Shine, Jesus, shine, Fill this land with the Father's glory Blaze, Spirit, blaze, Set our hearts on fire Flow, river, flow, Flood the nations with grace and mercy Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!

Lord, the light of your love is shining In the midst of the darkness, shining Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us Set us free by the truth you now bring us Shine on me, shine on me.



Shine, Jesus, shine, Fill this land with the Father's glory Blaze, Spirit, blaze, Set our hearts on fire Flow, river, flow, Flood the nations with grace and mercy Send forth your word. Lord, and let there be light! Shine, Jesus shine. Shine, Jesus shine

Lord, I come to your awesome presence From the shadows into your radiance By the blood I may enter your brightness Search me, try me, consume all my darkness Shine on me, shine on me. Shine, Jesus, shine, Fill this land with the Father's glory Blaze, Spirit, blaze, Set our hearts on fire Flow, river, flow, Flood the nations with grace and mercy Send forth your word. Lord, and let there be light!

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me,

Shine, Jesus, shine, Fill this land with the Father's glory Blaze, Spirit, blaze, Set our hearts on fire Flow, river, flow, Flood the nations with grace and mercy Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!

Shine, Jesus, shine, Fill this land with the Father's glory Blaze, Spirit, blaze, Set our hearts on fire Flow, river, flow, Flood the nations with grace and mercy Send forth your word Lord, and let there be light!

He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

Revelation 3:12

Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad Baruch Shem k'vod malchutto, I'olam va'ed

Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God.
The LORD is One.
Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever.



Ancient letters with an urgent message for today...

LETTER 6: PHILADEPHIA

⁷ "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": 8 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. ⁹ Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

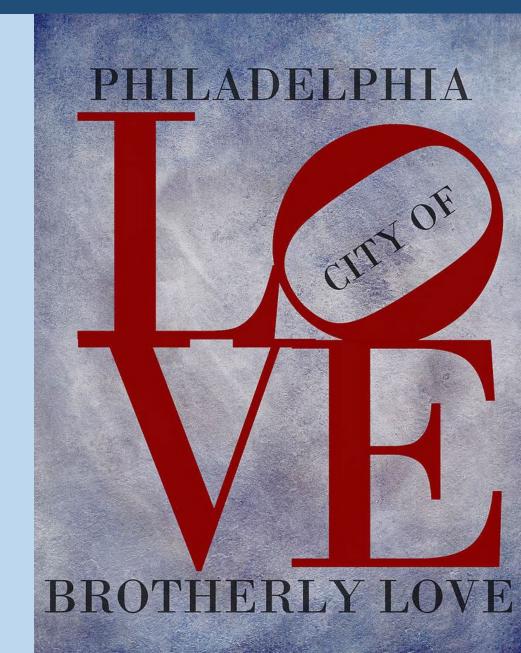
¹⁰ Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. 12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

13 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."



BACKGROUND ON PHILADELPHIA

- Youngest of 7 cities, means
 "brotherly love."
- Founded by Attalus II ~ 140 BC
- Commemorates loyalty/devotion that Attalus, king of Pergamos, had for <u>brother Eumenes II</u>.
- Outpost of Greek culture: sat on frontier of western Asia.

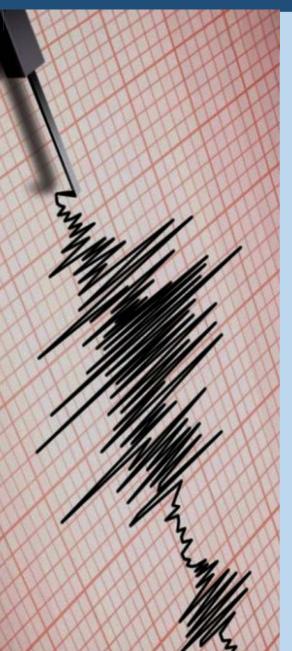


- Border town, 3 countries met (Mysia, Lydia, Phrygia).
 Gateway to east, and from one continent (Asia) to next (Europe).
- Also great highway between several key cities in Asia.
- Purpose initially as "missionary city" to spread Greek culture to lands beyond.
- Jesus uses history to indicate greater missionary goal.
- Neither predominantly Greek or Roman lifestyle. "Open door" policy, people adopted/practiced culture of choice.

THE MISSIONARY CITY: GATEWAY TO THE EAST (ASIA), GATEWAY TO THE WEST (EUROPE)



OBJECTIVE: TO SPREAD GREEK CULTURE



- Another feature of city used by Jesus here:
 Philadelphia <u>located on prominent</u>
 <u>earthquake fault</u>.
- Known as the "burned land" due to active volcanic region.
- After quake of 17 AD (destroyed Sardis, 10 other cities), Philadelphia received financial aid from Rome to rebuild.
- So grateful renamed city "NeoCeasarea" (new town of Caesar), but name didn't stick.

- People here subject to many earthquakes, always "running to the hills," quite literally, to escape falling debris from quakes, aftershocks.
- Because of volcanic activity <u>was also one of most fertile</u> <u>areas in the world</u>. Grape growing/wine industry flourished, known worldwide.
- Also rich in hot springs (medicinal value). People came from all over world to bathe and be healed.

- Famous center of pagan worship, principal god Dionysus, god of grape-harvest, winemaking, orchards/fruit, vegetation, fertility, insanity, ritual madness, religious ecstasy, festivity, and theatre.
- So many gods here, and so many temples, known as "<u>Little</u> <u>Athens</u>." (Athens = center of worship of Olympian gods.)



 Custom in Philadelphia also referenced. When person served city well, after he died a memorial was established in his honor - a <u>pillar in</u> one of the temples with servant's name inscribed.

 Although famous for its gods and temples, threat of persecution here not terribly great, at least not directly from Roman government.

- Now called Alashehir, still Christian town, with ¼ population Greek.
- Ruins of ancient city, and near city walls an indication of foundation of early church here.



PHILADELPHIA

- Youngest of 7 cities
- "Gateway to the East"
- Open door policy
- On earthquake fault
- Volcanic, fertile soil
- Rich in hot springs
- Famous for pagan worship (Dionysus, god of wine)

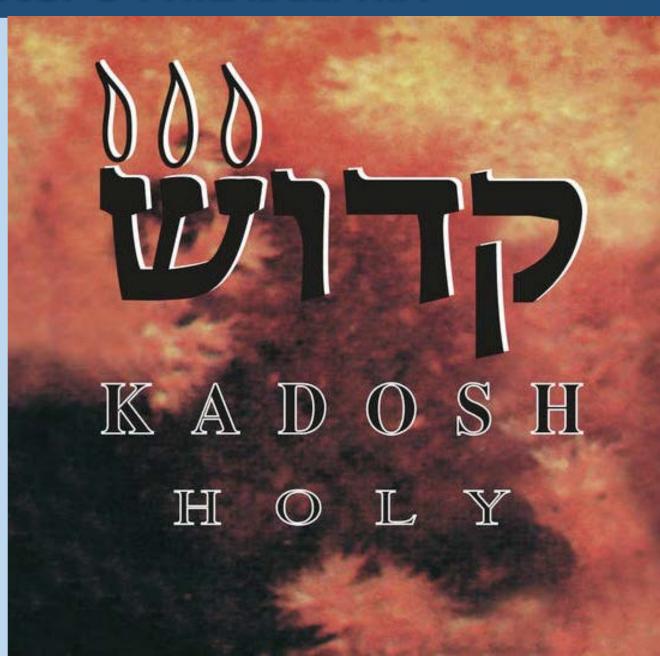
- multiple gods "little Athens"
- Threat of persecution not high
- Synagogue of Satan (religious Jews) here also
- Now Ala-shehir, aChristian town

⁷ "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens":

Description/Title *not from original description in* 1st *chapter.*

- "He who is holy..." the One who knew no sin, was completely separate from world, yet still human.
- "He who is true..." true = alethinos, "real and genuine, as opposed to something false/fake"
- "He who has the key of David..." keys = supreme authority. David king of Israel, from whom Messiah descended. Authority as King of Kings.

- "Holy" = clear equating/God the Father. Only God is holy.
- "To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One." (Isaiah 40:25)
- Also referenced as "the Holy One" in Job 6:10



Reference to OT scripture: Isaiah 22:20-22

'Then it shall be in that day, That I will call My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah; ²¹ I will clothe him with your robe And strengthen him with your belt; I will commit your responsibility into his hand. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem And to the house of Judah. ²² The **key of the house of David** I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open.

- Eliakim = son of Hilkiah (head of King Hezekiah's household). Good man, unlike his father and others.
 Called by God "my servant" and God handed over duties of king's household to him.
- God said Eliakim will act as a "father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah."
- Because of his faithful and diligent service, God gave him the "key of the house of David."

- Eliakim a TYPE for Messiah, who will be given "key to the house of David" not to manage household, but to reign over His Kingdom.
- Symbol for CONTROL, AUTHORITY.
- One who had the keys controlled who came in and who did not.
- The "connectedness" of scripture is overwhelming evidence of ONE author outside our time domain and realm.

- NOTE: Use of doors may also reference Janus, pagan god of doors and hinges (yes, a god for everything!)
- Instead of god of hinges, we have the God, the
 Almighty, Supreme Authority of everything, who holds
 keys (symbols of authority) of the kingdom.
- Door to kingdom of God opened by Him and Him alone.
 If He opens it, no one can shut it. If He shuts it, no one can open it. (or any other door!)
- And, holding the keys, He, and He alone, determines who will enter.

EVANGELISTIC DOORS...

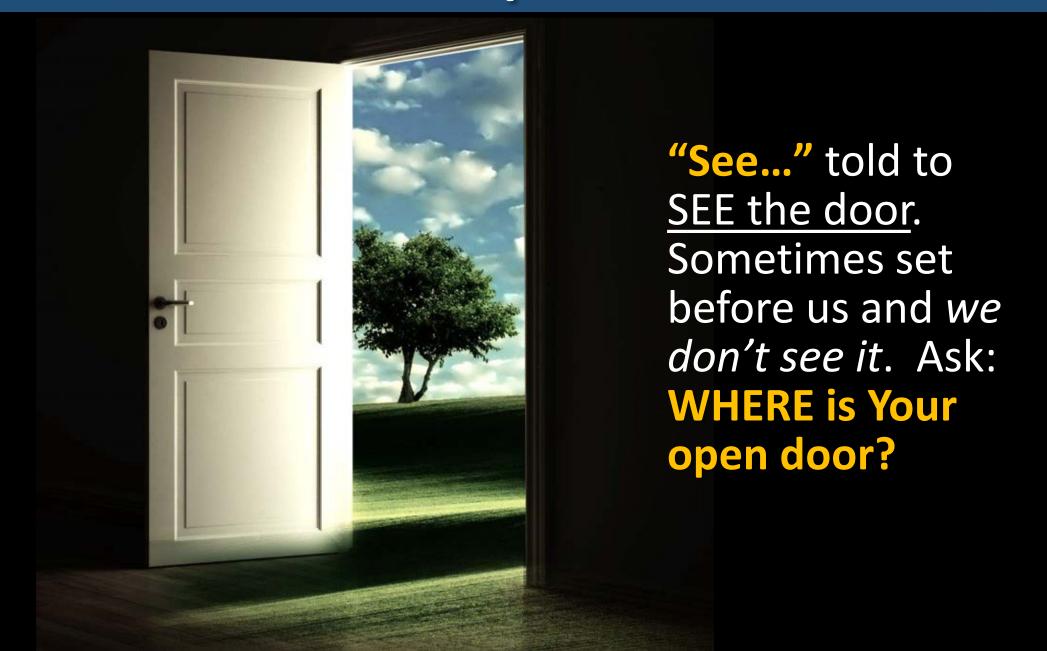
- "For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries." (1 Corinthians 16:9)
- "Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord,..."
 (2 Corinthians 2:12)
- "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ,..." (Colossians 4:2-3)

- Good reminder to a missionary church (and to each of us!) that the kingdom is opened by God, not by human missionaries. He is the One who commissions and enables the work of the Kingdom. He gets the glory!
- Instead of spreading Greek culture, believers now spreading culture of the Kingdom of God.

 May be another side to "open door." Believers in Philadelphia excluded from Synagogue –hub of life and existence for any Jew.

- Instead of closed door to old way, that leads to death and separation from God, Jesus has now opened a NEW way, a new door to
- Now welcomed into God's Kingdom.

8 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.



Commendation: Jesus knows...

- Their works have been working for Him
- Their <u>strength</u> they have a little
- Have kept His word. Obeyed His commands.
- Have not denied Him. Lived in a way that reflected Him.
- Opened door of evangelism. No one can shut this door.
- John 10 Jesus refers to Himself as "the Door." He is entrance to Kingdom of God, not only IS the door, but He opens the door.

- "for you have a little strength" interpreted as meaning they have some "strength" to do His work here, even though they are persecuted by Jews.
- <u>Does not mean they were weak</u>, had access to His power, He opened door for their work.

Commentary: For you have a little strength: The term a little strength does not imply weakness, but real strength. They were weak enough to be strong in the Lord. We can be "too strong" or "too big" or too sure of ourselves for God to really use us. The church in Philadelphia had the poverty of spirit to know they really needed God's strength. (Guzik)

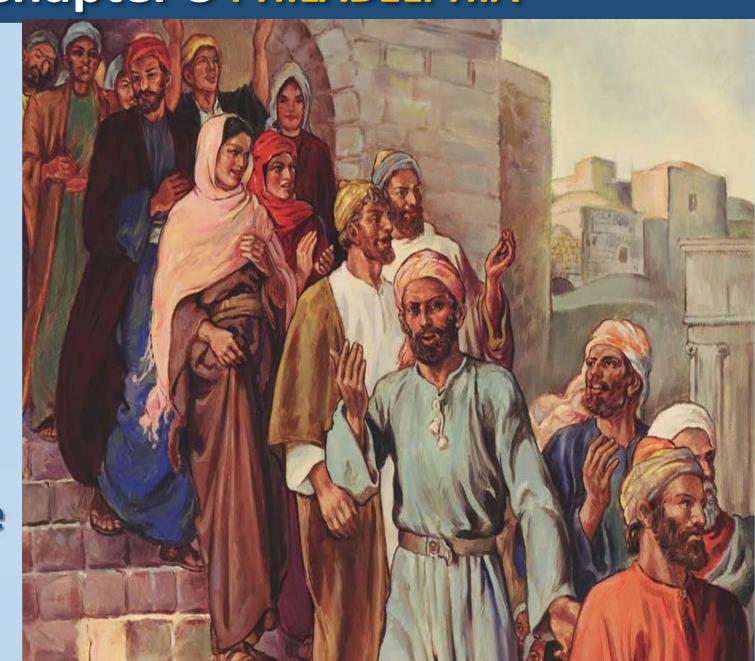
In other words, they were <u>weak</u> enough to be strong in Him!

VERY IMPORTANT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND!

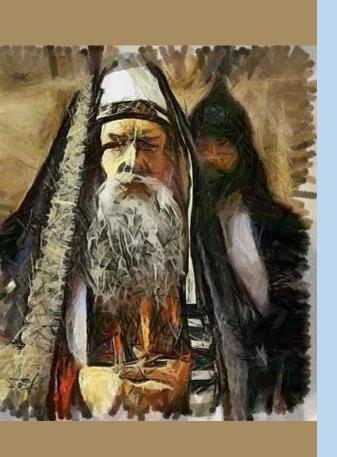
'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says YHVH Tsa'vaot."

(Zechariah 4:6)

- Commendation
 (continued): they kept
 His commands (were
 true to His Word), had
 not denied His name.
- Though hounded by religious Jews, steadfastly upheld HaShem Yeshua above all other names.



⁹ Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

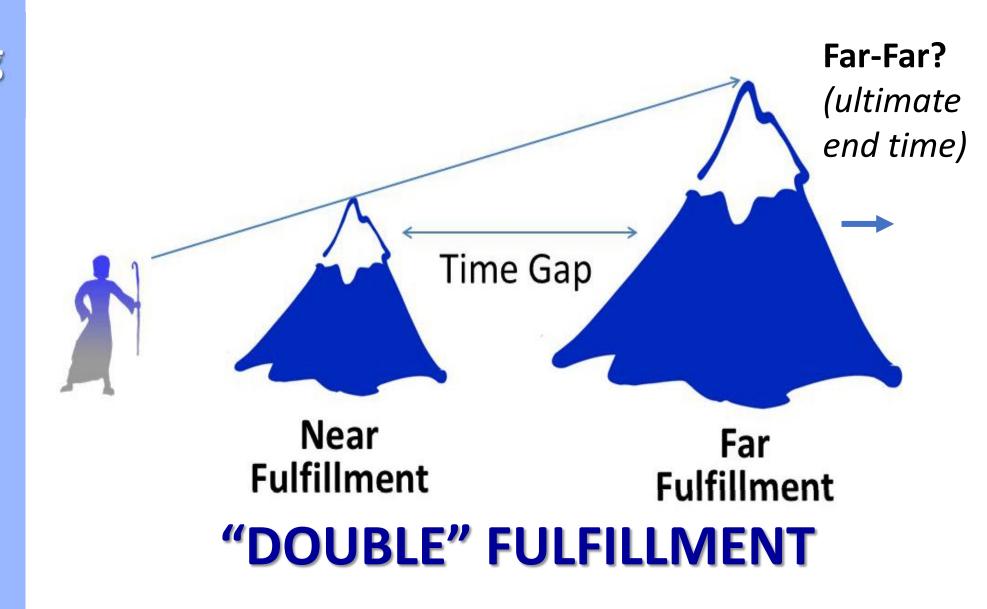


- Synagogue of Satan: reference to those who called themselves Jews, <u>but name only</u>. Hearts hardened, believed they were righteous, only ones deserving God's grace.
- Now persecuted true believers, after rejecting Messiah.
- Jesus said they were <u>dedicated to their</u> <u>Father, Satan</u> (John 8).
- "Brood of vipers" in Matthew (children of serpents – vipers born by eating way out of mother, killing her!)

- Jesus knew Philadelphia church under persecution but promised something odd (prophecy).
- They (these Jews) would come and "worship before your feet, and...know that I have loved you."
- Per Ignatius, <u>this indeed happened</u>. Many came to know Jesus, were repentant toward believers for previous persecution.
- Statement here = prophecy literally was fulfilled then, and will be again, as "they look upon Him whom they pierced." (Zechariah 12)

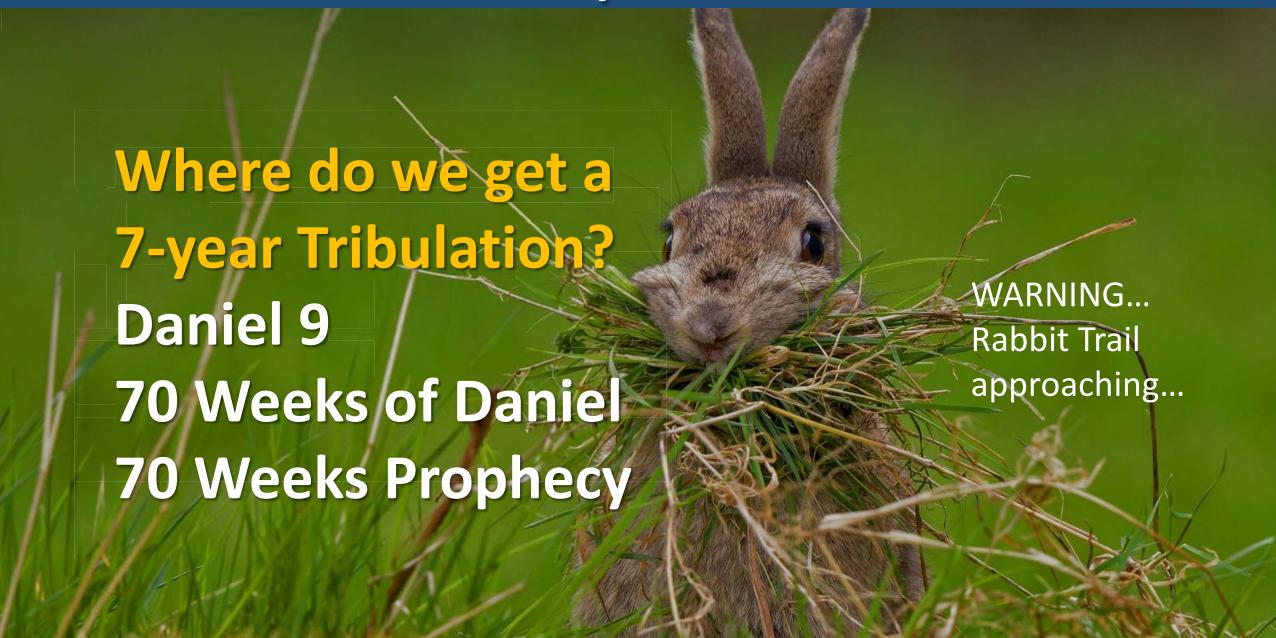
Telescoping
Prophecy
Dual (or
multiple)
fulfillments

- Near
- Far
- Far-Far (end time)



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.

- "command to persevere" = literally reads "word of my patience" (KJV) = logos mou hupomone = my word to you to cheerfully endure and wait.
- "hour of trial" = hora peirasmos = literal hour, or season, of "putting to proof" (implies adversity to test)
- The "hour of trial" <u>possibly</u> = 7 year Tribulation period, coming "upon the whole world to test <u>those who dwell</u> on the earth."
- May be a special "pass" from Tribulation, meaning faithful Church will be removed prior to this time.



1

"Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

- In 4 main parts
- Last 4 verses of Daniel chapter 9
- Each verse has prophetic meaning for various things/times
- This first verse 24
 states main
 purposes and time
 period

²⁵ "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem 2

<u>Until</u> Messiah the Prince, <u>There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks</u>;

The <u>street shall be built again</u>, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

- Verse 25 references historical marker (to keep track of time)
- Two time periods
- About rebuilding city and walls (after return from Babylonian Captivity

²⁶ "And <u>after the sixty-two weeks</u> <u>Messiah shall be cut off</u>, but not for Himself;

And the people of the prince who is to come Shall <u>destroy the city and the sanctuary</u>.

The end of it *shall be* with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

- Verse 26 reveals what happens at end of 69th week
- Remainder of verse references destruction of city and Temple by Romans (70 AD)

²⁷ Then <u>he</u> shall confirm a <u>covenant</u> with many for <u>one week</u>;
But in the <u>middle of the week</u>
He shall bring <u>an end to sacrifice and offering</u>.

And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes <u>desolate</u>, Even <u>until the consummation</u>, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

- Thought to reference <u>final</u> world ruler
- Peace treaty broken "middle of week" (thought to be 3½ years)
- Desecration of Temple (after it was destroyed!!??)
- End has been decreed

"Seventy weeks are determined

For your people and for your holy city,

To finish the transgression,

To make an end of sins,

To make reconciliation for iniquity,

To bring in everlasting righteousness,

To seal up vision and prophecy,

And to anoint the Most Holy.

TOTAL TIME PERIOD

FOR WHOM/WHAT

WHAT WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED IN THIS TIME

²⁵ "Know therefore and understand,

That from the going forth
of the command
To restore and build Jerusalem (1)
Until Messiah the Prince (2),
There shall be 7 weeks and 62 weeks;

FIRST 2 TIME PERIODS = 69
"WEEKS" (COMMAND TO
REBUILD JERUSALEM TO
MESSIAH – MARKERS)

The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

DECREE TO REBUILD WALL
TO WALL COMPLETED

²⁶ "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off [KILLED], but not for Himself;

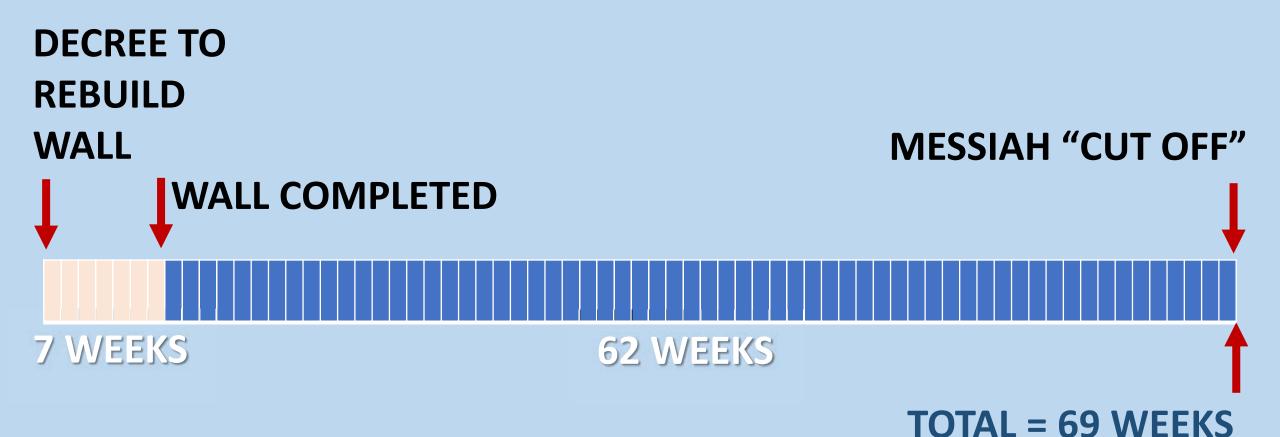
MESSIAH TO DIE AT END OF 62 (+7) WEEKS = 69 WEEKS. 69 x 7 = 483 YEARS FROM DECREE TO REBUILD WALL

- - (short) GAP-IN-TIME

And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.
The end of it *shall be* with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

ABOUT DESTRUCTION OF TEMPLE/DIASPORA IN 70 AD

(long) GAP IN TIME



²⁷ Then <u>he</u> shall confirm a covenant with many for <u>one week</u>;

AC SIGNS PEACE TREATY W/ISRAEL FOR 7 YEARS

But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

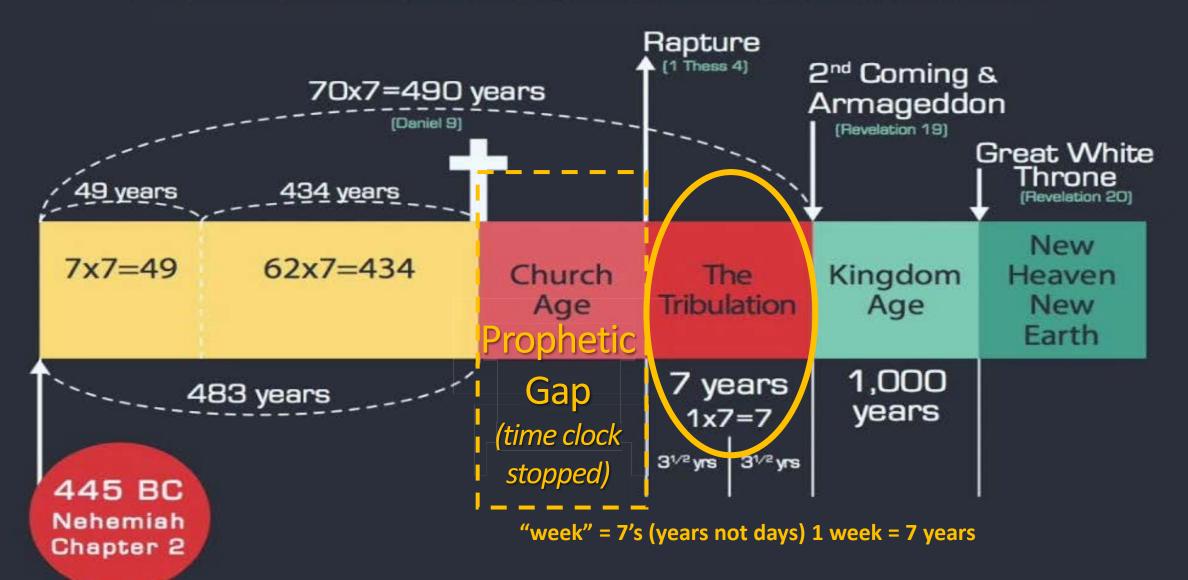
And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate,

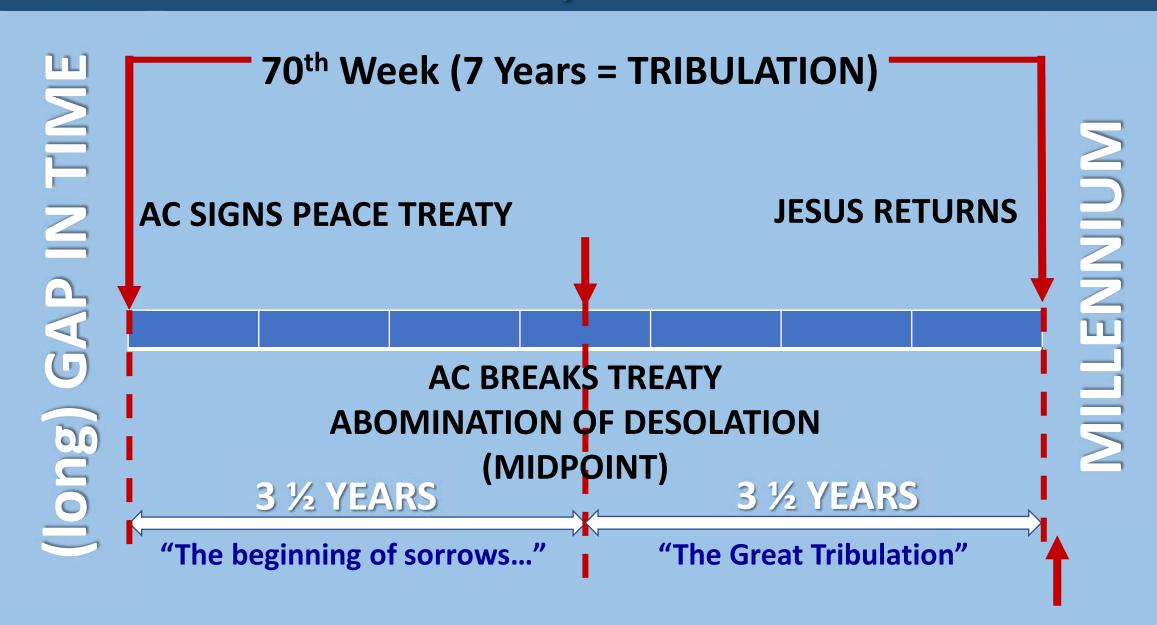
AC BREAKS TREATY AT MIDPOINT (3½ YEARS) Abomination of Desolation

Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

ALL IS PRE-DETERMINED, WILL HAPPEN AS GOD PLANNED AND DETAILED

70 WEEKS OF DANIEL





10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, lalso will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

Back to this unusual verse. A promise that believers will be spared from the horrors of the Tribulation?

Removed before then? Something else?

- Could also be referring to some <u>other trial in that</u> <u>day/age</u>.
- However, written AFTER destruction of Temple and diaspora of Jews in 70 AD, so something after that time.
- Seems more appropriately assigned to Tribulation (end time).



- Others disagree, say = Jesus will not keep them FROM, but THROUGH hour of trial. Will endure it, God will be with them.
- Main difference between pre-Tribulation, mid-Trib and post-Trib belief.
- Whole world will be tested to determine if they will acknowledge Truth of God, or not. (FYI – Bride of Messiah does not need this test!)
- **Soul harvest** then probably greater than at any other time as millions come to Him.

- "Those who dwell on the earth..." First reference to phrase used 20X in Revelation - "the inhabitants of the earth."
- Greek implies they are <u>identified with earth</u>, are associated with it. Have a "permanent" arrangement with earth, instead of "sojourners."
- Implies <u>earth as home, not heaven</u>.



- "inhabitants of the earth" = made earth permanent home.
 Believers just "passing through" on way home to God.
- Throughout scripture, term implies unbelievers, whose home is the earth, not heaven.

Classic use in OT:

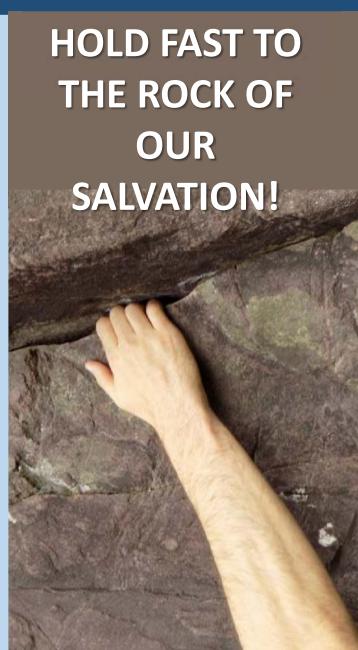
Come, my people, enter your chambers,
And shut your doors behind you;
Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment,
Until the indignation is past.
For behold, the LORD comes out of His place
To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity;

This verse likely applies to the very time we are discussing! The Tribulation. Is this also a promise of protection??

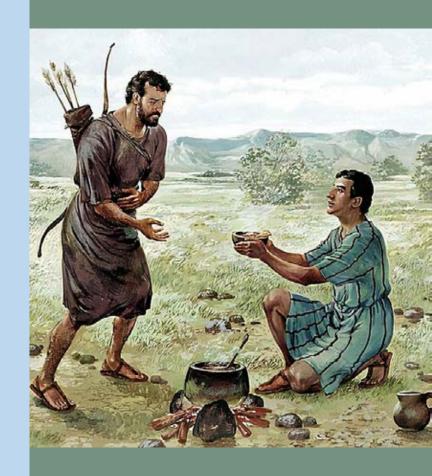
The earth will also disclose her blood, And will no more cover her slain. (Isaiah 26:20-21)

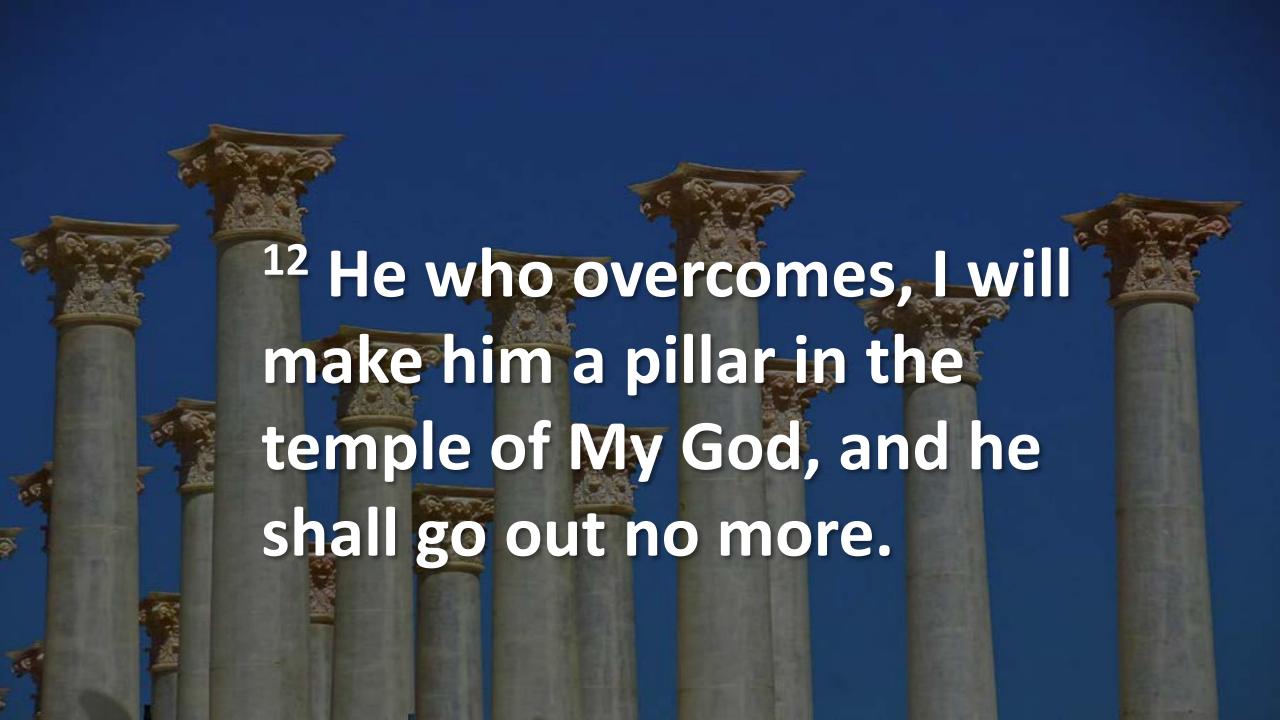
¹¹ Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

- Criticism: None! (Smyrna + Philadelphia only churches with no criticism)
- Exhortation: Jesus gives them "inside" information He is coming quickly (Greek = suddenly).
- This church awake, unlike church at Sardis.
- Told to "hold fast" (Gr. w/great vigor and strength) don't lose what they have.

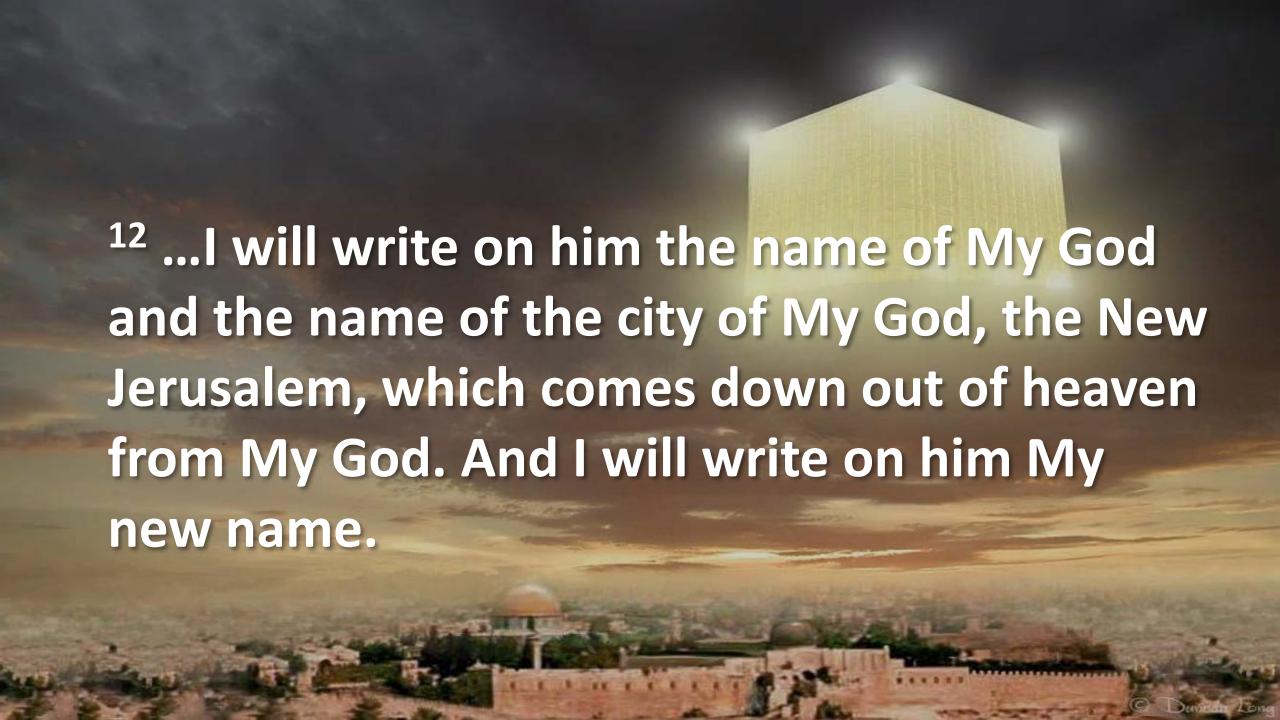


- Good reminder unless we diligently follow Jesus, "holding fast" to what we have and know (faith in Jesus!), can fall prey to enemy/worldly temptation
- Like Sardis, could be **caught sleeping** at His return.
- Scriptures filled with examples of those who "lost" things (Esau, Reuben, Moses, Saul, etc...) because their faith and obedience flagged.





- "Pillar" = reference to practice of honoring people by putting names on pillars in temples.
- Overcomer will have his or her name written on a <u>pillar</u> in the Temple of God!
- Won't have to "run for the hills" anymore (falling debris from earthquakes in city). Won't flee from God anymore because of sin.
- Will have God's name written on us = His ownership.
- We will own all the promises of heaven, and God will own us.



- "My new Name" New names common in scripture.
 New names = new character, new creature in Messiah.
- Some say "My new Name" implies Yeshua's new Name, not ours. Perhaps "Property of King of Kings!"
- Church at Philadelphia, an active <u>believing</u>, <u>living</u> and <u>telling</u> church persecuted, but empowered by Jesus.

Notice "My God" statements:

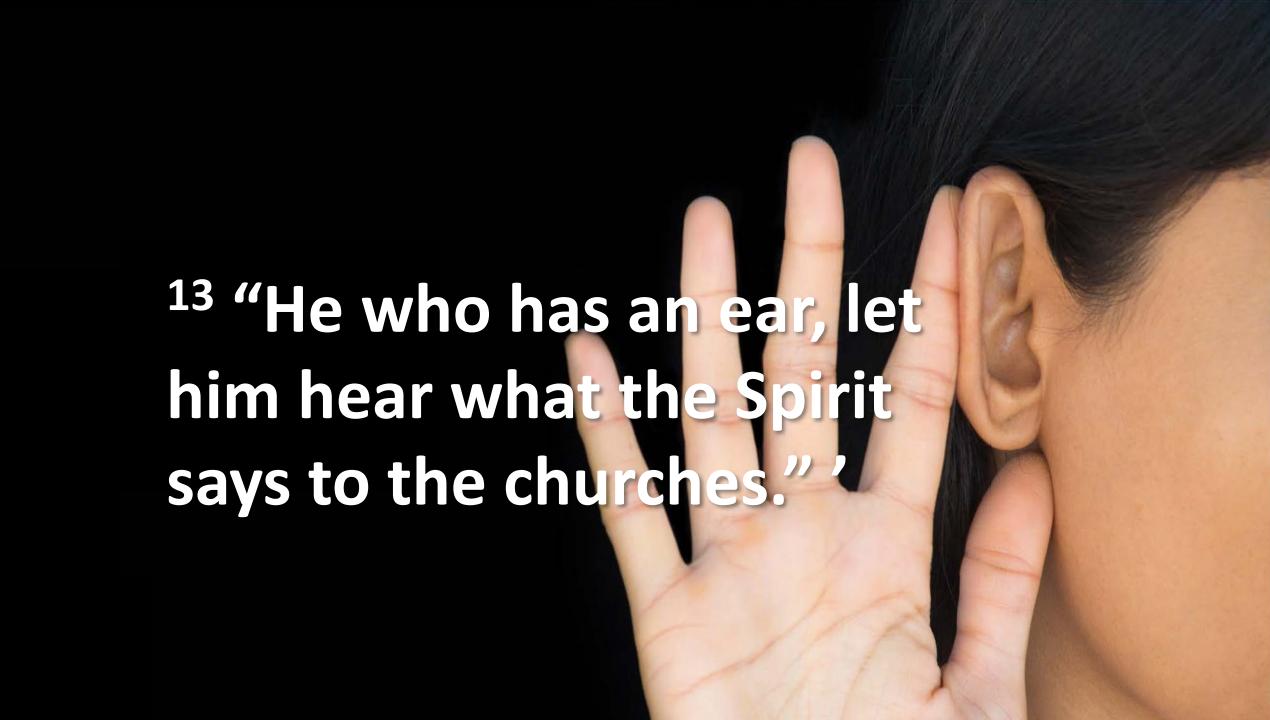
- Temple of MY GOD
- Name of MY GOD
- City of MY GOD
- Heaven from MY GOD
- So what does this mean? If
 Jesus is God, why did He call
 God "My God?



- About "plurality" of our God. One God, many roles.
- On cross, quoted Psalm 22 (Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34) Psalm of David, Messianic prophecy (He spoke to fulfill) God the Father turned away from God the Son in moment of His crucifixion.
- As a man, Yeshua voluntarily surrendered His will to His Father (His God), emptied Himself of certain aspects of His deity lowered Himself temporarily (Hebrews 2:9).

- Other places in scripture: John 20:17 "Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"
- Revelation 3:2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before [My] God.
- Here (Rev 3) again Jesus calls God "My God." It is about His <u>relationship to His Father</u>.

- Yeshua (Jesus) is eternal God Himself incarnate, but <u>He</u> is still a different person from the Father.
- On earth as a man, subjected Himself to will, guidance, wisdom and direction of God the Father, <u>His</u> <u>God</u> ("My God"). <u>Also model of what we are to do</u>.
- Other scriptures reference lower status of Jesus to the Father. (see John 14:28, Hebrews 2:9, Phil 2:5-11)
- Does not imply inferiority, merely function, difference in roles, how Godhead works together.



Today...are any listening?

- Inspiration of scriptures denied
- Authority of Jesus denounced from seminaries/pulpits
- Church has embraced false teachers, worldly agenda
- Church asleep or dead
- **REMNANT:** people representing Philadelphia, then, during missionary age, and today "keep my Word...and have not denied my name."

Perhaps those alive at time of **Tribulation** who keep **His Word** and have not denied His name will be kept from the coming trial. We will see!

 Church at Philadelphia thought to <u>prophetically</u> represent the Missionary Age, 1750 - 1900 AD

REAL TIME CHURCHES/PLACES AT TIME REVELATION WRITTEN						
EPHESUS	SMYRNA	PERGAMOS	THAYATIRA	SARDIS	PHILADELPHIA	LAODICEA
THESE REAL TIME CHURCHES ALSO <u>PROPHETICALLY</u> REPRESENT VARIOUS AGES OF THE CHURCH THROUGH TODAY						
30-100 AD	100-312 AD	313 – 590 AD	590-1600 AD	1600–1750 AD	1750-1900 AD	
APOSTOLIC CHURCH (age of Apostles)	PERSECUTED CHURCH (age of Martyrs)	STATE CHURCH (Constantine to 1st Pope)	ESTABLISHED CHURCH (1st pope to Reformation)	REFORMATION (+ start of Protestant denominations)	MISSIONARY CHURCH (age of worldwide missions)	
PASSION APOSTACY						

- Letter <u>deviates from others</u> in structure, titles and promises.
- Refers to faithful, true ekklesia in all ages?
- Pre-Trib "harpazo?" (snatching away)
- Can we call ourselves "members of the church at Philadelphia?"

Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha May the LORD bless you and keep you

Ya'er Adonai panav elekha vihunneka May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyasem lekha shalom.

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

