



Rev. 2:8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; 9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. 10 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. 11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

To the angel (Messenger or Pastor) of the church in Smyrna (modern day “Izmir” in Turkey). The Pastor has “works” and “tribulation” and “poverty” but was considered spiritually rich. All believers are spiritually rich (Lk.16:11; Rom. 9:23; Eph. 1:7, 18; 2:7; 3:16; Phil. 4:16). He also was attacked by “blasphemy” by false-Jews (professing to be perfected or saved Jews – but are not, rather they are apostate – Rom. 2:28-29). V.10 – Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer, prison, trials, even death. The Christian martyr is given “a crown of life.”

The Five Crowns for the Faithful Christian:

- A. The Incorruptible Crown – 1 Cor. 9:24-25 – Faithful finisher of life’s race.
- B. The Crown of Rejoicing – 1 Thess. 2:19 – The Soul-winner’s crown.
- C. The Crown of Righteousness – 2 Tim. 4:8 – For living right and loves Christ’s appearing.
- D. The Crown of Life – James 1:12 & Rev. 2:10 – Faithful unto death.
- E. The Crown of Glory – 1 Peter 5:4 – Faithfully feeding the flock of God. (Pastor’s crown)

The overcomer is the Christian (1 Jn. 5:1-5). He shall not be hurt of the “second death” (Rev. 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8). The pastor and church of Smyrna receives no word of correction – only a warning and comfort.

Rev. 2:12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; 13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. 14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. 15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. 16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. 17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

To the angel of the church in Pergamos. (presently only ruins). The Lord knows the pastor’s works and where he lives. “Satan’s seat” may refer to the Temple of Asclepius. Antipas was “my faithful martyr” or witness and Jesus is also called faithful witness in Rev. 1:5. The Pastor tolerated the doctrine of Balaam (immorality) and idolatry (Num. 24 & 25). And he also tolerated the doctrine of the Nicolaitans (Priest-craft or clergy over laity). Jesus will war with the “Balaamites” and the Nicolaitans – with the sword of His mouth. (Balaam died by a sword – cf. Num. 31:8).

The Hidden Manna – is precious fellowship with the Lord.

The White Stone – is culturally an acquittal stone (Justification) vs. the black stone (guilty as charged).

One amazing truth about Christ’s coming to reward His people, is that HE will personally be involved in each of our lives. Imagine that, the King of Kings is never too busy to serve His people!

