

“He Who Opens and Shuts”
Philadelphia
(Rev 3:7b)



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

The Seven Churches of Revelation



Last Couple of Studies



☞ Introduction

- ☞ Historical backgrounds (Scripture and History)
- ☞ We learned about “the Key of David” prophesied in Isa 22 and fulfilled by the time we get to Rev 3:7a
- ☞ Today we will be looking closely into Jesus’s statement in 7b:
 - ☞ “who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens”
 - ☞ Hence the title of today’s message “He Who Opens and Shuts”

Opening Comments



- ❧ Scripture is filled with treasure
- ❧ Often times it's right before our eyes and we just need to proclaim and believe what it communicates
 - ❧ As I hope you will find in today's study
- ❧ When we exercise good disciplines and take great care and humility in handling it, it will yield great results, including magnifying the Word of God, greater reverence, adoration, worship, and the strengthening of our faith
- ❧ When it comes to end times, we do need to consider the teachings of our Lord and His parables
- ❧ Lastly, I will be asking questions throughout, so please pay attention 😊

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 3:7b



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:**

- ✧ We’ve covered 7a, and will now be covering 7b
- ✧ In addition to claiming to have the key of David, Jesus also claims to be the One “who opens and no one with shut, and Who shuts and no one opens”
- ✧ So we’ll delve further into this latter claim



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



- ❧ What will Jesus open and no one will shut?
- ❧ From our past couple of studies, we learned that this was verbatim from Isaiah 22 prophecy:
Isaiah 22:
22 “Then I will set the key of the house of David on his shoulder,
When he opens no one will shut,
When he shuts no one will open.
- ❧ In this prophecy, the subject is the key of the house of David
 - ❧ The key of the house of David = Davidic covenant = Davidic kingdom
- ❧ Thus, the direct subject in this prophecy is the Davidic kingdom promised to David

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



- ✧ In other words, when Jesus claims to have the key of David and as One who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens, this is to be directly understood as having full authority of opening and closing the kingdom of David
- ✧ That's pretty straightforward, my next question is is that it? Is it just a catchy phrase to say Jesus has authority? Or does Scripture tells us more?
- ✧ What other insights does Scripture give us into this claim?
- ✧ What does this Scripture mean that is before our very eyes?
- ✧ To answer this we'll first look at the original language, then cross reference other Scriptures and see what we find out

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



- ☞ “opens” is the Gr verb anoigō and means open or break open something
- ☞ “opens” or anoigō depending on context can mean:
 - ☞ To open something, like the wise men who opened a treasure chest to present gifts to Jesus as a child or the opening of the tombs following His death and resurrection or when Jesus opened the scroll of Isaiah
 - ☞ Heavens being opened, like when the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove and remained on Jesus at His baptism
 - ☞ Jesus opening His mouth to proclaim and teach in parables
 - ☞ The opening of ones eyes or ears or tongue when Jesus healed them of their blindness/deafness/muteness

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



- ☞ “shut” is the opposite Gr word kleiō which means to close, shut or lock up
- ☞ “shut” or kleiō depending on context can mean:
 - ☞ To close or shut something, like a gate
 - ☞ Shut or lock the door of a house
 - ☞ Prevent people from entering the kingdom of heaven
 - Matthew 23:13 “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut (kleiō) off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in
 - ☞ Close the heavens (Elijah shut (kleiō) the sky so that it did not rain 3 ½ years)

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



- ✧ Besides the prophetic context of Isaiah 22 prophecy Jesus has the keys of the house of David and authority to open the house of David and no one can shut, and shut the house of David that no one can open
- ✧ We're trying to look to Scripture for more insight
- ✧ I mentioned before and I'll mention it again, much of our Lord's teaching was in parables and much of the parables was concerning the kingdom of God and end times
 - ✧ Kingdom of God = Kingdom of David
- ✧ Thus, whenever there's an opportunity to cross reference a parable with end times implications, we'll go there
- ✧ And that is the case with this claim

Parable of the Narrow Door



Luke 13:22-30 (NASB)

22 And He was passing through from one city and village to another, teaching, and proceeding on His way to Jerusalem. 23 And someone said to Him, "Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?" And He said to them, 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.'

Parable of the Narrow Door



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.”

✧ This parable gives us great insight into the end times

✧ Let's exposit this a bit

Parable of the Narrow Door



- ✧ Jesus was asked “are there just a few that are being saved?”
 - ✧ When will people be saved?
- ✧ Be saved from what? [will get into details on that as we progress]
- ✧ Jesus answers the question with a command to “**Strive to enter through the narrow door**”
 - ✧ “narrow” is stenos which also means straight, small or restrictive
 - ✧ “door” is thura which also means the entrance or gate
- ✧ Jesus said that many will try and enter the straight, small, restrictive entrance or gate, but “will not be able (ischuō)”
 - ✧ ischuō means not strong enough

Parable of the Narrow Door



Jesus goes on to say:

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.'

- ❧ Whose the head of the house?
- ❧ What house is being spoken of?
- ❧ What will the head of the house do that can't be undone?
- ❧ From here, let's answer more questions and employ a few of our ROEs and look at v.25 closer

Rules of Engagement

I
Thou shalt interpret Scripture
w/Scripture

II
Thou shalt not add or take away from
Scripture

III
Thou shalt not take Scripture out of
context

IV
Thou shalt interpret Scripture w/literal
fulfillment

V
Thou shalt not impose personal bias

VI
Thou shalt not pass down man's
opinion

VII
Thou shalt not over spiritualize
Scripture

VIII
Thou shalt not present speculation as
truth

IX
Thou shalt not resist what the Spirit
says to the churches

X
Thou shalt not sensationalize Scripture

Parable of the Narrow Door



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.

☞ Whose "you"?

☞ "begin to stand outside" [approach the door and kind of like form a line]

☞ "and knock on the door" [when you make your way to the front you knock]

☞ "saying, Lord, open to us" [is a quote]

☞ 'then He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from" [is also a quote]

☞ TRUTH: This is prophecy and this dialogue are the very words that will be uttered when the house is on earth at the end of the age

Parable of the Narrow Door



26 Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets';

☞ Lots of nuggets in this verse

☞ Jesus again is quoting them "We ate and drank in Your presence"

☞ Whose "We"?

☞ Whose "Your"?

☞ "ate and drank" is past tense

☞ Meaning by this time, they had a meal with Jesus present

☞ "Your presence"

☞ Presence is enōpios which means in sight or in front of, before your eye, face

☞ Is this presence figurative or literal? [hint: context tells us]

Parable of the Narrow Door



26 Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets';

☞ "and You taught in our streets" whose "You" and what "streets"?

Parable of the Narrow Door



26 Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets';

❧ "and You taught in our streets" whose "You" and what "streets"?

❧ In context: Jesus was passing through city to city, village to village on His route to Jerusalem

❧ Jesus literally taught in their streets and while He visited they even shared a meal with Him present!

❧ TRUTH: the person who asked this question and others in that city or village with him will utter these same words in the end times!

Parable of the Narrow Door



27 and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.'

☞ "He will say" This is prophecy!

☞ TRUTH: The Lord Jesus will utter these EXACT WORDS to this person and those of his city/village when He returns and established His kingdom on earth!

☞ Jesus is telling the person asking the question that he and others there will be rejected and not be allowed to enter His kingdom, but instead will be in another place

Parable of the Narrow Door



28a In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth

☞ “that place” what place?

☞ CLUE: look for when weeping+gnashing are used together

☞ weeping+gnashing is used 7x in the NT and that place is described as:

☞ Outer darkness (Mt 8:12, 22:13, 25:30)

☞ Furnace of fire (Mt 13:42, 50)

☞ Where hypocrites are (Mt 24:51)

☞ Outside the kingdom of God (here in Lk 13:28)

☞ TRUTH: the person who asked this question and others of that city/village that heard the teachings of Jesus in their streets, shared a meal with Him, witnessed His miracles will be kept out of the kingdom and cast to that place!

☞ Meaning by this time, the resurrection to judgment has occurred!

Parable of the Narrow Door



John 5:25-29

25 Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; 27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

☞ In order for those 1st century Jews not be allowed to enter the kingdom and shut out of it, they must be raised by this time!

Parable of the Narrow Door




28b ...when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out.“

☞ “when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets”

☞ This is prophecy!

☞ By this time Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the prophets have been resurrected, these will be in the kingdom of God on earth!

☞ TRUTH: The unfaithful Israelites will be able to see with their own eyes Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God while they themselves will be thrown out to that place of darkness, furnace of fire along with the rest of the hypocrites and shut out of the kingdom 

CONJECTURE



28b ...when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out.“

- ❧ When we get to Rev 4, John sees in his vision the Father's throne and around His throne, 24 thrones and 24 elders sitting on them clothed in white garments and golden crowns on their heads
- ❧ I've read a lot of interesting commentaries trying to explain or guess who these 24 elders might be, including whether it's spiritual, figurative, or literal
- ❧ May I suggest to us, that a nugget of truth is in this very verse: Lk 13:28
- ❧ So far I'm inclined to believe that the 24 Elders are the prophets of Scripture!
 - ❧ Excluding the apostles!
 - ❧ The apostles instead will sit on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel!

CONJECTURE



Matthew 19:27-28

27 Then Peter said to Him, “Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?” 28 And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

- ❧ When Jesus mentions Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the prophets, these do not include the 12 apostles
- ❧ So if you were to ask me who the 24 Elders are, I would say they are the prophets of God many of whom were stoned and killed and remained faithful to their task!
- ❧ BROWNIE POINTS: Judas the betrayer is obviously not one of the 12. Who gets that privilege and honor?

Parable of the Narrow Door



Last verse of our Luke 13 passage:

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."

- ☞ Who are "they" that "will come from east and west and from north and south?"
- ☞ Hint: search when east+west+north+south are used
 - ☞ And Lo and behold it takes us to Genesis

Jacob's Dream



Genesis 28:10-14

10 Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11 He came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and lay down in that place. 12 He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. 14 Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Jacob's Dream



There's a lot of nuggets also in the account of Jacob's Dream, but I want to draw our attention to Gen 28:13-14:

13 And behold, the LORD stood above it [the ladder] and said [to Jacob], "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; **the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants.** 14 **Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south;** and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

☞ God here reaffirmed the Abrahamic Covenant to Jacob

☞ To show this I'd like to go back to the Abrahamic Covenant

Abrahamic Covenant



Genesis 15:1-8

1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying,

“Do not fear, Abram,

I am a shield to you;

Your reward shall be very great.”

2 Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and

the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “Since You

have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir.” 4 Then

behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “This man will not be your

heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir.”

Abrahamic Covenant



Genesis 15:1-8 (cont'd)

5 And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” 6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. 7 And He said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, **to give you this land** to possess it.” 8 He said, “O Lord GOD, how may I know that I will possess it?”

✧ In v. 9-17 God proceeded to enter into a covenantal ceremony with Abram, as well as, prophesied of the 400 year enslavement of his offspring

Abrahamic Covenant



Genesis 15:18

18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying,

“To your descendants I have given this land,

From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:

- ☞ God first appeared to Abram in Gen 12 and made him promises (I will make you a great nation, bless you, make his name great, bless those who bless you, curse those who curse you, all the families of the earth will be blessed)
- ☞ Part of those promises is to be given land
- ☞ Thus, part of the Abrahamic Covenant was not only to give Abram descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky, but to give Abram and his descendants land spanning “from the river of Egypt” to “the river Euphrates”
- ☞ For illustration purposes...



- Israel was reborn as a nation on May 14, 1948
- Territory has expanded over the last 70+ years
- Parts of the Promised Land still not part of Israel (parts of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon)

Parable of the Narrow Door



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

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.”

- ☞ The four points of a compass East/West/North/South took us to the Abrahamic Covenant that was restated to Jacob as part of Jacob’s Dream and vision
- ☞ The Abrahamic Covenant was concerning Abraham’s descendants and the giving of land as an eternal possession (allotted to Israel under Joshua)
- ☞ Thus, the “they” in this verse are none other than Abraham’s descendants!
- ☞ Allow me to enter that in and see if it reads clearer...