

“He Who Opens and Shuts”

Part 2

Philadelphia (Rev 3:7b)



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

Parable of the Narrow Door



Back to the verse and question at hand, when Jesus said:

29 And [Abraham's descendants] will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God. 30 And behold, some [of Abraham's descendants] are last who will be first and some [of Abraham's descendants] are first who will be last."

☞ TRUTH: when the kingdom is established, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the OT prophets and *Abraham's descendants will sit and recline in the table in the kingdom of God - in the Promised Land - in fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant God made with Abram back in Gen 12!

☞ *Which ones? Ethnic or spiritual descendants?

☞ Let's use cross reference Matthew 8

The Centurion's Great Faith



Matthew 8:10-13 (a centurion came to Jesus to heal his servant; “say the word”)
10 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, “Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. 11 I say to you that **many will come from east and west**, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; 12 but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” 13 And Jesus said to the centurion, “Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed that very moment.

✧ “many will come from east and west” = we just learned are Abraham’s descendants and we’re trying to ascertain which ones – ethnic or spiritual

✧ From here I’d like to cross reference Luke’s parallel account of this centurion

The Centurion's Great Faith



Luke 7:1-5

1 When He had completed all His discourse in the hearing of the people, He went to Capernaum.

2 And a centurion's slave, who was highly regarded by him, was sick and about to die. 3 When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders asking Him to come and save the life of his slave. 4 When they came to Jesus, they earnestly implored Him, saying, "He is worthy for You to grant this to him; 5 for he loves our nation and it was he who built us our synagogue.

✧ This is an indication that the centurion was a Gentile who loved Israel and even built them a synagogue

The Centurion's Great Faith



- ❧ Let's make our deductions: When Jesus marveled at the centurion's faith, He said not even in all Israel has He found such great faith
- ❧ Jesus then brings up the part of the Abrahamic Covenant where Abraham's descendants from east and west will sit and recline with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
- ❧ In context: because of this Gentile centurion's great faith, he too will sit at the table as a descendant of Abraham (the father of great faith) and will be among Abraham's descendants reclining at the table in the kingdom of God!
- ❧ Which is why I'm inclined to say that Abraham's descendants would not be limited to ethnic Israel [Messianic Jews], but all believing Gentiles, including this centurion's great faith!
 - ❧ CASE IN POINT: The centurion will recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, prophets and the rest of Abraham's descendants, believing Jews/Gentiles

The Centurion's Great Faith



With this in mind, the “sons of the kingdom” reference in Mt 8 is even more clear:

Matthew 8:10b “Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. 11 I say to you that **many will come from east and west**, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; 12 but the **sons of the kingdom** will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” 13 And Jesus said to the centurion, “Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed that very moment.

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- ❧ v. 12 the “sons of the kingdom” are whom?
- ❧ Abraham’s ethnic descendants who have not believed in Jesus as Messiah as the Gentile centurion did!
- ❧ They along with the person who raised the question about only a few being saved and many of those in that city will be thrown into outer darkness

“opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens”



With all this in mind, let's return now to our main verse and Jesus's claim:

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:

- ✧ When Jesus says He has the key of David, His Father has given Him the kingdom promised to David and is the promised heir to David's throne!
- ✧ When Jesus says He is the One “who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens” He is declaring that He alone is the One who will allow people into the kingdom of David and He alone is the One who will shut out people into the kingdom of David
- ✧ When Jesus returns and establishes His kingdom on earth it is a fulfillment of the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants!

“opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens”



What this claim means to these groups:

- ✧ **Abraham’s descendants of faith (believing Jews and Gentiles):** Jesus will open the door of the kingdom of God and keep them in – as God promised Abraham – and as God demonstrated to Noah in the building of the Ark
- ✧ **Abraham’s descendants not of faith (unbelieving Jews, sons of disobedience):** Jesus will shut the door of the kingdom of God and cast them into outer darkness where the hypocrites are and where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth – just like the unbelieving world during the Flood
- ✧ **The rest of mankind (those who dwell on the earth;):** the rest of the unbelieving Gentiles who are not Abraham’s descendants, do not love God, do not Israel, do not love and obey the Scriptures and believe its promises, these too will be shut out of the kingdom of God and will be cast into outer darkness where the hypocrites are and where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth along with the rest of unbelieving Israel

CONJECTURE



- ❧ I would like to end our study with a point of reflection
- ❧ I want to see if we can expand our minds a bit concerning the coming Kingdom of God
- ❧ And to do that I'd like to read the parable of the narrow door one last time

Parable of the Narrow Door



Luke 13:24-30

24 “Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25 Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ‘Lord, open up to us!’ then He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from.’ 26 Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets’; 27 and He will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.’ 28 In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out. 29 And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God. 30 And behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last.”

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CONJECTURE



This is another example of:

☞ "every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him"

Not sure what your view of the kingdom of God is

☞ People will be shut out of it (like the ark)

☞ It is a literal and physical kingdom

☞ People will be able to see each other (those inside and outside)

☞ Those outside will be killed and judged by the Lord Jesus (Lk 12:1-7)

CONJECTURE



With this reality in mind, the rest of Jesus's teachings of these parables make so much sense. It is why it is imperative that:

- ❧ We seek after His kingdom while on earth (Lk 12:22-32)
- ❧ We pray the Lord's Prayer, Thy Kingdom Come!
- ❧ We are to be dressed in readiness and full alert (Lk 12:35-38)
 - ❧ For the sons of disobedience: Jesus "is coming at an hour that you do not expect" (Lk 12:40)

- ❧ With this study under our belt, it will hopefully open up the rest of this letter and book and marvel at what Scripture has revealed to us the Church. Amen. Amen.