### Rev. 3:7 introduces us to the 6th church, that of Philadelphia. There is not a lot of history about the city that is readily available and since our purpose is not to study the city, but the church, we will not spend much time here.The following is a summary of the ancient city and the city under Roman rule. It would have been in the Roman period that John would have written this letter.

### Ancient Philadelphia

Alaşehir began as perhaps one of the first ancient cities with the name [Philadelphia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philadelphia_%28disambiguation%29). (There were several in history.) It was established in 189 BC by King [Eumenes II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eumenes_II) of [Pergamon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pergamon) (197–160 BC). [Eumenes II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eumenes_II) named the city for the love of his brother, who would be his successor, [Attalus II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attalus_II) (159–138 BC), whose loyalty earned him the nickname, "Philadelphos", literally meaning "**one who loves his brother**".

Lacking an heir, the last of the [Attalid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attalid_dynasty) kings of Pergamum, bequeathed his kingdom, including Philadelphia, to his Roman allies when he died in 133 BC. Rome established the province of [Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia_%28Roman_province%29) in 129 BC by combining [Ioni](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ionia)a and the former Kingdom of [Pergamum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pergamum).

### Roman Philadelphia

Philadelphia was in the administrative district of [Sardis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sardis). In AD 17, the city suffered badly in [an earthquake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AD_17_Lydia_earthquake), and the [Roman emperor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_emperor) relieved it of having to pay taxes. In response, the city granted honors to Tiberius. Evidence from coinage reveals that [Caligula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caligula) helped the city; under V[espasian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vespasian), Philadelphia received his **cognomen** (nickname), Flavia. Under [Caracalla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caracalla), Philadelphia housed an imperial cult; its coins bore the word *Neokoron* (literally, "**temple-sweeper**"—caretaker of the temple). A small theater located at the northern edge of Toptepe Hill is all that remains of Roman Philadelphia.

The local church in Philadelphia has the enviable distinction along with the church in Smyrna as being the only ones who did not receive a **rebuke**. The themes for these churches were **trials** (**2:9; 3:10**) and **crowns** (**2:10; 3:11**) As to where the Phildelphian church fits in the Church Age, the chart will show us that it is reprentative of the church from about 1500 A.D to 1900 A.D. We will look at this in more detail a little later. It is known as the church of the "**open door**" in contrast to Laodicea, the church of the "**shut door**".

Now to the text.The author or speaker, we know to be the Lord Jesus Christ, by the way He is described.

"***These things saith he that is holy, he that is true,***" Who is more holy than the Holy One Himself? Even the devils comprehend this! (**Mark 1:24**) Peter understood who the Holy One was. (**Acts 3:14**) Paul had no difficulty identifying Him. (**Acts 13:35**) Of all the attributes of God, **HOLINESS**, serves as the foundation. The world and most of the apostate churches would tell you that it is "love", but they would be wrong! It is because of His holiness, that He was able to die on a cross as a sinless, undefiled, untainted, spotless, unblemished Lamb of God. His love without his holiness would have disqualified Him as our Saviour.Anything less than perfection would not have been enough! The charge that God gives to us is plain and to the point. (**1 Pet. 1:15,16**) Personal holiness is lacking in Christianity today!

"***... he that is true,***" Jesus Christ personifies truth. (**John 14:6**) **John 1:17** tells us that the Law came by Moses but grace and ***truth*** came by Jesus Christ. **John 1:14** tells us that He was full of grace and **truth**. In **Rev. 19:11** He bears the title, "**Faithful and True**". Is it any wonder that God desires us to worship Him in spirit and in truth? (**John 4:24**) He desires truth in the inward parts. (**Psalm 51:6**) Just as Jesus Christ is the truth, the devil is the consummate liar! (**John 8:44**) Is it any wonder why we are commanded to speak the truth? (**Eph.4:15**)

He is also described as "***he that hath the key of David***". To what is he referring? If we go back to **Isa. 22:20** we see that the key of David was given to Eliakim. This meant that he would have the **oversight** of David's house. He would have the key to the royal **treasury** to open and close as he pleased. He is clearly a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is foreshadowing of what will take place in the Millennium. (**Isa. 9:6,7; Luke 1:32,33**)