

SARDIS: THE ASSEMBLY OF INWARD DECAY



- Believers so self-deceived they thought they were in excellent stead with God
- The Lord showed Moses that outward piety doesn't always reflect inward purity
- The cause of the decay was ignorance of God's Word
- Lots of religious activity but little zeal for obedience



- Not knowing Holy Scripture means we can't know His will for our lives
- James 1:22 – 24
- The Bible is our tangible measuring stick
- The Holy Spirit does not replace God's Word
- God told Sardis to get back to His Word or they would be blotted out from the Book of Life

CONGREGATION OF PHILADELPHIA

- Philadelphia experienced many earthquakes and was in constant recovery mode
- “...*the one who has the key of David...*” taken from Isaiah 22:15 – 23
- This is referring to the governor of the King’s palace
- King Hezekiah was a royal descendant of King David
- Governor in full charge of the palace; no one can countermand his orders

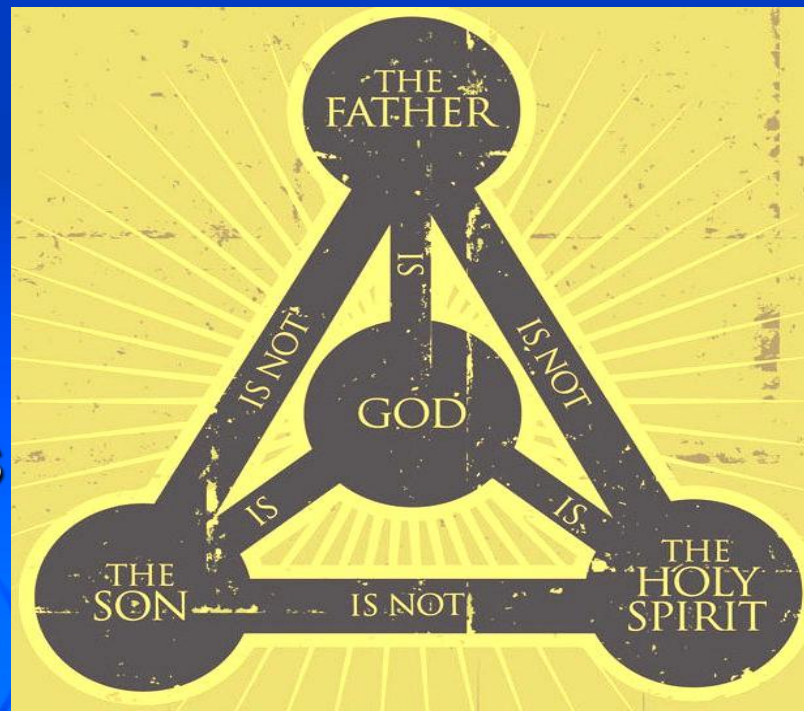


IS *ELYAKIM* A TYPE OF CHRIST?

- “The Holy One” is a typical title for God the Father
- If this is Christ, it creates a conflict with the “co-equal” Trinity doctrine
- The palace does not belong to *Elyakim*, and he is subordinate to the King
- Therefore, if this is what is intended, God’s Kingdom does not belong to Christ, and He is subordinate to the Father

Yes, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

—Psalm 78:41



UNSTOPPABLE MISSION

GOD WILL
OPEN DOORS
NO MAN CAN
SHUT.



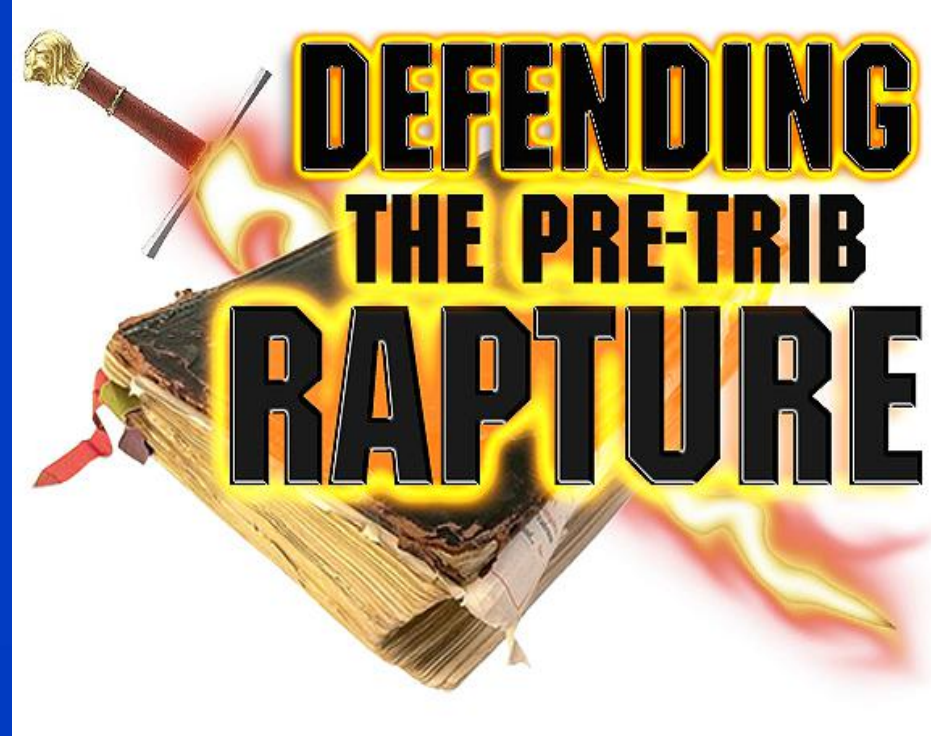
- Vs. 8 is a play on words from vs. 7
- God will send some from “the synagogue of Satan” to Philadelphia
- Those who claim to be Jews but aren't.....are gentiles!
- They will come and bow before the Jewish Believers, and learn that God loves the Believers of Philadelphia
- Isaiah 45:14
- Zechariah 8:23



- Vs. 10 “ *I will keep you from the time of trial...*”
- Is this speaking of “the” Tribulation and the Rapture?
- Trial and test = *peirazo*
- Tribulation = *thlipsis*
- Who are “the people living on earth”?
- If this does not mean all humans, then many possibilities unfold

WHAT DID THE PHILADEPHIANS BELIEVE?

- Philadelphians would NOT have seen this as a far-future happening
- Persecutions under Nero, now Domitian
- They would see this as an assurance from God to protect them in some undefined way
- This could ALSO be referring to the End Times
- ***“I am coming soon”***soon meant imminent to them



SPIRITUAL vs. PHYSICAL PROTECTION

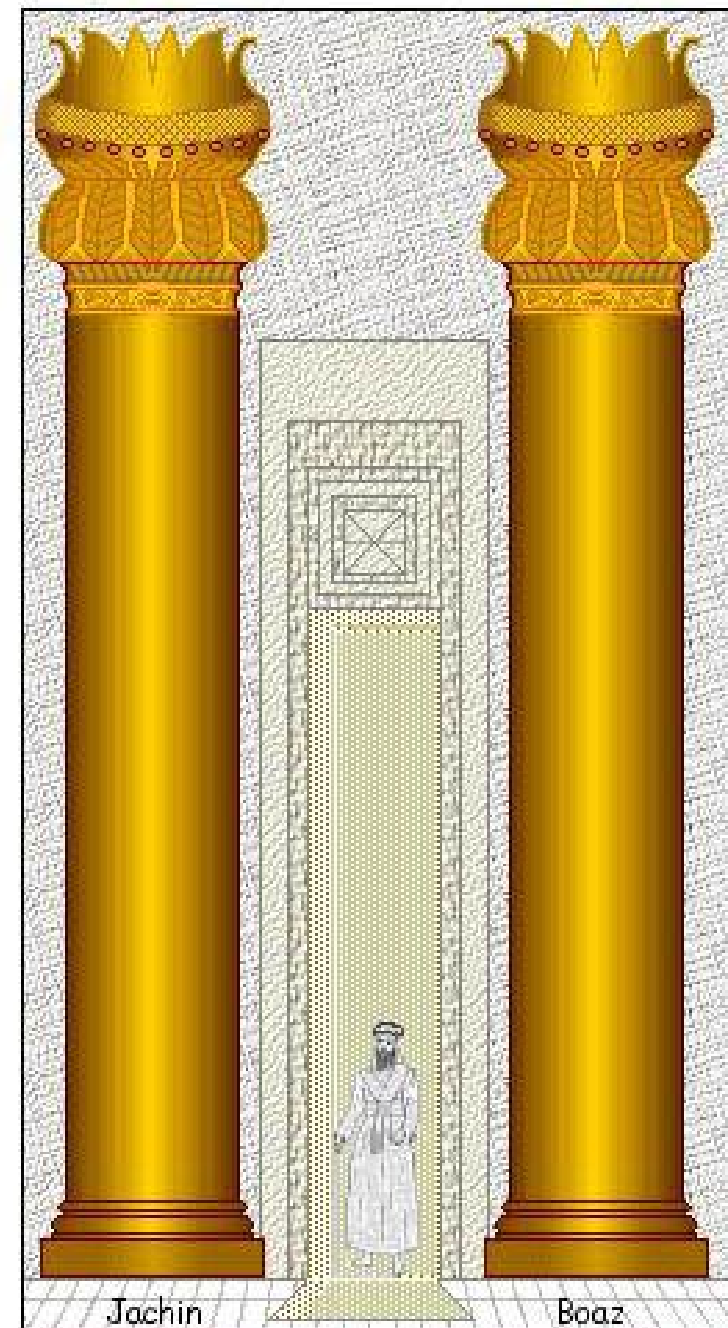
DO NOT FEAR THOSE WHO
KILL THE BODY
BUT ARE UNABLE TO
KILL THE SOUL; BUT RATHER
FEAR HIM
WHO IS ABLE TO DESTROY
BOTH BODY AND SOUL
IN HELL.

- MATTHEW 10:28

- Luke 12:22 – 32
- John 17:11 – 15
- God gives His people endurance and faith to suffer bad times
- Hanging onto faith would allow the Philadelphians to keep their crowns
- Crown = symbol of a member of the Kingdom of God
- Winning the victory means to keep the faith even as things get tougher

PILLARS OF THE TEMPLE

- Destroyed in 70 A.D.
- **Boaz** and **Yachin**
- **Boaz** = strength
- **Yachin** = to establish
- Vs. 12 is prophetic and far into the future for Philadelphia
- A “new Jerusalem” will come down out of Heaven
- For Jews in this era this meant that a new Temple would be built.....soon!
- Final chapters of Ezekiel speak of this new Temple and new Jerusalem



The bronze pillars before the porch of Solomon's Temple. On the right was Jachin; on the left Boaz – 1 Kings 7:21

NEW JERUSALEM

- Writing the name of God and the name of God's city
- Sense of the word "name" is reputation or identity
- Rev.21:1 – 2
- Ezek.48:35
- Jerusalem's new name will be ***Yehoveh Shamah***, meaning "God is there"
- Identification is everything for Believers
- Manmade religious systems will always attack authentic Believers of Yeshua and God's Word



NEW
JERUSALEM