



To Enjoy and Express the Freeing Radical Love of Jesus

BrevardChurch.org

EMPIRES AT WAR



LAODICEA
PERGAMUM



SARDIS
SMYRNA



**THE
LETTERS
OF REVELATION
EMPIRES AT WAR**

REVELATION 2:8-11
THROUGH THE VALLEY

OCTOBER 2

2:8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write:
The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.”

Revelation 2

⁸ “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.

⁹ “‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

¹¹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’



Turkey

GALATIA

Rev
2:8-11

- PERGAMUM
- THYATIRA
- SARDIS
- PHILADELPHIA
- LAODICEA
- EPHESUS
- SMYRNA

PATMOS

Israel

Who Was Smyrna



Who Was Smyrna



Who Was Smyrna

- "Smyrna" means myrrh (perfume)
- Very large harbor town
- First to have "Cult to Rome" (Roma)
- "Most faithful ally" to Rome
- Synagogue was Tax Exempt



Jesus' Letter to the Smyrna Church

The Problem

⁹ “I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

“Pressure”

Economic Insecurity

Cancelled

Jesus' Letter to the Smyrna Church

The Response

¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life

Fearless

Faithful

Crown



Polycarp: the Bishop of Smyrna

Martyrdom of St. Polycarp, steel
engraving from 1860

I Am Smyrna

⁹ “I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

“Pressure”

Economic Insecurity

Cancelled

I Am Smyrna

Remember The Filter

How do I interpret pain and suffering?

- We tend to lose faith and hope quickly
 - We assume instant gratification
 - “I deserve more comfort”
- Do I love God for Who He Is or What He Gives?

I Am Smyrna

Our Response

¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life

- Deny it
- Fight against it
- Lay down in despair
- Walk through it

11b ***The one who conquers*** will not be hurt by the second death.'



*God won't give you
anything that you
can't handle. (?)*

11b ***The one who conquers*** will not be hurt by the second death.'



2 Corinthians 4:8

For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so ***utterly burdened beyond our strength*** that we despaired of life itself.

11b ***The one who conquers*** will not be hurt by the second death.'

John 16:32

Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have ***overcome*** the world."

11^b The one who conquers ***will not be hurt by the second death.***

John 19:39

Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of ***myrrh*** and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight.

^{11b} The one who conquers ***will not be hurt by the second death.***

John 19:39

Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of ***myrrh*** and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight.

“The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.”

Revelation 1

^{17b} “Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

1 John 5:4-5

For everyone who has been born of God **overcomes** the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

⁵ Who is it that **overcomes** the world except ***the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?***

Romans 8:37

No, in all these things we are ***more than conquerors (“hyper-nike”)*** through him who loved us.

2 Corinthians 4:8

For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

The Filter

2 Corinthians 4

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Why? I don't know, but...

Why? I don't know, but...

2 Corinthians 4

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. ⁶ If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.

Why? I don't know, but...

- 1) Connects us to Jesus
- 2) Connects us together in prayer and comfort
- 3) Drives us to Jesus
- 4) Reveals Christ in us to others

Psalm 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

I need someone who HAS BEEN in the valley
I need someone IN the valley with me
I need someone ABOVE the valley

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

Psalm 23

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.