

Keys to Overcome Strongholds

Opening Text: Isaiah 22:15, 19 - 23

Before we get into the subject of the message, I need to give you a bit of the background about this passage: During the reign of King Hezekiah, there was a corrupt official named Shebna. He had used his office to gain glory and fame for himself, accumulating chariots for his personal use and having built a tomb for himself worthy of royalty. God announces that he will be deposed, and a man called Eliakim will take his place. The focus of our message today is not so much about Shebna and Eliakim but a statement that God made that, as we will see, transcends the strict historical context of this passage.

V.22 - *The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; so he shall open, and no one shall shut; and he shall shut, and no one shall open.*

In the Bible keys are symbolic of authority and power. Keys lock or unlock. Keys enable access. If you have keys, then you are positioned differently from others, you have certain rights, you have influence, it becomes your prerogative as to who and what you allow, or not allow. Keys are symbolic of authority and power.

1. The Keys of the House of David

What are the Keys of the house of David? – ‘the House of David’ was a specific place. It was a seat of power – like a ‘capital’ (like our Canberra, or the American’s White House). David was the first king to have a dedicated area to the administration of the Kingdom. It was a very secure area, a fortress, a stronghold. In the book of Samuel, we read that the House of David located was in Jerusalem, specifically in an area called “*stronghold of Zion*”, an impenetrable fortress that was also known as ‘the city of David’.

Interestingly, from the days of Joshua to David, for almost 400 years, of all the lands God gave His people, Jerusalem remain unconquered. The Jebusites had repelled every attack and that land had always remained unconquered.

Joshua 15:63 - *As for the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem to this day.*

Judges 1:21 - *But the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem; so the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.*

It was only in around the year 1000 BC that David came and achieved what no other generation was able to achieve: he finally conquered Jerusalem.

He seemed to have something that others didn’t. He seemed to be able to unlock things that others didn’t. There was an anointing in his life, an authority that was God-invested that caused things to happen! He seemed to have keys that no one else had.

What strongholds do you fight? What doors do you need open? What stubborn problems seem to be like an impenetrable wall to you? With God there is a power and an authority, there are keys that open doors that no man can shut!

In 2 Samuel 5 we have an account of how David conquered Jerusalem:

2 Samuel 5:6-10 *⁶And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who spoke to David, saying, "You shall not come in here; but the blind and the lame will repel you," thinking, "David cannot come in here."⁷ Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David). ⁸Now David said on that day, "Whoever climbs up by way of the water shaft and defeats the Jebusites (the lame and the blind, who are hated by David's soul), he shall be chief and captain." ...*

A man called Joab took the challenge of bravely going into the enemy's stronghold, ascending that wall, and descending it from the inside. He then unlocked the gate from the inside and all the troops were able to come in!

Joab is such a type of Jesus: - Jesus went into the enemy's camp for us. He also ascended but first descended to the lowest parts of the earth (hades) to get the keys and open the door, from the inside!

Ephesians 4:10 - *He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.*

2. David got the key to the stronghold of Zion; Jesus got the key to the stronghold of Hades and Death.

Revelation 1:12-18 - *¹²Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. ¹⁴His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. ¹⁷And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. **And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.***

Jesus opened the door from the inside, for us (like Joab)! He has the keys of death and hell!

1 Corinthians 15:55 -56 *"O Death, where is your sting? O Hades where is your victory?" ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

3. Jesus has all the keys

Revelation 3:7 - *“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘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”**’:*

Jesus is reminding this faithful church that He has every key they will ever need! Jesus has all the keys because He has all authority!

Matthew 28:19-20 - *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

The church stands on that kind of authority. It stands with a full set of keys to unlock prisons, bind the enemy, release captives, heal the sick.

Matthew 16:18-19 - ¹⁸ *And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you **the keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

Matthew 18:18-19 - ¹⁸ *“Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven ¹⁹ “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.*

The church stands with a full set of keys – full of authority to bring the kingdom of God into people’s lives. Are you facing a stronghold and don’t know how to open its gate? Use the keys Jesus has already given us.

Luke 10:19 - *Behold, I give you the **authority** to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

We sometimes beg God to do things that He already has given us authority over!

Conclusion

David had keys but Jesus has all the keys. He has entrusted us those same keys to be used in our prayer life and in the extension of His kingdom. Let that impact how we pray and how we live.

He has made us kings and priests (Rev. 1:5-6). He has made us to “*reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ*” (Romans 5:17)

You have keys, you have delegated authority, to overcome any stronghold!