

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

Understanding the “Keys of David” Pt 2

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, March 26th

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 1:8,9)

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; Pr 4:18)

➤ God’s “Open doors” involve opportunity, particularly for ministry.

(1 Cor 16:9; Acts 14:27; 2 Cor 2:12; Col. 4:3)

➤ Opportunities for ministry are investments in Eternity!

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

These “Keys of David” are referenced only here (Rev 3) and in Isaiah 22:15-25.

A. In Isaiah 7 God offered an “open door” of deliverance to King Ahaz.

He chose to put his trust in the pagan King of Assyria *With devastating consequences.*

➤ 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”

B. Hezekiah becomes King & purposes to be different

1) He chooses to trust the Lord and serve/obey him. 2 Kgs 18:4-7 *“removed the high places...5 He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; ...For he clave to the LORD, and Kept His commandments...6 And the LORD was with him; and he prospered ... (see Joshua 1:8) and he rebelled against the king of Assyria and served him not”*

2) 4 years after Hezekiah’s coronation Ahaz’ “birds” come home to roost. (See Exodus 20:5)

a) The Assyrian King (now Sennacherib) besieges and captures Samaria, just as God had predicted and they had deserved. (2 Kgs 17:16-18)

(1) The king transplanted the people into Assyria and replaced them with other conquered nations (2Kg 17:24)

(2) They brought their own idolatry into Israel, so God judged them by multiplying lions in the

land. Vs 25 and God punished them for their heathen worship (vs 25)

- (3) These new inhabitants sent word to the King complaining *"we know not the manner of the god of the land"*. (vs 26) So he sends back some of the "priests" to teach them. Vs 27
- (4) The result was a faith that mixed Judaism with paganism Vs 33 *"so They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, ..."* This became the religion of the "Samaritans" and produced a generational distain that still existed in Jesus' days on earth.

b) He then turned toward Judah. 2 Kgs 18:13 Just as Isaiah had prophesied. Is. 7:17-25

3) Hezekiah panics 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 King Hezekiah (just as he did his father Ahaz in Is. 7) to trust God for His protection, direction and Provision. (See Is. 30-31) vs 1 *"Woe to the rebellious children, ... that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:"*
 - 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})
- 3) 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.
- 4) The believers in Philadelphia faced similar challenges and choices. Rev 3:8-9

Application: We face similar challenges and choices today.

(Eccl 1:9) *"The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun."*

1 Cor 10:11 *"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."*

The god of this world seek to entice or intimidate us into an allegiance with him.

He often tries to use others to influence us to avoid trusting / obeying God.

Are you trusting a Shebna or an Eliakim? Which are you most like?

- 1) Fear leads us to make (and justify) terrible choices. 2 Tim 1:7
- 2) Fear Exposes our source of Faith.
- 3) *Our Fear is indirectly proportional to our Faith.* Phil. 4:6-7;
Ro. 8:31 *"If God be for us, who can be against us?"*
1 Jn. 4:4 "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world"
1 Jn. 5:4 "this is the victory that overcomes the world, Even our Faith."

Where are you placing your faith? Ps 118:8

The "Path" Principle Pr 3:5-6 *"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."*