

Sixth Letter Philadelphia The Faithful Assembly

Hazon (Revelation) 3:7 -13

“And to the messenger of the assembly in Philadelphia write, ‘He who is set-apart, He who is true, He who has the key of Dawid, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens, says this: I know your works, see, I have set before you an open door, and no one is able to shut it, that you have little power, yet have guarded My Word, and have not denied My Name. See, I am giving up those of the congregation of Satan, who say they are Yehudim and are not, but lie. See, I am making them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have guarded My Word of endurance, I also shall guard you from the hour of trial which shall come upon all the world, to try those who dwell on the earth. See, I am coming speedily! Hold what you have that no one take your crown. He who overcomes, I shall make him a supporting post in the Dwelling Place of My Elohim, and he shall by no means go out. And I shall write on him the Name of My Elohim and the name of the city of My Elohim, the renewed Yerushalayim, which comes down out of the heaven from My Elohim, and My renewed Name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.”

1- Name of the Assembly - Philadelphia

Hazon (Revelation) 3:7

“And to the messenger of the assembly in Philadelphia write,

The name **Philadelphia** means “brotherly love”, and that’s exactly what this assembly lived out. They were not a large group. They didn’t have political power or great wealth. But they were rich in faith and strong in love, love for Elohim, and love for one another.

This was a small community under great pressure. And yet, in Yeshua’s eyes, they were one of only two assemblies that received no rebuke. No correction. Only praise.

1) The Context - Pressure and Persecution

When Yochanan received the vision of Revelation around **95 CE**, the Roman Emperor **Domitian** was demanding worship as a god. For Jews and believers in Yeshua, this was unthinkable. They refused and paid the price.

Yochanan was exiled to Patmos for his faithfulness, and it was there that he received the Revelation.

The believers in Philadelphia lived under this same pressure. But they stayed true. They didn’t deny the Name. And because of their loyalty, Yeshua honoured them, not for their size or strength, but for their faithfulness in the fire.

2) Spiritual Strength and Promise

Though the believers in **Philadelphia** lacked wealth or influence, they were rich in **faith**. Under pressure, they didn't let go. Yeshua praises them for their **loyalty** and **endurance**, and in return, He promises **protection** and **vindication**.

Their strength wasn't in numbers; it was in the **Spirit**. And that's what mattered most.

3) Historical Parallel - The Revival Period

The spirit of the Philadelphia assembly reflects the revival period beginning around 1860 CE, marked by the birth of Theodor Herzl, the father of modern Zionism. Like Philadelphia, Herzl carried a vision of restoration, and though surrounded by opposition, he pressed forward.

His efforts led to the rebirth of Israel in 1948, a fulfilment of hope rising from exile, much like the faithful remnant in Philadelphia. Both stories echo the same truth: faith and endurance overcome the darkness.

2- Character Description of Yeshua – The One Who Holds the Key of Dawid

Hazon (Revelation) 3:7

“He who is set-apart, He who is true, He who has the key of Dawid, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens, says this...”

This is how Yeshua introduces Himself to the believers in Philadelphia, not just as Savior, but as **the One with full authority**. He is set-apart, meaning He is holy, unlike any other. He is true, faithful, trustworthy, and the living embodiment of truth.

And then He says something very specific: *“He who has the key of Dawid.”*

This phrase reaches back to the prophecy in *Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 22:22*:

“And I shall place the key of the house of Dawid on his shoulder. And he shall open, and no one shuts; and shall shut, and no one opens.”

In Isaiah, that authority was given to a man named *Elyaqim*, who was entrusted with responsibility over the royal house of David. But in Revelation, this key is no longer in the hand of a steward; it's in the hand of the King Himself.

Yeshua is the rightful heir to the throne of David, as promised in *Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 33:17*:

“For thus said יְהוָה, ‘For Dawid there is not to cease a man to sit on the throne of the house of Yisra’el.’”

That means Yeshua doesn't just rule with power, He rules with covenant authority. The “key of Dawid” is a symbol of control, legitimacy, and ownership. When He opens a door,

whether it be for ministry, for protection, for opportunity, or for breakthrough, no one can shut it. And when He shuts a door, no one can force it open.

To the believers in Philadelphia, a small, faithful community surrounded by opposition, this was a message of great comfort:

“I’m in charge. No one can stop what I’ve set in motion for you.”

This ties directly into what Yeshua said in *Mattithyahu (Matthew) 16:19*:

“And I shall give you the keys of the reign of the heavens, and whatever you bind on earth shall be having been bound in the heavens, and whatever you loosen on earth shall be having been loosened in the heavens.”

The keys of the Kingdom represent access and authority, given by Yeshua to those who walk faithfully in His ways.

And how do we walk faithfully?

By staying rooted in the Torah.

By studying, doing, and teaching His commands.

By holding onto the Lion of Zion, our true King.

Especially in times of pressure, just like the believers in Philadelphia faced.

The “open door” Yeshua places before us might be a door for ministry, for growth, or for endurance, but it will always be tied to our obedience and our faithfulness. He opens the way, but it’s our job to walk through it with clean hands and a pure heart.

So, this message is not just for ancient Philadelphia, it’s for every believer today who is facing trials, who feels small in the eyes of the world, but who refuses to deny His Name.

He who is set-apart. He who is true. He who holds the key of Dawid.

He is the One we follow. And when He opens a door, nothing can stand in the way.

3. Recognition

Hazon (Revelation) 3:8-10

“I know your works, see, I have set before you an open door, and no one is able to shut it, that you have little power, yet have guarded My Word, and have not denied My Name. See, I am giving up those of the congregation of Satan, who say they are Yehudim and are not, but lie. See, I am making them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have guarded My Word of endurance, I also shall guard you from the hour of trial which shall come upon all the world, to try those who dwell on the earth.”

The Assembly at Philadelphia is praised by Y’shua for remaining faithful even in weakness. Though they had little strength in the world’s eyes, they guarded His Word and never denied His Name. Their loyalty stood firm in the face of pressure, persecution, and attacks from those claiming to be Jews but walking in deception, described as the congregation of Satan, also referenced in Revelation 2:9.

Y'shua responds to this faithfulness with a promise: He sets before them an open door that no man can shut. Many believe this door speaks of the Kingdom, possibly even a reference to the heavenly invitation in Revelation 4:1. Whether spiritual authority, opportunity, or access to heavenly places, it is something no enemy can take away.

To those persecuted by imitators, Y'shua declares a dramatic reversal. Those who opposed them will one day bow down in recognition, acknowledging that these faithful ones are beloved of YHWH. This shows the ultimate vindication of the righteous.

Verse 10 carries special weight in prophecy. It promises protection from the coming "hour of trial" that will test all the earth-dwellers, those aligned with the beast and opposed to YHWH. The Greek word "ek" (from/out of) has given rise to different understandings:

- **Post-Tribulation View:** Believers remain on earth but are protected through the trial, like Israel in the wilderness.
- **Pre-Wrath View:** Believers are raptured just before the wrath of YHWH is poured out late in the tribulation.
- **Pre-Tribulation View:** The faithful are taken before the trial begins, aligning with the Feast of Trumpets and Jewish wedding imagery.
- **Literal Translation View:** The promise is unconditional, Y'shua will guard them from the time of testing regardless of timing or interpretation.

In all cases, the central message remains those who keep His Word will be kept. This Assembly is one without rebuke, no shortfalls, no correction. Only blessing, endurance, and a heavenly promise.

4) Shortfalls

Unlike the other Assemblies, Philadelphia receives no rebuke from Yeshua. No charge of compromise, no word of correction. This Assembly is not perfect by human standards, but it is found faithful. Their love, endurance, and commitment to the truth set them apart. In a world filled with spiritual deception and pressure to conform, they chose to hold firm to the Name and the Word, and for that, they are commended, not corrected.

5) Corrective Action

Because there is no recorded shortfall, there is no corrective action given. The faithful ones in Philadelphia are simply encouraged to continue in what they are already doing, guarding the Word, standing strong, and enduring until the end. The Master sees their quiet faithfulness, and instead of correction, He gives them assurance: "Hold fast what you have, that no one takes your crown" (Rev. 3:11). Sometimes the greatest action is to remain unwavering in a world that's shifting all around you.

6- Challenge

Hazon (Revelation) 3:11

"See, I am coming speedily! Hold what you have that no one take your crown."

Yeshua gives a strong and loving reminder to the Assembly in Philadelphia, and to us. He says, “*I’m coming quickly.*” Now, from our human point of view, it might not feel quick. It’s been nearly 2,000 years since these words were spoken. But from the heavenly perspective, it’s just a moment. Eternity doesn’t run on our clock. When Yeshua says He’s coming speedily, He means it. He hasn’t forgotten. His return is sure.

And so, He urges the believers: *Hold on to what you have.* Don’t let go. Don’t trade it away. Don’t lose your reward. He’s not just talking about blessings here; He’s speaking of the crown. A symbol of victory, of honor, and of identity in His Kingdom.

Even though Philadelphia was small and didn’t have great strength in worldly terms, they had something more valuable, they held onto His Word. They never denied His Name. And Yeshua noticed. That faithfulness matters. In *Hazon* (Revelation) 1:6, we’re told that He “has made us sovereigns and priests to His Elohim and Father.” *Hazon* (Revelation) 1:6 “and has made us sovereigns and priests to His Elohim and Father, to Him be esteem and rule forever and ever. Amén.”

So even if the world doesn’t see us as important, in the eyes of YHWH, we are royal. And that crown, that eternal reward, is ours to keep, if we remain faithful. But the warning is clear too: someone can take that crown if we grow weary, if we give in, or if we turn away.

Yeshua is saying: *Stay strong. Keep walking in My truth. Don’t let anything or anyone pull you away from what I’ve given you.* The reward isn’t for those who start strong, it’s for those who finish well.

This message isn’t just for Philadelphia. It’s for every one of us who’s trying to hold on through hard times, through weakness, through opposition. The King is coming. Let’s not let go now.

7- Reward

Revelation 3:12–13

“He who overcomes, I shall make him a supporting post in the Dwelling Place of My Elohim, and he shall by no means go out. And I shall write on him the Name of My Elohim and the name of the city of My Elohim, the renewed Yerushalayim, which comes down out of the heaven from My Elohim, and My renewed Name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.”

Yeshua speaks with such tenderness and strength to those who overcome, to those who don’t give up. He promises to make them a *pillar* in the Dwelling Place of Elohim. Now think about that. A pillar stands firm. A pillar cannot be moved. It holds up the house. Yeshua is saying, “I will make you a part of My eternal House. You will never be removed. You will always belong.”

In ancient times, cities would honor their heroes by carving their names into pillars of the temple. It meant, “This one is remembered. This one belongs here forever.” And that’s the very picture Yeshua uses. He will write His Father’s Name on you. He will write the name of the renewed Yerushalayim on you. And He will write His *new* Name as well. Three names, YHWH’s, the City’s, and Yeshua’s. This is a seal of full citizenship, identity, and honor.

We read in Hazon (Revelation) 19:12 that Yeshua carries a Name no one knows except Himself: "And His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns, having a Name that had been written, which no one had perceived except Himself" And in Hazon (Revelation) 2:17, He promises to give that Name to those who overcome: "And I shall give him a white stone, and on the stone a renewed Name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

That's a personal relationship. That's a covenant name. Just as a husband and wife share private names of endearment, so too will Yeshua give to each faithful one a name that speaks of love, identity, and eternal belonging.

And all of this is pointing forward, to the renewed Yerushalayim, the city that comes down from heaven as described in Revelation 21 and 22. That's the home of the redeemed. That's the place where there is no more sorrow, no more pain, no more death. Only life, light, and the presence of YHWH Himself.

The Assembly at Philadelphia, though small, though weak in the world's eyes, is offered one of the greatest honor: a permanent place in YHWH's House, sealed with His Name, and welcomed into His city.

So let us hear what the Spirit is saying to the Assemblies. These words are not only for them back then, but for us now. If we overcome, if we stay faithful, we too will stand as pillars in His Kingdom, forever with Him.

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