

What Is
the Key of David?



by Robert Curry

The Key of David: It's Personal

Our keys are so crucial to our lives. I can feel when my keys are missing from my pocket! I always want the keys of Robert back ASAP.



A key is about three elements:

1. **Access**—say, to a house or car
2. **Authority**—who is authorized to live in the house or drive the car
3. **Government**—who governs the use of the house or car

These days I find myself often reading the book of Revelation, and for a long time I keep noticing a special phrase in Rev. 3:7: **the key of David**.

What key would David have? An ignition key for his chariot? I picture his palace being guarded by big eunuchs or mighty men of valor!

So what is the key of David?

Who has it? Does it involve us personally?



One meaning of the word "key" is important, significant. After he slew Goliath, David became a giant persona in the Bible.

What key aspects is David known for?

- ◆ "A man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do" (Acts 13:22) *New Living Translation*).
- ◆ Stellar example of loyalty—to God and King Saul. David did not wipe out Saul even when he had him indisposed in the cave. He left it up to God to close the door on Saul's reign and open the door for his. Sounds just like Rev. 3:7! Jesus Christ opens and shuts doors!
- ◆ David's biggest plus: he was quick to repent and he really repented, not to do it again.

- ◆ Prayed evening, morning and noon (Psa. 55:17).
- ◆ At Las Animas High School, we had a Key Club sponsored by the Kiwanis. It was a service club. David ruled for 40 years. His key mantra was "He who rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God" (2 Sam. 23:3).

All these aspects about David are key ones that we should apply to our lives. Rev. 3:7 is talking about the keys of David, not Moses or Daniel.

But an important aspect of studying the Bible is context

Rev. 3:7 is in **red** because it's the words of Jesus Christ. He is the holy one who is true. He has all the qualities David had except for the repent part because He was sinless and didn't have anything to repent of!

Especially notice. **Jesus has the key of David.** The focus is on Jesus, not David. Jesus opens and no one shuts. Jesus shuts and no one opens. All glory goes to Jesus Christ!

Next, it's crucial to pay attention to whom Jesus Christ is talking to about the key of David: the Philadelphia era of the Church of God. I have been a member of this era for 49 years so far. Early on I heard a lot about the key of David. In passing years I haven't and realize I needed to restudy and learn more!

It's personal!

Jesus Has the Key of David for Doing His Work

It's significant that Jesus Christ shares this information in His section to the Philadelphia era of His Church. This era is the spiritual body of believers who know we have a Work to do collectively and individually.



A foundational principle of the Philadelphia era is that we will only grow to the extent that we have our hearts in the Work of God rather than just trying to save our own skin (Matt. 16:25).

A psalm for the Sabbath day, probably penned by David since he is credited when no specific name is given, says “For You, Lord, have made me glad through your Work; I will triumph in the works of your hands” (Psa. 92:4).

A key part of the Philadelphia commission: “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matt. 24:14).

One special understanding

Jesus Christ gave His Philadelphia era about the key of David for doing His Work is the knowledge about the 12 tribes of Israel and God's promise of unconditional dynasty to David so that his throne would exist at the end and be claimed by the returning King of Kings.



Jesus Christ has the key of David in that He is the son of David (Matt. 1:1),

the root of Jesse (Isa. 11:10), the Branch (v. 1), the House of David of the royal line of David (Isa. 9:7), and He will claim and establish David's throne when He rules in Jerusalem. He will rule justly over men, in the fear of God (2 Sam. 23:3), just as David will when he is resurrected and made King over the 12 tribes of Israel to start the Millennium (Ezek. 37:24).

You cannot rightly understand prophecy without this key of David. This key opens eyes!

I recommend a free book you can read or download online or request a free mailed copy (<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/the-united-states-and-britain-in-bible-prophecy>).



And I recommend you read “The Throne of Britain—Its Biblical Origin & Future” by Tom Robinson (<https://www.ucg.org/files/collection/the-throne-of-britain-its-biblical-origin-and-future.pdf>). No wonder the world is so fascinated by “The Crown” on Netflix and by the wedding on May 19, 2018 of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle!

The second special understanding

Jesus Christ gave His Philadelphia era about the key of David for doing His Work is that we must look to Him collectively and individually to open and close doors to fulfill His great commission.

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All **authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always, even to the end of the age**” (Matt. 28:18-20).

Did you catch that: authority! And Jesus is loyal like David was renowned for.

New Testament Christians knew they needed the Head of the Church to open

doors. And they knew they needed to be praying like David (Psa. 55:17).

◆ Paul asked for prayers that he might speak boldly (Eph. 6:19). Paul asked for prayers with thanksgiving “that God would open to us a door for the word” (Col. 4:3).



◆ After being bullied by the Sanhedrin,

Peter and John asked the Lord, “look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak your word” (Acts 4:29).

◆ God can also direct by closing doors that no man can open! Paul and Timothy were blocked by the Holy Spirit from going into Bithynia and were directed to Macedonia (Acts 16:6-10).

◆ For those not robbing God regarding tithes and offerings, He promises “prove Me now in this ... if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it” (Mal. 3:8-10).

◆ We can ask God to open a door for us individually—for our part in fulfilling His great commission. Like Maria’s superior’s comment in *The Sound of Music*: “If God closes a door, He always opens a window somewhere!”

So Jesus Christ gave His Philadelphia era two special keys of David. He knows we have only a little strength, have kept His word, and have not denied His name (Rev. 3:8).

But a huge key to Bible study is:

Let the Bible interpret the Bible

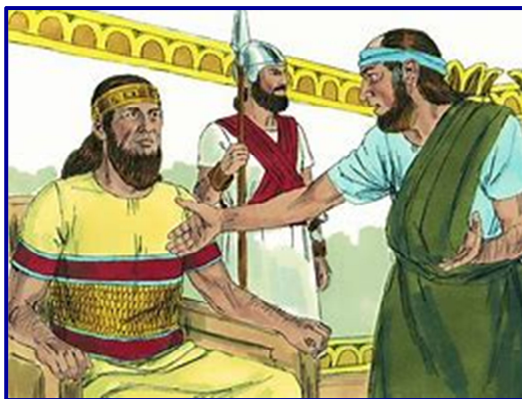
No private interpretation! (2 Pet. 1:20). Not yours. Not mine either! But it is exciting! It is personal!

The Key of David Opens Eternal Life into the Kingdom

Rev. 3:7 about Jesus opens and shuts is a remez pointing readers back to Isa. 22:22.

In Isa. 22:5, “a day of trouble and treading down and perplexity” dates this prophecy to the period between 703 and 701 B.C. when King Hezekiah of Judah, a direct descendant of David, was preparing for war with the invading Sennacherib of Assyria.

V. 15 says Shebna is Hezekiah’s steward—like a prime minister or chief of staff—“over the house.” Shebna had the **authority** to control who had **access** to the **government**—who would get to see King Hezekiah and who wouldn’t.



In v. 16 Shebna is faulted for making a tomb “on high.” Archeologists have found remains of a tomb with Hebrew script from Hezekiah’s time that was fully visible across from Jerusalem. Now in the British Museum, the fragment belonged to a person who was “over the house.” The name on the fragment is partially destroyed and has the common Hebrew ending ‘yahu,’ meaning God—like Benjamin Netanyahu today. Many scholars think Shebna is a short form of the name Shebanyahu, and this fragment was part of his tomb.

“Pride is the sin of this official,” judged *The Bible Reader’s Companion*.

In v. 22, Shebna is replaced by Eliakim the priest receiving “the key of the house of David ... on his shoulder.” The steward wore the key to the king’s house on a hook on his shoulder. He had the authority to open or close the king’s house.

This should remind us of Isa. 9:6 which prophesies of Jesus Christ: “And the government will be upon His shoulder.”

Eliakim means “God will establish.” Because of v. 22, we know that Eliakim represents the future Messiah of Rev. 3:7. Jesus will inherit the throne of David.

In the past history of the Davidic monarchy, the human ruler ruled as a steward for the real king—God.

Jesus Christ is the Steward of the kingdom of God the Father

Only He has the **authority** to grant **access** into the **government**, family and kingdom of God!

This makes it personal! Like me, you want to enter! Jesus castigated the religious leaders of His day: “You shut the kingdom of heaven in men’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to” (Matt. 23:13 *New International Bible*). We must be building the family of God!



Jesus stands at the door and knocks. His sheep, of various folds (John 10:16), know His voice.

In the parable of the 10 virgins in Matt. 25:1-13, five didn’t have enough oil in their lamps (the Holy Spirit) and went to go buy some. The Holy Spirit and character can’t be bought—and especially on the spot. There’s no deathbed repentance.

Jesus shut the door. None of the foolish virgins could open it.

In Matt. 22:11 a man appeared at the wedding without a proper garment. Maybe he thought only Christ’s bride must be “arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright—the righteous acts of the saints (Rev. 19:8).” At Christ’s return, we must have made ourselves ready! We can’t do this by works, keeping the law, or any other way on our own power. Only through the Father and the Son living in us by the power of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 2:20, Php. 4:13).

“From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love” (Eph. 4:16).



The Holy Spirit is the key of David

we must have for God’s Steward to give us access to eternal life in the Family and Kingdom of God. Without the Holy Spirit, we are none of His (Rom. 8:9).

The key of David is not a key to carry in our pocket.

It enables us to be like David in heart, loyalty and prayer. It enables us to do God’s Work collectively and individually. It gives us controlled urgency to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33).

It must be our life! It’s personal!



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