

# **"PROPHETIC PROMISES TO A FAITHFUL CHURCH"**

## **REVELATION 3:7-12**

### **I. ANY DISCUSSION ON THE ANCIENT CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA MUST BEGIN WITH A DETERMINATION OF THE CHARACTER AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS LOCAL ASSEMBLY (3:7-12)**

- A. Philadelphia & Smyrna Are The Only Two Churches That Receive No Rebuke Or Condemning Statement From The Lord
- B. Philadelphia Had Remained Steadfast In Their Convictions Despite The Fact That They Were Small Numerically And Had Faced Opposition From Apostate Judaism
- C. Philadelphia Received A Series Of Eschatological Promises

### **II. EVERY ONE OF THE SELF DESCRIPTIONS OF CHRIST IS INTENDED TO PREPARE FOR THE PRECISE COMMUNICATION APPROPRIATE FOR THIS CHURCH (3:7)**

- A. He Has The Authority To Make The Kind Of Promises That He Does
  - 1. He Alone Can Perform The Activity Of *Opening & Shutting*
  - 2. He Alone Maintains Possession Of The Key Of David
- B. He Is The Possessor Of Two Specific Attributes That Highlight His Authority
  - 1. He Is Holy
    - a. Holiness Was The Single Attribute That Was Intoned And Celebrated In Heaven In The O.T. (Isaiah 6)
    - b. Holiness Will Be The Single Attribute Intoned And Celebrated In Heaven After The Rapture (cf. Rev. 4:8)
  - 2. He Is True: All Other False Messiahs Have Zero Authority To Make Any Such Claims