



The Book of
Revelation

Revelation 2:8-11

A Letter From Jesus to the Church, Part 2 - Smyrna.

The Church in Smyrna.

- Located on the west coast of modern day Turkey.
- Population during this time was about 250,000.
- In AD 26 it dedicated a temple to the Emperor Tiberius and boasted being the first city to worship Emperors.
- The name Smyrna means “myrrh” and originates from a gum that came from the trees growing in the region which was used as an embalming spice.
- There was a large and wealthy Jewish community, that helped martyr some Christians including Polycarp.

From Jesus who is God.

- “*The first and the last...*” - Jesus claims the title of God!

“Thus says **the LORD, the King of Israel...**

‘I am the first and I am the last,

And there is no God besides Me.’”

Isaiah 44:6.

- John 10:30 - Jesus claims He and God are one.
- John 20:28 - Thomas is not corrected by Jesus for claiming that Jesus is God.
- Easter has more meaning when you know Jesus is God!

Jesus Who “Was” Dead.

- “...who was dead, and has come to life...”

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that **He was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures...”

1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

- The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith; the hope of our forgiveness of sins and eternal life! (1 Corinthians 15:12-19).

Praise and Instructions.

- Enduring tribulation and poverty - the main persecution that they faced was loss of stuff and employment.
 - Jesus knows their situation and had shared in the experience of tribulation and poverty.
 - *“but you are rich”* (see Matthew 5:11-12).
- Enduring blasphemy (slander) from Jews who are really a synagogue of Satan, because they denied Jesus is God.
- *“Do not fear...be faithful”* - The tribulation will get worse, but it will be short lived (i.e. ten days).

Promises.

- I will give you the crown of life.
 - This creates the image of a winning Olympic athlete being rewarded with a wreath after the games.
 - Notice that the one giving the crown is Jesus.
- Will not be hurt by the second death.

“Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.

This is the second death, the lake of fire.

*And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life,
he was thrown into the lake of fire.”*

Revelation 20:14-15.

Who Overcomes?

- Answered in three ways in 1 John 5:4-5.
 1. *“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world;”*
 2. *“and this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith.”*
 3. *“Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”*

*“...**confess** with your mouth **Jesus as Lord**, and **believe** in your heart that **God raised Him from the dead**, you will **be saved...**”*

Romans 10:9.