



THE BOOK OF

# REVELATION

# REVELATION

The Things That Are

Letters to the 7 churches

Smyrna

The Persecuted Church

# Revelation

## Smyrna

### Revelation in General

According to **Revelation 1:19** there are three aspects to this book:

1. Things that were, (John's vision of Christ)
2. Things that are, (The present Church Age)
3. That which is after these things “*metatauta*” (Gk)  
(*The Prophetic visions of this book*)
  - a. It is a singular revelation or unveiling of the truth. It is the revelation of Jesus Christ.
  - b. It's the consummation of all things
  - c. It's very dependent of OT for clarification

# Revelation

## Smyrna

### The 7 Letters in General

There are four levels of application

- A. Local:** Real churches with real problems
- B. Ecclesiastical:** Letters apply to All churches
- C. A homiletic/personal application:** We all need to heed Christ's words
- D. A prophetic application:** Each church represents a particular church age.

Ephesus = The Apostolic Church,  
Smyrna = The Suffering Church

# Revelation

## Smyrna

### The 7 Letters in General

There are 7 elements to each letter

1. The name of the recipient church
2. The title of Christ: The Christological aspect of the letter
3. The Commendation: What the church has done well
4. The Concern: What is lacking or wrong
5. The Exhortation: What needs to be done
6. The Promise to the Overcomer: Eternal motivation to do what is demanded
7. The Closing Phrase: “*He that has an ear...*”



# Revelation

## The Letter to the church Smyrna

**Review:** Ephesus taught us two important truths:

1. Purity is not a substitute for Passion
2. Doctrine is not a substitute for Devotion.

**Also,** We should never be so busy about kingdom work that we neglect time with the King.

**While** what we do is important, why we do it is more important.

**If our works** are not borne out of love they are worthless.

# Revelation

## The Letter to the church Smyrna

### **I. The church**

- A. Unknown origins. Possibly started from Paul's ministry at Ephesus.
- B. Smyrna a dangerous place to be due to fanatical worship of emperor.
- C. The name, Smyrna means death in Hebrew. In Greek it is murrh, which is used for:
  - 1. Perfume, Ps. 45:8
  - 2. Anointing of priests, Ex. 30:23
  - 3. Purification of women, Esther 2:2
  - 4. Embalming, John 19:39

# Revelation

## The Letter to the church Smyrna

### **II. The Title of Christ**

Titles Christ gave Himself were relevant to message to church.

- A. Given here to encourage church due to persecution.
- B. To remind them He is the everlasting One.
- C. To tell them He is one who has experienced what they were going through and can empathize with them.



# Revelation

## The Letter to the church Smyrna

### **II. The Title of Christ**

While God does not delight in His saints being persecuted He is pleased, blessed and glorified by their unbridled love and obedience to Him under such circumstances.

As Christ is the Forever One He also gives these saints eternal life.

# Revelation

## The Letter to the church Smyrna

### III. The Commendation

We will all experience tribulation, *thlipsis* (Gk) which means a pressing together, oppression and affliction. Jn. 16:33, 2 Tim. 3:12

Three basic reasons for the Smyrna Christians' persecution:

1. Not participating in Emperor worship
2. Not worshiping the towns' many gods and goddesses
3. The Jews continued hatred of Christians

# Revelation

## The Letter to the church Smyrna

### III. The Commendation

Jesus called the Smyrna Jews a “synagogue of Satan. They were physical not spiritual Jews.

**Poverty**, *ptochēia*, (*Gk*) means totally without anything, beggary.

### IV. The Exhortation

This was given, not to correct but to encourage.

Fear, *phobēō* (*Gk*) happens when we don't believe what God tells us.

# Revelation

## The Letter to the church Smyrna

### **IV.The Exhortation**

We can have courage because these trials are temporary.

Our trials and tribulations are:

1. A spiritual battle. Eph. 6:12
2. A means for our testing our faith.

James 1:2-4

# Revelation

## The Letter to the church Smyrna

### **V. The promise**

1. Their period of tribulation will be for a short period of time. There is an end to it.
2. They will receive the crown of life (eternal life) on account of their faithful endurance.
3. They will not be subject to the 2<sup>nd</sup> death.  
(Born once, die twice, Born twice, die once!)

# Revelation

## The Letter to the church Smyrna

### **VI. Conclusion**

Things are infinitely better than they seem.

1. Christ has the last word.
2. Christ is alive forevermore.
3. Christ knows your pain.
4. You are rich with the riches of Christ.
5. You will receive from him the crown of life.
6. He will not let you be hurt by the second death.