

THE KEY OF DAVID



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“...These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David... I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut...” Revelation 3:7.

This word of the Lord to the church in Philadelphia of Bible days is also a vital word for us as the Church of the Lord today. It contains the essential “key” to the fulfilment of all that God has planned and desires for us, individually and as the Body of Christ, while here on earth.

THE LORD’S COMMENDATIONS

The commendations the Lord gives the church are very important. He is opening a door for them because of what is behind these things.

“...I know your deeds...I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name...” v.8.

➔ *I know your deeds*

The “deeds” are the actions of a righteous life, fulfilling all the Lord calls us to do in reaching others for Christ.

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” Matthew 5:16.

➔ *You have kept my word*

All the Lord has written in His Word we are able to keep by the revelation and enabling of the Holy Spirit.

“For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God” 1 Peter 1:23 (Psalm 119:105).

➔ *You have not denied my name*

As the people of that day had witnessed strongly to others about the Lord in the face of much opposition and persecution, we too are called to do so in this day in which we live.



“Then he said to them all: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me’” Luke 9:23.

What is behind these three facts is also why the Lord will open this door to us today, taking us into the wonderful realities beyond. Before we discover what these realities are we need to know what the key is to open them to us.

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“...the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people...The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” 1 Samuel 13:14; 16:7.

When God sent Samuel to anoint a king for Israel (1Samuel 13:11-14; 16:1-14), He was not interested in the outward appearances of strength and seeming majestic qualities. He had one priority...his **HEART!**

Holding the Key of David in His hand, the Lord’s commendation of the Philadelphian church was because of their *heart* which was behind their actions. This is also the key to everything in our relationship with the Lord - our hearts at one with His heart. It is not what we *DO* for Him but the heart behind everything we do. David’s heart towards the Lord is the great example given to us.

The Heart of David

David expresses the central focus of his heart in a beautiful psalm he wrote:

“One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple” Psalm 27:4

Although David had many trials, difficulties, obstacles and enemies to overcome as king, and prayed many times for the Lord’s deliverance for him, the “one thing” he desired above everything else, was not victory in all these situations but to live in the presence of the Lord and know Him in all His beauty and glory. When he became king over all Israel he put his heart into action. He brought the Ark of the Covenant back!



THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

The Ark represented the presence of the Lord. It contained three items, each speaking of how the Lord ministers of Himself to His people (Hebrews 9:3-5):

- ➡ **The Tablets of Stone - speaking of His Covenant**
(Exodus 31:18; Luke 22:20; Hebrews 10:8-10)
- ➡ **Aaron's staff that budded - speaking of the anointing of His Spirit** (Numbers 17:1-8)
- ➡ **The Manna - speaking of His Word** (Deuteronomy 8:3)

The Scripture describes the awful day when Israel lost the Ark. The nation was in rebellion and out of relationship with God, worshipping idols etc. They were in battle with the Philistines and were losing. So Hophni and Phinehas, the sons of Eli the High Priest, had what they thought was a great idea -- to bring the Ark out of the temple into the battle. Like magic, they were sure they would then win. They lost and the Ark was taken. A cry arose from the depth of the tragedy - "ICHABOD"! - "The glory has departed!" The Philistines put it in the temple of their god, Dagon. Judgment fell on them. They hurriedly got rid of the Ark and it ended up in a small town on the border of Israel (read the full account in 1 Samuel chapters 5,6,7:2).

THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID

In all his years of being king, Saul never even attempted to bring the Ark back. However, the priority on David's heart was the presence of God and the first thing he did on becoming king was bring it back (2 Samuel 6; 1 Chronicles 15 and 16). He, and all Israel, rejoiced all the way as the priests carried it along, with David leaping and dancing before the Lord in great joy and praise (2 Samuel 6:14-15). It is important to note that David did not bring it back to the Tabernacle of Moses with its strict rules and regulations. He did not take it to the 3rd compartment of that Tabernacle, the Most Holy Place, where it had been before. He took it to Mt Zion where he pitched another tent for it. But the Tabernacle of David had only one compartment. This tent was now, in fact, the Most Holy Place. There are three essential aspects of David's Tabernacle which are important for us to know:

There was no dividing veil!

In Moses' Tabernacle the Most Holy Place was completely cut off to the people, a thick curtain (veil) barring the way. Only once a year was the High Priest allowed to enter, representing the people. That was after much cleansing and sacrifice (Lev.16; Heb.9:1-15). In David's Tabernacle there was 24 hour access for the people into the glorious presence of a holy, righteous God.

It was filled with glorious worship

Because the people were in the presence of God the worship was glorious. There was great joy expressed, with singing and musical instruments. Many of the Psalms of praise and worship in the Bible come from David's Tabernacle (1 Chronicles 15:16; Psalm 150).

The people were at one

All the people, male and female, came with great rejoicing, 24 hours freely flowing in and out of the Tabernacle to worship the Lord .

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

When Paul and Barnabas reported to the church in Jerusalem all that God was doing among the Gentiles, James made an amazing statement, quoting from Amos 9:11-12:

“The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written: ‘After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up; so that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the Lord who does all these things’” Acts 15:16-17.

This statement by James, describing what was happening as the Church was being born across the world, continues to have great importance to us who are the Church of this day. *The Tabernacle of David is the pre-picture of the Church!* The design for the Lord's Church is not a physical building or a human institution or corporation. It is the Tabernacle of David!...the vessel filled with the presence of the Lord. David's Tabernacle pre-pictures the Church, the Body of Christ, filled with the Spirit of God (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 3:16). The people did not go there because of the Law which demanded a legalistic responsibility. They went because of hearts filled with love for the Lord and the desire to know Him more and to worship Him.

Just as it was with David's Tabernacle, we now have free access to the fulness of the presence and glory of the Lord. On the Cross Jesus took the sin of all mankind and became the veil that separated us from a holy, righteous God (Hebrews 10:19-20). At the exact moment He died God the Father got hold of the veil in the Temple and tore it in two - from top to bottom (Matthew 27:50-52). Because of Him there is nothing now separating us from the fulness of all that God is.

“But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory,

are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit” 2 Corinthians 3:16-18.

As far as James was concerned, the fulfillment of Amos’ prophecy concerning the restoration of David’s Tabernacle involved the manifested presence of God, which acts like a magnet to the rest of mankind and **“all the Gentiles who are called by My name.”** He regarded the great influx of Gentiles into the Kingdom of God as proof that the Ark of God’s presence had returned to David’s Tabernacle. The living Church was the restoration of the Tabernacle of David!

In the same way, God desires for His manifested presence to be revealed in His Church today. The glory of the Lord does not come via worldly ways or man-made methods. The Lord’s glory is manifest in its fulness upon a consecrated people -- a people whose heart, like David’s, is at one with His.

THE OPEN DOOR

The Lord is holding out the Key of David to each one of us. The key is a hungry *heart*, like that of David’s, desiring above all else to be in His presence, to love Him and know Him more. How wonderful that He has set before us an *open* door for us to enter in and discover more of the wonders of His glory! As the Church today responds to His invitation it not only means a wonderful experience for us as individuals, but we will see, as the Early Church did, multitudes coming in to the Kingdom of God (John 17:20-23).



**We, His Church, glory in the Cross and the
Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Come let us adore Him!**