

02-10-04b Revelation

We resume now our study in Revelation chapter 3 and we are about to embark on the letter to Philadelphia but let me before we do just point out one more scripture on the book of life. If you haven't been able to tell already I really enjoyed tracking these down and attempting to understand their import and seeing the harmony of the biblical witness about this particular topic. But if you will turn with me to the book of Ezekiel chapter 13.

Ezekiel chapter 13, this is an indictment of false teachers. The word of the Lord came to me saying son of man prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy and say to those who prophesy from their own inspiration listen to the word of the Lord. Now we tend to think of prophets as men in long robes and beards foretelling the future but in Israel and particularly at this time the prophets were largely responsible for calling the people to God and teaching the word of truth.

They had a mission of exhortation and encouragement and in some cases rebuke and correction and instruction but they were teachers and preachers in Israel and those in Israel who were prophesying from their own inspiration were not preaching and teaching the word of God. They had their own ideas and they were telling people what they wanted to hear. They were giving pleasing messages and tickling people's ears much as is often the case today.

Verse 3 Ezekiel 13, thus says the Lord God woe to the foolish prophets who are following their own spirit and have seen nothing. How many people can we find if we spend a few days watching Christian television who will tell us thus saith the Lord God spoke to me God says and they have seen nothing. Oh Israel your prophets have been like foxes among ruins you have not gone up into the breeches nor did you build a wall around the house of Israel to stand in the battle on the day of the Lord.

They see falsehood and lying divination who are saying the Lord declares when the Lord has not sent them yet they hope for the fulfillment of their word. You know they are giving real optimistic messages and they hope they are fulfilled but they are not coming from God. Have you not seen a futile vision have you not spoken false divination you say the Lord says but I have not spoken therefore thus says the Lord God because you have spoken nonsense and envisioned lies therefore I am indeed against you says the Lord God my hand will be against the prophets who envision futility and who divine lies they shall not be in the assembly of my people nor be written in the record of the house of Israel.

Are these prophets believers yes are they Israelites yes what does it mean they shall not be in the assembly of my people and they will not be written in the record of the house of Israel who is it that will have the right to national Israel in the millennial kingdom. What did Jesus tell the Pharisees how many times have we reviewed it many will come from the north east south and west and sit down with Abraham Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom you yourselves will be thrust

out. The Pharisees were like these prophets they were supposed to be teachers and preachers in Israel they were supposed to exhort the people the priests and the Levites or those who were fulfilling the Levitical function in Israel in Jesus day were failing in this same way and were predicted by the Lord to have the same fate.

You will not be in the assembly of my people. Remember in another place when you have the children in Isaiah lo Ruhamah not my people that's what's going on here they're Israelites they're saved they will be resurrected but they will not be in the assembly of my people they will not be written in the record of the house of Israel nor shall they enter into the land of Israel can it get any more plain they're going to be around it doesn't say they won't be alive it says they won't be able to enter the land they're going to be in the darkness which is outside they are out there with the five foolish virgins they're out there with the unjust steward they're out there with the brutal servant who beat his fellow servants and was cut in two. Then you shall know that I am the Lord God because indeed because they have seduced my people saying peace when there is no peace and one builds a wall and they plaster it with untempered mortar it's a good looking wall but it has no strength it's not going to hold up in the day of testing.

Say to those who plaster it with untempered mortar that it will fall there will be flooding rain and you oh great hailstones shall fall and the stormy wind shall tear it down surely when the wall has fallen will it not be said to you where is the mortar with which you plastered it where is all that great teaching where is all that high sounding words where are all those visions of prosperity and fruitfulness where is all of the windows of heaven opening and giving you everything from the seed that you sowed into some bogus ministry somewhere. Therefore thus says the Lord God I will cause a stormy wind to break forth in my fury and there shall be a flooding rain in my anger and great hailstones in fury to consume it so I will break down the wall you have plastered with untempered mortar and bring it down to the ground so that its foundation will be uncovered it will fall and you shall be consumed in the midst of it then you shall know that I am the Lord. Thus will I accomplish my wrath on the wall and on those who have plastered it with untempered mortar and I will say to you the wall is no more nor those who plastered it that is the prophets of Israel who prophesy concerning Jerusalem and who see visions of peace for her when there is no peace says the Lord God and he goes on from there but you get the idea unfaithfulness leads to loss, loss of privilege, loss of expectation, loss of covenanted future blessings and in this connection turn quickly just over to the next book to Daniel chapter 12 you will notice in Daniel chapter 12 that you are kind of in the midst of the prophecy about the tribulation period and the antichrist and the beast and the false prophet and that sort of thing talking about the king of the south and the king of the north and the whirlwind and chariots and horsemen and the Edom Moab and Ammon this individual will stretch out his hand against the countries and the land of Egypt shall not escape he shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver this is Daniel 11 43 and over all the precious things of Egypt also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels but news from the east and the north shall trouble him therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many and he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas

and the glorious holy mountain yet he shall come to his end and no one will help him now chapter 12 verse 1 at that time Michael shall stand up the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people this is the national angel of Israel and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation where are we now we are in the last three and a half years of the 70th week we are in the great tribulation time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation even to that time you'll notice it says such as never was since there was a nation because we are dealing once again with national Israel and believers in this period are a part of national Israel they are heirs of the Old Testament blessings to Israel even to that time and at that time your people shall be delivered everyone who is found written in the book and many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake some to everlasting life some to shame and everlasting contempt those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever but you Daniel shut up the word seal the book until the time of the end many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall increase some people try to say that that running to and fro are the Bible code guys running their computers to and fro through the Hebrew text but trust me it's not so what is going on here at that time your people shall be delivered everyone who is found written in the book there is a book of the deliverable those who will be saved in the tribulation you have the 144,000 who are sealed in their foreheads you have the souls of the martyrs under the altar all of this is given in Revelation these individuals are foreknown God already knows who they are there is no problem with God's foreknowledge anticipating people's decisions there's a great hue and cry especially among reformed theologians about oh you can't say that predestination is based on God's foreknowledge well I can say that because that's what the Bible says we've just seen the passages that talk about how the days of our lives have been inscribed in a book before we are ever formed in the womb and that indicates to me that God knows ahead of time my failures and my successes my good and bad decisions and has written down the days of my life in that book and there are it is not determinative people give God the Midas touch that if he knows something it must come to pass and that limits God that is a small human imagination type of God God is great enough to know something without causing it you know there are people who say well don't think about something or it'll happen you know don't you know there are people who are superstitious they think well if you you know if you say something that that's bad that might happen then you have to go knock on wood or you know if you if I had this you know you're driving down the road you say boy this is sure reliable car and five minutes later it breaks down well you shouldn't have said that you said it and it made something happen and we think that there's it's just human nature to think that there's something causative about our thoughts and our words and we ascribe that to God reformed theology says if God knows something well that determines it how can he possibly know it without causing it well that's human limited logic God knows all kinds of things God knows every everything that did not happen he knows what would happen if he let an angel pull one of your spark plug wires off and he knows every ripple in human history down to the end of time that would result from that one factor the God that scattered every atom and molecule through the universe and built the galaxies of untold uncountable billions of stars put every particle in its exact

spot knows where they all are in this physical universe and that's only a portion of his knowledge there are universes beyond our universe where the angels live in God's throne room the second and third heavens and God knows where everything is there he is so unimaginably huge and infinite that for us to say well if God knows that it has to take place is just the worst arrogance to think we've got God all figured out and he's just King Midas and when he thinks of thought it comes to pass and he can't foreknow something without causing it God created free agency you can't get any more powerful than that no human being can create a free agent we can create random agents but we cannot create free responsible agents only God can do that so say all of that to say that God knows ahead of time those who are going to freely choose and their names are already written in a book he doesn't write them down after the fact he doesn't say okay all you people that that didn't take the mark of the beast line up here we want to write your names down we want to get you down for an award their names are already in a book that some of them who knows they might not have even been born yet their names have been written in a book from the foundation of the world and all of their actions are yet future antichrist is not here yet 70th week hasn't started yet rapture hasn't taken place yet untold millions of situations have not yet coalesced into that event and God already knows the first middle and last name age date of birth location of every single person that is going to be saved he's already got there this should be a great source of comfort to us God knows us he knew us before we were born he didn't make us believe but he anticipated our belief and provided for it and created a great plan for us many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake and this is a judgment that encompasses everything from the most faithful to the most reprobate of believers some of them are going to have everlasting life this is everlasting life in the sense of its quality of its meaning its reflection of the glory of God it's not just duration I heard dr.

Chris will talk in the other day he said you know I'm glad that God walled off the tree of life who would want to live on forever losing all your teeth getting more and more decrepit getting less and less able to see and hear and yet never being able to die there was a story that somebody dreamed up once about when death took a holiday and he's horribly burned people in fires and things couldn't die and people that had fallen off the buildings and suffered horrible maimings and things couldn't die because death was on holiday and they were saying you know you need to reconcile yourself to the fact that there is a time when death is the best thing for some people and here when people who sleep in the dust of the earth awake to everlasting life it's not just duration its quality everlasting life is a good thing because it has a quality of reward and blessing associated with it it's not just duration and you can see the contrast because some awake to shame and everlasting contempt so life is contrasted with shame and contempt everlasting life everlasting shame and contempt this is the typical Hebraistic way of expressing two poles two opposites so this is life in the sense of acceptance approval fellowship opportunity blessing and reward versus shame contempt being further away being less favored having missed out but it's all written in the book okay well I think we've surveyed the majority of passages in the Word of God that talk about records that are kept in heaven there are records of many sorts some of them as you see here are with regard to deliverance with regard to status in terms of

righteousness or lack thereof the days of our lives our trials and so forth returning now to Revelation chapter 3 we want to get started on the letter to the church at Philadelphia Revelation chapter 3 verse 7 to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write by the way I'm never going to get started on Philadelphia let me say one other thing about our previous letter because it says I will confess his name before my father and before his angels just in passing I hate to let that go without saying something why is it important for your name to be confessed before the angels this goes back to the Garden of Eden this goes back to the reason we have human history and turn with me quickly I want to show you something interesting that I just learned this past week as many times as I have been through Genesis we all have gone through Genesis together all 50 chapters translating and going verse by verse all the way through took us I think three and a half years something like that and I did not see this when we went through but I saw it this week and I want to share it with you and it has to do with with the angels Genesis chapter 3 you remember the story the serpent was more a room more cunning slash naked than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made same word for cunning and naked in this chapter he said to the woman has God indeed said you shall not eat every tree of the garden you know the story she sees that it's good for food pleasant to the eyes desirable to make one wise the threefold temptation is too much he takes and eats gives to her husband with her he eats the eyes of them both were opened and they knew that they were a room the serpent said you will be like God knowing good and evil well they become like somebody but who is a room in this chapter it's not God it's the serpent the serpent is more a room subtle crafty and any beast of the field and this is a Hebrew pun because the word does mean naked in some context and it means crafty and clever in other contexts but when they eat the food and their eyes are open they knew that they were a room and instead of becoming like God they became like the serpent why is that important in our particular discussion today it's important for a lot of reasons of course but they heard the sound of the Lord God the Lord God calls talks to Adam the fig leaf thing is a dismal failure the Lord God curses the serpent he talks to the woman sorrow and conception Adam you heeded the voice of your wife shame on you we should all learn from that curse is a ground for your sake Adam calls his wife's name Eve because he's the mother of all living she wasn't even till after the curse Adam his wife the Lord made tunics of skin you have the first sacrifice they when he said dying now shall die what is the first death that they witnessed it's the death of this animal that dies so that God can take its skin or animals so that God can take their skins and make these full-length tunics rather than the little fig leaf belt that they had made for themselves but look at verse 22 this is what we want to get to then the Lord God said behold the man has become like one of us to know good and evil and now lest he put out his hand and take also the tree of life and eat and live forever and he doesn't even finish the sentence therefore the Lord God sent him out of the Garden of Eden until the ground from which he was taken drove out the man placed the cherubim at the east of the Garden of Eden and the whorling sword turning every which way guarding the way to the tree of life the phrase we want to focus on here is behold the man has become like one of us now this has always puzzled me because the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was put in the midst of the garden right next to the tree of life and the

only commandment that Adam had was don't eat of the tree and of course he managed to break it it reminds me of my little brother when he was a boy if there was a single mud puddle anywhere within a square mile he would find it and fall into it and so here's the one mistake you can make and Adam and Eve make it but God says well man is made in his image and after his likeness but now God says he's become like one of us knowing good and evil well if man was made in the image of God and if God knows good and evil then what was missing that got put in when he ate of the tree I've never understood he's become he sinned and now he's like one of us I couldn't figure that out knowing good and evil I thought well of course God knows everything so he knows good and evil he's become he's become more like God but he's less like God that's always confused me and I'm not sure what all I said when we went through this before but I was wending my way through this for a different study and in verse 22 I translated this once again and let me just give you a literal rendering out of the Hebrew here William or Yahweh means and the Lord said actually the Lord God said it's Yahweh Elohim and Adam and hen means behold Adam the man hi-yah is hi-yah me is like to be or is and then it says cut had cut means like it had means one and then they knew is literally one from us the name the letter M just like the cop there that the K means like the the M that prepositions in Hebrew almost all single letters so you have a cough there like one and then the menu is of us or from us over from it's kind of like a genitive construction but this is another thing why didn't God just say the man has become like us he didn't say the man has become like us he said the man has become like one from us the man has become like one that and the more I looked at this and I got to looking around in the Hebrew scriptures and this is an unusual we don't say one of us in Hebrew this way with a hard hard when you say one that the Lord our God is one the hard one means a specific person he has become like a specific person from us from the heavenly beings the beings that are not man now which one of the heavenly beings has Adam become like we just saw the Arun wordplay earlier who is Adam now like he hasn't become like one of us knowing good and evil he's now more like God he's gotten a higher God like knowledge the one from us is Satan and this is is an amazing discovery for me for a number of reasons because there are people that have have argued about well when did the fall take place and when did you know which came first the chicken or the egg and at what point had Satan fallen and there are people who who argue that well there's a whole lot of implications but suffice it to say it solves the immediate puzzle here of becoming more like God and less like God at the same time when he says he's become like one of us it should not be one of us with a capital U he's not become like one of the deity he's when God says us and then people say well now what did he mean when he said let us make man in our image and after our likeness well that's a separate discussion because people like to see the trinity in that but I think God is addressing a group because human history is a demonstration for the angels Satan had already fallen he had already taken a third of the angels with him and the sentence for that disobedience and rebellion had already been passed the lake of fire was created for the devil and his angels it's already lit but there's been a delay between the and execution of sentence and God in that period of time grace before judgment is teaching the object lesson this is why and among other things not the only reason but one of the reasons we have human history is it is a

demonstration to the angels and that's why throughout scripture you have angelic involvement in human history because they are learning watching us women have authority on their heads because of the angels things into which angels long to look Michael the angel of Israel the prince of Persia and the angelic interaction in human history they this is a hands-on lab demonstration if you will it's a crude way of putting it we are far more valuable to God than lab rats but there is a sense in which human history is a simpler demonstration of the things that took place in the heavenly realms and God talking to the angelic host audience here when he says after creating the earth and he says now let us make man in our image and after our likeness you can see in that what you will the either like you know having an essence that's above the animals like all of the higher creation like himself it says he made God in his own image and after his likeness I think the angels are created in God's image and after his likeness they're perfect or they started out perfect just like we did and if he's talking to the unfallen angels and he says in our image and after our likeness if they're made in the image of God as we are then he can say our image because it's all the same image right so either way you're talking about deity but you can include the angelic hosts that's why when God laid the foundations of the world the stars sang together and the sons of God shouted for joy why are they why are the angels called sons of God the beneha Elohim in several places the psalms in Genesis 6 because the unfallen angels are like father like son in the image of God they reflect this glory you think the cherubim and the seraphim do not reflect and show forth the glory of God they do they're the flaming reflection of his glory so this has been something of a puzzle to me and it didn't strike me sometimes you just have to come back after you've away for a while and look at something fresh and you see something you didn't see before and it's very clear in Hebrew when he says like one from us and the reason I think people hesitate to put this in commentaries and things even though I think it's obvious to anybody who knows Hebrew is because this of this entanglement with the deity people don't want to mess with seeing the trinity let us make man in our image and if you say let us back in the creation of man then he has become like one of us they want to see the same deity and they don't want to say well that's a different us and hence the hesitation because I always ask myself well if this seems so blaringly obvious to me why hasn't somebody before me written about it or put it in an article or something but you know that we were talking on the break Dan and I were talking about how in Hebrew you're just dealing with an eastern and an oriental mindset rather than a western latin scientific mindset and this isn't the kind of problem in a in an ancient near eastern mind that it that it is in a in a American theologian mind or a German or an English theologian mind they just don't use scientific exactitude and hold you to a single image all the way through and once you've used a word for something you can never use it for anything else but it's it makes sense here that there is one and you and it's in the context disregarding everything else I've said look at the context Arum the serpent is Arum more than any other beast of the field this is the one characteristic you have the serpent doesn't describe it in any way except it says he's Arum he's subtle more than any beast of the field and as soon as Adam and Eve eat the fruit their eyes are open and what's the first thing they discover they are Arum they are like the serpent and then God in the immediately following context says behold the man has become like one from us

well who's from us it's Satan he's the one he's the fallen one he is the son of darkness so I say all of that to say if your name is confessed before the angels why would you do that why is that a part of the of the reward for that church because what we do in this life is not just for our benefit and God's glory is not just reflected to human beings God's character and God's plan and purpose his precision and justice and righteousness and his compassion and love and his faithfulness and the manifestation of himself in the person of Jesus Christ is all an outworking before the angels why would somebody care if their name is confessed before the angels well they will care if they care about God's plan because God's plan is to teach angelic creation about himself through mankind and you are fulfilling one of the highest purposes of God when your life is an object lesson for the angels when you have been faithful in a way the fallen angels were not where you have trusted the fallen angels could all see God and God says look these puny human beings made lower than the angels I'm going to crown them with glory and honor because there I bless them when because they trusted when they could not see they didn't know what was going to happen Jesus told Thomas you stuck your finger in the holes and you believe blessed are those who not having seen believe and that's the essence of this life to trust what we cannot see faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen and what does it mean to have your name confessed before the angels reread that letter be faithful strengthen the things that remain and I'll confess your name before the angels you will have accomplished your purpose you will fulfill your calling your your destiny people like to talk about destiny well that is a genuine divine destiny and it's no small thing to have your name confessed not only before the father you can't get any better than that but before the angels God's going to turn to those same angelic hosts that watched creation the same angelic hosts that he addressed when man first fell and he's going to say you remember when I told you man had fallen like the fallen one well look at this look at this one here this one started out in a fallen condition and trusted in what he could not see laid claim to the grace of Jesus Christ and I want you to know his name because I'm elevating him I'm going to put him in a position of honor he's going to reflect my glory just like one of you angels for all eternity it's a it's a mind-boggling thought okay now we can go forward to Philadelphia I'm all done Genesis chapter three a revelation chapter three one of the other ends of the bible I don't care which go to either one both chapter threes are good the angel of the church in Philadelphia you're right these things says he who is holy he who is true he who has the key of David now I ask you what on earth is the key of David and if we're not in the age of Israel why are we talking about key of David anyway what's David got to do with the church he who opens and no one shuts and shuts and no one opens I know your works see I have set before you an open door in the same way that we've seen other themes like the theme of the name weaving through a letter here the theme of the door is weaving through the letter I've set before you an open door and no one can shut it for you have a little strength the word little here is micron that's where we get micro like microscope you have microscopic strength you have you have remember Jesus said if you just had the grain of a mustard seed of faith well he says here you know what you've got it you've got the mustard seed you've got the micron faith you've got the micron strength and that's enough that's all I ask of you is a micron a micron of strength

you've kept my word and have not denied my name we've talked about this denying it's not just verbal is it it's our lifestyle do we confess Christ in our priorities our goals our values you've not denied my name indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews and are not but lie I will make them come and worship before your feet do you see now why we spent some time on those who are raised to shame and everlasting contempt because those Jews of that first generation who persecuted the Christians who tried to drag them back under the law who tried to get them into legalism the synagogue of Satan are Jewish Christians who are foisting legalism and religion and righteousness by works on believers who are trying to grow in grace notice I will make them come and worship before your feet now if these people are all dead the original recipients of this letter are dead how on earth are these people ever going to worship at their feet it did not happen historically I promise you these people all died and none of the Jews in the synagogue of Satan ever went and worshiped at the feet of any of these Philadelphian Christians so how can this possibly happen if they're unbelievers in the synagogue of Satan they won't be raised to the great white throne is God going to say well now wait a minute just before I toss you into the lake I want you to come over here and prostrate yourself in front of these Christians then I'll kick you in it's no record of that they are raised they are some of those in Daniel who are raised to shame and contempt they will worship before your feet and they will know that I have loved you this is Jacob have I loved Esau have I hated type of love this has benefited you I have blessed you I have favored you I have honored you because you honored me because you have kept my command to persevere I will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world to test those who dwell on the earth behold I'm coming quickly hold fast what you have that no one may take your crown notice if you don't hold fast to what you have someone will take your crown it is a losable crown he who overcomes I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God he shall go out no more I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God the new Jerusalem which comes down out of heaven from my God and I will write on him my new name well these are some wonderful blessings we won't have time to look at all of them this evening but I want to look at one I want to go back up here these things says and we've seen that the way Jesus identifies himself is very significant to the import and the understanding of the letter right here he doesn't say I'm the one with the eyes of the flame of fire and the feet of shiny brass he who is holy he who is true this word holy is hagas this is the word in its noun form that is translated saint he who is true aliphenos these two words are not used of Christ very often the prayer of the saints under the altar later on in revelation if you look they address God as the holy and true one but Jesus combines these of himself he says he was holy he who is true he who has the key of David who opens and no one shuts and shuts and no one opens well you puzzle over this for a little while and then you realize that this is an old testament allusion turn with me quickly to Isaiah chapter 22 Isaiah chapter 22 very quickly to sketch in the background here you have the king you have two stewards in his household you have Shebna the scribe and you have Hilkiah the head of the household and Shebna is a bad guy he has an equal opportunity as Hilkiah but he is carving out his own little empire remember when we talked about the master who delayed his coming and his servant began to eat and to

drink and get drunk and to beat his fellow servants he started acting like he owned the household and didn't recognize that he was a servant and that he ought to be living for his master this is what Shebna does exactly look at this verse 15 of Isaiah 22 thus says the Lord God of hosts come go to this steward to Shebna who is in charge of the royal household and say what right do you have here whom do you have here that you have hewn a tomb for yourself you go to the steward you go to Shebna and you say what have you here whom have you here that you have hewn out your own sepulcher and you have hewn a sepulcher on high this was the place of the privilege these are where the masters got their you know like Nicodemus the expensive part of town the expensive part of the cemetery this is where you get your memorial and your name and your fame you are going to be remembered after you're gone with a big ornate tombstone that's what we would do today you'd have a mausoleum with your name and blazing on it and a big statue on top as he who used himself a sepulcher on high who carves a tomb for himself in a rock indeed you think you're going to be memorialized and remembered long after you're gone the Lord will throw you away violently oh mighty man he will seize you he will turn violently and toss you like a ball if you read this literally in Hebrew it says he's going to roll you up he's going to twist you up he's going to wide you up like a piece of paper he's going to twist you up like a ball and he's going to roll you he's going to bounce you into a far land into a large country there you will die and there are your glorious chariots see he's a he's a steward in the house but he's gotten a little retinue for himself he's got a little little limousine type of thing that he rides around in and he's got his honor and his standing and he sort of gloats as he goes through town your chariots glorious chariots will be the shame of your master's house so i will drive you out of your office and from your position he will pull you down now before we go any further there are so many places in Isaiah and Ezekiel where human situations and human personages reflect and echo heavenly goings-on you remember the king of Tyre Isaiah 14 Ezekiel 28 well this is another of those overtone passages and Shebna is the steward remember Lucifer guardian of the throne room of God walked among the stones of fire but he got full of himself and God said i will drag you down to Sheol same thing with Shebna and he's replaced by someone who will reflect the glory of God and in the human perspective the Lord Jesus Christ comes and reflects God's glory will be in that day i will call my servant Elakim the son of Hilkiah i will close him with your robe and strengthen him with your belt i will commit your responsibility into his hand he will be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem into the house of Judah the key of the house of David i will lay on his shoulder so he shall open and no one shall shut he shall shut and no one shall open i will fasten him as a peg in a secure place he will become a glorious throne to his father's house now Hilkiah is a name like all Hebrew names that means something and in Hebrew Hilkiah means my portion is the Lord the Lord lifts up the Lord raises up you have two ideas here you have Hilkiah and you have his father's name given and Hilkiah is the secure peg that is raised up and God is going to hang his glory on that peg as it were and the uh i'm sorry Elakim is the one God raises up as Elakim Hilkiah means God is my portion God is my allotment God is my inheritance and there's a beautiful picture here in these two names of God raising up someone and hanging his glory on them like a peg and there is inheritance associated with it that's what Hilkiah means my portion is the Lord my inheritance is

the lord so that's what is being alluded to in the letter to the philadelphians jesus says i have the key of david i open and no one shuts he is the one that is foreshadowed by elakim the son of hilkiah and god is going to hang his eternal glory on that peg and there is inheritance associated with it well that's all we have time to look at tonight we'll resume our study of this letter next time but if nothing else don't we have a tremendous opportunity has god not opened a tremendous door in front of us for blessing and reward an opportunity to be of service and be useful to the master not only now but in the in the ages to come it's a wonderful potential that each of us has it's all available god's power accomplishes it if we just reach out and seize it let's close in prayer father we do thank you for your unimaginably great grace and faithfulness to us we pray that god the holy spirit will impress these truths on our hearts and teach us and remind us so that we can live in a way that reflects your glory and accomplishes your purpose we pray it in jesus name amen