



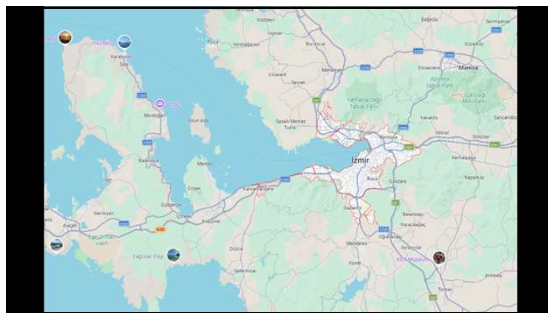
1

8th And to the angel of the church in **Smyrna** write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:
Revelation 2:8 (NASB 2020)

2



3



4

Smyrna is the only city that has continued to the present day, having the modern name Izmir. Another harbor city with a thriving export trade thirty-five miles north of Ephesus, it was renowned for its beauty and its civic pride, calling itself "the first in Asia" as well as the birthplace of Homer (disputed by other cities). It maintained an excellent relationship with Rome and was one of four cities (with Ephesus, Pergamum, and Sardis) to host the provincial assembly.



5

It was the first city in Asia to erect a temple to the goddess Roma (195 B.C.), and in A.D. 26, because of its long loyalty to Rome, it beat out ten other cities for the privilege of building a temple to the emperor Tiberias. In succeeding decades it became a center of the imperial cult.



6

11 And after they came into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary; and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and **myrrh**.
Matthew 2:11 (NASB 2020)

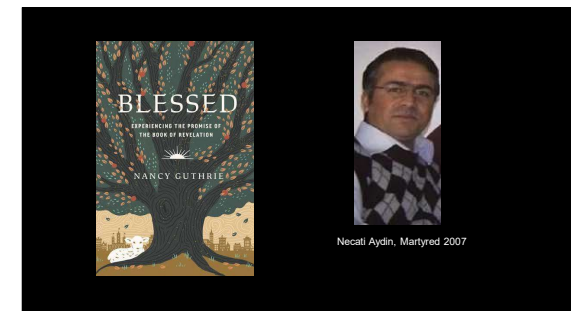
7

Hemer draws a connection between myrrh and Christ's burial when he writes that "later patristic interpreters read an allegory of the burial of Christ into the mention of myrrh in the Psalms and Canticles." As mentioned earlier, myrrh was used in the humiliation and suffering of Christ, and for the Jew it may have had an indirect association for the preparation of the body as a prerequisite for the resurrection. Hemer speculates that Smyrnaeans may have known "the Gospel tradition in some of the several areas which linked myrrh with the resurrection of Jesus"

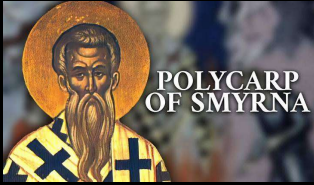


David E. Graves, "Local References in the Letter of Smyrna" (Rv 2:8-11)

8



9



10

Revelation 2:8-11

11

The Hidden Realities of the Suffering Church

1. There is _____ because of your _____ (2:8)
2. There are _____ hidden in your _____ (2:9a)
3. There's a _____ hidden in your _____ (2:9b-10a)
4. There's a _____ to your _____ (2:10b)
5. There's a _____ for your _____ (2:10c-11)

12

The Hidden Realities of the Suffering Church

1. There is reassurance because of your Master (2:8)
2. There are _____ hidden in your _____ (2:9a)
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5. There's a _____ for your _____ (2:10c-11)

13

1. There is reassurance because of your Master (2:8)

- A. He is _____
- B. He can _____

14

1. There is reassurance because of your Master (2:8)

- A. He is eternal
- B. He can _____

15

⁸“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:
Revelation 2:8 (NASB 2020)

16

Isaiah 44:6-8

17

⁶“This is what the Lord says, *He who is* the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of armies: ‘I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.

18

⁷Who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it; And, let him confront Me Beginning with My establishing of the ancient nation. Then let them declare to them the things that are coming And *the events* that are going to take place.

19

⁸**Do not tremble and do not be afraid;** Have I not long since announced *it* to you and declared *it*? And you are My witnesses. **Is there any God besides Me, Or is there any other Rock?** I know of none.' "

Isaiah 44:6–8 (NASB 2020)

20

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer person is decaying, yet our inner *person* is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our momentary, light affliction is producing for us an **eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison**, ¹⁸while 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**. 2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NASB 2020)

21

1. There is reassurance because of your Master (2:8)

- A. He is eternal
- B. He can _____

22

1. There is reassurance because of your Master (2:8)

- A. He is eternal
- B. He can empathize

23

⁸And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, **who was dead, and has come to life**, says this:
Revelation 2:8 (NASB 2020)

24

¹⁴For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses said nothing concerning priests. ¹⁵And this is clearer still, if another priest arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek, ¹⁶who has become a *priest* not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but **according to the power of an indestructible life**.
Hebrews 7:14–16 (NASB 2020)

25

And if formerly death was strong, and therefore fearsome, but is now despised, after the sojourn of the Savior and after the death and resurrection of his body, clearly it is by him, the Christ who was raised upon the cross, that death has been destroyed and conquered.



26

For when one sees human beings, who are weak by nature, leaping towards death, neither shrinking from its corruption nor fearing the descent to hell, but with an eager spirit challenging it and not flinching from torture, but rather for the sake of Christ preferring instead of this present life zeal for death;



27

or if one were to watch men and women and young children rushing and leaping towards death on account of their devotion to Christ, who is so silly or who is so incredulous, or who is so maimed in mind, as to not understand and reason that it is Christ, to whom human beings are bearing witness, who provides and grants the victory over death to each, rendering it fully weakened in each of those having his faith and wearing the sign of the cross?



28



29



30

The Hidden Realities of the Suffering Church

1. There is reassurance because of your Master (2:8)
2. There are _____ hidden in your _____ (2:9a)
3. There's a _____ hidden in your _____ (2:9b-10a)
4. There's a _____ to your _____ (2:10b)
5. There's a _____ for your _____ (2:10c-11)

31

The Hidden Realities of the Suffering Church

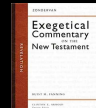
1. There is reassurance because of your Master (2:8)
2. There are riches hidden in your meagerness (2:9a)
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4. There's a _____ to your _____ (2:10b)
5. There's a _____ for your _____ (2:10c-11)

32

⁹I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the slander by those who say they are Jews, and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
Revelation 2:9 (NASB 2020)

33

Christ reminds them, however, of the paradoxical status of God's people in a sinful world: they are often poor in this world's wealth (outward, material, ephemeral) but "rich" inwardly, spiritually, and eternally.



34

²⁰And He raised His eyes toward His disciples and *began* saying, "Blessed are you who are poor, **for yours is the kingdom of God.**"
Luke 6:20 (NASB 2020)

35

⁵Listen, my beloved brothers *and sisters*: **did God not choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?**
James 2:5 (NASB 2020)

36

Proverbs 30:7-9

37

⁷Two things I have asked of You; Do not refuse me before I die: ⁸Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion,

38

⁹So that I will not be full and deny **You** and say, "Who is the Lord?" And that I will not become impoverished and steal, And profane the name of my God.

Proverbs 30:7–9 (NASB 2020)

39

¹⁷Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, **and have no need of anything,**" and you do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked, Revelation 3:17 (NASB 2020)

40

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41

The Hidden Realities of the Suffering Church

1. There is reassurance because of your Master (2:8)
2. There are riches hidden in your meagerness (2:9a)
3. There's a regime hidden in your maltreatment (2:9b-10a)
4. There's a _____ to your _____ (2:10b)
5. There's a _____ for your _____ (2:10c-11)

42

⁹I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), **and the slander by those who say they are Jews, and are not,** but are a synagogue of Satan. Revelation 2:9 (NASB 2020)

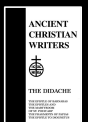
43

As a result, he did not collapse from fright at what was being said to him; the proconsul, on the other hand, was astounded, and sent his herald to announce three times in the centre of the arena: "Polycarp has confessed to being a Christian." Upon this announcement of the herald, the **whole multitude of heathens and of Jews living at Smyrna** shouted with uncontrolled anger and at the top of their voices: "This is the teacher of Asia, the father of the Christians, the destroyer of our gods! He teaches many not to sacrifice and not to worship!"



44

Then the thing was done more quickly than can be told, the crowds being in so great a hurry to gather logs and firewood from the shops and baths! **And the Jews, too, as is their custom, were particularly zealous in lending a hand.**



45

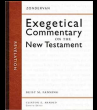
²They will ban you from the synagogue, yet an hour is coming for **everyone who kills you to think that he is offering a service to God.**
John 16:2 (NASB 2020)

46

⁹“So I thought to myself that I had to act in strong opposition to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.
¹⁰And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, after receiving authority from the chief priests, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being put to death. ¹¹And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was extremely enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.
Acts 26:9–11 (NASB 2020)

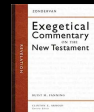
47

Raising the issue of who is truly Jewish is sometimes taken to reflect a widespread conviction among early Christians that the church is the new Israel, the true Jewish people, and that ethnic Israel has been set aside in God's purposes.



48

But as in other New Testament texts that speak in these terms, **the point here is not that gentile Christians are now the real Jews but that ethnic Jews who turn away from and oppose God's saving work through Christ are showing themselves to be Jewish only by physical descent, not by inward devotion and faith like that of Abraham.**



49

⁹I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the slander by those who say they are Jews, and are not, **but are a synagogue of Satan.**
Revelation 2:9 (NASB 2020)

50

¹⁰Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, **the devil is about to throw some of you into prison**, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.
Revelation 2:10 (NASB 2020)

51

¹⁹We know that we are of God, **and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.**
1 John 5:18–19 (NASB 2020)

52

¹⁸For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and **Satan hindered us.**
1 Thessalonians 2:18 (NASB 2020)

53

¹²Then the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not reach out *and put* your hand on him.” So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.
Job 1:12 (NASB 2020)

54

¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, **but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.**
Ephesians 6:11–12 (NASB 2020)

55

¹⁴No wonder, for even Satan **disguises himself as an angel of light.**
¹⁵Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.
2 Corinthians 11:14–15 (NASB 2020)

56

⁸Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, **prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**
⁹So resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brothers and sisters who are in the world.
1 Peter 5:8–9 (NASB 2020)

57

¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down, the one who accuses them before our God day and night. ¹¹And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. ¹²For this reason, rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you with great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time."
Revelation 12:10–12 (NASB 2020)

58

The Hidden Realities of the Suffering Church

1. There is reassurance because of your Master (2:8)
2. There are riches hidden in your meagerness (2:9a)
3. There's a regime hidden in your maltreatment (2:9b-10a)
4. There's a _____ to your _____ (2:10b)
5. There's a _____ for your _____ (2:10c-11)

111

The Hidden Realities of the Suffering Church

1. There is reassurance because of your Master (2:8)
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3. There's a regime hidden in your maltreatment (2:9b-10a)
4. There's a restriction to your misery (2:10b)
5. There's a _____ for your _____ (2:10c-11)

112

4. There's a restriction to your misery (2:10b)

- A. God is in _____
B. Your suffering is _____

113

4. There's a restriction to your misery (2:10b)

- A. God is in control
B. Your suffering is _____

114

¹⁰**Do not fear what you are about to suffer.** Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, **so that you will be tested**, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.
Revelation 2:10 (NASB 2020)

115

¹²Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not reach out *and put* your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.

Job 1:12 (NASB 2020)

116

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

117

⁷Because of the extraordinary *greatness* of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, *a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!*

118

⁸Concerning this *I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might leave me.*

119

⁹And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

2 Corinthians 12:7–9 (NASB 2020)

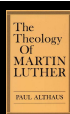
120

⁹But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him an abusive judgment, but said, "*The Lord rebuke you!*"

Jude 9 (NASB 2020)

121

The devil stands in opposition to God. Although his power and his claim are so great that he can be called the "god of this world," there is never any doubt that only the true God is God. Luther holds dualism within the boundaries set by God's omnipotence, which works all in all. Satan and his evil work are also subject to God's almighty activity. This means that the devil must still serve God's will for men and for the world—in spite of the fact that his will and activity are directed against God. God keeps him in his service and uses him for his own work.



122

4. There's a restriction to your misery (2:10b)

A. God is in control

B. Your suffering is _____

123

4. There's a restriction to your misery (2:10b)

A. God is in control

B. Your suffering is constrained

124

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

Revelation 2:10 (NASB 2020)

125

¹¹But Daniel said to the overseer whom the commander of the officials had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,¹²"Please put your servants to the test for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³Then let our appearance be examined in your presence and the appearance of the youths who are eating the king's choice food; and deal with your servants according to what you see."

Daniel 1:11–13 (NASB 2020)

126

In light of these difficulties a fifth interpretation of the ten days is preferable. The ten days are literal and refer to an unknown persecution within a definite period of time during the generation to which this message was addressed. Such limited periods of persecution are well known in biblical history (Gen. 7:4; 40:12, 13, 20; Num. 14:33; Esth. 3:13; Ezek. 4:1–8; Matt. 12:40). This is the most natural understanding of the expression in epistolary literature such as this. No reason to take the ten days as symbolic exists.



127

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Romans 8:18 (NASB 2020)

128

¹⁷For our momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NASB 2020)

129

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130

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131

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

Revelation 2:10 (NASB 2020)

132

The Roman governor Pliny said that when Christians were denounced to him, he asked them three times if they were Christians. If they admitted it, he said, "I order them to be led away for execution; for, whatever the nature of their admission, I am convinced that their stubbornness and unshakable obstinacy ought not to go unpunished"



133

The common wreath (stephanos) worn on the head was made of laurel, myrtle, ivy, or similar foliage. The most valuable wreaths were of gold (4:4; 14:14). **Here, the wreath is linked to victory or conquest (2:11), and it draws on three types of associations:**

1. **Athletics:** wreaths were given to victors
2. **Military:** wreaths were worn by those who triumphed in battle
3. **Public service:** benefactors and those who performed civic service were publicly honored



134

¹¹The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **The one who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.**
Revelation 2:11 (NASB 2020)

135

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136

Application

137

Application

138