

## I AM Part 7: "The Door" (12-17-2017)

**This series . . .** As we move towards Christmas this year, instead of exploring the Nativity, we will be looking at the **Identity & Mission** of the child that came into the world.

**The series is titled: I AM . . .** we will be exploring Jesus identity & mission through the eyes of the apostle John

There are 7 proclamations Jesus made in John's Gospel, about His Identity . . . The 7 "I AM" statements

There are 7 proclamations Jesus made in John's Vision (Revelation), to His People . . . The 7 letters to the churches

We will be looking at the connection between Jesus' Identity & Mission, and our own.

### Today: Part 7 – "I AM The Door"

#### John 10:7-10 (ESV)

(7) So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. (8) All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. (9) **I am the door**. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. (10) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

#### Notes:

**(8)** All who came before me are thieves and robbers – what does this mean in my own life personally?

Sheep will eventually recognize this falsehood & respond instead to the true door – Jesus.

**(9)** If we enter by Jesus we are saved, but we also get something else . . .

We go in & out and find pasture, this is so important because . . .

**(10)** We can feel surrounded by the enemy - Thieves on Every side (vs. 8 & 10)

But Jesus get's the final word – Abundant Life & pasture is what he provides.

#### Philadelphia History: **Map of the 7 churches**

Name means: the City of Brotherly Love (**show Rocky picture of Philadelphia**)

Local volcano produced lots of earthquakes kept the city in need of constant repair

With the help of the lava ash, the Soil was perfect for growing vines for wine

## Letter to Philadelphia

### **Revelation 3:7-8 (ESV)**

(7) And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: “The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

(8) I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

**Notes:** To understand fully this idea of the door and the key of David, let’s unpack where it 1<sup>st</sup> shows up in **Isaiah**

**In Isaiah 22 (a prophecy to Jerusalem), one historian describes the situation like this . . .** “Now all Isaiah’s ministry had been directed just against these two things: the Egyptian alliance and the purely formal observance of religion trust in the world and trust in religiousness. And together both of these had given way, and the Assyrian was at the gates.”

### **Isaiah 22:12-13 (ESV)**

(12) In that day the Lord GOD of hosts called for weeping and mourning, for baldness and wearing sackcloth; (13) and behold, joy and gladness, killing oxen and slaughtering sheep, eating flesh and drinking wine. "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

**Notes:** Everything they trusted in - their **Political** power & influence, and their **Religious** structure has collapsed around them. Isaiah says this should have led to a great repentance, but it had the opposite effect – they have given up, so they party waiting to die.

But God is still at work. He will remove their current political leader and replace him with a new steward Eliakim.

### **Isaiah 22:20-25 (ESV)**

(20) In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, (21) and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. (22) And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. (23) And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honor to his father's house.

**Notes:** Eliakim is a real guy, 2<sup>nd</sup> in command to King Hezekiah, but this also points to another – in the line of David

### **Jesus:**

- Place on His Shoulder – the key of His Father David (This echos another prophecy of Isaiah about Jesus)
- Power to open & close doors – this is real power and authority
- Fastened like a sure peg in a secure place that will not be removed (Eliakim’s is short term)

**Revelation 3:9-10 (ESV)**

(9) Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie— behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. (10) Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

**Notes:** There is persecution and enemies on every side, but Jesus says even your enemies will come humbly and learn from you about God's great love. Let's check out a real picture of this in Acts . . .

**Acts 16:25-33 (ESV)**

(25) About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, (26) and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. (27) When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. (28) But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." (29) And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. (30) Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (31) And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." (32) And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. (33) And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.

**Notes:**

- In the midst of prison and a great earthquake – Paul & Silas are praising God
- They didn't have to rush out of the opened doors – Jesus is there door, so they find pasture no matter what
- The Jailer, now finds himself kneeling before them (just like Rev), and He learns from them God's Love

**Revelation 3:11-13 (ESV)**

(11) I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. (12) The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, 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 from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. (13) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

**Notes:** Holdfast, because while right now we may be living in a season of great shaking, if we hold on, then we will become solid pillars in His Kingdom!

**Conclusion: Jesus is the Door**

There are thieves within and without, and we live in a kingdom that is shaking. We can easily be robbed by those thieves, or even give up and decided to just party while we can and watch it all burn.

Or we can enter through The Door into a Kingdom that will not be shaken, where we will be saved eternally, and find pasture on this earth no matter the current circumstances. We can even participate in watching our enemies find their entryway into the Kingdom as they come and learn of the love of God from us!