

“Philadelphia: The Obedient Church”

Revelation 3:7-13

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1. **The Congregation: the Church in Philadelphia (3:7)**
“And to the messenger of the church in Philadelphia write...”

2. **The Proclamation: persecution and justice (3:8-9)**

“you...did not deny My name”

“I will give you [some]...of the Jews”

3. The Commendation: perseverance and protection (3:4)

*"Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world to test *the ones dwelling on the earth [**earth-dwellers**]"*

"for then there will be a great tribulation, such as not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall" (Matthew 24:21)

"And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued" (Daniel 12:1)

"These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation" (Revelation 7:14)

4. The Invitation: eternal worship, citizenship, and ownership (3:12-13)

"I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God"

"I will write upon him...the name of the city of My God...and My new name"

* The identity of "earth-dwellers" in Revelation

John says in 3:10 God will use the tribulation to test or punish "earth-dwellers." "Earth-dwellers" is a technical reference taken from Hosea 4:1 (LXX) where it refers to the enemies of God. Revelation uses this phrase 11 times and always in reference to those who hate Christ and who worship Satan and the anti-Christ.

*"O Lord...avenge our blood on **earth-dwellers**" (6:10)*

*"Woe, woe, woe to **earth-dwellers**" (8:13)*

*"**earth-dwellers** will rejoice over [the dead bodies] of the two prophets" (11:10)*

*"the two prophets tormented the **earth-dwellers**" (11:10)*

*"And all **earth-dwellers** worship [the beast]" (13:8)*

*"**earth-dwellers** worship the first beast" (13:12)*

*"another beast...deceives **earth-dwellers**" (13:14)*

*"**earth-dwellers** make an image to the beast (13:14)*

*"**earth-dwellers** were made drunk with...her immorality (17:2)*

*"**earth-dwellers**...name has not been written in the book of life" (17:8)*