

Isaiah 22:20-22 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah: And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy government into his hand: and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

Revelation 3:7-8 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

- Keys in Bible times could be from 7 inches to 2 feet in length, and be as much as a man could conveniently carry
- The Hebrew word translated “key” comes from a root which means “to open, loose or free”
- The Greek word translated “key” comes from a root which means “to shut up, to obstruct, to cause to withhold”
- **Since the keeper of the keys has the power to open and shut, keys denote power and authority in the Bible**
- **BACKGROUND:** Assyria had invaded Judah as Isaiah had warned, but the Jewish leaders were trusting in Egypt instead of God to deliver the nation. One of the treacherous leaders was a man named Shebna, who had used his office for his own private gain. God said that he would be removed and a faithful man named Eliakim put in his place. Eliakim would be given the keys of authority to administer the kingdom on behalf of King Hezekiah. He is a type of Jesus, who also holds the keys of authority.

1. THE KEY OF KNOWLEDGE - authority of the Word

- **Luke 11:52** Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.
- The “key of knowledge” is the Scriptures, which the scribes reserved exclusively for themselves. Jesus compared spiritual knowledge to a “temple” into which they should have led the people, but whose gate they closed and locked.
- **Mark 1:22** And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.
- Jesus used the key of knowledge to reveal Himself; this is the sole purpose of spiritual authority or knowledge today!

2. THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN - authority of Salvation

- **Matthew 16:19** And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
- Jesus speaks here to Peter alone. Later, He gives the power to “bind and loose” to all His disciples (Matthew 18:18). This refers to the power to receive answers in prayer (v.19) and extend salvation to others. **However, the “keys” were given to Peter alone. When did Peter ever open something with these keys? (NOTE: “keys” is PLURAL!)**
- Peter opened the way of salvation to the Jews in the first sermon of the NT church - Acts 2:38. He was instrumental in helping the Samaritans receive the Holy Ghost - Acts 8:14-17. Finally, he was the first to preach the gospel to the Gentiles - Acts 10:44-48. **He used the same “three keys” to open the door of salvation in all three cases!**

3. THE KEY OF THE BOTTOMLESS PIT - authority over the Devil

- This key mentioned twice; the first time given to Satan, the second time to an unknown angel.
- **Revelation 9:1** And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.
- Satan (see 9:11) has to be given the key to loose his own army from this intermediate place of punishment for his demons (in Luke 8:31, they begged not to be sent there) - this plague can't happen until God allows it!
- **Revelation 20:1** And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.
- An unknown angel (of lesser rank!) is given the key to bind Satan for 1000 years. Satan is not bound today (see 1 Peter 5:8), but he can only do what he is allowed by God (see Job 1:12).

4. THE KEYS OF HELL AND OF DEATH - authority over Death

- **Revelation 1:18** I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.
- Jesus has absolute power over physical death and spiritual death. When He said to the thief on the cross, "To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43), He was speaking of the abode of the dead. It had been under the control of Satan since the Garden of Eden (Job 3:17-19). Jesus went through death into the grave, but He came out with keys to both!
- **Psalms 68:18 - JEHOVAH:** Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, *for* the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell *among them*. **Ephesians 4:8 - JESUS:** Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.
- **Ezekiel 37:13** And ye shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,
- Ask Lazarus who Jehovah is! Ask the son of the widow of Nain! Ask the daughter of Jairus! JESUS IS JEHOVAH!

5. THE KEY OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID - authority over Circumstances

- **Isaiah 22:20-22** And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah: And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy **government** into his hand: and he shall be a **father** to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. And the key of the house of David will I lay **upon his shoulder**; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.
- **Isaiah 9:6** For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: **and the government shall be upon his shoulder**: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, **The everlasting Father**, The Prince of Peace.
- **Eliakim is a type of Jesus, who said Himself He holds the key of David!**
- **Revelation 3:7** And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath **the key of David**, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;
- People sought after Jesus because they knew He held the key to their circumstances!
- Two blind men (Matthew 9:27), Canaanite woman with demon-possessed daughter (Matthew 15:22), Blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:47), People at the Triumphal Entry (Matthew 21:9)
- Jesus had opened a door for the church in Philadelphia that could not be shut because: (1) they had a little strength, (2) they had kept His word, (3) they had not denied His name
- **Revelation 3:8** I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

* **JESUS HAS THE KEY TO EVERY SITUATION; HE CAN UNLOCK ANY DOOR!**