

The Revelation

Chapter 3:7-13

Christ Church

Fall 2026



Asia Minor

• Pergamum

• Thyatira

• Smyrna

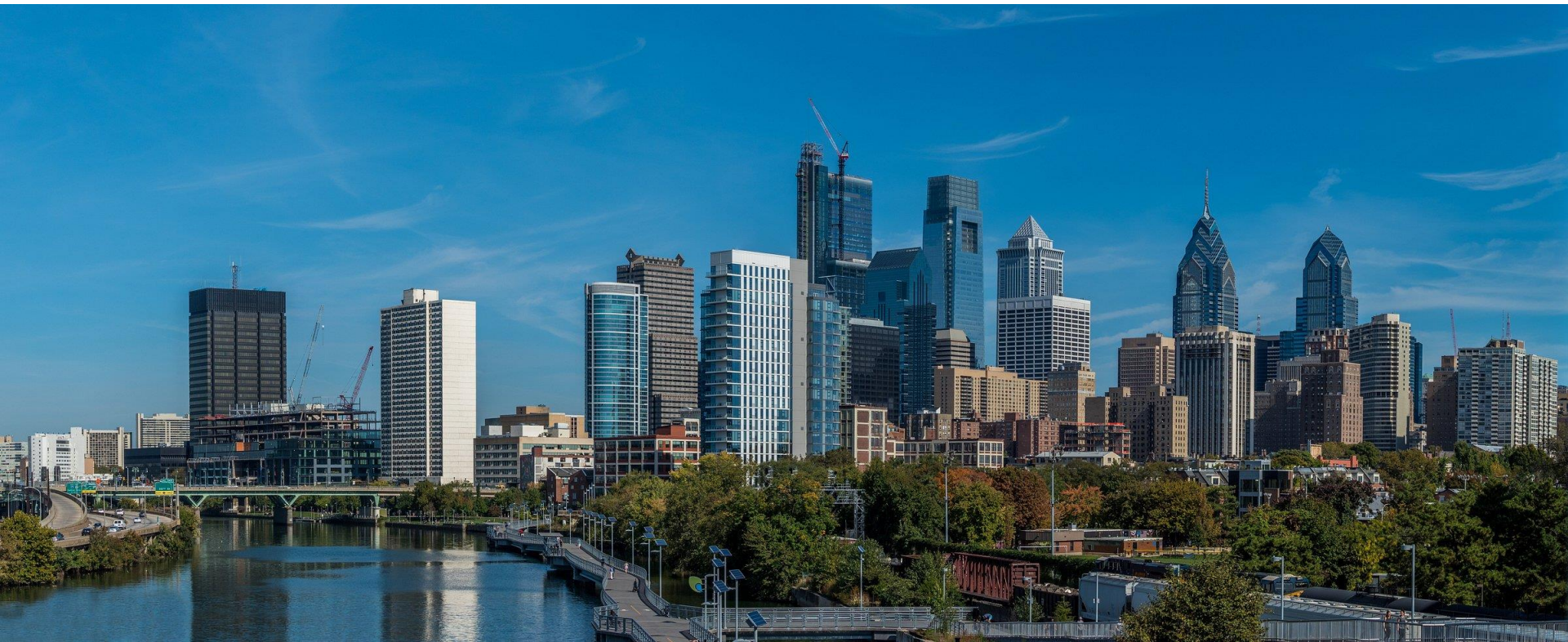
• Sardis

• Philadelphia

• Ephesus

• Laodicea

• Island of Patmos





Eumenes II



Attalus II







- Philadelphia was located about 28 miles from Sardis. It was located in that fertile valley and on the banks of the Cogamus River
- The area was also located in a dangerously volcanic region

- In AD 17 it was leveled by an earthquake. It was rebuilt by the funding of Caesar Tiberius, and they renamed the city “*Neocaesarea*”. When Nero took the throne, he restored the former name. During the reign of Caesar Vespasian (AD 70-79) it was called “*Flavia*”
- **What does this do with the dating of the writing of Revelation?**

- The letter to Philadelphia is almost completely filled with commendation
- Sardis, as you'll recall, was almost filled with censure, reprimand, denunciation

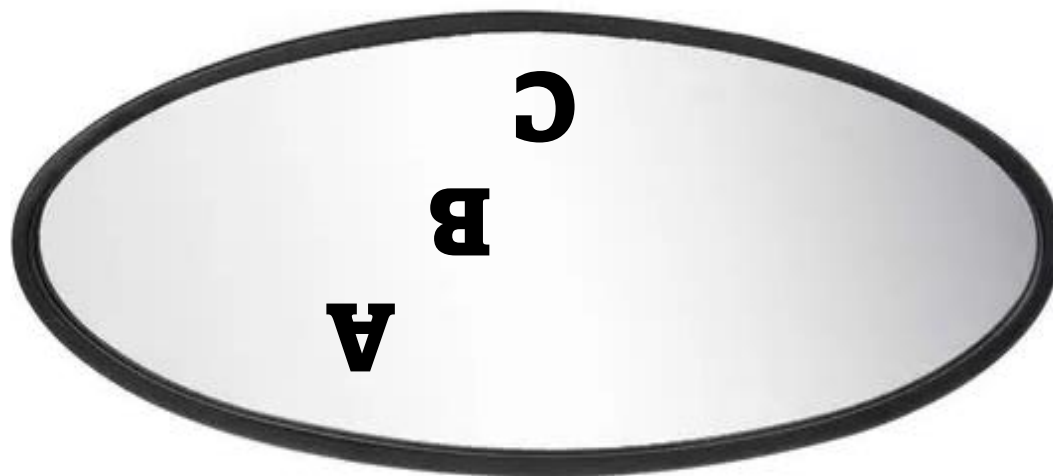
- A. Ephesus – no strengths
- B. Smyrna – faithful
- C. Pergamum – unfaithful (w/ some)
- D. Thyatira – worst unfaithfulness
- C'. Sardis – unfaithful (w/ some)
- B'. Philadelphia – faithful
- A'. Laodicea – no strengths

A

B

C

D



C

B

A

- The language of this epistle is from the **Restoration Period** of Israel. Think Ezra, Nehemiah, and “Crisis C” in Isaiah

- “**key of David**” (v. 7) – like Eliakim in Isaiah 22:20-25
- “**opens**”, “**open door**” (vv. 7, 8) – like Cyrus in Isaiah 45:1
- “**little strength**” (v. 8) – there were about 40,000 Jews that returned to Jerusalem. See Nehemiah 7:66

- **“synagogue of Satan, who claimed to be Jews”** – Check out the false Jews in Ezra 4, Nehemiah 4, 6, 13
- **“bow down at your feet”** – Isaiah 60:14, like Haman in Esther 6, 7
- **“pillar in temple”, “new Jerusalem”** – again refer to rebuilding of the city under Nehemiah and the temple under Ezra

- **Salutation – v. 7**

- Commendation

- Accusation

- Admonition

- Exhortation

- Declaration

- Jesus uses a triple designation (think Trinity)
 - ‘holy’
 - ‘true’
 - ‘keys of David’
- Jesus is the Holy One (see II Kings 19:22; Job 6:10; Psalm 78:41; 89:18; Proverbs 9:10; 30:3; Isaiah 1:4; 5:19, 24)

- Salutation
- **Commendation – vv.8**
- Accusation
- Admonition
- Exhortation
- Declaration

- ‘**Doors**’ in the Bible often symbolize *opportunity*
- Read John 10:7-10
- Doors are opportunities of *salvation*
 - Matthew 7:13, 14; also think of bloody doors of Passover
- Doors are also opportunities of *service*
 - Read Acts 14:27; I Corinthians 16:9; II Corinthians 2:12; Colossians 4:3, 4

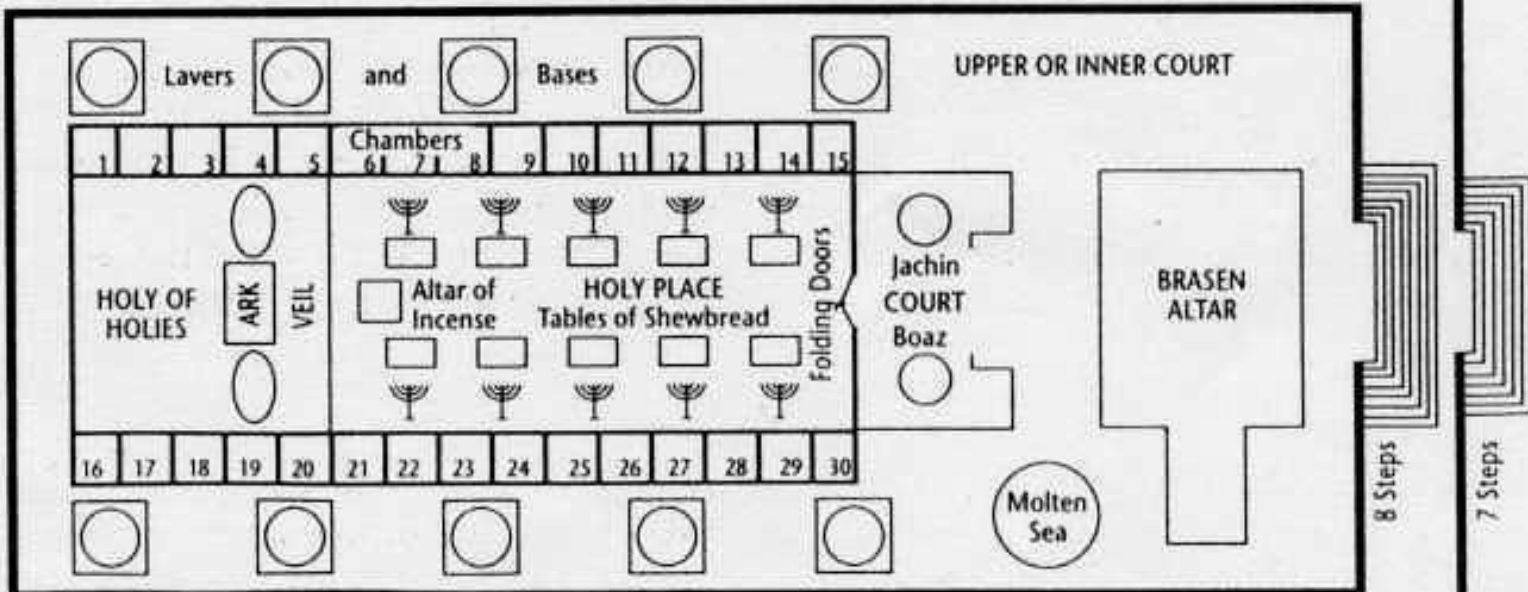
- In the *Tabernacle* all the furniture was described in detail
- In *Solomon's Temple* the furniture is not described, rather the building itself – e.g. the gold covered walls
- In *Ezekiel's Temple* – elaborate, complicated doors and guard posts

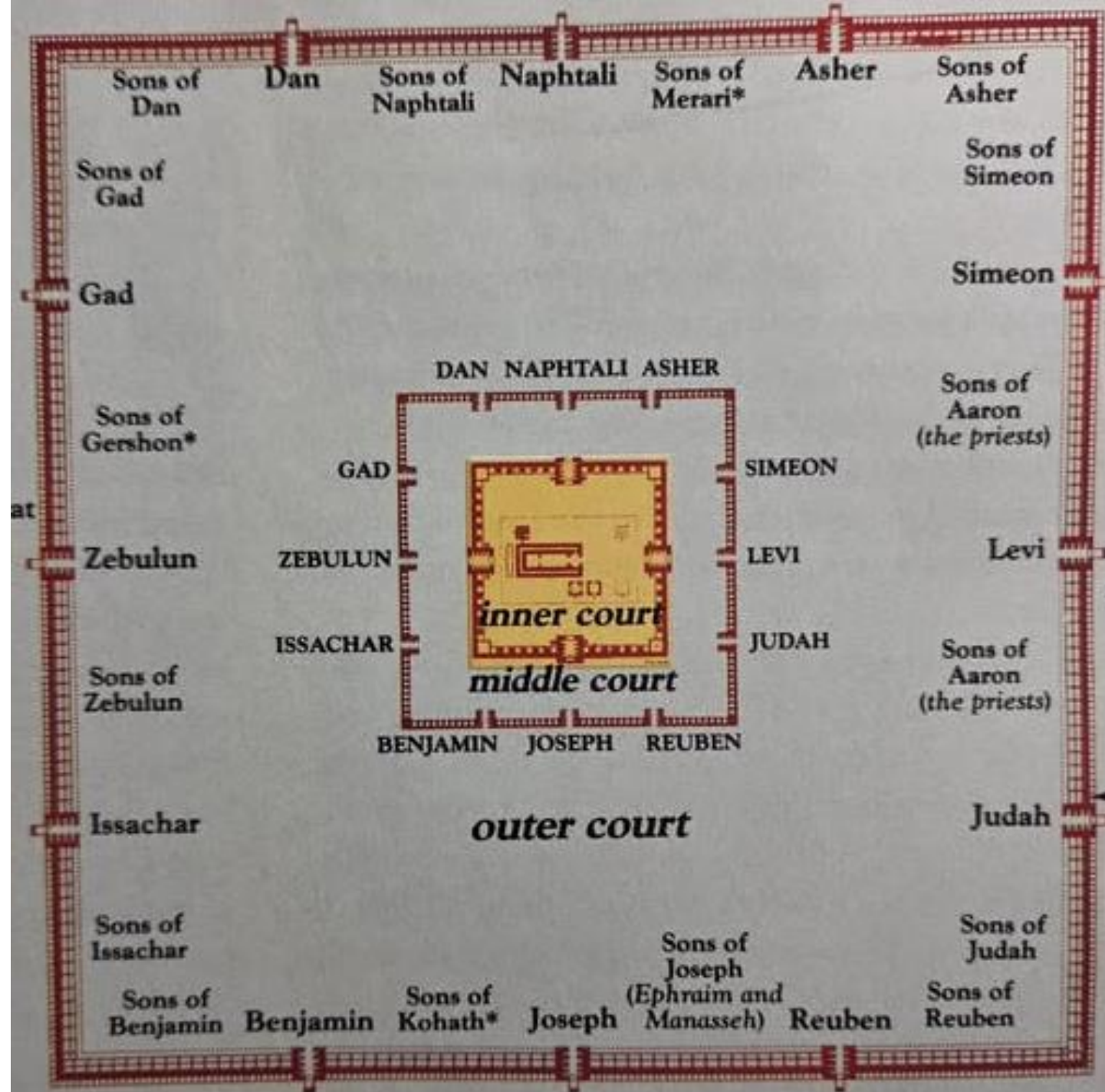


- ‘**doors**’ are a major part of Ezekiel’s vision of the Restoration stage
 - The words ‘**gate**’ and ‘**door**’ are used 92 times in Ezekiel 40-48
- The Restoration will be the time of greater *access* to God and greater importance of *holiness*

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

GREAT COURT OR OUTER COURT





- For a significant tie-in see Revelation 3:20 and then Revelation 4:1



- **“little strength”** – perhaps the Philadelphia church was small, or made up of the lower classes of Roman society
- They were opposed by apostate Jews, like Smyrna (cf. Revelation 2:9; 3:9). Like the blind man in John 9 they had been put out of the synagogue...shut the door



- Salutation
- Commendation
- **Accusation - none**
- Admonition
- Exhortation
- Declaration

- Salutation
- Commendation
- Accusation
- **Admonition – also none**
- Exhortation
- Declaration

- Salutation
- Commendation
- Accusation
- Admonition
- **Exhortation – v. 10**
- Declaration

- **“endure patiently”** – notice they not raptured out of the testing that was coming
- **“I will keep you from the hour of trial”** the description points to the coming tribulation. Jesus promises He will keep them from falling (see Jude 24)

- “Does it make sense that Christ would promise the church in Philadelphia protection from something that would happen thousands of years later? “Be of good cheer, you faithful, suffering Christians of first-century Asia Minor: I won’t let those Soviet missiles and Killer Bees of the 20th century get you” Chilton, p. 129



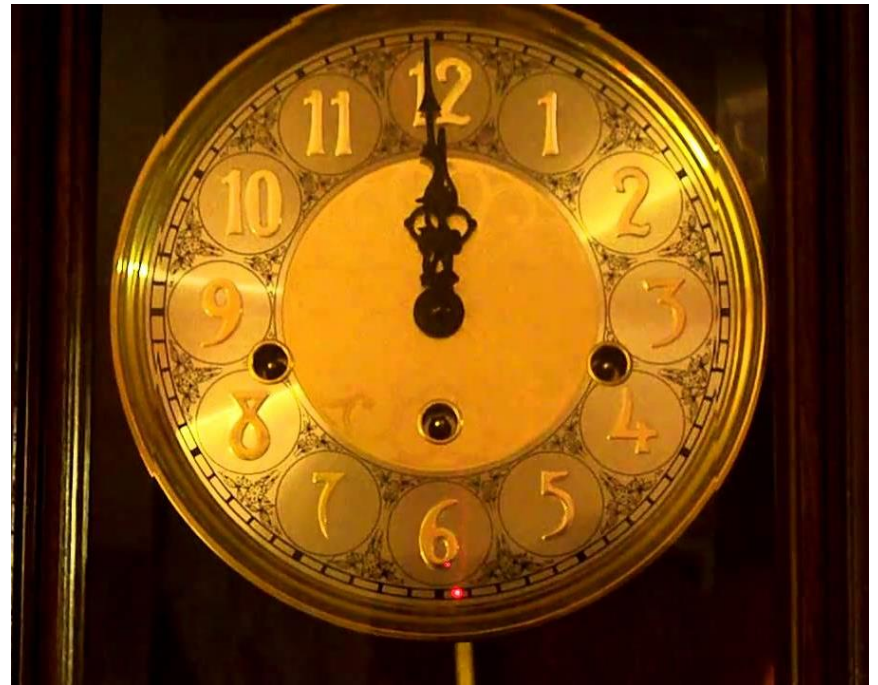
- **“Those who live on the earth”** is better translated as **‘...live on the Land’**
 - That expression is used 12 times in Revelation (one for each of the tribes)
 - It refers to apostate Israel – 3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10 (twice); 13:8, 12, 14 (twice); 14:6; 17:2, 8
 - It is used in the OT for rebellious, idolatrous Israel about to be judged – Jeremiah 1:14; 10:18; Ezekiel 7:7; 36:17; Hosea 4:1, 3; Joel 1:2, 14; 2:1; Zephaniah 1:8

- Its original use was for pagan, Gentile nations about to be judged – Numbers 32:17; 33:52, 55; Joshua 7:9; 9:24; Judges 1:32; II Samuel 5:6; I Chronicles 11:4; 22:18; Nehemiah 9:24
- **What does this suggest to you?**
What has Israel become?
 - It is a nation of pagans
 - And is about to be destroyed

- Also understand that the word is not ‘**world**’ it’s that word we’ve come across before – “*oikoumene*”
 - It was set up in Daniel
 - The *oikoumene* was ruled by Babylon, then Persia, then Greece, and now by Rome
 - In this ‘**world**’ the Jews live
 - The entire Roman empire is going to be judged, be thrown into massive convulsions with the Jews

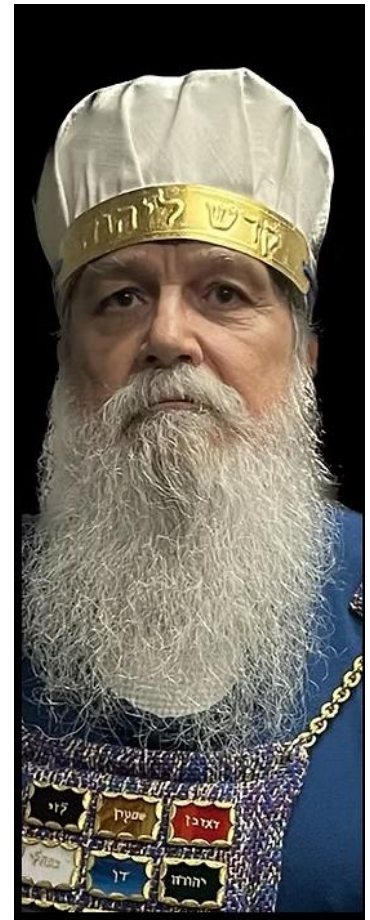
- Salutation
- Commendation
- Accusation
- Admonition
- Exhortation
- **Declaration – vv. 11-13**

- In v. 11 we get another ‘time indicator’
 - “**I am coming soon**” – Recall that we set the date for the writing of Revelation at AD 65
 - Which is ‘**soon**’ to AD 65?
 - AD 70
 - AD 95
 - AD 2026+



- v. 12 “**pillar**” “If we renounce in this life the way of ease, we shall in the next life, in God’s temple, which is in heaven, be made pillars, stable, immovable, secure, ...” Stott, p. 113
- Immovable - in contrast to the earthquake prone Philadelphia
- See Jeremiah 1:18; I Timothy 3:15
- Also check out Galatians 2:9

- Note that '**name**' is mentioned 3x's.
God writes His name on his property
- While the Temple and synagogues are erasing the names of the Jewish Christians, the Lord is monogramming them



- A look-back to 3:1 shows that '**name**' = 'reputation'
- In v. 13 we get the identical ending as in the other letters (2:7, 11, 29; 3:6, 13, 22) Since Jesus is speaking these words, He is equating His words with those of The Holy Spirit