



THE END

A STUDY OF REVELATION

Rev. 2:8-11

Rev. 2:8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.

10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Scriptural Introduction

Rev. 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Part One – THE PAST: REVEALING GOD – “...the things which thou hast seen...” Ch. 1

Introduction: 1:1-3

A. The Significance of the Book, 1:1a-b

B. The Signature of the Book, 1:1c-2

C. The Singularity of the Book, 1:3

I. THE COURSE OF THE AGE, 1:4-6

A. The Blessing, 1:4-5a

B. The Benediction, 1:5b-6

II. THE CONSUMMATION OF THE AGE, 1:7-8

A. The Eventual Triumph of Jesus, 1:7

B. The Everlasting Triumph of Jesus, 1:8

III. THE CHARACTER OF THE AGE, 1:9-20

A. It Is an Age of Individual Witness, 1:9

B. It Is an Age of Instinctive Worship, 1:10-18

1. The Spiritual Enlightenment as to the Recipients,
1:10-12

a. The Commissioning, 1:10-11a

b. The Churches, 1:11b

2. The Spiritual Epiphany as to the Redeemer, 1:12-18

a. The Redeemer's Relationship with the
Churches, 1:12-13

b. The Redeemer's Reflection from the
Candlesticks, 1:14-18

C. It Is an Age of Intelligent Waiting, 1:19-20

Part Two – THE PRESENT: REVEALING GRACE – “...the things which are...” Ch. 2-3

Introduction: The Full Churches, Ch. 2-3

- A. The Churches Viewed Practically
- B. The Churches Viewed Perennially
- C. The Churches Viewed Prophetically

I. EPHESUS: THE FALLEN CHURCH, 2:1-7 (A.D. 0-200)

A. The Faithful Works of This Church, 2:1-3

- 1. It Was Standing Up to the Task, 2:1-2a
 - a. Christ is Omnipotent, 2:1
 - b. Christ is Omniscient, 2:2a
- 2. It Was Standing Up for the Truth, 2:2b
- 3. It Was Standing Up in the Test, 2:3

B. The Fatal Weakness of This Church, 2:4-5a

- 1. The Vitality of Their Passion Was Gone, 2:4
- 2. The Validity of Their Profession Was Gone, 2:5a

C. The Forceful Warning to This Church, 2:5b-7

- 1. Love Must Be Absolutely Paramount, 2:5b
- 2. Love Must Be Absolutely Positive, 2:6
- 3. Love Must Be Absolutely Personal, 2:7





<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/283304632786978609>



http://media.freebibleimages.org/stories/FB_Maps_Mediterranean/overview_images/011-maps-mediterranean.jpg?1436948374



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<https://www.bibleplaces.com/smyrna/>

The Agora

This 2nd century AD agora, midway between the acropolis and the harbor, was partially excavated by German and Turkish archaeologists from 1932-1941. Porticoes lined the north and west sides of the agora, and an altar to Zeus sat in the center.

Mt. 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and **myrrh**.

Jn. 19:39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of **myrrh** and aloes, about an hundred pound *weight*.

II. SMYRNA: THE FEARFUL CHURCH, 2:8-11 (A.D. 200-325)

A. The False Trend at Smyrna, 2:8-9

1. What Was Favorably Accented at Smyrna, 2:8-9a

Rev. 2:8 And unto the angel of **the church in Smyrna** write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

9 **I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich)** and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.

- This message begins with acknowledging the authority and resurrection of Christ.

Isa. 41:4 Who hath wrought and done *it*, calling the generations from the beginning? **I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he.**

Isa. 44:6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; **I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.**

Isa. 48:12 Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; **I am he; I am the first, I also am the last.**

Rev 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; **I am the first and the last:**

Rev. 22:13 **I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.**

- The omniscience of Christ indicated by the word “know:”

Original Word: οἶδα

Transliteration: eidó

Definition: **I know**, remember, appreciate.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1492.htm>

- The positive attributes of the church in Smyrna are “...works, and tribulation, and poverty (**but thou art rich**)...”

Original Word: ἔργον

Transliteration: ergon

Definition: **work**, task, employment; a deed, action; that which is wrought or made, a work.

érgon (from *ergō*, "to work, accomplish") – a *work* or *worker* who accomplishes something. *érgon* ("work") is a deed (action) that carries out (completes) an *inner desire* (intension, purpose).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2041.htm>

Original Word: θλίψις

Transliteration: thlipsis

Definition: persecution, affliction, distress, **tribulation**.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2347.htm>

Original Word: πτωχεία

Transliteration: ptócheia

Definition: beggary, poverty, destitution.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4432.htm>

2 Cor. 8:2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their **deep poverty** abounded unto the riches of their liberality. ...

9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that **ye through his poverty might be rich**.

- God's estimation of "rich" is the quality of a believer's character, not his bank account.

2. What Was Foolishly Accepted at Smyrna, 2:9b

Rev. 2: 9 "...**and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.**"

- The churches thrived during the days of persecution.
- When Constantine came into power, persecution ended and the seeds of compromise began to take root in "Christianity."
- Circa A.D. 313, Constantine publicly acknowledged his embracing of "Christianity."
- The general depiction of the EXACT cross that Constantine is said to have seen in the sky, in which he heard the words, "in this sign conquer" is the Egyptian Ankh:



<https://faithgracetorah.net/2014/02/15/constantine-the-cross/>

The “upside down egg” is a symbol of the fertility goddess, and Tammuz is the supposedly the reincarnation of Nimrod, one of the many sun gods, wherein his symbol later became a capital “T.” On top of the capitol “T”, the loop is symbolic for his Mother/Wife Semiramis who gave herself the title, the goddess of the moon. That IS a pagan symbol.

<https://faithgracetorah.net/2014/02/15/constantine-the-cross/>

- The “early church fathers” began to philosophize Scripture rather than preaching it: Cyprian, Jerome, Origen, Clement, Didymus, Athanasius, etc.
- During this time began the rise of Amillennialism and Postmillennialism, which set the stage of Augustine – A.D. 354 – and his “City of God” which purported to replace Israel with “the universal church.”
- Usurping Israel as God’s chosen people is considered B-L-A-S-P-H-E-M-Y!
- God equates such an entity as “...**the synagogue of Satan.**”

B. The Fiery Trial at Smyrna, 2:10a “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer...”

1. The Human Level of the Trial – Its Misery – “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer...”

Jn. 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. **In the world ye shall have tribulation**: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Rom. 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; **patient in tribulation**; continuing instant in prayer;

2 Cor. 1:4 **Who comforteth us in all our tribulation**, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

2. The Satanic Level of the Trial – Its Mystery –
“...behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into
prison, that ye may be tried...”

“...deliver us from evil...”

- When the Lord Jesus prayed for us, He included the challenge of evil.

Jn. 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but **that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.**

- The satanic trials and temptations have their purpose for strengthening believers.

1 Pet. 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 Whom resist **stedfast in the faith**, knowing that **the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren** that are in the world.

10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, **after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.**

3. The Divine Level of the Trial – Its Ministry –
“...and ye shall have tribulation ten days...”

The ten persecutions under the Roman emperors;

- the "first" was under Nero, in the year 64 or 66;
- the "second" was under Domitian, about the year 93;
- the "third" was under Trajan, in the year 104;
- the "fourth" was under Hadrian, in the year 125;
- the "fifth" was under Marcus Antoninus, in the year 151;
- the "sixth" was under Septimius Severus, in the year 197;
- the "seventh" was under Maximinus, in the years 235, 236, 237;
- the "eighth" was under Decius, in the year 250;
- the "ninth" was under Valerianus, in the year 257;
- the "tenth" was under Dioclesian, in the year 303.

The Dioclesian persecution lasted ten years almost throughout: and some think that this last persecution, which held ten years, is here particularly meant,

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/revelation-2-10.html>

C. The Final Triumph at Smyrna, 2:10b-11

1. Sharing in Christ's Cross, 2:10b "...be thou faithful unto death..."
2. Sharing in Christ's Crown, 2:10b-11 "...I will give thee a crown of life. 11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death."

BELIEVERS' CROWNS

TITLE	REASON	REFERENCE
An Imperishable Crown	For leading a disciplined life	<u>1 Cor. 9:25</u>
A Crown of Rejoicing	For evangelism and discipleship	<u>1 Thess. 2:19</u>
A Crown of Righteousness	For loving the Lord's appearing	<u>2 Tim. 4:8</u>
A Crown of Life	For enduring trials	<u>James 1:12</u> ; <u>Rev. 2:10</u>
A Crown of Glory	For shepherding God's flock faithfully	<u>1 Pet. 5:4</u>

Conclusion

Jas. 1:12 Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for **when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.**