

“Our Promised Crown”
Philadelphia
(Rev 3:11)



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.'

Exposit 3:11



11 I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

☞ “I am coming quickly” [more on this]

☞ “hold fast what you have” [more on this]

☞ “so that no one will take your crown” [more on this]

“I am coming quickly”



- ❧ “I am coming [erchomai] quickly [tachu]” Jesus is speaking
- ❧ This is in the future tense – this is prophecy as well as the other visions in this letter
- ❧ coming [erchomai] means to arrive
- ❧ quickly [tachu] means what it means in our English, quickly, speedily, swiftly
- ❧ TRUTH: Jesus will personally return to earth
- ❧ To do what?

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- ❧ TRUTH: Jesus will personally return to earth
- ❧ To do what? to “RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS” (Rm 2:6, Ps 28:4, Jer 17:10)
- ❧ Jesus was also quoted as saying this in Matthew’s gospel and at the end of this great letter...

“I am coming quickly”



Matthew 16:24-28

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. 25 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come [erchomai] in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.

28 “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming [erchomai] in His kingdom.”

“I am coming quickly”



- ☞ Lots of nuggets and details concerning Jesus's return from Mt 16
 - ☞ Jesus will come "in the glory of His Father"
 - ☞ Jesus will come "with His angels"
 - ☞ Jesus will "THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS"
- ☞ This is precisely how it plays out in Revelation!

CONJECTURE



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28 “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming [erchomai] in His kingdom.”

CONJECTURE



28 “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming [erchomai] in His kingdom.”

- ❧ Before applying ROEs, I understood this to mean that some of the disciples won't die before they see Jesus transfigured
- ❧ Because what followed Mt 16, was the Transfiguration in Mt 17
 - ❧ In other words, I equated the transfiguration with His disciples seeing Him entering His kingdom
- ❧ This is NOT correct and here's why

CONJECTURE



In Mark's parallel account "some of those standing here" are the crowd with His disciples:

Mark 8:34

34 And He summoned **the crowd with His disciples**, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

✧ Thus, when Jesus said in Mt 16:28 "Truly I say to you, there are **some of those who are standing here** who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming [**erchomai**] in His kingdom."

✧ Jesus was claiming that there are some there who won't taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom

✧ This is prophecy! An end times prophecy that is! How do we know that?

CONJECTURE



Because when we apply our ROEs:

- ❧ ROE #2: Thou shalt not add or take away from Scripture
- ❧ ROE #3: Thou shalt not take Scripture out of context
- ❧ ROE #4: Thou shalt interpret Scripture w/literal fulfillment
- ❧ ROE #7: Thou shalt not over spiritualize Scripture
- ❧ When Jesus said in Mt 16:28 “Truly I say to you, there are **some of those who are standing here** who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming [**erchomai**] in His kingdom.”
- ❧ It means exactly what it says, there are some of those who were standing there among them “who will not taste death” until they literally see with their own eyes “the Son of Man coming [**erchomai**] in His kingdom”!
- ❧ When will this take place? What needs to happen to them for this prophecy to be fulfilled?

CONJECTURE



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- ❧ When will this take place? What needs to happen to them for this prophecy to be fulfilled? **They need to be raised BEFORE Jesus enters His kingdom and judged!**

“I am coming quickly”



- Back to v. 13, when Jesus said that He is coming quickly, He is coming in the glory of His Father, with His Father's angels, to render to every man according to what He has done
 - TIMING TRUTH: This cannot happen until the man of lawlessness and the AOD
 - Cross reference 2Th 2

“I am coming quickly”



2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

1 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, 2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. 5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?

“I am coming quickly”



6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. 8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. 11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

- ☞ CASE IN POINT: “I am coming quickly” cannot be BEFORE Antichrist arrives on the scene and is revealed
- ☞ Antichrist needs to be on earth for Jesus judge him “by the appearance of His coming”

“I am coming quickly”



- ❧ Back to v. 13, when Jesus said that He is coming quickly, He is coming in the glory of His Father, with His Father’s angels, to render to every man according to what He has done
 - ❧ TIMING TRUTH: This cannot happen until the man of lawlessness and the AOD
 - ❧ So for those who interpret this to mean to Jesus came quickly to the 1st century believers, you are going against Scripture
- ❧ To no surprise, these were His parting words in this great letter:
Revelation 22:12-13, 20
12 “Behold, I am coming quickly [in the glory of His Father, with His Father’s angels], and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end... 20 He who testifies to these things says, Yes, I am coming quickly. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”

“I am coming quickly”



- ❧ TRUTH: The angels will be involved in saving and administering judgments! All at the command of the glorified Son of Man who has authority over all angels (including the 7 stars in His right hand, and 7 spirits who are before the Father's throne, and the angels over death and Hades)
- ❧ This statement is not to be understood from man's vantage point, but from God's vantage point, God's timeline, from prophecy!
- ❧ When Jesus returns as foretold, He will come bodily, physically and it will be quick, speedy, and swift!
- ❧ Let's now look at “hold fast what you have”

“hold fast what you have”



- ❧ I don't want to get too deep into this one, but do want to make a few comments
- ❧ "hold fast" affirms our will, and the exercise of our will
- ❧ MYSTERY: our will plays an active role in our salvation
- ❧ We are called to repent and believe for the rest of our lives until we pass this life into the next
- ❧ "what you have" is a present possession
- ❧ What was this in context? HINT: "kept the word of My perseverance"

“hold fast what you have”



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- ❧ "what you have" is a present possession
- ❧ What was this in context? HINT: "kept the word of My perseverance" - the gospel message!
- ❧ Jesus exhorted them to hold fast to the gospel in which they received!
- ❧ Paul made this same exhortation to the believers in Corinth...

“hold fast what you have”



1 Corinthians 15:1-2

1 Now I make known to you, brethren, **the gospel** which I preached to you, which also you received, **in which also you stand**, 2 by which also you are saved, **if you hold fast** the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

- ✧ Jesus and Paul are saying the same thing!
- ✧ Believers are to believe the gospel they received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved IF we hold fast to it!
- ✧ IF is a conditional clause!
- ✧ Affirming the active participation of our will in our salvation!
- ✧ Well what about those who don't hold fast to it?
- ✧ Not going to get much into that, but let's just say they truly weren't saved to begin with... onto "so that no one will take your crown"

“so that no one will take your crown”



In context, because Jesus speaks of “the synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews are are not, but lie” I’m drawn to Jesus’s 8 Woes recorded in Mt:

Matthew 23:13 “But woe to you, **scribes and Pharisees**, hypocrites, because you shut 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.

Matthew 23:14 [Woe to you, **scribes and Pharisees**, hypocrites, because you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense you make long prayers; therefore you will receive greater condemnation.]

Matthew 23:15 “Woe to you, **scribes and Pharisees**, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

Matthew 23:16 “Woe to you, **blind guides**, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, that is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple is obligated.’ 17 You fools and blind men! Which is more important, the gold or the temple that sanctified the gold?

“so that no one will take your crown”



Matthew 23:23 “Woe to you, **scribes and Pharisees**, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

Matthew 23:25 “Woe to you, **scribes and Pharisees**, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence.

Matthew 23:27 “Woe to you, **scribes and Pharisees**, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead

Matthew 23:29-30 “Woe to you, **scribes and Pharisees**, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, 30 and say, ‘If we had been living in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ men’s bones and all uncleanness.

“so that no one will take your crown”



Jesus also says of them:

Matthew 23:32

32 Fill up, then, the measure of the guilt of your [Scribes and Pharisees] fathers. 33 You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?

Based on the context and cross reference of Matthew, who do you think Jesus is speaking of in Rev 3:11?

“so that no one will take your crown”



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Based on the context and cross reference of Matthew, who do you think Jesus is speaking of in Rev 3:11? **Yup, Scribes and Pharisees**

So Jesus warns them to be weary of the synagogue of Satan (Scribes and Pharisees) who wants to take their crown (stephanos)

Let's touch on stephanos...

“so that no one will take your crown”



- ⌘ Depending on context stephanos can mean an actual crown worn on the head or figuratively, here are some examples
 - ⌘ stephanos of thorns: was placed on Jesus's head when He was mocked, scourged and crucified (Mt 27, Mk 15, Jn 19)
 - ⌘ stephanos of wreath: worn by victors who competed in Paul's day (1Cor 9)
 - ⌘ joy and stephanos: Paul called the Philippian and Thessalonian believers his joy and stephanos (Phi 4, 1Th 2)
 - ⌘ stephanos of righteousness: Paul said there is laid up for him a stephanos of righteousness on his way of being beheaded (2Ti 4)
 - ⌘ stephanos of life: James said "Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the stephanos of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him" (Jam 1); and last but not least
 - ⌘ stephanos of glory: Peter said "when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory" - 1 Pet 5:4

“so that no one will take your crown”



❧ So which of these fits our context best in Rev 3:11?

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“so that no one will take your crown”



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“so that no one will take your crown”



- ✧ Thus, when Jesus said “hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown” the call is to reject Judaism and hold fast to the gospel they received and by which they stand
- ✧ Less, they forfeit the stephanos of righteousness, life, and glory at the Lord Jesus’s appearing
 - ✧ One who turns to Judaism didn’t lose their salvation, they forfeited it
- ✧ Next week we’ll finish off this letter v. 12-13 and look at the promise to the one who overcomes and watch our video, then prepare for the final 7th letter to Laodicea

In Closing



❧ What is Our Promised Crown?

❧ A crown of righteousness

❧ A crown of eternal life

❧ A crown of glory

❧ Who is this crown promised to?

❧ Not just the Philadelphian believers, but ALL believers

❧ v. 12 “He who overcomes”

❧ How do we keep hold of that crown?

❧ By accepting and believing the gospel we have received and by which we stand until the very end of our life - AT ALL COSTS

In Closing



And last, but not least:

- ❧ How can that crown be taken away from us?
 - ❧ By rejecting the Gospel and embracing Judaism, or any false religion
- ❧ So let us heed the Words of our Lord and hold fast the gospel of His perseverance so that at the end of life, He will crown us with His righteousness, eternal life and share in His unfading glory.
- ❧ Next week we'll finish off this letter v. 12-13 and look at more promises and watch our video, then prepare for the final 7th letter to Laodicea