

Jun 9, 2025

06-08-2025 Message



1 Group

Start Theme Slide



2

Sicily's Mount Etna eruption stuns local couple vacationing.mp4

Philadelphia: modern-day Alaşehir,
Turkey was known for earthquakes
and volcanic activity.

3



Family vacation to the Big Island, Hawaii 2002

4



5

Volcanic soil was excellent for growing grapes.

6



Vineyards near modern-day Alaşehir (Philadelphia) Turkey

7

Reoccurring earthquakes produced a sense of insecurity for those living near Philadelphia.

8



Massive earthquake kills thousands in
Turkey/Syria, February 6th, 2023

9



10

First-century Philadelphia experienced a series of earthquakes and aftershocks.

11



12

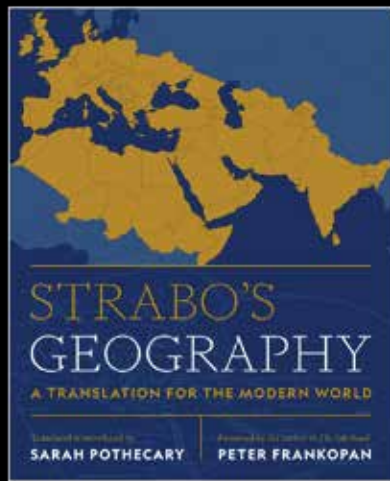


Lydia Earthquake of 17 AD—epicenter was near Philadelphia.

13

The aftershocks continued for decades.

14



“
The city of Philadelphia
was ever subject to
earthquakes. As a result,
many of the townspeople
lived in the countryside
and worked in the city.
”
Strabo, *Strabo's Geography*

15

“Philadelphia” means brotherly love.
First-century Christians were NOT
“feeling the love” from their Jewish
and pagan neighbors.

16

CHRISTIANS LIVING IN PHILADELPHIA FACED:

- Uncertainty due to the lasting effects of the earthquake
- Persecution from Jews and Greeks
- Economic hardship due to farming restrictions imposed by Emperor Domitian (81 to 96 AD)

17

Philadelphia and Sardis are the only churches of the seven that did not receive correction.

18

⁷“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

Revelation 3:7-13 (NIV)

⁸I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

⁹I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—

Revelation 3:7-13 (NIV)

I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.

¹⁰Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

Revelation 3:7-13 (NIV)

¹¹I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

¹²The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem,

Revelation 3:7-13 (NIV)

Which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.

¹³Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Revelation 3:7-13 (NIV)

⁷“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David.

Revelation 3:7a (NIV)

Jesus reminds these Christians of his identity:

1. Holy and true

25

Why does he choose these words?

26

Throughout the Old Testament, God is referred to as “the holy one of Israel.” Jesus is revealing himself in a way that had special relevance to the Jews.

27

²²I will praise you with the harp
for your faithfulness, my God;
I will sing praise to you with the lyre,
Holy One of Israel.

Psalms 71:22 (NIV)

28

Psalms 71:22 (NIV)

⁴¹Again and again they put God to the test;
they vexed the Holy One of Israel.

Psalms 78:41 (NIV)

⁷In that day people will look to their Maker
and turn their eyes to the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 17:7 (NIV)

⁷“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:
These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David.

Revelation 3:7a (NIV)

31

Revelation 3:7 (NIV)

Jesus is saying, I am the Holy and True
revelation of the Holy and True God.

32

⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

⁶⁹“We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

John 6:68-69 (NIV)

33

John 6:68-69 (NIV)

Jesus reminds these Christians of his identity:

2. Key of David-refers to the private residence of the King

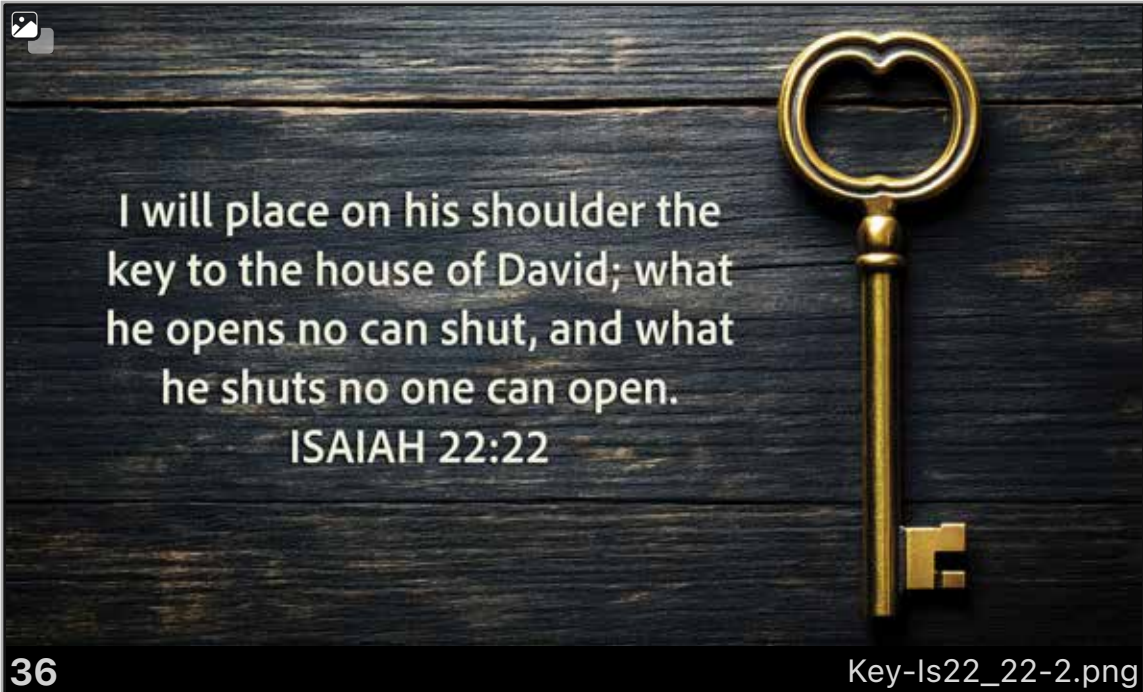
34

⁷“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:
These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David.

Revelation 3:7a (NIV)

35

Revelation 3:7 (NIV)



36

Key-Is22_22-2.png

²⁰“In that day I will summon my servant,
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

²¹I will clothe him with your robe and fasten
your sash around him and hand your
authority over to him. He will be a father to
those who live in Jerusalem and to the
people of Judah.

Isaiah 22:20-22 (NIV)

37

Isaiah 22:20-22 (NIV)

²²I will place on his shoulder the key to the
house of David; what he opens no one can
shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

Isaiah 22:20-22 (NIV)

38

Isaiah 22:20-22 (NIV)



Greek woman with bronze
key on her shoulder

39

The way to relationship and fellowship
with God is through Jesus.

40

⁶Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6 (NIV)

41

John 14:6 (NIV)

JESUS AFFIRMS THESE CHRISTIANS FOR
TWO THINGS:

1. Keeping his word
2. Not denying his name

42

⁸I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

Revelation 3:8b (NIV)

43

Revelation 3:8 (NIV)

³²So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven,
³³but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 10:32-33 (ESV)

44

Matthew 10:32-33 (ESV)

Four images to encourage and
challenge to remain faithful:

45

"I am coming soon. Hold on to what you
have.

Revelation 3:11a (NIV)

46

Revelation 3:11 (NIV)



47



48



Kevin Pillar, Toronto Blue Jays 2016

49

FOUR IMAGES:

- Open door
- Victor's crown
- Pillar
- New name

50



51



52



53

Open door: an invitation and
opportunity

54

⁸I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

⁹I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan,

Revelation 3:8-9 (NIV)

Who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.

Revelation 3:8-9 (NIV)

Four images:

1. The open door

57

The door to the synagogue may have
been closed in your face, but the door
to relationship with God has not!

58

²⁰Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20 (ESV)

59

Revelation 3:20 (ESV)

Four images:

2. The victor's crown

60

¹¹I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

Revelation 3:11 (NIV)

61

Revelation 3:11 (NIV)



Michael Phelps, 2004 Olympics,
Athens



62

Four images:

3. Pillar in the temple of my God

63

¹²The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God.

Revelation 3:12a (NIV)

64

Revelation 3:12 (NIV)



The Parthenon

65



66



67



68

Four images:

4. New name

69

¹²The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.

Revelation 3:12 (NIV)

70

Revelation 3:12 (NIV)

We have a new name and identity in
Christ!

71

¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 (NIV)

72

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 (NIV)

