

Revelation: The Time is Near

## An Open Door

Revelation 3:7-13

### Far From Coronavirus Epicentre, China Puts Another City Under Lockdown

*Coronavirus: Struggling to contain the virus, authorities virtually shut down the eastern city of Wenzhou on Sunday -- some 800 kilometres (500 miles) from Wuhan.*

<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/coronavirus-china-puts-wenzhou-city-under-lockdown-as-deaths-cross-300-2173669>

-> diseases

### Church stampede leaves 20 dead after pastor pours 'holy oil' on ground

*Some 20 people have died in a stampede at a church service in an open ground stadium in Tanzania, officials have said.*

*Hundreds of people attended the prayer service on Saturday evening led by a popular preacher in the town of Moshi, near Mount Kilimanjaro.*

*Pastor Boniface Mwamposa, who heads the Arise and Shine Ministry and calls himself "The Apostle", reportedly poured "holy oil" on the ground, prompting the crowd to surge forward in the hopes of touching it.*

*The rush to be anointed by the oil led to people crushing one another, resulting in the deaths of 20 people and 16 people injured, Reuters reported.*

[https://uk.news.yahoo.com/church-stampede-leaves-20-dead-124156114.html?guccounter=1&guce\\_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly9kcVZ2VyZXBvcnQuY29tLw&guce\\_referrer\\_sig=AQAABsPNSOhtlgNYeU8cIFPRKI0Od3SzN1X0APbVV2U8r6cF-wxjT0GsSMSwbj50mu5h2pEa8CjMOWdSiPgmrlPstcOxcnkeh\\_fAb1u-9FGDCmcPiDSR9wTZs9ZcT\\_L1YVpljHpvA54WLNZ-cjK131Fgq6uVmmY-nPCJYrYVCkrF2vx](https://uk.news.yahoo.com/church-stampede-leaves-20-dead-124156114.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly9kcVZ2VyZXBvcnQuY29tLw&guce_referrer_sig=AQAABsPNSOhtlgNYeU8cIFPRKI0Od3SzN1X0APbVV2U8r6cF-wxjT0GsSMSwbj50mu5h2pEa8CjMOWdSiPgmrlPstcOxcnkeh_fAb1u-9FGDCmcPiDSR9wTZs9ZcT_L1YVpljHpvA54WLNZ-cjK131Fgq6uVmmY-nPCJYrYVCkrF2vx)

-> many false christs shall arise

### Japan Navy Destroyer Sails for Middle East as Iran-U.S. Tension Lingers

*Japan despatched a navy destroyer to the Middle East on Sunday for a rare overseas mission to help ensure the safe passage of shipping transiting the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman and Bab el-Mandeb.*

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/02/01/japan-navy-destroyer-sails-for-middle-east-as-iran-u-s-tension-lingers/>

-> Japan has a 'defense' force. Gog magog, wars, rumors of wars

### PETA Chief: It Is 'Derogatory' to Call Animals 'Pets'

*"Animals are not pets— they are not your cheap burglar alarm or something which allows you to go out for a walk. They are not ours as decorations or toys, they are living beings," Newkirk said Friday.*

*The 70-year-old animal rights activist compared calling animals pets to the treatment of women before the feminist movement.*

<https://www.breitbart.com/environment/2020/02/01/peta-derogatory-call-animals-pets/>

**Abortion Survivors Group: Make a Statement ‘Fox Will Feel’ After Pro-Life Super Bowl Ad Censorship**

<https://www.breitbart.com/radio/2020/01/31/abortion-survivors-group-make-statement-fox-feel-after-pro-life-super-bowl-ad-censorship/>

**Pro-life Democrats ‘Fed Up’ with Party’s ‘Abortion Extremism’**

As Breitbart News reported, Buttigieg told Ms. Day that there is no room for the pro-life position in the Democrat Party and that he would never support any restrictions on abortion.

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/02/01/pro-life-democrats-fed-up-with-partys-abortion-extremism/>

**Love of many will grow cold**

**Earthquakes Puerto Rico, Yosemite, Turkey, etc this past week**

**FACEBOOK ANNOUNCES PLAN TO REMOVE POSTS ABOUT CORONAVIRUS ‘CONSPIRACY THEORIES’**

Posts deemed "misinformation" by Facebook's third-party fact-checkers will be limited or removed

<https://www.infowars.com/facebook-announces-plan-to-remove-posts-about-coronavirus-conspiracy-theories/>

**CORONAVIRUS CONTAINS “HIV INSERTIONS”, STOKING FEARS OVER ARTIFICIALLY CREATED BIOWEAPON**

'The virus even responds to treatment by HIV medications'

<https://www.infowars.com/coronavirus-contains-hiv-insertions-stoking-fears-over-artificially-created-bioweapon/>

**WATCH: THIS VIDEO GOT A MAJOR PRO-LIFE GROUP BANNED FROM TIKTOK**  
Live Action's account restored Friday after backlash

**The list goes on. I can’t even find the stories from a few days ago as so much happens every day that’s related to the end.**

The point is not that these are necessarily new things...it’s at their frequency and severity... **Matthew 24:8 All these events are the beginning of labor pains (sorrows).**

**Previously:**

- **John on Patmos**
- **Visions of the revealed Jesus Christ in power and glory**
- **Walking amongst 7 lampstands, 7 stars in his hand**
- **Message to the Loveless Church, Ephesus**  
Rev 2:5 NKJV - 5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.
- **Message to the Persecuted Church, Smyrna**  
Rev 2:5, 10 NKJV - 5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent. ... 10 "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw [some] of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.
- **Message to the Compromising Church, Pergamos**  
Rev 2:17 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.
- **Message to the Corrupt Church, Thyatira**  
Rev 2:22 NKJV - 22 "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.
- **Message to the Dead Church, Sardis**  
Rev 3:2, 5 NKJV - 2 "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. ... 5 "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

**Today: The Faithful Church, Philadelphia****Meaning of the Church Names**

Ephesus:	The Desired One
Smyrna:	Myrrh; Death
Pergamos:	Mixed Marriage
Thyatira:	Semiramis (connection with Babylon, Dagon, fish God, Ishtar, even roots of Catholicism)
Sardis:	Remnant
Philadelphia:	Brotherly Love
Laodicea:	People Rule

<https://www.khouse.org/articles/1993/32/>

**2Ti 4:1-5 NKJV - 1 I charge [you] therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, [because] they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn [their] ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**

**Jhn 13:35 NKJV - 35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."**

## Revelation 3:7-13

### Philadelphia

a. Philadelphia: The name means brotherly love, and this city was the youngest of the seven cities, and was originally founded as a missionary outpost for Hellenism, the culture of ancient Greece.

i. "The original purpose behind this key city was to make it a center for spreading Greek language, culture and manners throughout the Asian provinces." (Hocking)

ii. "Philadelphia had been built with the deliberate intention that it might become a missionary city. Beyond Philadelphia lay the wilds of Phrygia and the barbarous tribes; and it was intended that the function of Philadelphia should be to spread the Greek language, the Greek way of life, the Greek civilization, throughout the regions beyond." (Barclay)

iii. The city gained its name after its founder – Attalus the Second – who was nicknamed Philadelphos.

b. Philadelphia: This was a prosperous city. "Philadelphia commanded one of the greatest highways in the world, the highway which led from Europe to the East. Philadelphia was the gateway from one continent to another." (Barclay)

c. Philadelphia: This city was also known for beautiful buildings (it was called the "little Athens") and her earthquakes, which required frequent evacuations.

i. "To walk through its temple-scattered streets was to be reminded of Athens, the center of worship of the Olympian gods." (Barclay)

**Jesus: holy, true** something I think today's younger generation is yearning for. Except they're being led to think that the most unholy things are the holiest...not to be touched, no to be spoken against. They long for the truth and they're being told that truth is whatever you want it to be.

**Jesus says, I am the holy. I am the genuine article.**

**Jesus is the keeper of the doors** (Matrix had a gatekeeper)  
He's the one who controls access. To admit and to exclude.

*The world today says everything needs to be included...and the only thing excluded is one who would tell you to exclude something...except that's exactly what they're doing, excluding someone...the truth. Jesus.*

He's the one who gives a way out of sin

**1Co 10:13 NKJV - 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God [is] faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear [it].**

**There's always a way of escape with the Lord**

Acts, disciples chained and locked up...angels free them

**If God makes a way, no one can stop it**  
Moses in the wilderness

**"I know your works"**

Simply. Jesus knows what they're doing. Doesn't need to quantify it or correct it. They're doing the work he wants them to do.

**Their problem is not in what they're doing...it's that they're running out of strength doing it.**

**God's work is hard work...only he can do it**

**Psa 127:1-2 NKJV - 1 A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon. Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain. 2 [It is] vain for you to rise up early, To sit up late, To eat the bread of sorrows; [For] so He gives His beloved sleep.**

**There's an open door before them...an open opportunity for them to keep serving him, to serve him in greater ways, and there's nothing between them and him and them an heaven.**

*DGC There may be another sense to this open door. It seems Christians in Philadelphia were excluded from the synagogue (Revelation 3:9). The open door may also speak of their opportunity to enter God's kingdom in contrast with exclusion from the synagogue.*

### **NO ONE CAN SHUT IT**

- **Open door**
- **Little Strength**
- **Kept his word**
- **Not denied his Name**

*DGC · Evangelistic opportunity (I have set before you an open door)*

*· Reliance on God (You have a little strength)*

*· Faithfulness to Jesus (have kept My word, and have not denied My name)*

*In some ways, these features seem unspectacular. They should be commonplace among churches. Yet Jesus was completely pleased with this church. He had nothing negative to say to the church at Philadelphia.*

**When it comes to true believers in the last days before the tribulation...this is a good description.**

**There's not many of us. There's not a lot of strength socially in the movement and it's tiring to push against such a strong, evil tide**

**They haven't turned from Jesus' name. They haven't been ashamed to speak of him in this epicenter of Greek culture.**

**2Co 12:7-10 NKJV - 7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

*i. "The church of Philadelphia is commended for keeping the Word of the Lord and not denying His Name. Success in Christian work is not to be measured by any other standard of achievement. It is not rise in ecclesiastical position. It is not the number of new buildings which have been built through a man's ministry. It is not the crowds that flock to listen to any human voice. All of these things are frequently used as yardsticks of success, but they are earthly and not heavenly measures." (Barnhouse)*

**Synagogue of Satan (seen again from Smyrna)  
Jews who persecuted the Christians.**

**Strong name for the people who were supposed to be God's people!**

They had so much left the God of their fathers that they are not a Synagogue of Yahweh anymore!

**But one day they will see and end up bowing down to them.**

We're to be living for the next life, not this one. The next world, not this one.

*Tribulation saints, servants*

**Rev 3:10 NKJV - 10 "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.**

This is big. This is a guaranteed escape. The word means to keep and guard. And I don't believe it's God's heart here to just guard them through the end times.

I believe it's like Enoch and 1 Thess 4:7 "caught up in the air"

It's the final open door. He's got the keys. He's excluding them from the time to come.

This church is the final faithful church before the end.

**No other church has this guarantee.** In fact, like last week, we saw they were headed towards a time of great trial!

**The tribulation is meant to test those left on the earth.** To get them to repent and prove at very last that even given another last chance, a wake up call, they still would not and are worthy of the judgment to come.

**He is coming quickly. Hold fast!**

Your crown could be taken...your rewards might be lost if you don't hold fast to Jesus and his righteousness.

**Don't cash out right before the end.**

**In the temple forever...a pillar**

**Write on him my new name. Not their new name on a stone, Jesus' new name on them.**

Not a new name, some unknown attribute of God...but when the time comes and Jesus has rightfully judged the earth and all of its inhabitants and the fallen angels...the final mark of God will be upon everyone.

**Hear what the Spirit is Saying to the CHURCHES**

We all can be the Philadelphian church if we would:

- Look and pray for an Open door to minister
- Realize we're weak and rely on his strength alone
- Not worry about our words or what the word of the day is...but hang tightly to God's word
- Not build up our own name or take on a name of the world...but to confidently affirm Jesus' name...the name above all names

**Mat 7:7 NKJV - 7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.**