

Church History: “The Reformation” 1500 – 1900

Revelation 3:7-13

(Part 1)

How does Jesus reveal Himself to the Church at Philadelphia? v.7

“He declares Himself to be God. Holiness is an essential attribute of deity. . . .He says that He is “the holy One: Christ is right in character; as the “true” One, He is right in conduct. He could not be different in His actions from what He is in His attributes.

Christ is the absolute Ruler in His kingdom. The key to the house of David is His by legal right and by lineage. The key is the symbol of His authority, and this authority was given to Him over Heaven and earth.”

“The Book of Revelation” Lehman Strauss pp.80,81

What does He know? v.8

What has He done? v.8

Who opposes them? v.9

“ . . .any true church at any time, and especially during the last days, meets satanic opposition. . . through imitation, religious ritualism, and hypocrisy – opposition strengthened by mixture of worldliness and religiousness – Church and State.”

“Christ’s Seven Letters to His Church” William McCarrell, p.57

What will He do to those who oppose them? v.9

What does He promise? Why? v.10,11

“ . . .the ‘hour of trial’ is best understood as the time known to the Jews as the ‘messianic woes,’ a time of intense trouble to fall on the world before the coming of Christ and known as the eschatological ‘day of the Lord’

“The ‘hour of trial’ is a judgment from God on the unbelieving inhabitants of the world, not a form of persecution. It is not true that the saints of the Tribulation period are exempt from harm during this period; a great group of them will be martyred.

“ . . .we must identify the ‘hour of trial’ as the wrath of God, deliverance from which is promised to every one of Christ’s overcomers.”

“NIV Bible Commentary” p.1152

“The Lord’s coming for them is compared to an imminent event, one which will come suddenly without announcement. The expression ‘quickly’ is to be understood as something which is sudden and unexpected, not necessarily immediate.” “The Revelation of Jesus Christ” John F. Walvoord p.87

What is their responsibility? v.11

What assurance are overcomers given? v.12

“Christ promises to set believers in His temple in such a secure fashion that no disturbance can ever force them out.

“The inscribed name signifies identification and ownership.

“Christ’s ‘new name’ could be either the unknown name that He alone knows, or the new name of Christ given to the believer through redemption.”

“NIV Bible Commentary” p.1152

Who will listen? v.13

“It is true that, in nature, it is darkest just before the dawn. Similarly in the Church thick darkness prevailed during the close of the 15th and the first decades of the 16th century. There was practically nothing of the simple faith, the earnest hope, and the fervent love so characteristic of the church of the apostolic age. There was pomp and outward show in abundance, but worship was hollow and without true content. The ritual was mere formality; the preaching was sounding brass; and the priests with few exceptions were selfish seekers of worldly pleasures; the people were abandoned to ignorance and superstition.

“But the day had at last arrived when God was to demonstrate his power and to begin a thorough reform of his church. . . This great event in history is known as the Reformation. It is the most important epoch in the history of the world since the events of which we read in the New Testament.

“Various causes are usually given for the Reformation. The real power lay in the gospel of grace and the preaching of it, and the direct cause was the raising up by God of a number of men whom he had chosen to take the leading part in this work” “Sketches of Church History” S.M.Houghton p75

