

Bible Study

The Seven Churches Part 2 - Smyrna



Revelation 2:8
Greeting
and
Identification
100-313 A.D.

And unto the angel of the church in **Smyrna** write; These things saith the **First and the Last**, which was **dead**, and is **alive**;

Smyrna = sweet smelling savor

Numbers 29:8

But ye shall offer a **burnt offering** unto the LORD for a **sweet savour**...

Ezra 6:10

That they may offer **sacrifices of sweet savours** unto the God of heaven...

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Revelation 22:13

I am **Alpha and Omega**, the **Beginning and the End**, the **First and the Last**.

Revelation 1:18

I am **He that liveth**, and was **dead**; and, behold, I am **alive for evermore**, Amen; and **have the keys of hell and of death**.

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Was one of the great business and trade centers of the ancient world in Asia Minor
Largest public theater in Asia Minor - Large library - 20k seat stadium
Temple to Tiberius was built there - Smyrna was unquestionably loyal to Rome
John's pupil Polycarp lived, ministered, and was martyred there in 168 A.D.
Today 200k Christians still live there - largest concentration in Turkey

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Rome didn't care who or what you worshiped as long as Jesus was just another god
Your first allegiance had to be to Rome - A mandatory certificate of compliance
All were required to acknowledge goddess Roma Dia - signaling allegiance to Rome
You only had to take a pinch of incense and throw it in the fire and say "Roma Dia"
Many Christians died refusing to perform this simple blasphemous act of fealty.

Revelation 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (**but thou art rich**) and I
Condition know the **blasphemy of them which say they are Jews**, and are not,
but **are the synagogue of Satan**

1 Peter 2:12 Having **your conversation honest among the Gentiles**: that, **whereas**
they speak against you as evildoers, they may **by your good works**,
which **they shall behold**, **glorify God** in the day of visitation.

Matthew 13:21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when
tribulation or **persecution ariseth *because of the word***, by and by he is
offended.

John 15:18 If the **world hate you**, ye know that **it hated Me before** it hated you.

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2 Corinthians 8:9 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**.

James 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him?

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Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for **ye are all one in Christ Jesus**.

Galatians 3:29 **And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed**, and heirs according to the promise.

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Romans 2:29 But **he is a Jew, which is one inwardly**; and circumcision is that **of the heart, in the spirit**, and *not in the letter*; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

John 8:39 **...If ye were Abraham's children**, ye would do the works of Abraham.

John 8:44 Ye are of **your father the devil**, and the lusts of your father ye will do.

Matthew 13:30 **Let both grow together until the harvest**: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first **the tares**, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather **the wheat** into my barn.

Revelation 2:10 **Problem and Counsel** **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**.

2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and **all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**

Philippians 3:10 That I may know Him, and the **power of His resurrection**, and the **fellowship of His sufferings**, being made **conformable unto His death**

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Matthew 10:38 And he that taketh not ***his cross***, and ***followeth after Me***, is not worthy of Me.

Matthew 10:39 He that **findeth his life shall lose it**: and he that **loseth his life for My sake shall find it**.

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Isaiah 53:8 **He was taken from prison** and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for **He was cut off** out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was **He stricken**.

Ephesians 5:1 **Be** ye therefore ***followers of God***, as dear children;

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath **given Himself for us** an offering and a **sacrifice** to God for a **sweet smelling savour**.

2 Corinthians 2:15 For **we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ**, in them that are saved, and in them that perish

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Revelation 6:9 And when He had opened the fifth seal, I saw **under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God**, and for the testimony which they held:

Revelation 6:11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should **rest yet** for a little season, ***until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled***.

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Revelation 20:4 ...I saw the **souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God**, and which **had not worshipped the beast**, neither **his image**, neither had received **his mark upon their foreheads**, or **in their hands**; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

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- Jeremiah 12:3 But thou, O LORD, knowest me: **Thou hast** seen me, and **tried mine heart** toward thee: pull them out **like sheep for the slaughter**, and **prepare them for the day of slaughter**.
- James 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.
- James 1:3 Knowing this, that the **trying of your faith worketh patience**.
- James 1:4 But let **patience have her *perfect work***, that **ye may be *perfect*** and ***entire***, wanting nothing.
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- Numbers 14:34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, ***each day for a year***, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.
- Ezekiel 4:6 And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee ***each day for a year***.

Worst years of persecution was between 303-313 A.D. - all under Emperor Diocletian
Ended with Emperor Constantine when he declared religious liberty in 313 A.D.

- Revelation 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;
Closing
and
Promise He that **overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death**.
- Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and
whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their
part in the **lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the**
second death.
- Matthew 10:28 And **fear not them which kill the body**, but are not able to kill the soul:
but rather **fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell**.
- 1 Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the
trumpet shall sound, and the **dead shall be raised incorruptible**, and we
shall be **changed**.
- 1 Corinthians 15:55 O **death**, where is thy sting? O **grave, where is thy victory?**
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- 2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light **affliction**, which is but **for a moment**, *worketh for us a far*
more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;
- 2 Corinthians 4:18 While we **look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which**
are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the **things**
which are not seen are eternal.