

Keys, Doors and Gates

Keys and *open* doors/gates are used to illustrate the opportunity to obtain something, or to get somewhere (whether entering or exiting through it). *Closed* doors/gates are used to describe the *lack* of such an opportunity.

A. Keys / Doors / Gates related to salvation and the opportunity to be saved

1. **A warning that the way to salvation is not easy to find:** It is like a narrow, hard to find gate (contrasted to a wide, readily visible gate) - Matthew 7:13-14.
2. **Jesus is the way.** He is described as the good shepherd, as well as the gate to the sheep pen - John 10:1-18 (verses 1-3, 7, 9 use the word "gate").
3. **A stern warning** against people who keep others from entering the kingdom of heaven, by taking the "key to knowledge" away from them - Luke 11:52.
4. **The apostles were given the authority to proclaim this message about Jesus.** Peter, who was the first to acknowledge an understanding of this truth, was described as being given the "keys" of the kingdom of heaven, which would open the "gate" to salvation - Matthew 16:19. [The other apostles also had this authority to proclaim the message. But historically, Peter was the one God used to first "open the door" to the Jews (Acts 2), and then to the non-Jews (Acts 10).]
5. **This message about salvation, this "door of faith,"** has been opened (is available) even to non-Jews - Acts 14:27.

B. Keys / Doors related to the *proclamation* of the good news about salvation (examples)

1. **A request for prayer, that God would open the door (opportunity)** for proclaiming the good news about Christ - Colossians 4:3. [In this verse, this good news is described as a "mystery": a previously-unrevealed truth that needed to be proclaimed to everyone.]
2. **The door (opportunity) for preaching the good news about Christ:** It was opened by God - 2 Corinthians 2:12.
3. **An open door (opportunity) successfully entered:** It resulted in the salvation of many - as well as opposition by those who were enemies of the good news - 1 Corinthians 16:9.

C. Keys / Open Doors related to life in Christ

1. **The opportunity for fellowship with Christ:** It is available to all who "open the door" to him - Revelation 3:20. [Note: These people claimed to have all the blessings of salvation, but in God's eyes, they were spiritually naked. (They still needed "clothed" with salvation.)]
2. **"Open doors" related to answered prayer:** Knock and the door will be opened to you (etc.) - Matthew 7:7-8; Luke 11:9-10.
3. **An "open door" of authority and opportunity**
 - o Jesus, the King, has inherited the "key of David" - all the authority of King David, and more - Revelation 3:7-8. [This verse alludes to Isaiah 22:22. The authority that Eliakim (the palace administrator) had was a symbolic representation of the much greater authority that Jesus has.]
 - o An example of such an open door of opportunity, one that Jesus *guaranteed* would be kept open - Revelation 3:8. [Note that it was not because of their strength, that this "door" was opened, but because of their faithfulness to Christ. *The King*, not the people, opened the door.]

D. Keys / Doors / Gates related to prophecy, eternity and judgment

1. **An open door to heaven**, allowing John to see the visions - Revelation 4:1.
2. **The gates of the eternal city**
 - o They can be entered only by those who have clean robes - Revelation 22:14. <Some translations, such as the KJV, read "those who do his commandments." This expresses approximately the same thought as "those who wash their clothes."> [See Revelation 19:8. These robes represent their salvation and righteous deeds.]
 - o They are never shut to God's people - Revelation 21:25. [Those who do not belong to God, will *never* be allowed to enter - Revelation 21:17 and other verses.]
 - o Other verses describing the gates - Revelation 21:12-13, 15, 21.
3. **Keys / Doors related to death, Hades (the place of the dead) and the bottomless pit ("abyss")**
 - o Jesus is the one who has the keys of death and Hades - Revelation 1:18. [He has authority and power over them.]
 - o The gates of Hades will *not* prove stronger than the church (which is built on the message about Jesus) - Matthew 16:18.
 - o Prophecy about a "star" who is given the key to the bottomless pit, in order to bring judgment to the earth - Revelation 9:1+.
 - o Prophecy about an angel who has the key to the bottomless pit, in order to lock Satan in it, for 1000 years - Revelation 20:1+.