

In-House Wednesday Night Bible Study, 6:00 PM

“FOUNDATIONS FOR THE STUDY OF PROPHECY” REVELATION CHAPTER 3

16 September, 2026

Symbolism Found in the Book of Revelation

The Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ discloses the triumph of Christianity over all enemies. It is filled with encouragement, admonition, and consolation; a final and eternal victory over all enemies. We need to study this book for encouragement in the faith and hope of the Christian and find comfort in times of suffering and discouragement.

Epistles to the Churches in Asia are complete with warnings and encouragements. These churches were in such different states as to purity of doctrine and the power of godliness, that the words of Christ to them will always suit the cases of other churches, and professors. Christ knows and observes their state; though in heaven, yet he walks in the midst of his churches on earth, observing what is wrong in them, and what they want.

The following are the meaning of terms and imagery we will find in chapter 3 which will be helpful in your study of the book of Revelation.

1. **Him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars** - This refers to Jesus Christ, who possesses the fullness of the Holy Spirit (the seven spirits) and authority over the churches (the seven stars).
2. **Seven Spirits of God** - Symbolic of the complete and perfect Spirit of God, representing the fullness of the Holy Spirit.
3. **Seven Stars** - These represent the angels or leaders of the seven churches, indicating Christ's authority and care over them.
4. **The Thief** - A metaphor used by Jesus to describe His unexpected coming, emphasizing the need for vigilance.
5. **White Garments** - Symbolic of purity, victory, and righteousness. In the context of Revelation, white garments often represent the redeemed and those who have remained faithful to Christ.
6. **The One Who is Victorious** - Refers to believers who overcome spiritual challenges and remain faithful to Christ.
7. **The Book of Life** - A heavenly record of those who have eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.
8. **The Key of David** - Symbolizes authority and control, particularly over the kingdom of God. It is a reference to Isaiah 22:22, where the key represents authority given to Eliakim.
9. **Synagogue of Satan** - This term refers to a group of people who claim to be Jews but are not true followers of God. They are described as liars and are opposed to the

Christian believers in Philadelphia.

10. **Crown** - Symbolic of victory and reward. In the context of Revelation, it represents the eternal reward for faithfulness and perseverance in the Christian life.

Chapter 3 of John's Revelation teaches many important points for spiritual living such as:

Eternal Security - Being made a pillar in God's temple signifies permanence and stability. Believers can find assurance in their eternal place with God, free from the fear of separation.

Identity in Christ - The writing of God's name, the New Jerusalem, and Jesus' new name on the believer signifies a profound transformation and belonging. Christians are called to live out their new identity in Christ. The promise of the New Jerusalem provides hope and motivation for believers to live with an eternal perspective, focusing on the future fulfillment of God's promises.

Spiritual Discernment - The phrase "He who has an ear, let him hear" calls for active listening and spiritual discernment. Believers are encouraged to be attentive to the Holy Spirit's guidance. Believers are called to discern truth from falsehood. We must be vigilant in recognizing those who claim to be of God but do not bear the fruits of true faith.

Responsibility to Respond - Hearing implies a responsibility to respond. Believers are called to not only hear but also act upon the Spirit's message.

Role of the Holy Spirit - The Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in communicating God's truth. Believers should seek the Spirit's guidance in understanding and applying

Faithfulness in Weakness - This teaches us that God values our faithfulness over our strength or resources.

Divine Opportunities - The "open door" signifies opportunities that God provides. We should be attentive and ready to walk through these doors in obedience and faith.

Endurance in Trials - The church in Philadelphia faced opposition, yet they remained faithful. We are encouraged to endure trials and opposition, knowing that God sees and will reward our faithfulness. The church did not deny Christ's name despite challenges. We are called to stand firm in our faith, even when faced with adversity.

True Identity in Christ - Our identity should be rooted in Christ, not in outward claims or appearances. True faith is demonstrated through spiritual transformation and obedience to God.

Living as Overcomers - Christians are called to live as overcomers, holding fast to their faith and testimony in anticipation of Christ's return.

Imminence of Christ's Return - Believers should live with the expectation that Jesus could return at any moment, influencing their daily decisions and priorities.

Value of Eternal Rewards - The "crown" symbolizes eternal rewards that far surpass any earthly achievements. Christians are encouraged to focus on these eternal promises.

Guarding Against Spiritual Complacency - The warning to ensure "no one will take your crown" implies the need for vigilance against spiritual complacency and deception.