

# O ANTIPHONS



## LESSON 4 — KEY OF DAVID (CLAVIS DAVID)

### THE ANTIPHON (Isaiah 22:22):

*O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open; come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.*

### INTRODUCTION

When you look at keys, they have a pretty simple purpose. They open and lock doors. We have keys for our house, for our cars, for work or for your office, and perhaps keys for a number of other things. Even though their purpose is very simple, their importance cannot be understated. You immediately recognize the importance of your keys when you lose one, or when you lock your keys in your car. This study will focus on the next title given to Jesus—the key of David. **What similarities or connections can you think of between Jesus and keys?**

### STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES

#### Key of David

1. Read **Isaiah 22:15-23** <sup>15</sup>This is what the Lord, the LORD Almighty, says: “Go, say to this steward, to Shebna, who is in charge of the palace: <sup>16</sup>What are you doing here and who gave you permission to cut out a grave for yourself here, hewing your grave on the height and chiseling your resting place in the rock? <sup>17</sup>“Beware, the LORD is about to take firm hold of you and hurl you away, O you mighty man. <sup>18</sup>He will roll you up tightly like a ball and throw you into a large country. There you will die and there your splendid chariots will remain— you disgrace to your master’s house! <sup>19</sup>I will depose you from your office, and you will be ousted from your position. <sup>20</sup>“In that day I will summon my servant, Eliakim son of Hilkiah. <sup>21</sup>I will clothe him with your robe and fasten your sash around him and hand your authority over to him. He will be a father to those who live in Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. <sup>22</sup>I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. <sup>23</sup>I will drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will be a seat of honor for the house of his father.

1. The phrase “Key of David” first occurs in Scripture in Isaiah 22, a chapter in which God speaks words of judgment against Jerusalem. What is the meaning or emphasis of “Key of David” in these verses? From whom was the key taken and to whom was the key given?

**Read Revelation 3:7-13.** <sup>7</sup>“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. <sup>8</sup>I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup>I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup>Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. <sup>11</sup>I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. <sup>12</sup>Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God.

2. In Revelation, only two of the seven letters to the churches have no words of warning or rebuke, but only praise and promises. The letter to Philadelphia is one of them. Here Jesus states that he holds the key of David. What treasures does Jesus promise to disburse to the Philadelphians and to us?

3. Jesus says that “what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open”. In John 14:6, Jesus also said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” What are some false ways people try to open the door to heaven and God’s blessings?

**4. Read Luke 4:17-21.** <sup>17</sup>The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: <sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” <sup>20</sup>Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, <sup>21</sup>and he began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” **What use of keys does Jesus refer to here as he fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah?**

## Scepter of the House of Israel

1. The Hebrew word for “scepter” has several uses in the Hebrew language and it is also translated with other words. Explain the different uses and meanings for the word “scepter” (identified with the underlined word) used in each pair of the passages below.

- Psalm 89:32 – <sup>32</sup> I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging.
- Isaiah 30:31 – <sup>31</sup> The voice of the LORD will shatter Assyria; with his rod he will strike them down.
- Micah 7:14 - <sup>14</sup> Shepherd your people with your staff, the flock of your inheritance, which lives by itself in a forest, in fertile pasturelands. Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead as in days long ago.
- Psalm 23:4 - <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- Psalm 45:6 - <sup>6</sup> Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.
- Amos 1:8 - <sup>8</sup> I will destroy the king of Ashdod and the one who holds the scepter in Ashkelon. I will turn my hand against Ekron, till the last of the Philistines are dead,” says the Sovereign LORD.

2. Jacob used the term “scepter” when he blessed his son Judah and prophesied about the Savior who would come from Judah’s ancestors in Genesis 49:10. <sup>10</sup> The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his. **What is the scepter symbolizing in this passage?**

3. What do these titles (key of David, scepter of Israel) emphasize about Jesus’ work when he was in this world and as he sits at the right hand of God the Father?

## O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Oh, come, O Key of David come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high and close the path to misery. Amen.