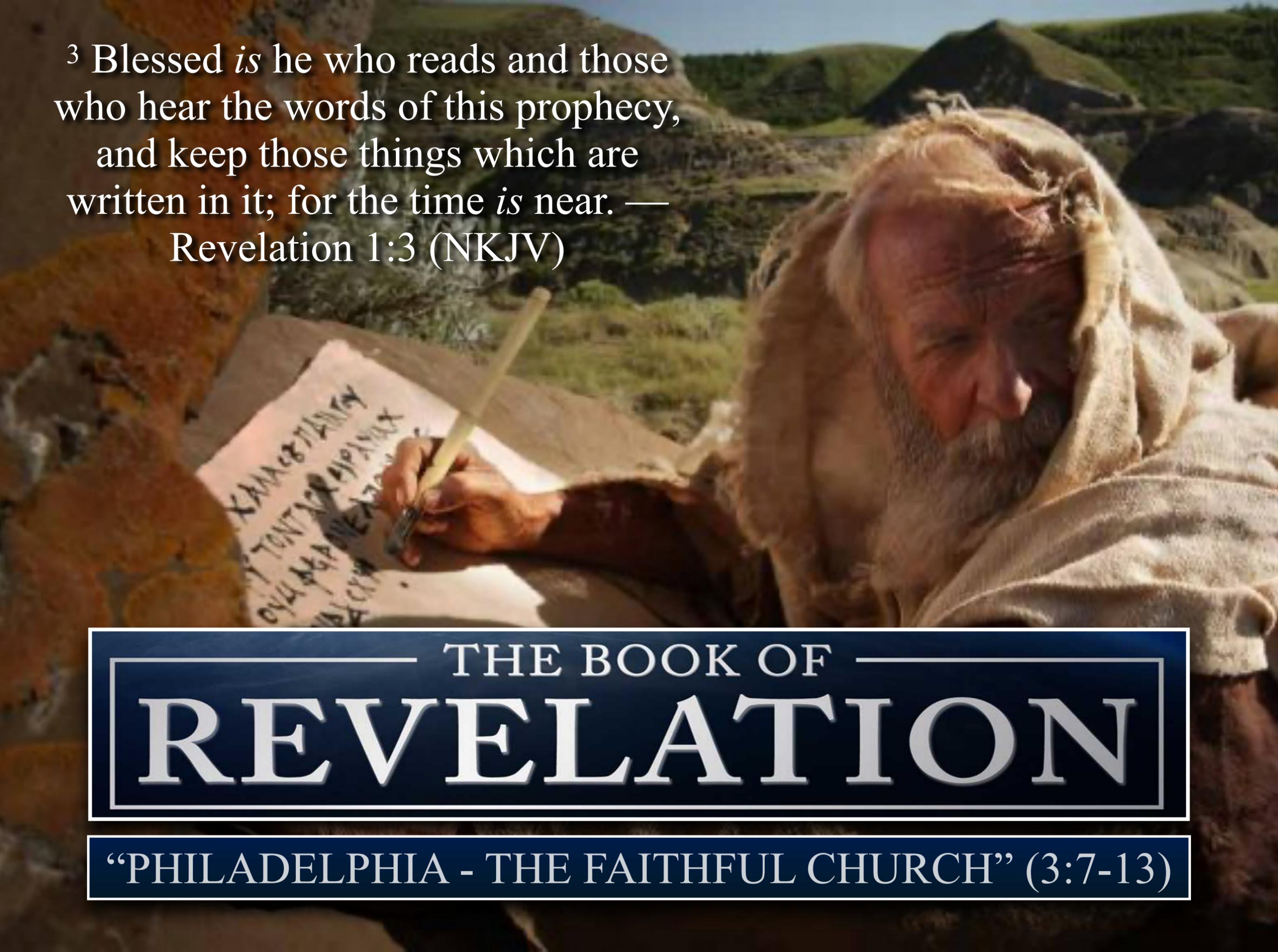


<sup>3</sup> Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near. —  
Revelation 1:3 (NKJV)



THE BOOK OF  
**REVELATION**

“PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)

<sup>11</sup> saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."  
(Revelation 1:11)

**PERGAMOS**

**THYATIRA**

**SARDIS**

**PHILADELPHIA**

**LAODECIA**

**EPHESUS**

**PATMOS**

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Image Landsat / Copernicus

Google Earth

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## TO THE 7 CHURCHES WHICH ARE IN ASIA (CHAPTERS 2 & 3)



Jesus is said to be “in the midst” of the seven golden lamp-stands, which are the seven churches (1:13,20).

The Lord is intimately aware of what transpires within every congregation. — He “knows” their situation, works, faithfulness & sins (2:2,9,13,19; 3:1,8,15; Heb 4:13).

The Lord sees us as we really are (2 Corinthians 5:10).

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## TO THE 7 CHURCHES WHICH ARE IN ASIA (CHAPTERS 2 & 3)



■ **These churches needed hope, courage, comfort & most needed an instructive rebuke**

◆ Social disgrace; financial & material loss; physical persecution; loss of physical life - (Acts 14:22; 2 Tim 3:12)

◆ Was / is being a Christian "worth it?" - Mat 10:28; 16:24-27; Rev 14:12,13

■ **Instruction needed for all Christians of all ages**

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)

<sup>7</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, *“He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”*’: <sup>8</sup> “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. <sup>9</sup> Indeed I will make *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)

<sup>10</sup> Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. <sup>11</sup> Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. <sup>12</sup> He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. 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 *I will write on him* My new name. <sup>13</sup> “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



### Background Information

- Philadelphia was located on the Cogamus River, 28 miles southeast of Sardis.
- Originally known as Rabbath-ammon and was beautified by Ptolemy (285-246 B.C.). –
- Strategically located on one of the greatest highways to the east - the “Persian Royal Road.” [*i.e.*, “built with the deliberate attempt to Hellenize barbarian wilds of the east,” (Ramsey, 391,392)]

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



### ■ Background Information

- ◆ The word Philadelphia means "lover of his brother,"
- ◆ The city was renamed around 140 B.C. in honor of King Attalus II Philadelphus of Pergamos (159-138 BC), commemorating the loyalty he had to his brother, king Eumenes (197-160 BC).

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)

### ■ Background Information

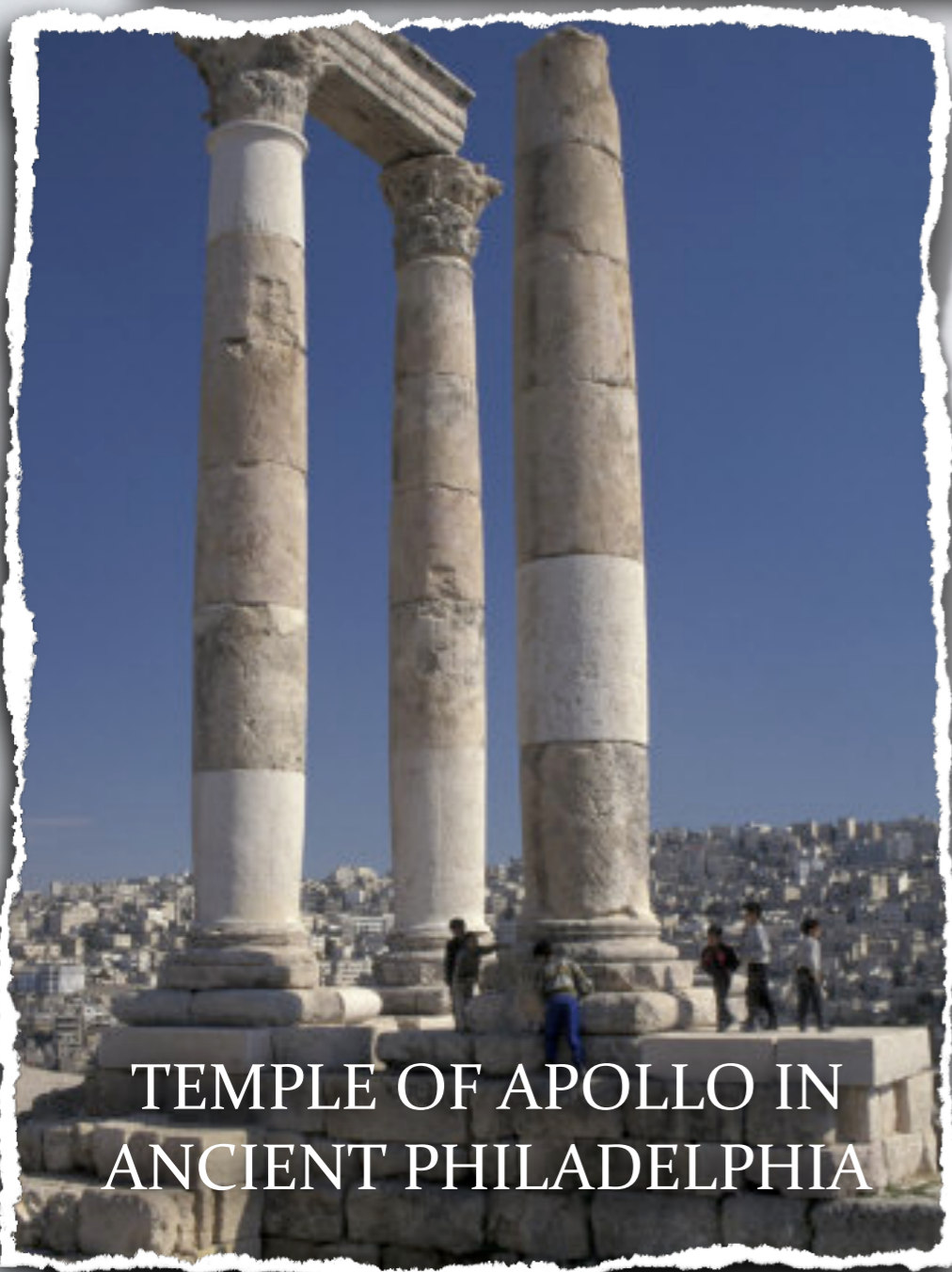


ruins of the Byzantine church  
serving as a cathedral  
dedicated to St. John

- ◆ An earthquake, which devastated twelve cities in 17 A.D., was particularly destructive in Philadelphia, due to its being nearest the fault line.
- ◆ It was rebuilt with the help of Tiberius.
- ◆ Frequent shocks were felt, and the cities inhabitants lived in constant fear of being destroyed again.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



### ■ Background Information

- ◆ The adjacent plain was famous for wine; thus, Philadelphia's chief pagan cult was the worship of Dionysius, the Greek god of vine and wine, worshiped in drunken orgies.
- ◆ Called “little Athens” because of its numerous temples and festivals to pagan deities.
- ◆ If a man had served the city well, a column in one of the pagan temples would be dedicated to him.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



### ■ Background Information

- ◆ A rich city, full of industry dealing in jewelry, gold, silver, dye, and textiles.
- ◆ One of the great historical cities of western Asia Minor -
- ◆ One of the largest ancient synagogues excavated. Its location in the center of the urban center attests to the strength and wealth of the Jewish community.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



### Revelation 3:7 (NKJV)

7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, *“He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”*’:

### CHRIST’S SELF DESIGNATION

- ▶ He who is **HOLY**, “*separate from common condition and use*” (Mounce. 1071)
- ◆ The Lord God is called “the Holy One of Israel” 25 times in Isaiah (Isa. 43:3; Ps. 111:9).
- ◆ The Messiah, is the “Holy One” (Ps 16:10; Lk 1:35; Mk 1:24; Ac 2:27; 3:14; Heb 7:26; 1 Pet 2:22; Rev 4:8).
- ◆ Jesus is the divine, promised Messiah, Savior of the world.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



### Revelation 3:7 (NKJV)

7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, *“He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”*’:

### CHRIST’S SELF DESIGNATION

- ▶ **He who is TRUE, -**  
Dependable, Genuine -  
contrasted w/ false Jews (vs 9)
- ◆ The Father is true (Ro 3:3-4; 1 Jn 5:20; Rev 6:10; 15:3; 16:7; 19:2), so is His Son - (1 Jn 5:20; Rev 3:14; 19:11; “True” bread (Jn 6:32); Light (John 1:9); Vine (John 15:1))
- ◆ We can rest our eternal destiny on Jesus’s word (Mat 24:35; Romans 10:11-13).

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



### Revelation 3:7 (NKJV)

7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, *“He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”*’:

### CHRIST’S SELF DESIGNATION

- ▶ **He who has the key of David,**  
- “Key” implies authority  
(1:18; Isa. 22:22; Mat 16:19)
- ◆ Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s promise to David  
(1 Chro. 7:14; Isa. 9:6, 7; Luke 1:32-33)
- ◆ Jesus is on David’s throne & will rule to the end of time over the kingdom of God (Lk 1:30-33; Acts 2:29-36; 1 Cor 15:22-26).

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



### Revelation 3:7 (NKJV)

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### CHRIST’S SELF DESIGNATION

- ▶ **He who has the key of David,**  
- “Key” implies authority  
(1:18; Isa. 22:22; Mat 16:19)
- ◆ Heavenly realm (1 Pt 3:21-22)
- ◆ Gov. of men (Rev 1:4-6),
- ◆ His church (Eph 1:22-23),
- ◆ Death & Hades (Rev 1:17-18).
- ◆ Everything & everyone w/ but one exception - The Father  
(1 Cor. 15:27)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



### Revelation 3:7 (NKJV)

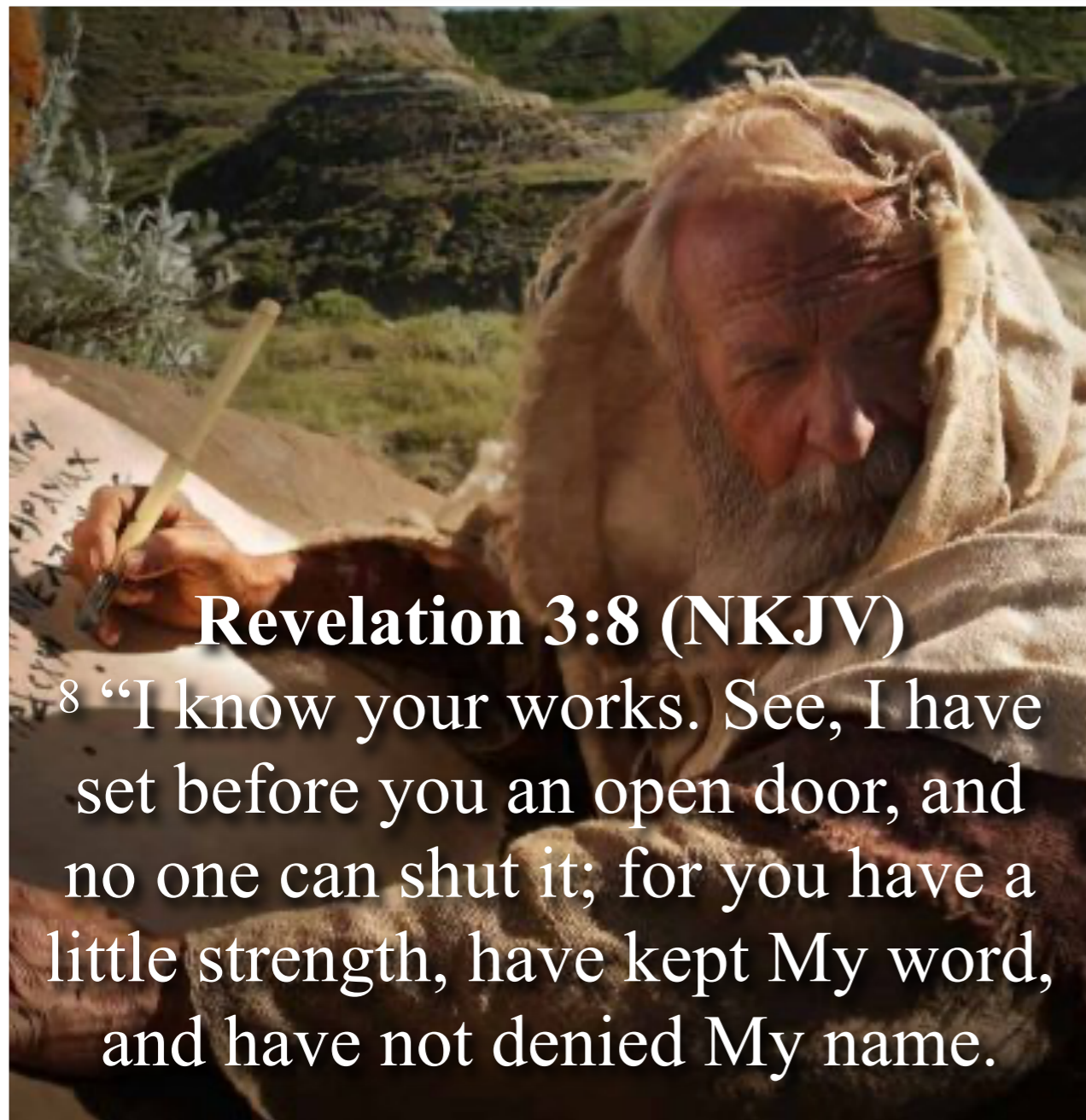
<sup>7</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, *“He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”*’:

### CHRIST’S SELF DESIGNATION

- ▶ **He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens, - The LORD Jesus has all authority (Mat 28:18; Eph 1:22-23)**
- ◆ He has all authority and power to govern access into Divine fellowship (Jn 14:6)
- ◆ Thus we must hear & obey Him (Mat 17:5; 28:28), & act and speak by His authority (Col 3:17; 2 Jn 9).

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)

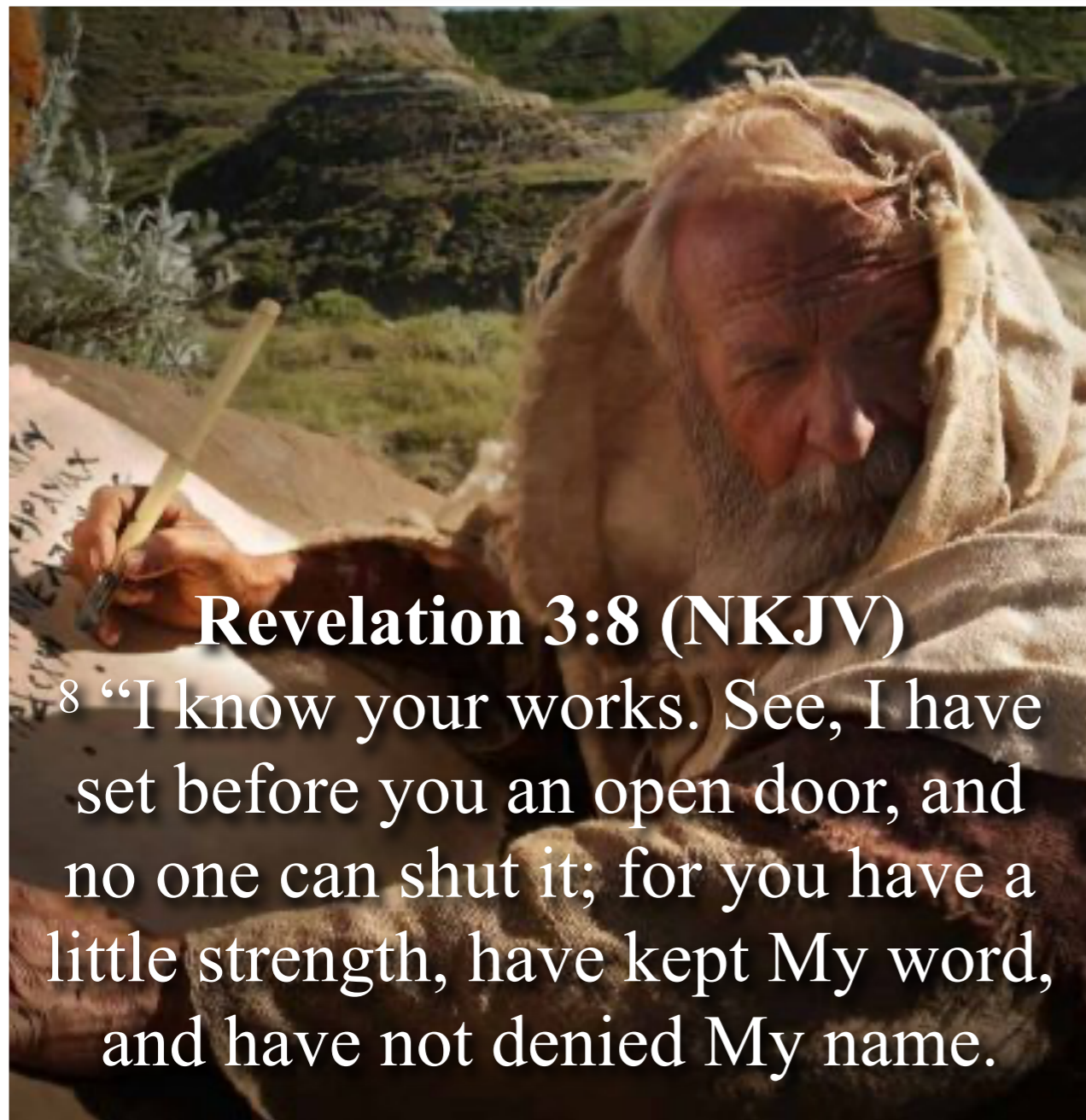


### CHRIST’S PRAISE:

- ❖ **“I know Your works. An open door”** represents access and opportunity.”
- ▶ Christ is the Door, the only way to salvation, spiritual life, & sustenance (John 10:7,9; 14:6).
- ▶ The faithful given opportunities for success in His work that no one, not even Satan, can close (Acts 14:27; 1 Cor 16:9; 2 Cor 2:12; Col 4:2-3; Acts 5:38,39).

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



### Revelation 3:8 (NKJV)

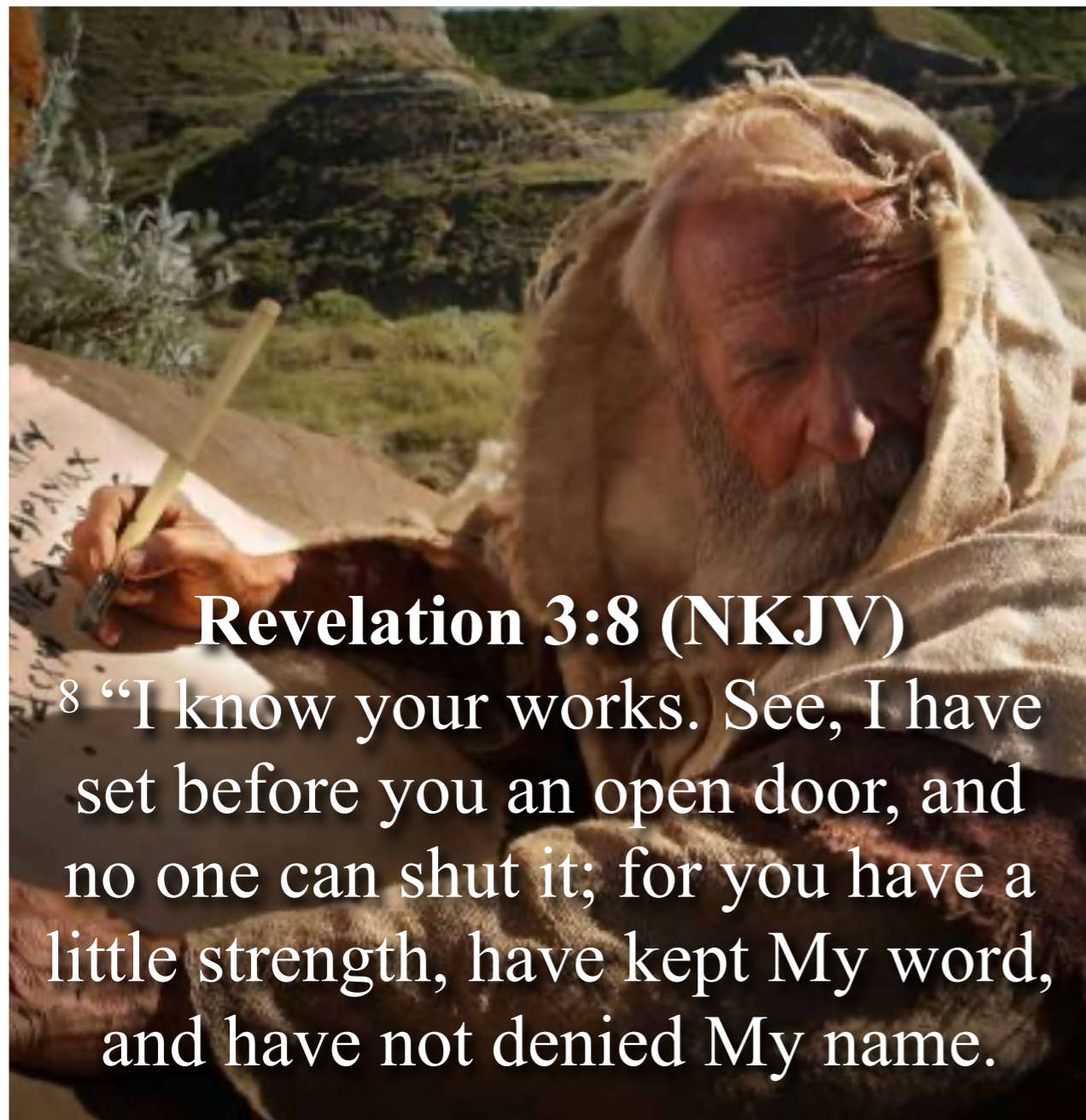
<sup>8</sup> “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

### CHRIST’S PRAISE:

- ❖ **“You have a little strength” -**
  - ▶ Not spiritual ineptness! Perhaps small in number, impoverished, uneducated, i.e, physically or materially limited - HUMBLE.
  - ▶ It is NOT our own wisdom, eloquence, or ability that will bring spiritual success - “My strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor 12:7-10; cf. Heb 11:34; Phili 4:13).

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



### Revelation 3:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

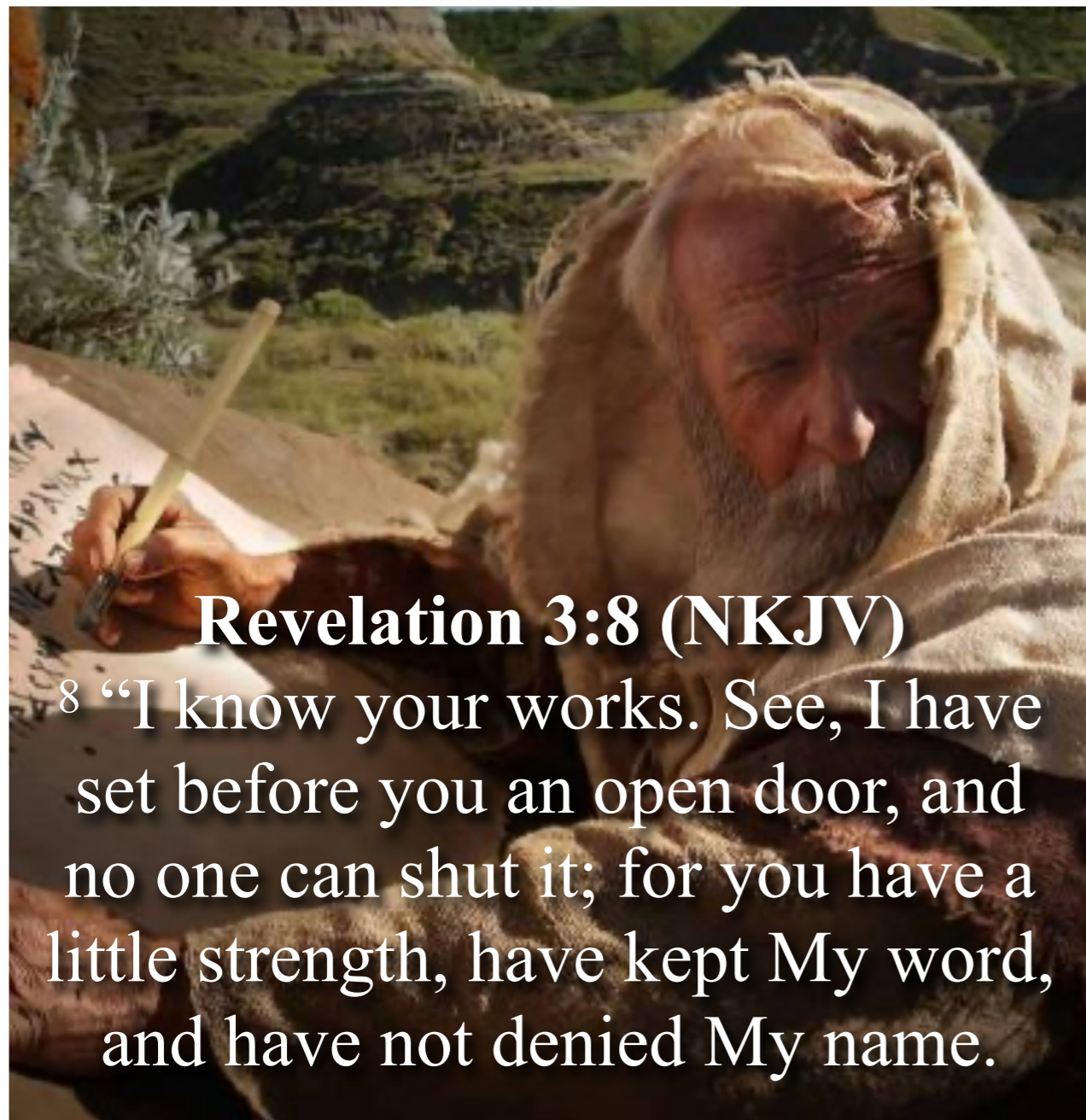
### CHRIST’S PRAISE:

❖ **“You . . . have kept My word”**

- ▶ God’s word is the divine standard of faithfulness -the ONLY means of salvation, spiritual growth & success! (Rom 1:16; Jn 14:23; 2 Tim 1:13; 4:7).
- ▶ The Lord can use and multiply our effectiveness IF WE ARE loyal to His word – (Ep 3:20; 2 Cor. 9:8-11; Mat 25:14-30)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



### Revelation 3:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

### CHRIST’S PRAISE:

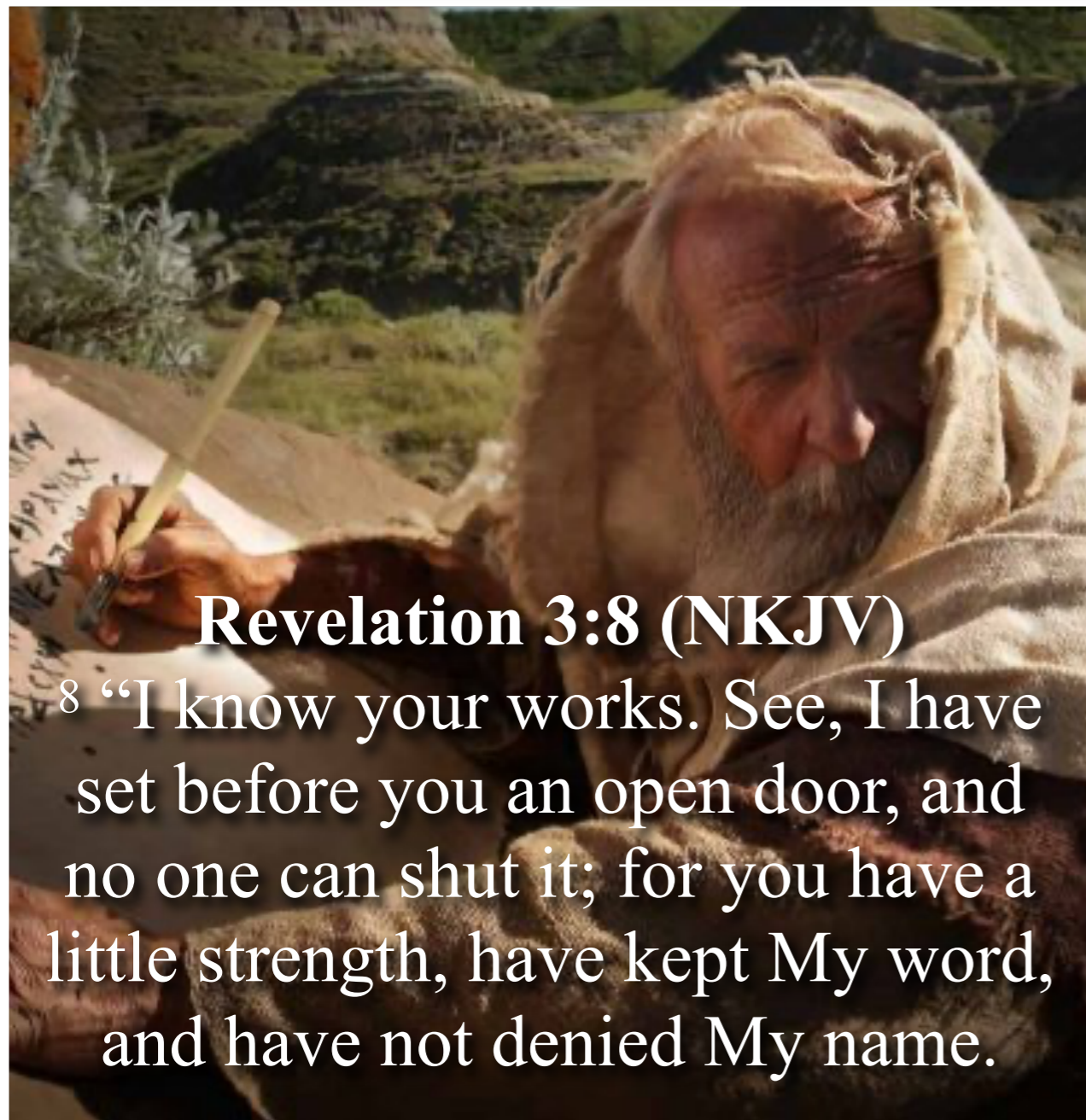
❖ **“You . . . have kept My word”**

“Conversely, it is also an encouraging fact to realize that others may regard us as insignificant and unimportant, but the Lord knows even what the “poor widow” does (Mark 12:41-44; 2 Tim. 2:19).”

Robert Harkrider

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



### CHRIST’S PRAISE:

- ❖ **“You have not denied My name”**
  - ▶ Even in persecution, (9.10)
  - ▶ We can deny Him or confess Him in both word and deed.
  - ▶ If we go along with the ungodly behavior of our worldly friends, we deny Him. If we are ashamed to talk to them about Christ, we are ashamed of Him. (Rev 2:10,13; Mat 10:33; 26:70-72; Mk 8:38)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



### Revelation 3:9 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> Indeed I will make *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

## CHRIST'S PROMISES

### Their Vindication

- ▶ Synagogue - Jews, but enemies of Christ (Acts 6:9; 14:1).
- ▶ Jews in the flesh ONLY – they rejected Christ & served Satan (Jn 8:44; Gal 6:16; Ro 2:28,29)
- ▶ The church is the TRUE “Israel of God” (Ga 6:16; Ro 2:28-29).
- ▶ One day they will bow the knee to Jesus, and acknowledge the church as the true people of God (Phil. 2:10-11).

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



### Revelation 3:10 (NKJV)

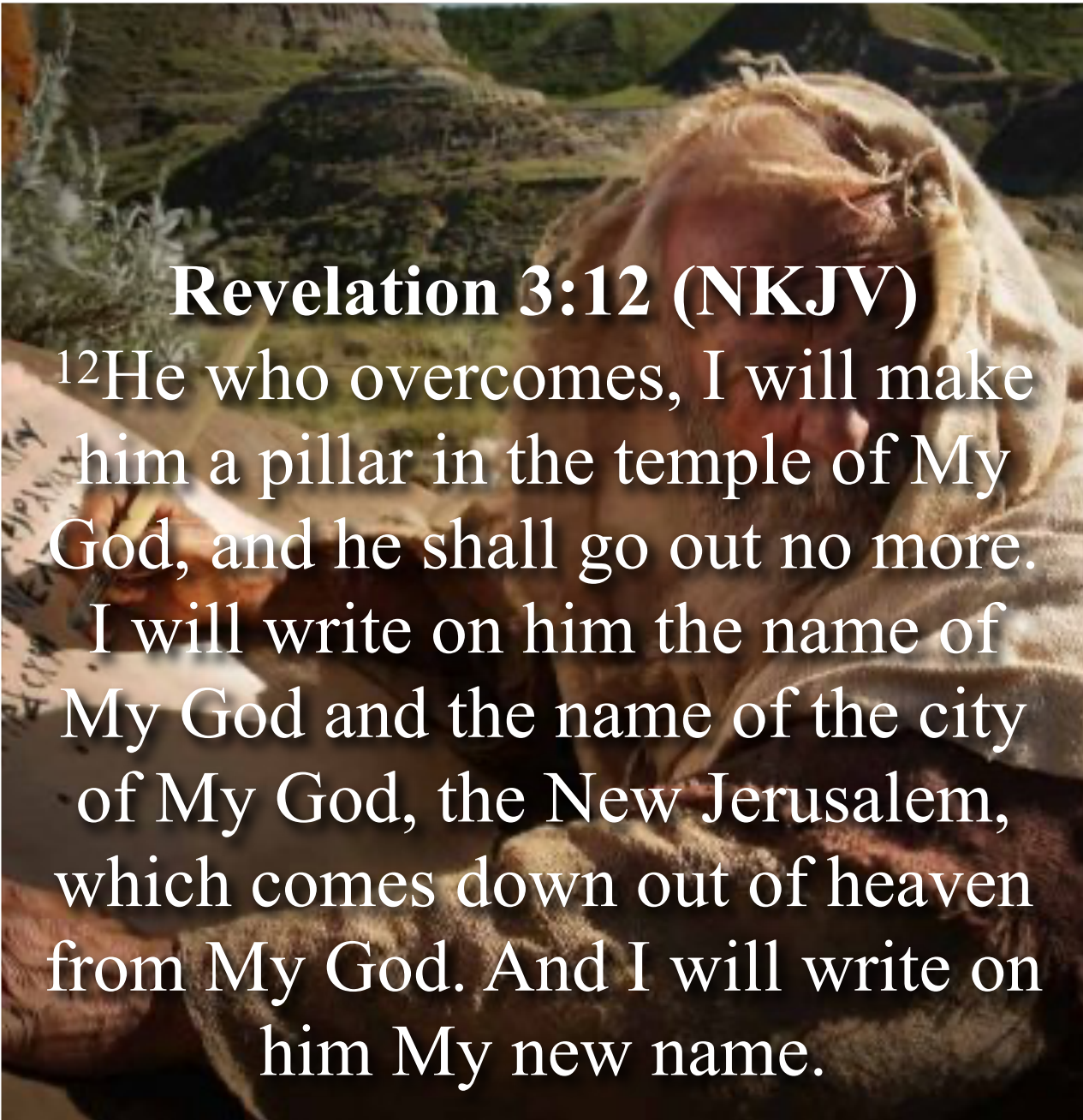
<sup>10</sup> Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

### CHRIST'S PROMISES

- ❖ **“I also will keep you from the hour of trial”**
  - ▶ They had endured persecution at the hands of their Jewish enemies. (3:9; Acts 13:45, 50; 17:5, 13; 1 Thess. 2:15)
  - ▶ Philadelphia was mostly immune from the plague of emperor worship, unlike the other cities, thus the Lord would show them mercy from the Roman persecution.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



### Revelation 3:12 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup>He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more.

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 I will write on him My new name.

### CHRIST'S PROMISES

#### ❖ The one “who overcomes”

- ▶ The worthy citizen of Philadelphia had his name engraved on a column in one of the pagan temples.
- ▶ But the faithful Christian actually becomes part of the temple in which the true and living God dwells (Eph 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5; Rev 7:14-15; 21:3-4).

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)

### Revelation 3:12 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup>He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. 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 I will write on him My new name.

### CHRIST'S PROMISES

- ❖ “I will write on him the name of” - NOT three separate names - A name having all three characteristics.
- ▶ Identification – belonging to the Lord, (14:1)
- ▶ Resident - of the city of God (Heb 12:22)
- ▶ Reservations in heaven where all things will be made new (21:3-5)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



### Revelation 3:11 (NKJV)

11 Behold, I am coming quickly!  
Hold fast what you have, that no  
one may take your crown.



### CHRIST'S EXHORTATION



**“I am coming quickly!”**



Coming in time to aid His  
beleaguered people because of  
their faithfulness.



**“Hold fast what you have ...”**



Jesus warned them to “hold  
fast” so that they will NOT  
lose their crown. Even the  
strongest Christians must be  
wary of the danger of falling.  
(Col 1:23; 1 Cor. 10:12; 15:58;  
Gal 5:1-6)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



### APPLICATIONS

- ▶ It is possible for a church to reach a state that brings no condemnation from the Lord
- ▶ Take advantage of the doors opened to you – Vs 8
- ▶ Use what you have – Vs 8
- ▶ Don't yield to pressure – hold fast to Jesus's word – Vss 9-11
- ▶ Your reward is certain IF endure, i.e., hold fast – Vs 12

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



**Revelation 3:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’

## ■ APPLICATIONS

- ▶ Obedience & Faithfulness is a choice -
- ▶ Holding fast to the words of Christ is the **ONLY** means of success -
- ▶ Are we taking advantage of the opportunities the Lord has given us?

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



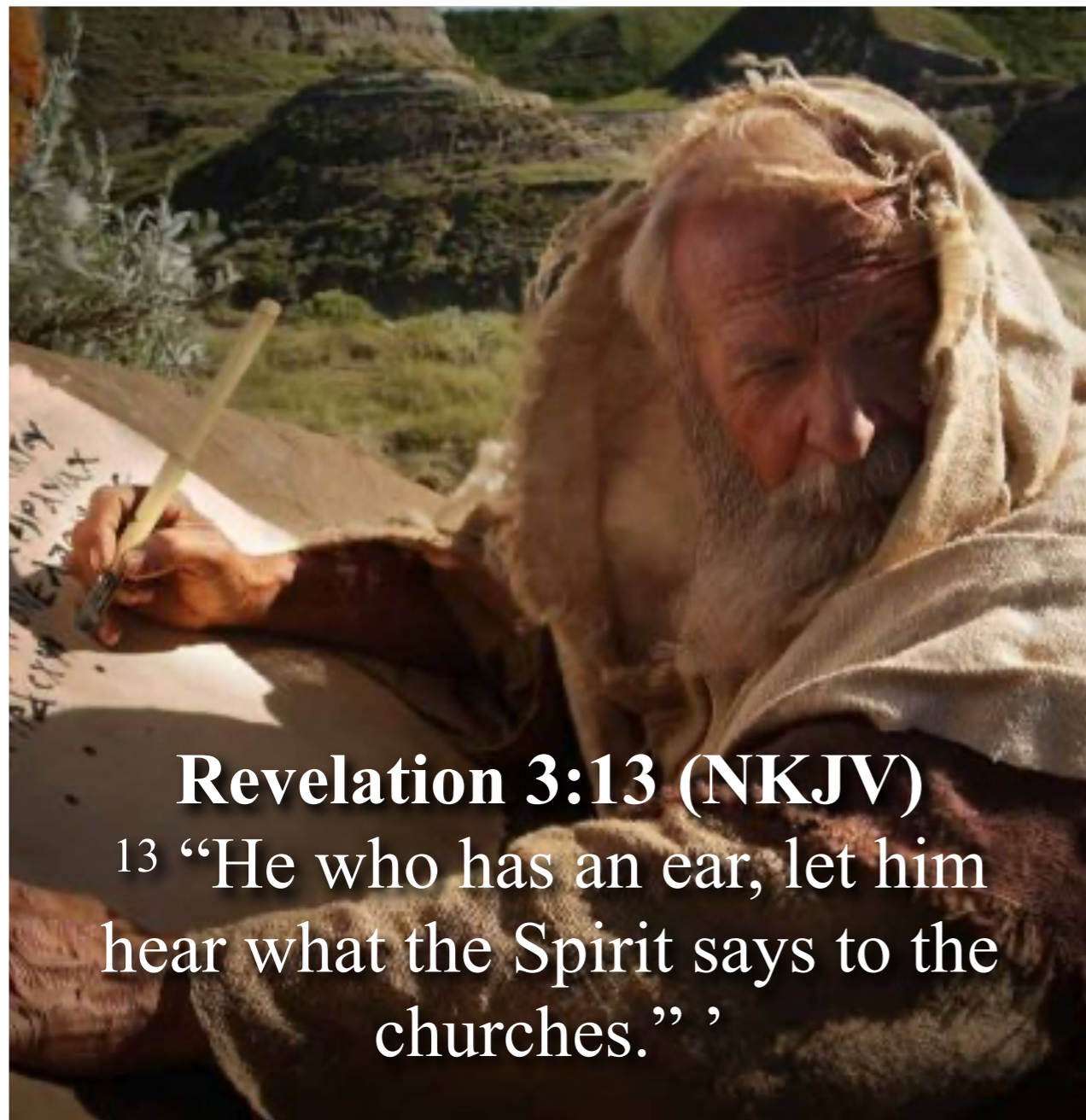
## ■ CHRIST'S INVITATION

**Revelation 3:13**  
**(NKJV)**

13 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)



**Revelation 3:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’

- ❖ Will we / you hear?
- ❖ Will we / you overcome?
- ❖ Will we / you live forever with God in heaven?

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH” (3:7-13)

A photograph of a person, likely a prophet, in a desert setting. The person is wearing a long, light-colored robe and has a beard. They are holding a scroll or book. The background shows a rocky, arid landscape with some greenery in the distance.

**Hear the gospel  
Believe the gospel  
Repent & Confess  
Be baptized into Christ  
for the remission of  
your sins**

**Be faithful /  
submitting to, serving  
& trusting Jesus**

**Revelation 22:14  
(NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.



*"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which  
God gave Him to show His servants—  
things which must shortly take place."*

*Revelation 1:1*

## **Charts by Don McClain**

Preached April 17, 2022

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# THE BOOK OF **REVELATION**

**"PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH" (3:7-13)**

## **2 Timothy 4:6–8 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.