



REVELATION 28 – PHILADELPHIA: STEWARDSHIP HONORED

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Revelation 3:8-10

STEWARDSHIP: RESTING IN THE AUTHORITY

- Steward has no intrinsic authority, dependent on extrinsic authority who delegates the position; Christ *knows* their, your, works (Jn 5:19-24, 30-36)
 - Philadelphia has no intrinsic power; **power intrinsic only** to the Father (Ge 1:1-2; Ps 50:10-12)
- Christ holds *open* door to Father because of His loyalty AEB their: (1Co 4:2)
 - Keeping Christ's Word; **entire** Bible (Jn 1:1-5; 17:14-17)
 - Identifying with Christ's name, Gospel message (Ac 4:12)
- *Resting* in Christ, maturation: we decrease, He increases (Mt 11:25-30; Jn 3:27-36)
 - Christ demonstrated humility as prophesized giving us His example to follow (Is 9:6-7; 53; Ph 2:3-11)

FALSE JEWS – POOR STEWARDS: COVETED SELF STRENGTH – CONTROL

- As a people, Hebrews-Jews were poor stewards though smallest of all (De 7:6-8)
 - Sinners worship *self* strength, despising God's *weakness*: Cain-Abel (Ge 4:1-8)
 - Jews chose self strength, kingship, over *resting* in God's protection; i.e., so they could do *what was right in their own eyes* {Satan's Promise of Sin}: Control (Ge 3:5; Ju 21:25; 1Sa 8:19-22;)
 - When Elijah trusted *his* strength, he feared Jezebel's Control, death threat; learned God works through *still small voice*, not miraculous power {Mount Horeb} (1Ki 19:1-18)
 - Jews of Christ's time honored their fathers who murdered God's prophets showing they worshipped self strength; hence, they rejected *meek-weak* Messiah (Lk 11:47-51)
 - Thus, Messiah rejects them until they repent, repentance precedes forgiveness – Always; then they follow *weak* Messiah, Jesus (Am 8:11-12; Ze 12:10; Lk 13:34-35)

SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN: ONLY *TRUE* JEWS ARE JEWS

- Since Jews rejected Messiah, He sent Gospel to the Gentiles until the time of their *calling* and repentance (Is 42:6-7; Ez 36:19-21; Mt 4:14-16; Ro 11:25-31; Re 7:9-17; 12:13-14)
 - God rejects automatic salvation based on birth or group membership; Jew is one who believes God following Abraham's example (Ro 2:17-29; 4:1-5, 10-12; Ga 4:21-31; He 11:8-12; Ja 2:21-26)
 - Jews who reject Messiah are **not** *True* Jews; *False* Jews, antichrists (Jn 8:21-30; 1Jo 2:18, 22-23; 4:2-3; 2Jo 7-11)
 - Jesus calls them: *Synagogue of Satan* as they follow their father, Satan (Jn 8:44)
- *False* Jews will acknowledge Christ at White Throne judgment (Re 20:11-15)
 - They will acknowledge Christ as Lord as they acknowledge His faithful stewards, Saved, whom they reject and persecute; as will All Sinners (Ph 2:9-11)

TIME OF TROUBLE APPROACHES: ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPENTANCE

- This is first reference to: *Time of (Jacob's) Trouble* or Great Tribulation (Je 30:5-9)
 - Faithful Philadelphia, metaphor of all faithful churches, will be kept from this trial {Rapture} because of Christ's faithful loyalty to the Saved (1Co 15:50-58; 1Th 4:15-18)
 - Christ's call that brings churches out of the World, regathers *True Jews* from all nations fulfilling His promises to *True Jews*; they take Gospel to the World (Ps 118; Is 11:11-12; Hos 3; Amos 9:7-12; Re 7:1-8)
 - *True Jews* shall repent, acknowledging their sin and the sins of their fathers, accepting Christ as Messiah (Je 50:4-5; Ze 12:10)
 - In that Day, and into Millennial Kingdom, Jews will be what Christ intended them to be from their first calling: His {Non-Aaronic} Priests to the nations (Ex 19:5; Is 61:6; He 7)

STEWARDS ARE TO BE FAITHFUL: NOT SUCCESSFUL

- Christ is not looking for successful people to conquer the Devil; He is the Father's Steward and already has this victory (Lk 10:17-20; Re 20:10)
- Christ is developing a people who, like the Philadelphians, are **faithful-loyal:** (1Co 4:2)
 - Keep His Word (Jn 8:31-47)
 - Identify themselves with His Name; do not deny Him or the Father (Mt 10:32-33)
- By the World's standards we are *weak and foolish* (1Co 1:18-31)
 - But through Christ-Word-Spirit we mature, using able to discern Father's Good and reject our Evil: Discernment (Ge 5:21-24; Jn 1:1-5, 9-11; 8:12; 1Co 2:14; He 5:11-14)
 - If we measure ourselves by World's standards, we are not wise: Are You Wise? (Ro 2:1-11; 2Co 10:12, 17-18)