

**~PHILADELPHIA (103)**  
**[Brotherly Affection]**

- **A city in West Asia Minor having a Christian congregation to which one of the seven letters contained in Revelation was written.**
- **Saying; What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven congregations, in Ephesus and in Smyrna and in Pergamum and in Thyatira and in Sardis and in **Philadelphia** and in Laodicea. (**Revelation 1:11**)**
- **And to the angel of the congregation in **Philadelphia** write. These are the things he says who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens so that no one will shut, and shuts so that no one opens. (**Revelation 3:7**)**
- **I know your deeds, look! I have set before you an opened door, which no one can shut, that you have a little power, and you kept my word and did not prove false to my name. (**Revelation 3:8**)**
- **Look! I will give those from the synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews, and yet they are not but are lying, look! I will make them come and do obeisance before your feet and make them know I have loved you. (**Revelation 3:9**)**
- **Because you kept the word about my endurance, I will also keep you from the hour of test, which is to come upon the whole inhabited earth, to put a test upon those dwelling on the earth. (**Revelation 3:10**)**
- **I am coming quickly. Keep on holding fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. (**Revelation 3:11**)**
- **The one that conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will by no means go out from it anymore, and I will write upon him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem which descends out of heaven from my God, and that new name of mine. (**Revelation 3:12**)**
- **Let the one who has an ear hear what the spirit says to the congregations. (**Revelation 3:13**)**

- The Lydian city of **Philadelphia** was situated on a hilly plateau South of the Cogamis River, about 45 kilometers (28 miles) Southeast of Sardis and 80 kilometers (50 miles) Northwest of Laodicea.
- It was built in the **Second Century B.C.E.** by Eumenes II, king of Pergamum, or his brother Attalus II, **Philadelphus**, after whom the city was named. The city lay at the head of a broad valley leading through Sardis to Smyrna, or modern Izmir on the seacoast.
- Roads connected it with the coast, Pergamum to the North, and Laodicea to the Southeast. The city served as a doorway to the heart of Phrygia.
- **Philadelphia** was the prosperous center of a wine-producing section, and its chief deity was Dionysus the god of wine. The area was subject to repeated earthquakes, one of which destroyed **Philadelphia** in **17 C.E.**
- With financial aid from Rome, the city was rebuilt and adopted the name **Neocaesarea**, **New Caesarea** and, at a later period, Flavia. The site is now occupied by modern **Alasehir**. The ancient city was a center from which Hellenism spread in Asia Minor.
- Evidently there were Jews there;
- Look! I will give those from the synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews, and yet they are not but are lying, look! I will make them come and do obeisance before your feet and make them know I have loved you. (**Revelation 3:9**)
- Mentioning those from the synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews. Perhaps these worked against the faithful Christians in the city by trying to win back Christians who were Jews by birth or to persuade them to retain or take up again certain practices of the Mosaic Law.
- The attempt was unsuccessful. Jesus commended the Christians for their endurance. He encouraged them to keep on holding fast.
- Look! I will give those from the synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews, and yet they are not but are lying, look! I will make them come and do obeisance before your feet and make them know I have loved you. (**Revelation 3:9**)
- Because you kept the word about my endurance, I will also keep

you from the hour of test, which is to come upon the whole inhabited earth, to put a test upon those dwelling on the earth. (**Revelation 3:10**)

- I am coming quickly. Keep on holding fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. (**Revelation 3:11**)
- For **Philadelphia** of the Decapolis.

**See Also RABBAH 1**