

THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION

2:8-11

THE CHURCH IN SMYRNA

I. Smyrna

- A. Modern Izmir the third largest city in _____ with a population of 2,965,900 according to their 2019 census
- B. A _____ city on the Aegean Sea
- C. The name is derived from its trade of the herb myrrh, which was widely used as an anesthetic, and embalming fluid
- D. Smyrna was made a key Roman _____ center where Roman judges came to try cases from the surrounding districts
- E. Roman Emperor worship was the _____ religion of Smyrna
 1. Once each year the citizens were _____ to go the temple of the emperor and make a yearly sacrifice of burning incense and state that "Caesar is lord"
 2. Failure to do so could result in _____, and as Christians, the Church of Smyrna could not give this allegiance to the Roman Emperor because the title "Lord" was reserved for their Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ
 3. In AD 155, some 66 years after John wrote to the Church of Smyrna, _____, the Bishop of Smyrna, refused to avow allegiance to the emperor. For refusing to do so, he was _____ as a martyr.

II. The description of Christ as presented to this church **Vs 8**-*the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;*

- A. The Church at Smyrna seems to have been the most _____ of the seven churches
- B. To this Church Christ _____ the believers that He is the One who was dead and is now alive
 1. A reminder of the _____
 2. This cannot be construed to mean that the believers would not suffer persecution for their faith, but that they would be _____ in the end, if they die as martyrs

III. Christ's _____ message to these struggling believers **Vs 9-10**

- A. *I Know*-Christ's _____ **Vs 9a**
 1. *Your Works*-_____, whether good or evil
 2. *Your Tribulation*-all the various _____ they experienced
 3. *Your Poverty, (but you are rich)*-an _____ of earthly needs but an _____ of eternal wealth that will never disappear
 4. Your _____ **Vs 9b**
 - a. *Blasphemy*-not reproach against God as much as reproach against the believers by those who _____ to be Jews, but in reality, are not
 - b. *Are of the synagogue of Satan*-although they may go to the Jewish synagogue they truly belong to the _____ of the Devil
- B. Christ's encouragement, _____, and encouragement **Vs 10**
 1. *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer*-Fear not, even though tough times are ahead (_____)
 2. _____ times are coming (warning)
 - a. *The devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried*-imprisonment and _____

- b. *Ye shall have tribulation ten days*-difficulty is coming but will last for only a _____ time
- 3. *Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life*-eternal focus on _____ reward awaiting those who remain faithful during _____ hard times (encouragement)

IV. The application and call to the _____ **Vs 11**

- A. Give _____ to what is being shared with the believers at Smyrna **Vs 11a**
- B. Be _____ to overcome, and be reassured by overcoming **Vs 11b**