

“The Synagogue of Satan”
Philadelphia
(Rev 3:8-9)



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

The Seven Churches of Revelation



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)

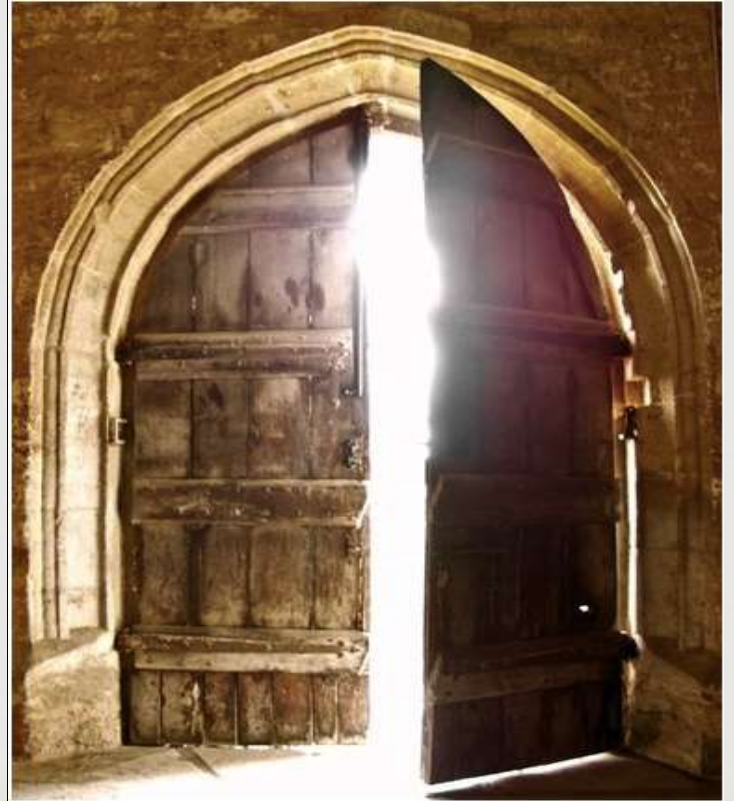
10 Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 He who overcomes, 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.'

Exposit 3:8a



8a 'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut,

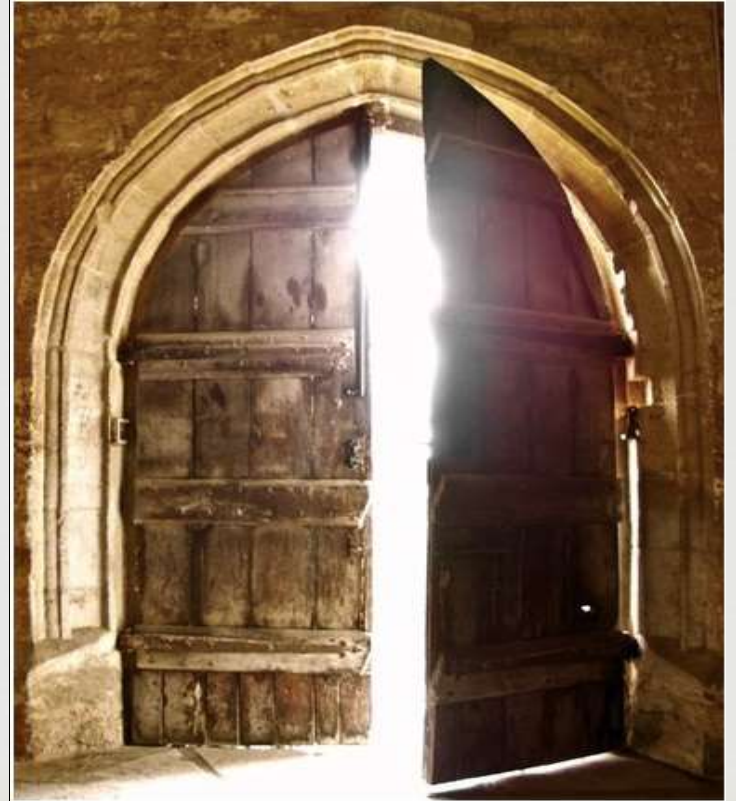
- ✧ I "know" oida your deeds (works, behavior)
- ✧ Jesus already performed the evaluation in chapter 1
- ✧ Because there is no condemnation or rebuke Jesus did something, He said
- ✧ "I have put before you an open door which no one can shut" [more on this]



“I have put before you an open door which no one can shut”



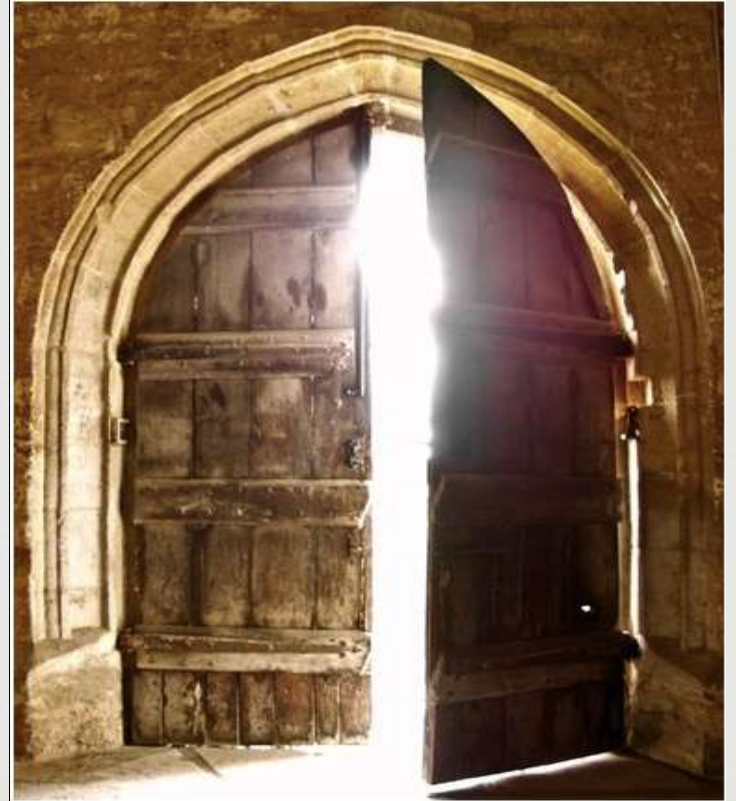
- ❧ What “open door” is being referred to?
- ❧ For starters, the open door cannot mean the Lord Jesus Himself
 - ❧ In the Parable of the Good Shepherd, Jesus claimed “I am the door of the sheep” (Rev Jn 10:7, 9)
 - ❧ In this parable Jesus was making a contrast between the evil shepherds and Him being the Good Shepherd
 - ❧ The sheep are His Father’s, and so Jesus’s sheep may only enter through Christ to be brought to the Father



“I have put before you an open door which no one can shut”



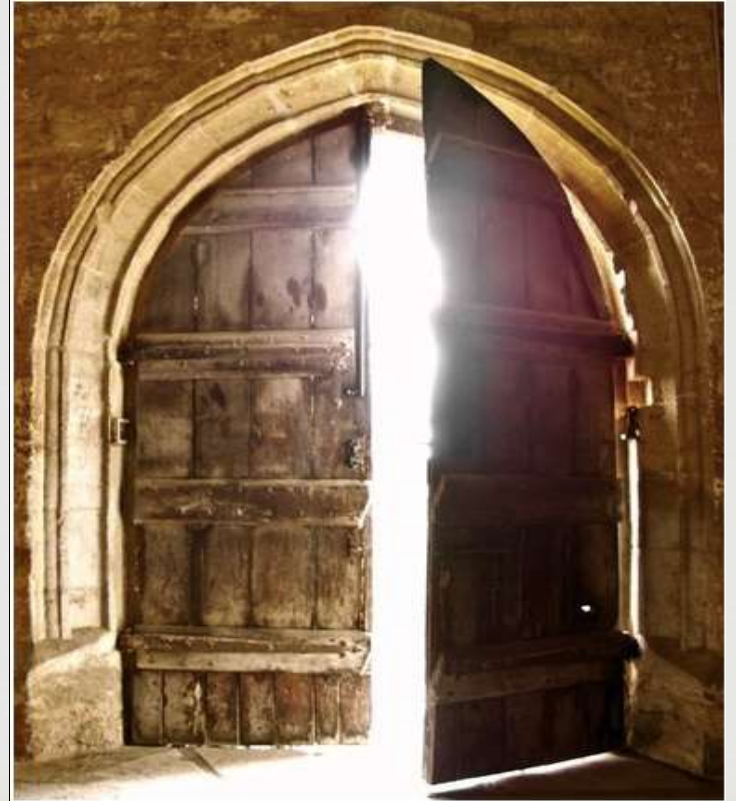
- ❧ So let's exposit this knowing “open door” is not speaking of the Lord Jesus
- ❧ In the construction of the Greek “I have put before you an open door” can be rendered “I have granted or caused an open door to be before you” (CWSB)
- ❧ Again, further justification that Jesus is not the open door in this statement



“I have put before you an open door which no one can shut”



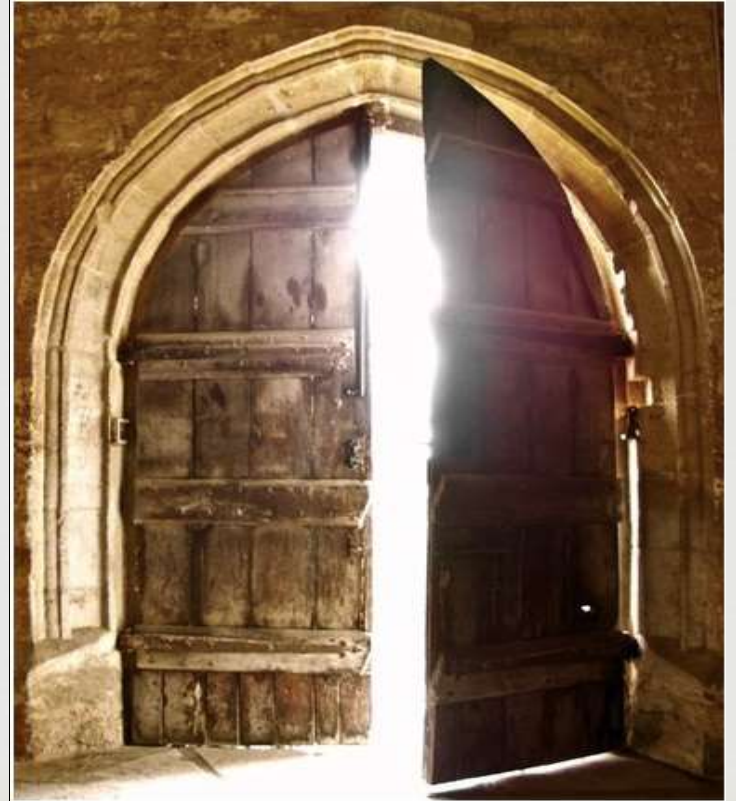
- ✧ In verse 7 which we covered over the past couple of studies, we learned that the open and shut door reference is a direct reference to the promised kingdom of David and is a direct reference to Isa 22 prophecy
- ✧ And since the Father has given Jesus the keys and have placed the kingdom of David on His shoulders, Jesus has authority to open and let/keep people in; and the authority to shut and shut/keep people out



“I have put before you an open door which no one can shut”



- ❧ So the open door is referring to the actual door of the kingdom of David
- ❧ Jesus is communicating that they have have been found worthy to be allowed to enter the kingdom of God
- ❧ However I came across another parallel truth
 - ❧ By searching open+door
 - ❧ And it took me to Col 4...



“I have put before you an open door which no one can shut”

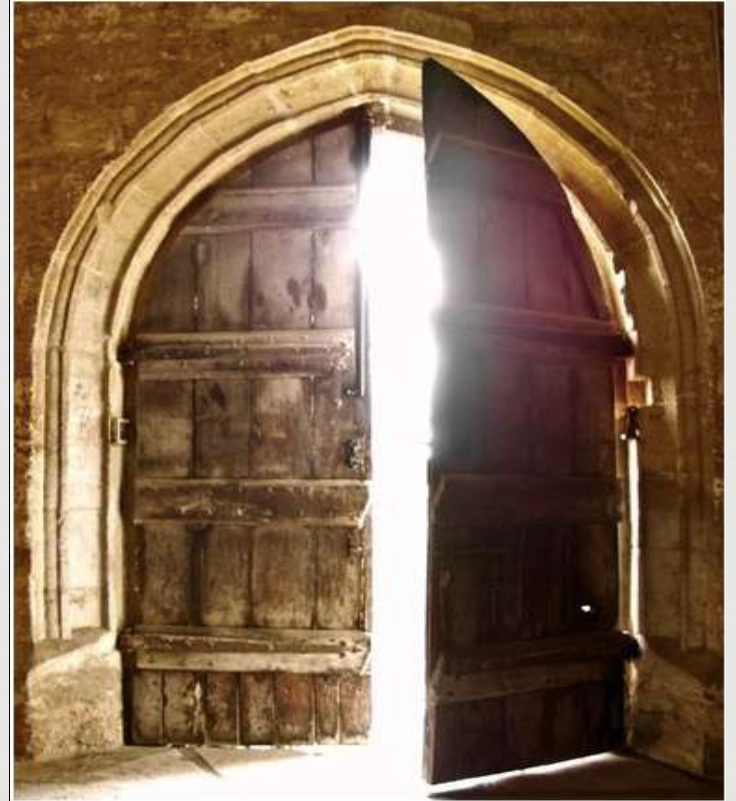


Colossians 4:1-4

1 Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; 3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God will **open** up to us a **door** for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; 4 that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.

✧ Paul asked the believers in Colossae to pray God will open to them a door for the word to proclaim the gospel

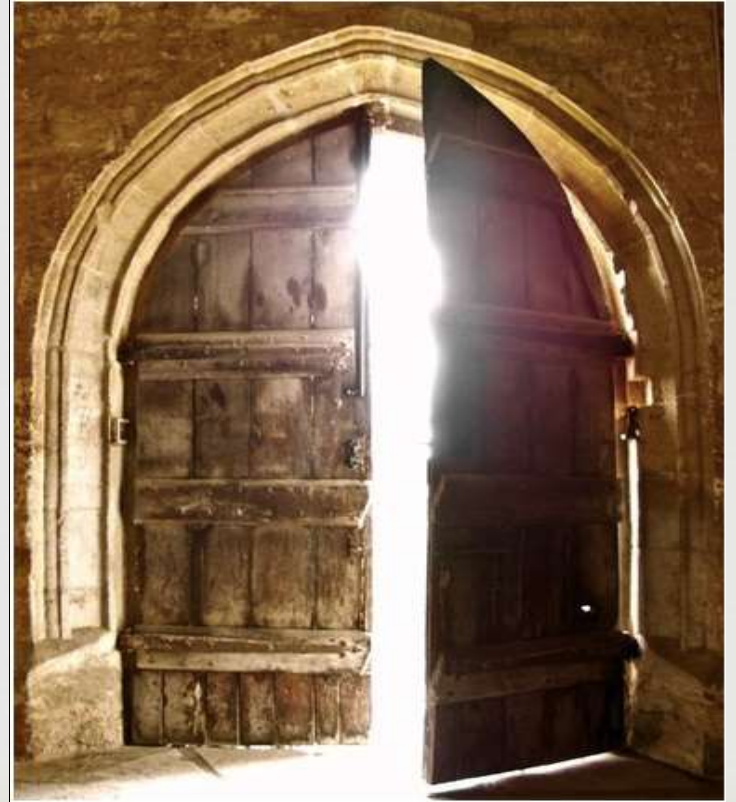


“I have put before you an open door which no one can shut”



Thus, when Jesus said in 8a “I have put before you an open door which no one can shut”, I believe it speaks of at least these 2 truths:

- ✧ Truth #1: I believe, this is prophecy that these faithful believers will walk through the open door which Jesus will open and no one can shut, when the kingdom of God is established at the end of the age;
- ✧ Truth #2: Jesus has granted them authority, an opening, to proclaim the gospel
- ✧ These truths flow nicely in 8b...

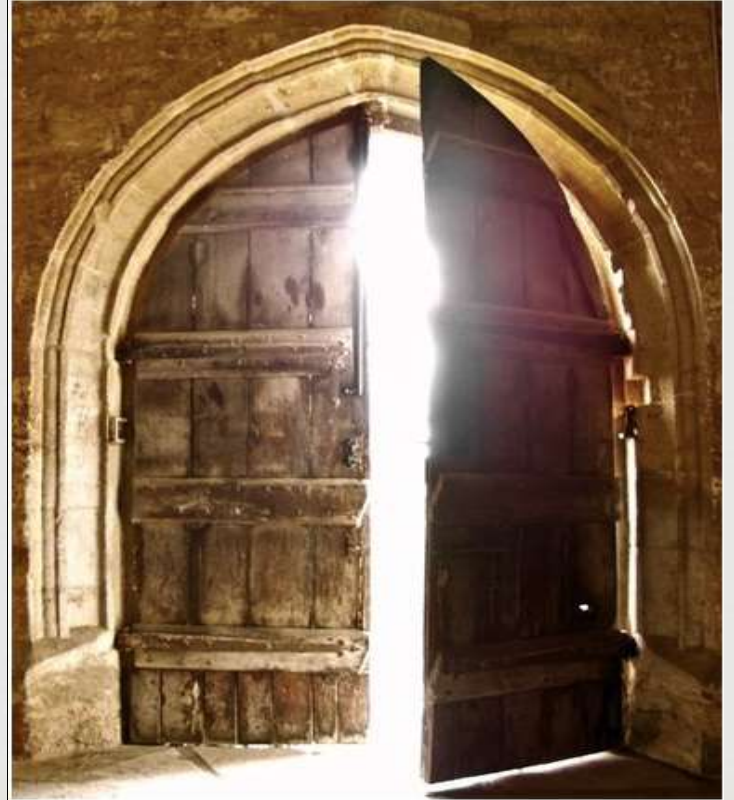


Exposit 3:8b



8b “...because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”

- ✧ Whose “you”?
- ✧ “you have” is in the present tense
- ✧ “little power” is milká dunamis
- ✧ milká pertains to something limited in quantity or few or limited in amount
- ✧ dunamis speaks of the ability or power to perform a particular activity
- ✧ Jesus granted this open door because there were few of them with the ability or power to persevere

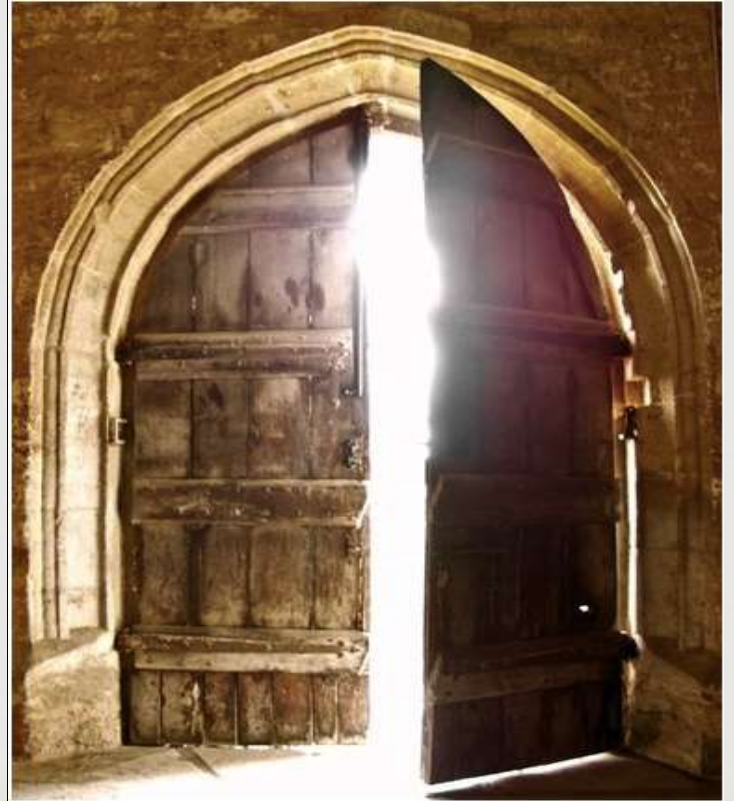


Exposit 3:8b



Another way to say this:

- ☞ The Marines motto is “the few, the proud, the Marines”
- ☞ It can be said of them, they were “the few, the faithful, the Philadelphian believers!”
- ☞ There weren’t many of them, but the few of them there have kept His Word and have not denied Jesus’s Name (Onoma) and because of that Jesus granted them an open door to enter the kingdom (in the future) and to proclaim the gospel (now)!



Exposit 3:9



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.

- ❧ “Behold, I will cause” is prophecy
 - ❧ When will this take place? Clue: keys (kleis), open/close door
- ❧ “the synagogue of Satan” we’ve touched on this on previous study (Rev 2:9)
- ❧ The synagogue is where the Jews would meet every Sabbath for religious worship and instruction



Exposit 3:9



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.

- ☞ The religious leaders in Jesus day captures the essence of who really was their father
 - ☞ “You are of your father the devil” (Jn 8:44)
- ☞ Thus, “the synagogue of Satan” = where the Jews meet regularly to practice Judaism
- ☞ Let’s look at the middle of v.9...



Exposit 3:9



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.

- ☞ “who say they are Jews [Ioudaios] and are not, but lie”
- ☞ Ioudaios when used in the NT speaks of ones ethnicity or the land of Judea
- ☞ There is a group who claim to be Jews (ethnically or by citizenship), who are not, is not true, that is a lie
- ☞ Paul gives us great insight into this



Romans 9



Romans 9:6-7

6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. **For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;** 7 nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED."

- ✧ "they" in context are Israelites according to the flesh (are descendants of Abraham)
- ✧ Paul is speaking against the notion of blaming God for Israel's disobedience, rebellion and killing of their Messiah
- ✧ Paul wrote the reason for their disobedience, rebellion, hardness of their heart, killing of Jesus was not because the Word of God failed, but because "they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants" the reason being...

Romans 9



Romans 9:6-7

6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. **For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;** 7 nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "**THROUGH ISAAC** YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED."

- ☞ Meaning there will be those claiming to be children of God, claiming to be Abraham's descendants, but are not, because they did not receive it by the promise that came "THROUGH ISAAC"
- ☞ This is precisely what Paul says in the next verses...

Romans 9



Romans 9:8-13

8 That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. 9 For this is the word of promise: "AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON." 10 And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; 11 for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, 12 it was said to her, "THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER." 13 Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."

☞ "the promise" in this passage = the Abrahamic Covenant

☞ PAUL'S POINT: The promise was initiated by God to Abram (Abraham) → did not pass to Ishmael (through Hagar), but to Isaac (through Rebekah) → did not pass to Esau (older twin), but to Jacob (younger twin)

Romans 9



- ✧ This is another way to say the Abrahamic Covenant was God's choice, and the terms of the promise was God's choice, and the furtherance of that promise remained God's choice (it was never on man's choice or lineage)!
- ✧ With this in mind, let's go back to our main verse

Exposit 3:9



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.

- ☞ “those who say they are Jews” are not children of the promise
- ☞ This group claims to be Abraham’s descendants, but as our Lord said, if Abraham was their father, they would have loved and welcomed Jesus for Abraham saw His day and was glad (Jn 8:31-59)
- ☞ Let’s now look at the last part of v.9...



Exposit 3:9



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.**

- ❧ “I will make them” again is prophecy
 - ❧ When will this take place?
- ❧ This group will be commanded by the Lord Jesus to come before these Philadelphian believers, bow down at their feet and make them know (ginōskō) that Jesus loved (agapaō) them
- ❧ TRUTH: This will be fulfilled when the kingdom of God is established on earth!



Exposit 3:9



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.**

∞ BROWNIE POINTS: When is this likely to occur? Which Parable fits best?

∞ HINT: It's a judgment parable

∞ We'll pick up in v. 10 for our next study, "The Hour of Testing"