing on the gentiles. **Isa 60:14 The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.**

Commendation

Re 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

1. The period of the trial/tribulation: “The hour of temptation”, the presence of an article with “temptation” indicated that this is the tribulation period.
 - **Da 9:27** And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week – the scale 1 week = 7 years
2. The place of the tribulation; upon all the world – this is essentially on the earth dwellers.
3. The purpose of the tribulation – The earth dwellers will be put through a trial after trial – seals, trumpets and bowls, the hearts of all men will be fully displayed, at the final judgment the record is given - **Re 16:21** And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, *every stone* about the weight of a talent: and **men blasphemed God** because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

Condemnation

**The Lord had nothing to condemn
this assembly**

Exhortation Rev 3:11-12

Re 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Re 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and *I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem*, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him* my new name.

1. Behold, I come quickly – the promise given to the assembly is not the tribulation but the very coming of our Lord – Rev 22: 7, 12, 20 - Surely I come **quickly**. The certainty of his coming, when man landed on the moon, the report was published on in the newspaper in the **Second coming font**.
2. The resplendent pillars in the temple (pagan) had the names of benefactors on them. The pagan temples had the people running out when the earthquake would rumble the area, but not so with the believers - **1Ki 7:21 And he set up the pillars in the porch of the temple: and he set up the right pillar, and called the name thereof Jachin (established) : and he set up the left pillar, and called the name thereof Boaz (strengthened)**.
3. To bear the name of the city means not just citizenship but also the fact that freedom is granted to come in at all time.
4. My new name – Rev 19:12 – this is a name of Christ not yet communicated and this would indicate an appreciation of his person.

THANK YOU