

Philadelphian Church Age Lessons

Part 1:

Introduction and Review:

Let's review the ages we have studied so far.

- Can you name the first five church ages? Ephesian, Smyrnaean, Pergamean, Thyatirean, Sardisean
- Who were the messengers? Paul, Irenaeus, Martin, Columba, Luther
- Does anyone know what the next church age and messenger is? Philadelphia, Wesley

Lesson 1:

- Today we will start our study of the Philadelphia Church Age. First, we will read the letter written to the angel of the church of Philadelphia.

Open your Bibles to Revelation 3:7-13.

- Let's go verse by verse as our prophet gives the divine interpretation of these Scriptures as only the seventh angel could. Remember only the seventh angel had all the mysteries revealed to him. None of the other messengers to the church ages could teach us these things. Who is that seventh angel? Brother Branham!

Read Revelation 3:7.

- Let's listen as Brother Branham tells us about this age.

And tonight, the church age is called the Philadelphian Church Age. And the star or the—the messenger, angel-messenger to that church age, we believe, solemnly, with all of our heart, to be John Wesley. The church age began at 1750 when the Lutheran church age went out, and lasted up to somewhere in 1900, around 1906 A.D., the Wesleyan Church Age. 60-1210 – The Philadelphian Church Age, para 16

- What are the dates of this Church Age? 1750-1906
- John Wesley was born in England, the fifteenth child of nineteen children. His father, John Wesley, was a preacher and his mother, Susanna Wesley, was a consecrated saint. Even though Susanna had nineteen children, she still found time to pray three hours a day for her children and to teach them Bible lessons. Brother Branham said that is what made the boys what they were. Let's listen as Brother Branham tells us a little about John Wesley and his brother, Charles.

The great song writer, Charles, his brother, who gave the world some of the most inspiring songs we've ever had.

John, an associate of George Whitefield. John–John Wesley and George–George Whitefield was really the first founder of this Methodist... or the sanctification.

John rose up early every morning; for sixty years he got up every morning at four o'clock.

That's one thing the church has fallen from. Got up every morning at four o'clock, and preached at five A.M. for fifty years straight. And sometimes he preached from two to four times a day. It is said by people of England, that, "He rode a horse forty-five hundred English miles every year, to preach the Gospel." Forty-five hundred miles on a... That's English miles, you know, they're longer than ours; to preach the Gospel. 60-1210 – The Philadelphian Church Age, para 35-37

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;

- Remember in each of these ages after the command to write, Jesus reveals that He is the Supreme Deity!
- The word Philadelphia means "Brotherly love." Brother Branham also calls it the great "missionary" age and the "open door" age. Brother Branham will describe this age for us.

They opened up many doors during that age: the door to the Gospel, the door to the mission fields, the–the–the door back to Christ, and everything was opened up during that age. And you can see what they did, the brethren done a great job out of it. 60-1210 - The Philadelphian Church Age, para 57-58

- There were many great missionaries during this age; the men Brother Branham mentioned, as well as many others that he did not mention. They used papers, tracts and books to tell the world about Jesus. However, they did not demonstrate the gospel in power. When that is accomplished throughout the whole world, Jesus will come.
- One more important thing to note is that John Wesley is considered the founder of the Methodist church. He was called a Methodist because of his methods of doing things. The Methodists became a denomination after John Wesley went on, but John Wesley came with an important message, restoring one phase of the Bride Tree.
- First, came Luther with...? Justification
- Then Wesley came on the scene. He brought the message of...? Sanctification

Let's listen as Brother Branham tells us about this.

Let's go back in our minds. And from that great missionary age of the Methodists, that swept through the country with the message of sanctification. Luther through justification. Wesley come along with the message of sanctification. 60-1210 - The Philadelphian Church Age, para 112

Read Revelation 3:8 and John 10:7.

- Who is that door of the sheep? Jesus
- Who is the “sheep”? Me! (Raise your hand.)

Brother Branham will teach all about that “open door” that no man can open or shut. *“A open door.” What was it? It was the revelation of the supreme Deity of Jesus Christ: not being a second person of a trinity, but being God Himself made flesh and dwelling among us.* 60-1210, para 119

- What does that “open door” represent? The revelation of the supreme Deity of Jesus Christ, God made flesh dwelling amongst us. Jesus was God in a body! The "open door" is the revelation that He is God.
- What is the “Name?” Jesus
- God’s Name is Jesus! That is the Name, all others are just titles like, mom, teacher, friend, daughter, sister, but my name is... (Your name.)
- Where has this “open door” been set? Between the two ages, Philadelphia and Laodicea
- Now the last portion of that Scripture states, “for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.” Brother Branham will tell us just how they got their strength. Listen carefully so that you may answer that question.

“Kept My Word,” that’s how they got their strength. That’s how they got their revelation. The one that got a hold of the Bible when Luther printed the Bible, and It come down through the Wesley age and so forth, they got a hold of It there and kept the Word; and seen the revelation of Jesus Christ being God made flesh among us, and the water baptism in the Name of Jesus, so they went right into her. There you are. Then they—they got His Name then. 60-1210 – The Philadelphian Church Age, para 164

- So how did they get their strength? They kept the Word. That’s how they got their strength. That is how we will have strength, to keep the Word, and go through that open door.

Part 2:

Introduction and Review:

- Last lesson, we began talking about the sixth church age. Who can tell me the name? Philadelphia
- Who was the messenger? John Wesley
- Wesley brought the message of...? Sanctification

- What does Philadelphia mean? Brotherly love
- What was it a great age of...? Missionaries

Lesson 2:

- Now we talked about the “open door” last time. We discussed that Jesus is the Door, that He was God in flesh, and the REVELATION of His Supreme Deity.
- Where/when can I find this door? Between the last two ages
- Let’s pick up where we left off then on verse 9.

Read Revelation 3:7-9.

- Who remembers what the synagogue of Satan was? We talked about it in the Pergamos Church Age. Nicolaitanes
- Remember, after the Dark Ages Luther came on the scene and the moon reflected some light, representing the true Church. It was almost smothered out during the Dark Ages. Now during Wesley’s time we have just a bit more Light. You can see that the false church, that Nicolaitane church, still was the majority.
- Let’s hear Brother Branham teach us about this verse.

There you are. That Laodicean...or, I mean that Nicolaitane church age where they had denominated. And watch, to show they was a church, a synagogue, a church, a church of denomination. Oh, brother! “The synagogue of Satan.” Then, the works of denomination is of the devil! Not the Christians, now, remember, they’re Christian, but the denomination itself. All right. 60-1210 - The Philadelphian Church Age, para 199

Read Romans 2:29.

What is a—what is a Jew? A Spirit, Holy Ghost-filled Christian! “I know that you’re down here after that age of sanctification that say they ‘got the Holy Ghost,’ but he said it, I never.” They said they had the Holy Ghost without the signs following, but He said, “They are a liar.” “These signs shall follow them that believe.” Can’t make Him lie. Oh, brother! That blinds you around, around. See? Oh, my! 60-1210 – The Philadelphian Church Age, para 203

- So this synagogue of Satan is the Nicolaitanes. Now these Nicolaitanes were introduced all the way back in the first church age. Paul warned about them, and he called them wolves. They are denominations who have organized. When you organize or make/join a denomination, you are led by men and not the Holy Spirit. They defied the working of the Holy Spirit, and made up a whole system of men to lead the church of the living God. We want the Holy

Spirit! We can hear the Holy Spirit talk to us, did you know that? We Push Play!

- What is a Jew? In this case Brother Branham said it was a Holy Spirit-filled Christian with signs following. What are signs? Supernatural vindications, healing and raising the dead, for example. We could list many Holy Spirit-filled Christians, like Polycarp, Martin, etc., who had many signs following their God-given ministry. Those who said they had the Holy Ghost, and did not, were liars and of the synagogue of Satan. They didn't even have the revelation that Jesus is God in flesh.

Read Revelation 3:10.

- Our prophet will explain what the hour of temptation is and when it will take place.

Because thou hast kept the words of my patience, I also will keep thee in the hour of temptation,...

Watch now, to show this is not the Methodist age I'm talking about, yet, it's the lapover. Look! Are you ready to listen? Everybody? Listen close now:... 60-1210 – The Philadelphian Church Age, para 234

Now this great "temptation," the hour of temptation that shall come to try the whole world, goes into the Tribulation. Just in a few minutes we'll see it. Goes on into the Tribulation, and the Tribulation did not come in the days of Wesley. 60-1210 – The Philadelphian Church Age, para 236

- This is speaking of a time to come. There will be a door open for that little remnant that keeps His Word to escape that Tribulation that will try them that dwell on the earth. The Bride will be gone.
- The next verse talks about a crown.

Read Revelation 3:11.

- Who remembers the crown spoken of in the Smyrna age? What did it represent? Eternal life

What is a "crown"? What is a crown? It's a—it's a—it's a... Crown means that you "have—have a domain." You are a king if you're crowned. See? And we are sons of God when we're crowned with Eternal Life, and our domain is the earth, "Make you priests and kings unto God." Is that right? So there you are. 60-1210 – Philadelphian Church Age, para 239

- We are sons and daughters of God, crowned with Eternal Life! Where is our domain as children of the King? Right here on earth. We will reign on this earth with our Husband, the KING!

- Next, we want to talk about the rewards given to the overcomer. That's us! These rewards would be for all who overcome the evil in this age and in ages to come.

Read Revelation 3:12.

- Let's see what the pillar represents.

Everything went in at the Door, Jesus! "And he that overcometh will I make him a pillar." In other words, part of the foundation. "What will I give him? I'll put in him the Doctrine of the apostles and prophets from the beginning, and give him the Revelation." What'd the prophets say about Him? He's Counsellor, Prince of Peace, Mighty God, everlasting Father. That's what they said, the prophets, the apostles. "And he that can overcome all this synagogues of Satan, keep hisself free and look straight to the Gate, I'll make him a pillar, I'll put him back in the foundation of My Word in the House of My God." Oh, my! "I'll put him right there in that pillar, in the foundation where you stay right in the Word." Amen. I like that, brother, It's good. I may act funny, I... but I feel good. All right. ... make him a... He that overcome... make him a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out:...

What is that? If he's a pillar, he ain't going out no more. He's the Bride! That's right. 60-1210 – The Philadelphian Church Age, para 247

- Let's look at another portion of that same Scripture.

...and I will write upon him the name of my God,...

- What is that name? Jesus

"... and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God,..." Which is all the same: Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. And the Bride married to Jesus, makes it Mrs. Jesus; and so forth, see. 60-1210 – The Philadelphian Church Age, para 263

- Jesus is that wonderful Name! I am so proud to be named Mrs. Jesus with you, the Bride of Jesus Christ. Just like when your mother married your father, she dropped her old last name and took a new name, your father's name. We became Mrs. Jesus!
- The last portion of this Scripture states...

...and the name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

- Let's listen as Brother Branham teaches us about that New Jerusalem.

"The City." He goes ahead and say, "which is the New Jerusalem." See, the New Jerusalem. "I'll put on him the New Jerusalem." Now, the Bride, or the Church, is the New Jerusalem. How many knows that? The Church itself is the New Jerusalem. You believe that? 60-1210 - The Philadelphian Church Age, para 259

Read Revelation 21:1-2.

- The Bride itself, the overcomers from all the ages, makes up that New Jerusalem.
- Let's look at the last verse addressed to this church age.

Read Revelation 3:13.

- Every age ends with this same warning, to listen to the Voice of the Lord. How do we know what the Spirit said unto the churches? We press play! The angel to each age brought forth what the Spirit said to the church of their age.

Revelation 3:13, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." Every age ends with this same warning. It is the constant plea that the churches listen to the voice of the Lord. In this age the plea is even more insistent than in former ages, for in this age the coming of the Lord truly draweth nigh. The question would perhaps arise, "If there is another age beyond this one, why the urgency?" The answer lies herein. The last age will be a short one — a quick work of consummation. And not only is this so, but one must always remember that in the eyes of God time is so very fleeting; yea, a thousand years are but a day. And if He is coming within a few hours as He views time, then He surely must warn us with all urgency and His voice must continually sound in our hearts to be ready against that coming.

Oh, there are so many voices in the world — so many problems and needs crying for attention; but there will never be a voice so important and so worth attending as the voice of the Spirit. So, "He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." An Exposition of the Seven Church Ages, p. 318