

## The ABC's of God's Kingdom Work

Revelation 3:7-13

### Introduction:

- A. God's ultimate plan
  - 1. To save people from every \_\_\_\_\_ tribe, tongue, nation, and class of people (Rev 5:9,10)
  - 2. Jesus must be the S \_\_\_\_\_ of the world before He returns (Matt 24:14)
  - 3. To use believers and the church to fulfill His ultimate plan.
- B. Distractions to God's kingdom work
  - 1. P \_\_\_\_\_ - Philadelphia was known as the gateway of the east.
  - 2. L \_\_\_\_\_ - Philadelphia had many hot springs.
  - 3. R \_\_\_\_\_ opposition – Philadelphia had several pagan temples and a synagogue.
- C. The leader of the Philadelphian did not allow the above to distract him from doing kingdom work.
  - 1. This letter reveals the ABC's of God's kingdom work
  - 2. Listen to what the Spirit is saying to you and to this church.

### He a \_\_\_\_\_ us specific tasks (7,8)

- A. Jesus introduces Himself as:
  - 1. The H \_\_\_\_\_ One (the Greek text makes this a title, not an adjective) – the prophesied Christ was called this in Ps 16:10; Dan 9:24; Jn 6:69)
  - 2. The G \_\_\_\_\_ One (the Greek text makes this a title, not an adjective – the way Jesus lived on earth demonstrated that He was truly the prophesied Christ.
  - 3. The one who holds the k \_\_\_\_\_ of David
    - a. This is an allusion to Is 22:22 which records God giving Eliakim the key to David's kingdom – he would open (admit) or shut (not admit)
    - b. Jesus is THE son of David who will reign forever and holds the power to open (admit) or shut (not admit) people into His kingdom.
- B. Jesus put before the leader of the church an o \_\_\_\_\_ door (see Acts 14:27; 1 Cor 16:9; 2 Cor 2:12; Col 4:3)
  - 1. Jesus commended the leader for his f \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. Jesus planned to use this leader to impact the s \_\_\_\_\_ of Satan.
    - a. This was a group of Jews in the physical sense (descended from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) but not in the s \_\_\_\_\_ sense (see Jn 8:39-41)

- b. They thought they were in God's kingdom but had r\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus as the prophesied Christ.

C. This is a pattern we see in Scripture

1. God assigning certain tasks to bring the gospel to another
  - a. J\_\_\_\_\_ - Ninevah (Jonah)
  - b. P\_\_\_\_\_ - Cornelius's household (Acts 10)
  - c. P\_\_\_\_\_ - the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8)
2. God assigning certain tasks to do His work
  - a. Moses r\_\_\_\_\_ his staff before the Red Sea (Ex 14)
  - b. Rahab h\_\_\_\_\_ the spies (Josh 2)
  - c. Daniel counseled k\_\_\_\_\_ (Daniel 1-6)
  - d. Priscilla and Aquila explained the w\_\_\_\_\_ of God more accurately to Apollo (Acts 18:26)
  - e. Barnabas t\_\_\_\_\_ Mark in missionary work (Acts 5:38,39)
3. What doors has he placed before you? Before this church?

**He b\_\_\_\_\_ about the results (9)**

A. If the leader does his part, Jesus will make the people in the synagogue

1. Bow down at the leader's feet or worship at his feet?
  - a. Many think that these Jews will just come to r\_\_\_\_\_ the leader.
  - b. But the next phrase helps us understand that Jesus is talking about worshipping God in the church at the leader's feet
2. Know that Jesus has loved the church leader.
  - a. This is the same Greek word used in Matt 7:23 ( I never knew you) and in Jn 17:3 (eternal life is knowing God and Jesus)
  - b. This is a word of personal experience – an entire synagogue will truly worship God as they realize that Jesus journey to the cross was a voluntary act of love.

B. The results of God's assignments are not ours but His

1. Moses raised his staff and God p\_\_\_\_\_ the sea (Ex 14)
2. Peter preached to thousands of Jewish travelers and God saved \_\_\_\_\_ of them (Acts 2)
3. The apostle Paul planted the church of Corinth, Apollos watered it, but God caused the g\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor 3:6)  
*I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth.*

## He crowns us with special rewards (10,11)

- A. Jesus promised to reward this leader for his faithfulness by keep him *from the hour of testing which is about to come upon the whole world.*
1. The phrase, *the whole world*, can mean the inhabited world or the territory of the R\_\_\_\_\_ empire (see Lk 2:1; Acts 11:28)
  2. The phrase, *about to come*, means that it will occur in the near f\_\_\_\_\_ (shortly after Revelation was written, Trajan came to power and set the pattern for severe persecution that affected all believers in the empire for the next 200 years).
  3. This reward is not usual. Many who are faithful suffer and die. The leader of the Philadelphian church was an exception.
- B. Jesus promised to give him a c\_\_\_\_\_
1. Jesus is coming q\_\_\_\_\_ (with speed) with this crown.
    - a. It is literally a v\_\_\_\_\_ wreath
    - b. Paul viewed the Thessalonians has his victory crown of j\_\_\_\_\_ that he would receive at Christ's coming (1 Thess 2:19)
  2. Jesus urges the leader to hold on to what he has (right now he has the o\_\_\_\_\_ door) so that no one take his victory crown.
    - a. The Greek word for take and receive is the s\_\_\_\_\_
    - b. This should be translated as, *receive your crown*
      - 1) The picture is not of other Christians trying to t\_\_\_\_\_ this leader's crown (reward)
      - 2) The picture is of the possibility of another person re\_\_\_\_\_ the crown that Jesus meant for this leader.
        - a) Aaron received the crown that was originally meant for Moses when Moses refused to be the p\_\_\_\_\_ speaker (Ex 4:12-16)
        - b) Joshua received the crown that was originally meant for Moses when Moses disrespected God in the sight of Israel (Deut 31:23; 32:48-51)
- C. See to it that no one receives your crown
1. God has specific tasks in mind for you and for this church
  2. God has a corresponding crown for completing those tasks (we don't know what that reward will entail but it will be unbelievable).

**Conclusion** - Walk through the open doors, leaving the results to God, and looking forward to the eternal reward.