

"Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive for ever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades."



Revelation 1:17b-18

Jesus is the one who opens doors and shuts doors (v7b)

- May relate to v9 – being kept out of the synagogue in the city
- Speaks to God's ability to open and shut doors in our lives
- Ultimately we trust in him



2. The Divine Knowledge

"I know your works" (v8)

- A commendation is given to the church for their faithful service (v10)
- "your patient endurance" – you have not denied me (v8)



An 'open door' will be given to them:

- an open door of opportunity/ of ministry even though they are seen as weak by the broader community – 'you have but little power'
- God knows the heart & evaluates differently than the world does



"they will learn that I have loved you" (v9b)

- Those who deny me will see that you are vindicated
- So we have the assurance that Christ loves us now and forever



"Christ will keep us" (v10)

- The world will experience its conflagrations but God will keep us through it all
- Christ is coming soon (v11) so keep trusting in his ultimate protection



3. God's promise to His Church

"If you conquer, I will make you a pillar in the temple of God" (v12)

- A call to 'patient endurance'



A Pillar

- Stands for security
- Spoken to a world of regular earthquakes
- God's provision, stability, permanence



Three-Fold Inscription

- Christ writes the name of God on us – we belong to God
- Christ writes the name of God's city on us – we have citizenship in God's kingdom

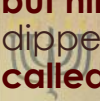


- Christ writes upon us his new name – we are closely related to Christ



Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse! Its rider is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems; **and he has a name inscribed that no one knows but himself.** He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, **and his name is called The Word of God.**

Revelation 19:11-13



4. The Call to Hear

"Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches." (v13)

- Speaks to the quality of our listening – listen & act
- Pay attention to his words – not selective listening
- Not distracted living but focused on what is central



Einstein's Formula

$$E = mc^2$$

- E is energy
- m is mass
- c^2 is 2 times the speed of light



- Our world focuses on mass
– the reality of stuff
- God/Jesus focuses on the world of energy
- God's provision of energy
– to feed the 5,000, to turn water into wine, to give us the gift of eternal life

