

“The Hour of Testing”
Philadelphia
(Rev 3:10)



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

The Seven Churches of Revelation



Scripture Reading



Revelation 3:7-13

7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

8 ‘I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 9 Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie – I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you.

Scripture Reading



Revelation 3:7-13 (Cont'd)

10 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 those who dwell on the earth. 11 I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name. 13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Exposit 3:10



10 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 those who dwell on the earth.

- ✧ “perseverance” is hupomonē
- ✧ hupomonē means patient enduring
- ✧ Jesus uses personal pronoun “MY hupomonē”
- ✧ This isn’t just general patient enduring, this is patiently enduring for Jesus’s sake
- ✧ “the hour of testing [peirasmos]” peirasmos means a trial [more on this as we go]
- ✧ But for now let’s look more into hupomonē

Exposit 3:10



10 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 those who dwell on the earth.

✧ hupomone̅ is used 33x in the NT, but only 1x other time by our Lord in His parable of the Sower:

Luke 8:15 But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance [hupomone̅].

✧ It can be said that the seed that fell on good soil bore fruit with patient endurance for being a Christian

✧ Thus, the Philadelphian believers certainly are among the seed that fell on good soil... this hupomone̅ also is in the gospel message itself

Romans 2



Romans 2:1-11 (Paul is charging that Jews too are under sin along with Gentiles)

1 Therefore you [my fellow Jews] have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. 2 And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things. 3 But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God? 4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

Romans 2



5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: 7 to those who **by perseverance** [**hupomonē**] in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; 8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, 10 but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with God.

✧ In v.7 “by perseverance” whose perseverance?

✧ Thus, hupomonē in Paul’s gospel helps us connect Rev 3 and Rom 2!

Exposit 3:10



Which means when Jesus says to the Philadelphian believers:

10 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 those who dwell on the earth.

✧ We can go to Paul's gospel for more insight!

✧ And if we want to know what "hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth" Jesus is promising to keep them from, we can go to Paul's gospel and other Scripture to get the full picture!

✧ With that let's look at Romans 2 again and exposit it a bit...

Romans 2



Romans 2:1-11

1 Therefore you [my fellow Jews] have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment [against Gentiles who are not under the Law], for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things [as the Gentiles]. 2 And we know that **the judgment of God** rightly falls upon those who practice such things. 3 But do you suppose this, O man [O My fellow Jew], when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that **you will escape the judgment of God**? 4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

✧ In v.2&3 Paul speaks of the upcoming judgment of God

✧ Let's continue to look further at what Paul has to say on that...

Romans 2



Paul still speaking to his fellow Jews:

5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself **in the day of wrath and revelation [apokalupsis] of the righteous judgment of God,**:

- ✧ Paul's gospel declares there is a "day of wrath and apokalupsis of the righteous judgment of God"
- ✧ So what we have so far is the "hour of testing" ref in Rev 3:10 and "day of wrath" in Rom 2 are connected
- ✧ This day of wrath, this hour of testing is further described as the "revelation [apokalupsis] of the righteous judgment of God"
- ✧ TRUTH: the day of wrath and judgment is currently veiled to mankind, but will be revealed, uncovered on a specific day, a specific hour in the future!

Romans 2



On this day of wrath, during this hour of testing God is the One in v.6:
6 who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS:

- ❧ “who WILL RENDER” - if future tense, is prophecy!
- ❧ Which person “WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS”?

Romans 2



On this day of wrath, during this hour of testing God is the One in v.6:
6 who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS:

- ❧ “who WILL RENDER” - if future tense, is prophecy!
- ❧ Which person “WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS”? **The Lord Jesus Christ!**

Romans 2



This is precisely what our Lord said at the end of Revelation:

Revelation 22:12-13

12 “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, **to render to every man according to what he has done**. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

✧ When will Jesus do this? When will Jesus “render to every man according to what he has done”?

Romans 2



This is precisely what our Lord said at the end of Revelation:

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12 “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, **to render to every man according to what he has done**. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

✧ When will Jesus do this? When will Jesus “render to every man according to what he has done”? **At the end of the age! On a day described as the day of wrath and on a certain hour of testing God has set aside for judgment!**

✧ Paul elaborates more on this in our Rom 2 passage...

Romans 2



Concerning that day of wrath and hour of testing, there will be 2 groups: 7 to those who by perseverance [**hupomonē**] in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; 8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, 10 but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with God.

☞ Allow me to put these 2 groups side-by-side

Group 1

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Does not pass judgment
- Does not condemn others
- Does not take lightly the kindness and tolerance and patience of God
- Does not have a stubborn and unrepentant heart
- Perseveres (hupomone) in doing good
- Seeks for glory and honor and immortality

OUTCOME:

- Will escape the judgment of God
- Is not storing up wrath in the day of wrath
- Will not experience tribulation and distress
- Will experience glory and honor and peace
- Will receive Eternal Life

Group 2

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Does pass judgment
- Does condemn others
- Thinks little of the kindness and tolerance and patience of God
- Has a stubborn and repentant heart
- Are selfishly ambitious
- Does not obey the truth, but obeys unrighteousness

OUTCOME:

- Will not escape the judgment of God
- Storing up wrath in the day of wrath
- Will experience tribulation and distress
- Will not experience glory and honor and peace
- Will receive wrath and indignation

☞ Jews and Greeks will be divided into these two groups

☞ From here I'd like to pull in John 5 and a resurrection of two groups...

John 5



John 5:25-29 (in context the Jews were seeking to kill Jesus because He was not only breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God - Jn 5:18)

25 Truly, truly, I say to you [the Jews seeking to kill Jesus], **an hour is coming** and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; 27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this; **for an hour is coming**, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

- ☞ “and now is” implies what is immediately to take place; simultaneous action
- ☞ Jesus spoke of an hour (hour of testing, the hour) in the 6th letter to Philadelphia
- ☞ Jesus here in Jn 5 is also speaking of an hour when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live (be brought back to life)
- ☞ Folks Rev 3/Rom 2/Jn 5 are all connected!

John 5



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25 Truly, truly, I say to you [the Jews seeking to kill Jesus], **an hour is coming** and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; 27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this; **for an hour is coming**, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

- ☞ Meaning, the hour of testing, the day of wrath, the hour of 2 resurrections (resurrection of life; resurrection of judgment) are connected with one another! Scripture is telling us one consistent story!
- ☞ In that hour “all who are in the tombs will hear His voice and will come out of the tombs to a resurrection of life OR a resurrection of judgment

CONJECTURE



- ❧ Tombs is mnēmeion which means tombs or monument
- ❧ To stay true to our ROEs:
 - ❧ ROE #2: Thou shalt not add or take away from Scripture
 - ❧ ROE #3: Thou shalt not take Scripture out of context
 - ❧ ROE #4: Thou shalt interpret Scripture w/literal fulfillment
 - ❧ ROE #5: Thou shalt not impose personal bias
- ❧ Tombs or mnēmeion means an actual physical tomb or place a monument was set up to lay the dead 100% of the time elsewhere in the NT
- ❧ Thus, I will resist putting people not laid to rest in physical tombs or mnēmeion in this prophecy of resurrection

John 5



- ❧ TRUTH: those who are part of the **resurrection of life** will be kept from the hour of testing, kept from the day of wrath, kept from God's judgment when it is revealed and retribution is made to mankind!
- ❧ TRUTH: those who are part of the **resurrection of judgment** will face the hour of testing, the day of wrath, when God's judgment is revealed to mankind!
- ❧ Now allow me to factor in Jn 5 into our chart of both groups...

Group 1

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Does not pass judgment
- Does not condemn others
- Does not take lightly the kindness and tolerance and patience of God
- Does not have a stubborn and unrepentant heart
- Perseveres (hupomone) in doing good
- Seeks for glory and honor and immortality

OUTCOME:

- Will escape the judgment of God
- Is not storing up wrath in the day of wrath
- Will not experience tribulation and distress
- Will experience glory and honor and peace
- Will receive Eternal Life

RESURRECTION GROUP: Resurrection of Life

EXPERIENCE HOUR OF TESTING?: No

Group 2

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Does pass judgment
- Does condemns others
- Thinks little of the kindness and tolerance and patience of God
- Has a stubborn and repentant heart
- Are selfishly ambitious
- Does not obey the truth, but obeys unrighteousness

OUTCOME:

- Will not escape the judgment of God
- Storing up wrath in the day of wrath
- Will experience tribulation and distress
- Will not experience glory and honor and peace
- Will receive wrath and indignation

RESURRECTION GROUP: Resurrection of Judgment

EXPERIENCE HOUR OF TESTING?: Yes

CONJECTURE



- ✧ Paul's gospel gave us insight into the order of judgments and blessing
- ✧ And I'd like to show that to us, let's revisit Rom 2

“of the Jew first and also of the Greek”



Romans 2:5-11

5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: 7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; 8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, 10 but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with God.

☞ Who are the “Greeks”? What are they also called?

“of the Jew first and also of the Greek”



Romans 2:5-11

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❧ If the Jews are first, then the Greeks/Gentiles are what?

“of the Jew first and also of the Greek”



Romans 2:5-11

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CONJECTURE



- ❧ The Jews are FIRST (in something), and the Gentiles are LAST (in something)
- ❧ What do you think that something is? – Clue it's in the verse:

9 There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the [Gentiles] [last], 10 but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the [Gentiles] [last]. 11 For there is no partiality with God.
- ❧ What's something that going to be experienced by Jews and Greeks?

CONJECTURE



- ❧ The Jews are FIRST (in something), and the Gentiles are LAST (in something)
- ❧ What do you think that something is? – Clue it's in the verse:

9 There will be **tribulation and distress** for every soul of man who does evil, **of the Jew first and also of the [Gentiles] [last]**, 10 but **glory and honor and peace** to everyone who does good, **to the Jew first and also to the [Gentiles] [last]**. 11 For there is no partiality with God.
- ❧ What's something that going to be experienced by Jews and Greeks?
- ❧ And in what order?

CONJECTURE



∞ TRUTH: The **unbelieving** Jews will experience **tribulation and distress** FIRST and BEFORE the **unbelieving** Gentiles! Meaning, Jerusalem's tribulation will come BEFORE the hour of trial coming upon the whole world! And Lo and Behold, this is precisely how the 7 Seals/7 Trumpets/7 Bowls vision flows in sequence!

HOWEVER:

∞ TRUTH: The **believing** Jews will experience **glory and honor and peace** FIRST and BEFORE the **believing** Gentiles! Meaning following Jerusalem's tribulation, the **believing** Jews will experience blessings, glory and honor and peace BEFORE the **believing** Gentiles and BEFORE the hour of trial! And Lo and Behold, there is a special group that is sealed before the 7th Trumpet and before the hour of trial. Anyone want to guess who that is?

CONJECTURE



✧ TRUTH: The **unbelieving** Jews will experience **tribulation and distress** FIRST and BEFORE the **unbelieving** Gentiles! Meaning, Jerusalem's tribulation will come BEFORE the hour of trial coming upon the whole world! And Lo and Behold, this is precisely how the 7 Seals/7 Trumpets/7 Bowls vision flows in sequence!

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Exposit 3:10



Back to v. 10 when Jesus says to the Philadelphian believers:

10 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 those who dwell on the earth.

- ❧ We went to Pauls' gospel for more insight
- ❧ We went to John 5 (2 resurrection groups) for more insight
- ❧ And we learned that 2 groups will experience 2 very different things
 - ❧ Tribulation and distress
 - ❧ Glory, honor, and peace
- ❧ The Philadelphian believers will not experience tribulation and distress, but rather glory, honor and peace

Closing



In context:

- ✧ The Philadelphian believers are part of Group 1
- ✧ And because of their perseverance Jesus will set before them an open door, the kingdom of God will be opened to them and no one can shut them out
- ✧ Jesus will make the unbelieving Jews in Group 2 bow down at their feet and make them know that Jesus loved them
- ✧ For their faithfulness, they will be rewarded and kept from the hour of trial

Group 1

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Does not pass judgment
- Does not condemn others
- Does not take lightly the kindness and tolerance and patience of God
- Does not have a stubborn and unrepentant heart
- Perseveres (hupomone) in doing good
- Seeks for glory and honor and immortality

OUTCOME:

- Will escape the judgment of God
- Is not storing up wrath in the day of wrath
- Will not experience tribulation and distress
- Will experience glory and honor and peace
- Will receive Eternal Life

RESURRECTION GROUP: Resurrection of Life

PART OF HOUR OF TRIAL?: No

Closing



In contrast:

- ❧ The synagogue of Satan (unbelieving Jews) are part of Group 2
- ❧ And because of their stubbornness and unrepentant heart Jesus will shut the door of the kingdom of God to them and they will not be permitted to enter
- ❧ Jesus will make them bow down at the Philadelphian believers' feet and confess that Jesus is Lord and loved them
- ❧ For their unfaithfulness, they will experience tribulation and distress and thrown into the hour of trial, the day of wrath when the judgment of God is revealed to them and to the world

Group 2

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Does pass judgment
- Does condemn others
- Thinks little of the kindness and tolerance and patience of God
- Has a stubborn and repentant heart
- Are selfishly ambitious
- Does not obey the truth, but obeys unrighteousness

OUTCOME:

- Will not escape the judgment of God
- Storing up wrath in the day of wrath
- Will experience tribulation and distress
- Will not experience glory and honor and peace
- Will receive wrath and indignation

RESURRECTION GROUP: Resurrection of Judgment

PART OF HOUR OF TRIAL?: Yes

Closing



UNIVERSAL TRUTH (Group 1):

- ✧ Faithful believers are part of Group 1
- ✧ And because of our perseverance Jesus will set before us an open door, the kingdom of God will be opened to us and no one can shut us out
- ✧ Jesus will make the unbelieving Jews in Group 2 bow down at our feet and make them know that Jesus loved us
- ✧ For our faithfulness, we will be rewarded, part of the resurrection of life, and kept from the hour of trial coming upon Group 2

Group 1

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Does not pass judgment
- Does not condemn others
- Does not take lightly the kindness and tolerance and patience of God
- Does not have a stubborn and unrepentant heart
- Perseveres (hupomone) in doing good
- Seeks for glory and honor and immortality

OUTCOME:

- Will escape the judgment of God
- Is not storing up wrath in the day of wrath
- Will not experience tribulation and distress
- Will experience glory and honor and peace
- Will receive Eternal Life

RESURRECTION GROUP: Resurrection of Life

PART OF HOUR OF TRIAL?: No

Closing

In contrast UNIVERSAL TRUTH (Group 2):

- ❧ The unbelieving Jews and those who dwell on the earth are part of Group 2
- ❧ And because of their stubbornness and unrepentant heart Jesus will shut the door of the kingdom of God to them and they will not be permitted to enter
- ❧ Jesus will make them bow down at all of the redeemed's feet and confess that Jesus is Lord and loved them
- ❧ For their unfaithfulness, the unbelieving world will be raised to a resurrection of judgment, will experience tribulation and distress and the hour of trial, the day of wrath, when the judgment of God is revealed and render to each man according to what he has done

Group 2

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Does pass judgment
- Does condemns others
- Thinks little of the kindness and tolerance and patience of God
- Has a stubborn and repentant heart
- Are selfishly ambitious
- Does not obey the truth, but obeys unrighteousness

OUTCOME:

- Will not escape the judgment of God
- Storing up wrath in the day of wrath
- Will experience tribulation and distress
- Will not experience glory and honor and peace
- Will receive wrath and indignation

RESURRECTION GROUP: Resurrection of Judgment

PART OF HOUR OF TRIAL?: Yes

Closing



- ❧ What is the hour of testing?
- ❧ The hour of testing is God's judgment to the unbelieving world (Group #2)
- ❧ Paul's gospel charged that both Jews and Gentiles are under sin and apart from believing the gospel will be raised to experience God's wrath judgments
- ❧ God's judgment begins with the house of Israel (Jerusalem's Tribulation), then the rest of the Gentiles (Global Tribulation)
- ❧ God's rescuing begins with the house of Israel (144K), then the rest of the believers who died in Christ at the Rapture (7th Trumpet)

Closing



- ❧ When is the hour of testing?
- ❧ If we use John 5 as a reference point
- ❧ “an hour is coming” when the dead in tombs will rise
- ❧ The hour of testing for those resurrected will be after the 7th Trumpet!
- ❧ However, Jerusalem's tribulation and global tribulation spans the 7 Seals → the 7th Trumpet
- ❧ Following the 7th Trumpet, there will be further testing via the 7 Bowls
 - ❧ These would include, those who survived Jerusalem's tribulation, global tribulation, and those raised in Group 2 (7th Trumpet)
- ❧ This is all part of the revelation of the judgment of God to the world!

- ❧ BROWNIE POINTS: Is this all mentioned in our Lord's Prayer?

The Lord's Prayer



Matthew 6:9-13

“Pray, then, in this way:

‘Our Father who is in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

10 ‘Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

11 ‘Give us this day our daily bread.

12 ‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 ‘**And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.** [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]’

The Lord's Prayer



Matthew 6:13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

[For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.']

☞ "temptation" is peirasmos which means trial

☞ Which trial do you think is being spoken of?

The Lord's Prayer



Matthew 6:13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]'

- ❧ "temptation" is peirasmos which means trial
- ❧ Which trial do you think is being spoken of? **The hour of trial!**
- ❧ As believers in Jesus Christ, we believe that it is coming to the unbelieving world and we ask our heavenly Father to not lead us there, but instead deliver us from evil

- ❧ Yes, the hour of trial is even mentioned in our Lord's prayer
- ❧ We'll look to wrap up the rest of this letter next time and watch our video
- ❧ Amen. Amen.