

“The Church In”
Philadelphia”
(Rev 3:7-13)



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

Scripture Reading



Revelation 3:7-13

7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

8 ‘I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 9 Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie – I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you.

Scripture Reading



Revelation 3:7-13 (Cont'd)

10 Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and 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 My new name. 13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

The Seven Churches of Revelation



A brief look *in Scripture*: Philadelphia



- ❧ 4 of 7 churches: Smyrna/Pergamum/Sardis/Philadelphia are not directly mentioned apart from Revelation
 - ❧ Only Ephesus, Thyatira, Laodicea
- ❧ All 7 churches are in ancient Asia Minor so what we can do is look for clues for the 4 not mentioned
- ❧ Like Smyrna/Pergamum/Sardis (we've covered already), it's possible that this church was founded upon
 - ❧ The preaching of the apostle Peter
 - ❧ The preaching of the apostle Paul
 - ❧ Believers were scattered and settled there due to Nero persecution
 - ❧ The preaching of John

A brief look *in History*: Philadelphia



- ❧ Modern day Alasehir, and like Sardis in Manisa province in western Turkey
- ❧ The town was on one of the greatest trade routes in the ancient world linking Europe to Asia Minor



A brief look *in History*: Philadelphia



- ☞ King Attalus II (nicknamed “Philadelphus of Pergamosa” and “Attalus Philadelphus”) founded ancient Philadelphia in 140 B.C. during his reign (159-138 B.C.).
- ☞ King Attalus II envisioned Philadelphia to be a missionary city through which the Greek language and civilization would spread to Asia Minor and beyond
- ☞ Hence, this old city is sometimes known as “Little Athens” because of the magnificence of its temples and other public building

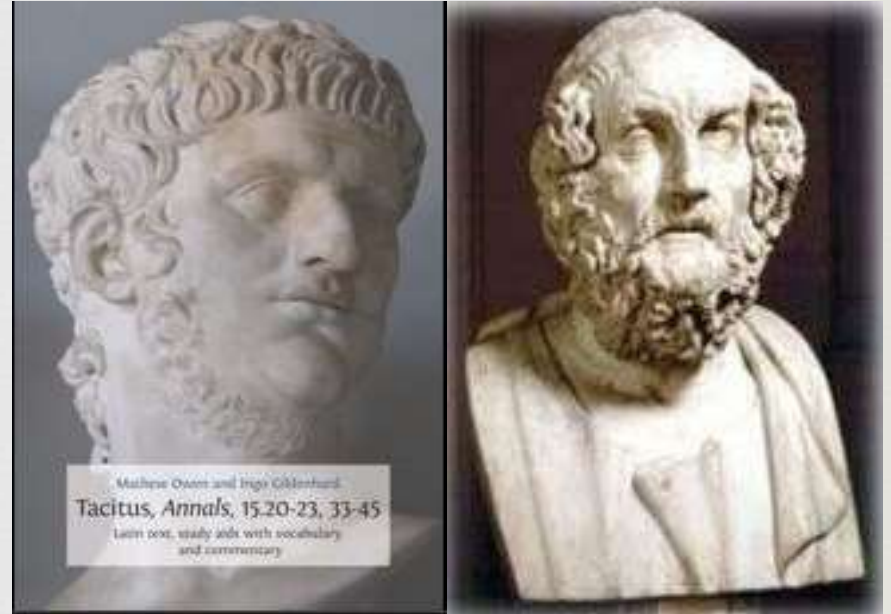


Statue of Attalus II

A brief look *in History*: Philadelphia



- Was in an earthquake prone area (near multiple fault lines)
- Strabo wrote
 - Concerning continuous earthquakes and tremors (like California)
 - Soil renowned exceptional grapes, wine (like Napa, Sonoma)
- Historian Tacitus (Annals 2.47) listed Philadelphia 3rd among the cities of the province who were recipients of earthquake relief from Rome
 - Great Quake of AD 17



A brief look *in History*: Philadelphia



- ❧ Because of the Great Quake of AD17 Roman Emperor Tiberius exempted them from taxes so they can rebuild their cities
- ❧ In gratitude they changed its name to Neo Caesarea or “new city of Caesar” and dedicated a temple to Tiberius and later reverted back to its original name



A brief look *in History*: Philadelphia



- ❧ Because it was known for its wine it was suggested that Dionysus (god of wine) was the main deity of the city
- ❧ However, prior to the penning of this letter, Domitian issued an edict for Asia Province which required many vineyards to be cut down and replaced with corn
 - ❧ ~92AD
- ❧ This town was rich in mineral hot springs, thus, was visited by those for its medicinal and therapeutic purposes



A brief look *in History*: Philadelphia



❧ Ignatius 1st Century bishop of Antioch

❧ Wrote several epistles:

❧ Smyrna

❧ Romans

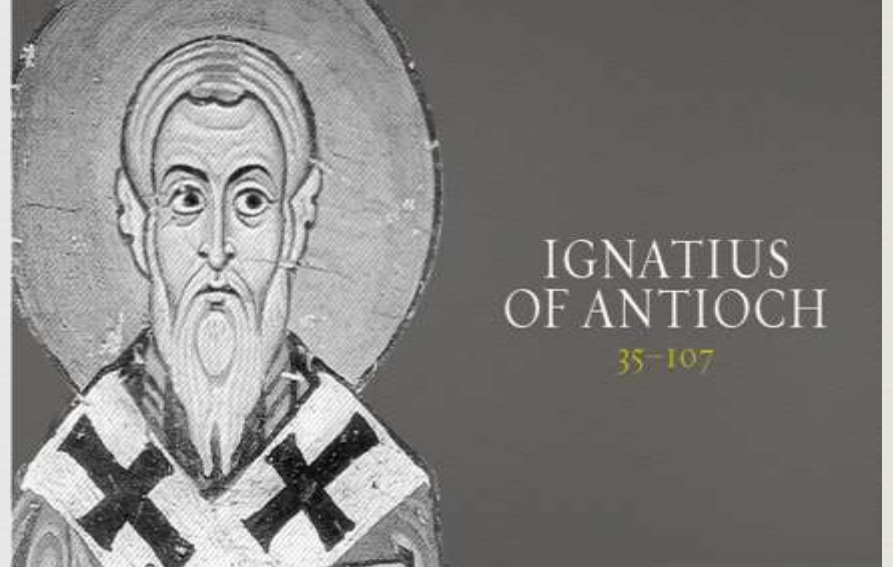
❧ Ephesians

❧ Magnesians

❧ Polycarp

❧ Trallians

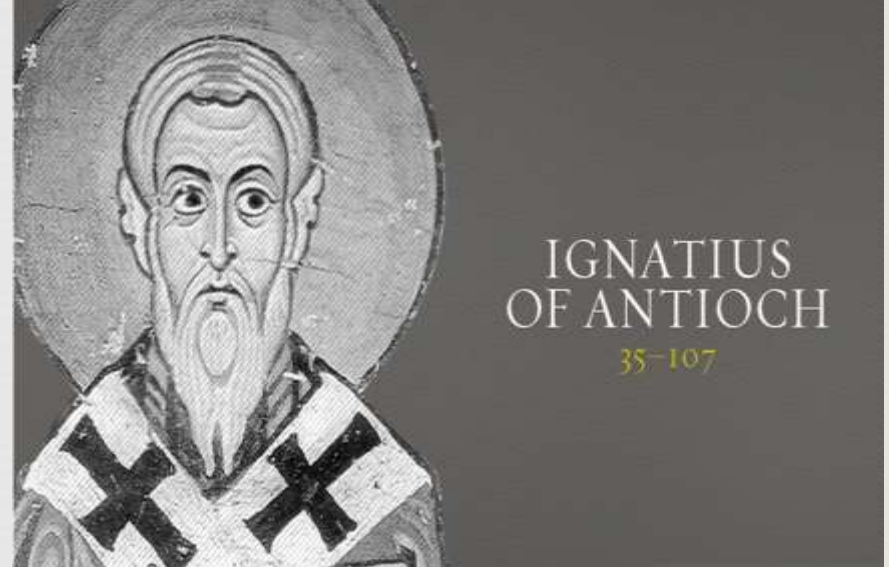
❧ Philadelphia



A brief look *in History*: Philadelphia



- ✧ Ignatius wrote to Philadelphia a few years after Revelation and encouraged them to be unified, to listen to the council of their bishop, avoid division and reject those who expound Judaism
- ✧ In his letter to the Philadelphia, Ignatius commended their “exceeding purity” just like Jesus does here
- ✧ Note: I do not agree with all tenants of his epistle to them
 - ✧ i.e. elevating the presbytery/bishop;
 - ✧ Priests in OT are good NT high priest is better



A brief look *in History*: Philadelphia



Recent excavations uncovered a Byzantine church with mosaic floors and a baptismal fountain in Philadelphia which was believed to have begun immediately after the Edict of Milan issued by Emperor Constantine who legalized Christianity

~313-320AD

Lastly, it was a Roman town until 1379AD when the Turks took it over

Hence modern day Turkey (Arab and Persians)

