



The

Revelation of **Jesus Christ**

8. The Lord's message to the churches - Philadelphia

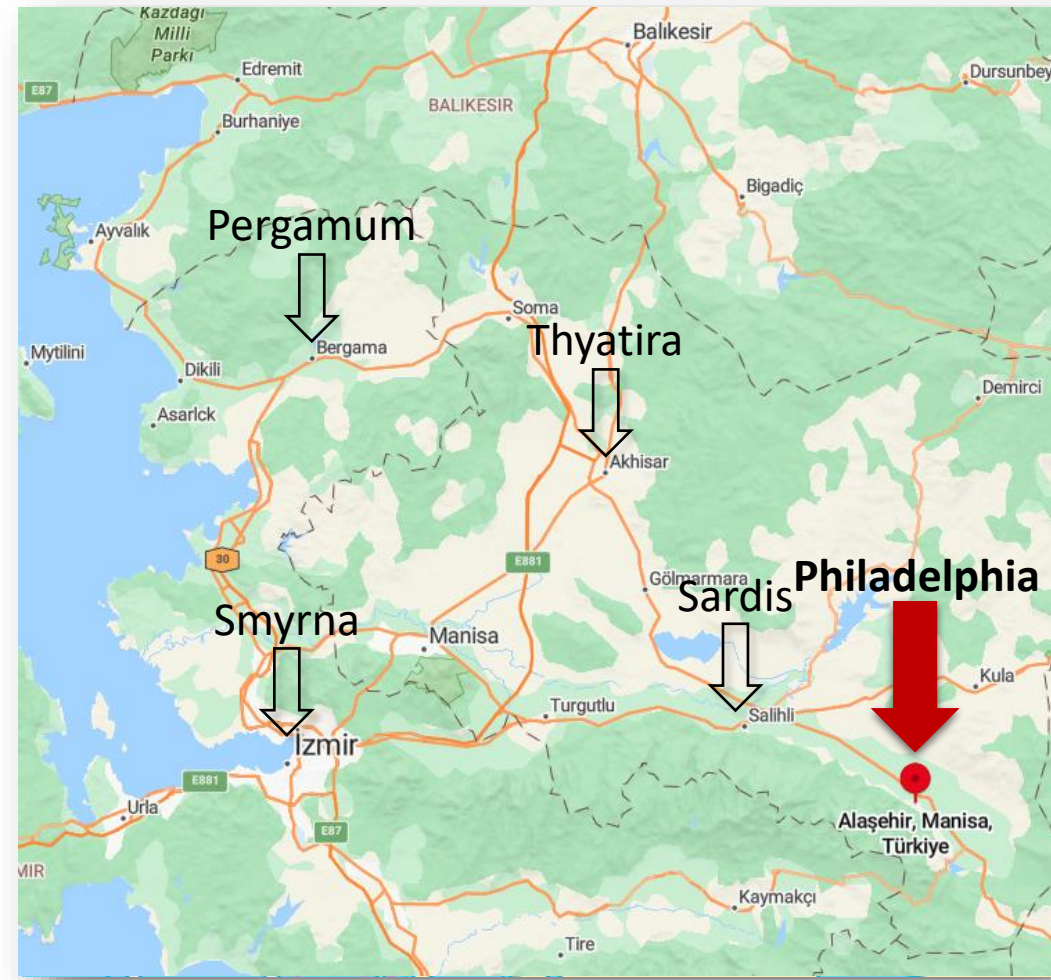
He who has an ear, let him hear
what the Spirit says to the churches.

Blessed is he who **reads** and those who **hear**
the words of this prophecy,
and **keep** those things which are written in it;
for the time is near.

(Revelation 1:3)

“Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches...”

- Ephesus
- Smyrna**
- Pergamum
- Thyatira
- Sardis
- Philadelphia**
- Laodicea



Philadelphia
(now Alaşehir)
-
45km southeast
of **Sardis** (near Salihli)
and
100km east
of **Smyrna** (Izmir)

**To the messenger of
the church in Philadelphia
write...**



Philadelphia in history

Apparently founded c. 189 BC by King Eumenes II of Pergamon, the city was named after his younger brother and successor, Attalus II, known as *Philadelphos*, “one who loves his brother”. Philadelphia was well known for its vulnerability to earthquakes and wine growing.

Byzantine columns church of St John (from c. 600 AD)



What may remain of Philadelphia is now buried



Philadelphia in history

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*In the loss of **Ephesus** the Christians deplored the fall of the first angel, the extinction of the first candle-stick, of the Revelation; the desolation is complete; and the Temple of Diana or the Church of Mary will equally elude the search of the curious traveler. The circus and three stately theatres of **Laodicea** are now peopled with wolves and foxes; **Sardis** is reduced to a miserable village; the God of Mahomet, without a rival or a Son, is invoked in the mosques of **Thyatira** and **Pergamos**, and the populousness of **Smyrna** is supported by the foreign trade of the Franks and Armenians. **Philadelphia** alone has been saved by prophecy or courage.*

The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire – Edward Gibbon (1776-1788)

FIVE KEY QUESTIONS

1. What does the Lord say about Himself?
2. What does the Lord say about those in Philadelphia?
3. What does the Lord say He will do for them?
4. What must the believers do?
5. What is promised to those who overcome?

1. What does the Lord say about Himself?

These things says

He who is **holy**,

He who is **true**,

*He who has **the key of David**,*

He who opens and no one shuts,

and shuts and no one opens

(Revelation 3:7)

From Isaiah 22:22

1. What does the Lord say about Himself?

Holy

Set apart to God and having God's character

True

Utterly genuine, perfect, sound and certain

The Key of David

All authority, King of Israel, Ruler of the kings of the earth

KEY QUESTIONS

1. What does the Lord say about Himself?
- 2. What does the Lord say about those in Philadelphia?**
3. What does the Lord say He will do for them?
4. What must the believers do?
5. What is promised to those who overcome?

2. What does the Lord say about those in Philadelphia?

I know your works...

Dynamis = force,
power, ability

...that you have little strength,
you have kept My word
and have not denied My name.

(Revelation 3:8)

You have kept My word to **persevere**...

(Revelation 3:10)

2. What does the Lord say about those in Philadelphia?

You have kept My word
to **persevere**...

(Revelation 3:10)

*As for that in the good soil,
they are those who, hearing the word,
hold it fast in an honest and good heart,
and bear fruit **with patience**. (Luke 8:15)*

Ephesus:

I know ... your **patient endurance**...

Smyrna:

Be faithful until death...

Pergamum:

You **hold fast** to My name...

Thyatira:

Hold fast what you have till I come.

Sardis:

Be watchful ... hold fast

Philadelphia:

You have kept My word **to persevere**...

KEY QUESTIONS

1. What does the Lord say about Himself?
2. What does the Lord say about those in Philadelphia?
- 3. What does the Lord say He will do for them?**
4. What must the believers do?
5. What is promised to those who overcome?

3. What does the Lord say He will do for them?

1

Behold,
I have set before you an open door,
which no one is able to shut.

(Revelation 3:8)

1 Corinthians 16:9

2 Corinthians 2:12

Colossians 4:3



3. What does the Lord say He will do for them?

2

Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and **bow down before your feet**, and to know that **I have loved you**.

(Revelation 3:9)

- **He who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood...** (Revelation 1:5)
- **In the midst of the seven lampstands...** (Revelation 1:13)
- **Faithful and True...** (Revelation 19:11)

3. What does the Lord say He will do for them?

3

Because you have kept My command to persevere,
I also will keep you from the hour of trial
which shall come upon the whole world,
to test those who dwell on the earth.

(Revelation 3:10)

To discover or prove
where people stand
in relation to God

3. What does the Lord say He will do for them?

- ① He sets before them an “**open door**”
- ② He promises **vindication** before their Jewish persecutors
- ③ He promises to keep them from “**the hour of trial**”

KEY QUESTIONS

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5. What is promised to those who overcome?

4. What must the believers do?

Persevere!

Behold, **I am coming soon!**

Hold fast what you have,
that no one may take your crown.

(Revelation 3:11)

Crown of
victory, honour

Finally, there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**,
which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day,
and not to me only but also **to all who have loved His appearing**.

(2 Timothy 4:8)

KEY QUESTIONS

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5. What is promised to those who overcome?

To write your name on...
= To make your own

The one who overcomes,

I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God,

and he shall go out no more.

- I will write on him **the name of My God**
- **The name of the city of My God**, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God.
- I will write on him **My new name.**

(Revelation 3:12)

Pay attention!

*Is He
speaking
to us?*

He who has an ear,
let him hear what **the Spirit**
says to **the churches**.

(Revelation 3:13)

The
Revelation
of **Jesus Christ**

Revelation 3:7-13

What do we see in Philadelphia?

- A little strength, but perseverance in faithfulness
- The Lord's faithfulness and commitment to His own
- The Lord's great love and purpose for His people

The
Revelation
of **Jesus Christ**

He who has an ear, **let him hear**
what **the Spirit** says to ^{*all*} **the churches**.