

The “Path” {Open Door} Principle Rev. 3:7-13

Pt 1 Understanding the “Keys of David”

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, March 19th

God’s word reveals many Principles that He encourages us to build our lives on (Mt 7:24-29), and promises to bless those who chose to do so.

Joshua 1:8 *“...then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success”*

So far in this series we’ve discussed the Principles of
Passion (Col. 3:16-24) and Purpose. (Ex. 4:2) *“What’s in thine hand?”*

Our passage is a message that our Lord directed John to deliver to a specific church in the city of Philadelphia in Asia Minor. This message (like all scripture) is relevant to us today. (2 Tim. 3:16,17)
We’ll all faced various doors (opportunities). Some of those doors will have promises on them, but not all will lead to prosperity. Many that offer promises bring problems. (Pr 14:12)

Let’s examine this “Path” or “Open Door” principle.

1. **THE PREAMBLE:** Vs 7 *“These things saith he that is holy, he that is true”*
 - A. Christ Declared His Divinity. *“He that is holy”*
 - B. Christ Declared His Sincerity. *“He that is true”* (Trustworthy) Jn 1:14
 - C. Jesus is presented as the one whose nature is truth and holiness. As such:
 - 1) He will work in the lives of his people to develop these characteristics. (Ro. 8:28,29)
 - 2) He will never lead us in opposition to either truth or holiness. (1 Jn 4:1)

Observations: Not Every Open Door Is From God!!!!

- Not every open door/path will lead to God!
- All roads don’t lead to Rome *and all Religions don’t lead to God!*

Application: We need to carefully and prayerfully consider:

- Will this door/path bring me closer to God and His purposes...?
- Or pull/distract me from Him and it? John 10:10

2. THE PICTURE. Keys represent Authority!

In Rev 1:18 Jesus presents himself as the one who holds: *“The keys (authority) of hell and of death”*

In Rev. 3:7 he presents himself as *“He that hath the keys of David”*, Symbolizing control of David’s domain (Israel) and the fulfilment of the Davidic Covenant of 1 Sam. 7:13

A. Background:

- 1) In 1 Chr. 27 David organized Israel and names Azmaveth as his treasurer (or steward).
 - a) This position brought great power and influence, because he managed the treasuries of the nation and was one of the key advisors to the King.
- 2) Subsequent Kings would either inherit their father’s steward, or appoint their own.
 - a) Rehoboam rejected Solomon’s counselors and chose his own friends. (1Kg 12:6-16)

B. The “Keys of David” are also specifically referenced only in Isaiah 22:15-25.

- 1) Hezekiah’s father (Ahaz) was attacked by the armies of Syria and Samaria. 1 Kgs 7
- 2) Isaiah challenges him (and Judah) to turn back to, and trust God for deliverance. (Is. 7:3-12)
- 3) Ahaz rejects God’s offer and decides to put his trust in Assyria instead. 2Kings 16:7
 - a) He robs God’s temple to bribe the king. Vs 8 “

- b) His plot seemed to work! Vs
Sometimes God will “cooperate” with our plans and allow us to obtain what we insist on having.
History has a way of repeating itself! (Eccl 1:9) God’s people had been here before. Ps. 106
- 4) Ahab celebrated by replacing God’s altar with an Assyria altar used for demons. (2Kg 16:12-16)
 - a) He desecrated other parts of the Temple. (Vs 17-18)
 - b) He built altars to Baal and Molech (2 Chr. 28:1-4) even Sacrificing some of his own children!
- 5) Isaiah prophesied that Assyria would eventually attack Judah. Is. 7:17-25

Observation: Ahaz had entered into a deal with the devil.

- He robbed God to pay the down payment.
- He became an Assyrian vassal with a heavy annual tribute.
- His son (Hezekiah) inherited this vassal tribute. (See Romans 6:16)

The ”Rest of the Story”

C. Hezekiah becomes King & purposes to be different

- 1) He decides to trust and serve God. 2 Kings 18:4-7
- 2) 4 years after his coronation Ahaz’ “birds” come home to roost. (See Exodus 20:5)
 - a) The Assyrian King (now Sennacherib) besieges and eventually captures Samaria, enslaving the Northern Kingdom of Israel. (2 Kgs 17:3-23)
 - b) He transplanted the people and replaced them with other conquered people. Vs 24-33
Assyria returns some of the Jewish “priests” to teach them about God. Vs 27
Vs 33 *“so They (The Samaritans!) feared the LORD, and served their own gods, ...”*
 - c) He then turned toward Judah. 2 Kgs 18:13 Just as Isaiah had prophesied. Is. 7:17-25
- 3) Hezekiah waffles and writes to submit to the King. 2 Kgs 18:14
 - a) He robs the Temple, repeating his father’s initial mistake vs 15,16
 - b) The Assyrian King took the money and came to attack Judah anyway. Vs 17

Conclusion: What’s all this have to do with the Keys of David?

- 1) The Keys of David were presented to the Steward (Prime Minister/treasurer)
- 2) Hezekiah’s steward (Shebna) misused his influence (and Judah’s money). Is. 22
 - a) He benefited personally from Egypt, he advised the King to make an allegiance with them (Instead of God) for protection against Assyria.
 - b) Isaiah challenged the King (and people) to trust God for protection and provision. Is. 30-31
 - c) God revealed Shebna’s treachery to Isaiah and had him exposed and demoted. (Is. 22:15-25)
 - d) God raised up faithful Eliakim in his place. Is 22:20-22 He used his position to encourage the King to trust in the Lord rather than submit to Assyria or trust Egypt. 2 Chr 32:20-21
“Hezekiah, and ... Isaiah prayed and cried to heaven. And the Lord sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria.” (186,000 {2 Kings 19:35})

Ahaz and Hezekiah faced similar challenges/choices. Both were influenced by the people they trusted; had access to God’s Prophet and direction; succumbed to fear and rationalized robbing God; Both were given a 2nd chance to repent and trust God. Both’s choices affected others.

The believers in Philadelphia faced similar challenges and choices. Rev 3:8-9

Application:

We face similar choices today. (1 Cor 10:11) The god of this world seeks to entice or intimidate us into an allegiance with him. He often tries to use others to influence us to avoid trusting / obeying Him. Are you trusting a Shebna or an Eliakim? Which are you most like?

- Fear leads us to make (and justify) terrible choices. 2 Tim 1:7
- Fear Exposes our source of Faith. *Our Fear is indirectly proportional to our Faith.*
Phil. 4:6-7; Ro. 8:31; 1 Jn. 4:4; 1 Jn. 5:4

Where are you placing your faith? Ps. 118:8; Pr 3:5,6