



5784/2024 The Year of the Open Door Pt. 3

Sunday Sermon – 10/15/2023

Bishop Steven A. Norman, Pastor

Revelation 3:7-9 '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": 8 "I know your works. See, (the door is there if you know what to look for) 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. 10 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. 11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

The Theme Scripture will be **Revelation 3:7-12**

At the command of Jesus, we must follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. And if we let Him be our guide then He will lead us before open doors.

This year of the Open Door is all about increasing and maturing.

In spite of the changing conditions of this world, God wants us to be a wonder to this world, so the world can see His goodness on our lives.

Romans 2:4 ... the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Repentance is a change of mind, a change of how we think and process information. When we think differently, we'll speak differently, we'll act differently, we'll have a different attitude.

Once we do this in a godly manner then we'll get great results, we will increase and mature.

As the world sees us increasing and maturing, it will become so attractive to them that they will want to be like us, and we can lead them to Christ Jesus where they can repent and receive the goodness of God as well.

Don't allow the noise of the current conditions of the present world to cause you to lose faith in your confession.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Sometimes we may have to remind God of what He has promised, not that He has forgotten, it's so we won't forget.

Isaiah 43:26 Put Me in remembrance; Let us contend together; State your case, that you may be acquitted.

Prophetic Meaning of 5, 7, 8, 4

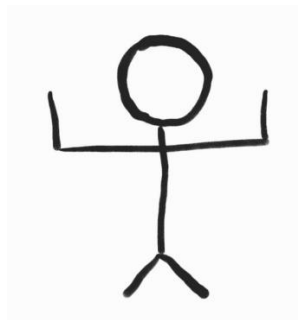


In Hebrew each number and corresponding Hebrew letter carry special meaning and revelation from the heart of God. Let the Prophetic understanding equip us to partner with God's plans and purposes for the days ahead.

Let's look at the number 5784

1. The Hebrew Letter 5 is Hey. We have known for years that the number 5 is the number of grace and that is true.

But the Hebrew picture that corresponds with the number 5 is a picture of a man with his hands raised.



This points to revelation and manifestation.

The reason we raise our arms before the Lord is symbolic. It shows that we seek him as our Heavenly Father, a small child that is lifting his arm up to his Father who provides what they need and even the desires of their heart.

The raising of our hands also shows that we are positioned with expectation to receive. From fresh revelation, signs, and wonders and any of the physical resources that we may desire or have need of.

The number 5 symbolizes revelation and a readiness for action. It shows that we surrender fully to what He has in store in 5784.

2. The Hebrew Letter Zayin (7)- Cutting Away the Old.



The number 7 in Hebrew is Zayin, pictured as a sword or plowshare .

It signifies cutting away and separation and is often associated with completeness, perfection, and wholeness.

For some of us to be made whole and complete, there is a cutting away that must take place.



As this year progresses, there will be a spirit of pruning and refining. God desires to cut off old mindsets, toxic relationships, sinful and some non-sinful habits that have held you back.

John 15:1-2 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Last week we said that the cutting away process is necessary if we're going to be able to fit into the lifestyle that is required as we go through the open door.

The reason why few will find it is because they will be looking for a door that they can fit their old life into, and they are unwell to put down the weight.

Hebrews 12:1-2 ...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,

Weights are ways of life, habits, attitudes that is alright to have where you are, but won't fit through the open door.

One of the greatest weights, it's not having the faith to take care of with the open door gives an opportunity for. You won't take advantage of it because you can't see how you can get it done with who you are and with what you have.

Through the open door is another manifestation of who Jesus is. *On the other side of the open door, but you're going to have to trim away some things to get through it in order to get to another level in Him.*

Example: Most people don't see Jesus as a prophet, but He is the major prophet. If we read the gospel with that in mind, you will get another level of understanding of the end times.

Some don't see him as Lord, but only as savior, therefore they never get the discipline they need to mature to the place where God can really trust them with greater riches from heaven. They get a thirtyfold blessing when they should be getting a hundredfold blessing.

It's going to require faith. You have to transform your thinking that His way is the better option.

The only way to successfully accomplish this is - **“ looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...”**

For us as believers, to experience God's goodness from the open door, it will require three major things.

1. BROKENNESS



Brokenness is the 1st essential, because as we are broken, God challenges us to yield areas of our lives to Him. You cannot increase and mature in Him unless you acknowledge you've fallen short in pleasing Him, repent, and yield to Him.

The believer's rod is the word of God. Any habits, any pattern of life that doesn't line up with the will of God can be broken if we follow the direction of the rod of God which is the word of God.

We need to see ourselves as mature believers. **Ephesians 4:14-15 (ESV)** **We may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,**

2. CHANGE

Growth involves change, and some of us don't like change very much. But we cannot hold onto old ways, old ideas or old concepts of God and expect to increase and mature.

As you encounter the open door expect to encounter God in a whole new way.

I'm not saying we blindly accept every change, but we must be open to change if we are to increase and mature.

Isaiah 43:18-19 "Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. 19 Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.

Change is need because God is getting ready to change the landscape, (environment) of what you are used to and maybe even how you identify with yourself and others.

We will have to lay down the old and take up something new. We may have to take up new ways and ideologies, concepts, views and transform our way of thinking to something that we may not be used to.

3. GROWING PAINS

Not all changes result in Increase and growth, but all increase and growth is marked by change.

A plant only matures when it grows beyond the seed, into the soil and into the air. If it stayed contented as a seed, it would never know the fruit of maturity.

In this year of the open door, we probably will experience growing pains. But if we refuse the growing pains of maturing, if we don't have faith to step out of the old and experience the new, we will stay the same and never reach our potential of fruitfulness and the increase God has to offer.

Jesus is Lord~Assembly of Love
The Year of the Open Door Pt. 3
Bishop Steven Norman
Sunday Teaching – 10/15/2023



We must embrace change, we must accept the growing pains of change, and to step by faith into some things that we have never step into before to see the maturity and increase God has for us this year through the open door.

A lot of you have outgrown the things you are trying to hold on too,

Ephesians 4:15 (ESV) Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

Submit to His pruning work with patience and trust. Though it may be difficult, it is necessary for promotion, increase and maturity. God is cutting away hindrances so you can bear good fruit.

Let go of the old and embrace the new season ahead.