

## The Message to Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11

September 1, 2024

The messages in Revelation 2 & 3 are given to \_\_\_\_\_ specific congregations in Asia Minor. The \_\_\_\_\_ word translated “church” literally means “to call \_\_\_\_\_ from among”. Believers in Christ Jesus have been called out from \_\_\_\_\_ in this world. They are distinctly different in life, \_\_\_\_\_, and destiny.

### A. The City of Smyrna

#### 1. Location

- 30 miles \_\_\_\_\_ of Ephesus
- At the end of a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ of the Aegean Sea

#### 2. A \_\_\_\_\_ city

- Built by the Greeks after the destruction of \_\_\_\_\_
- Streets were \_\_\_\_\_, straight, and spacious.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ street was the most famous, running from the sea where the temple of Cybele (goddess of \_\_\_\_\_) was built all the way through the city to Mount Pagos where the great temple to \_\_\_\_\_ was.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ of Apollo, Aphrodite, and Aesculapius
- The Romans considered it the queen and \_\_\_\_\_ of Asia.

### B. The Church in \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1. Smyrna, or “myrrh”

- A sweet perfume made from \_\_\_\_\_ the plant.
  - Used in \_\_\_\_\_
  - Included in the holy anointing \_\_\_\_\_ of the Tabernacle
- The church of \_\_\_\_\_
  - “Thlipsis” – a strong Greek word for “\_\_\_\_\_”
  - A picture of \_\_\_\_\_ millstones – gradually crushing to \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Letter from Christ the \_\_\_\_\_ One

- “First and last” – relating Himself to time and \_\_\_\_\_
- Always existed in the past and will \_\_\_\_\_ exist in the future

c. “Became dead” but \_\_\_\_\_ alive

The eternal One related to \_\_\_\_\_, as well as the resurrected One in relation to \_\_\_\_\_

d. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ as the bridegroom

#### 3. Commendation of faithfulness in \_\_\_\_\_

- Tribulation and poverty. “Thy works” is not in the \_\_\_\_\_ manuscripts, making the statement much more direct.
- “Poverty” is the word for \_\_\_\_\_ poverty.
  - Perhaps from a poor \_\_\_\_\_ of people
  - Perhaps had been \_\_\_\_\_ in the process of persecution
- Their persecutors were not just pagans, but also \_\_\_\_\_ Jews and Satan himself.

#### 4. The exhortation and promise

- More persecution was on the way – “ten days”
  - Perhaps \_\_\_\_\_ days
  - Perhaps specific \_\_\_\_\_ of time
    - Ten \_\_\_\_\_ of Diocletian’s persecution
    - Ten \_\_\_\_\_ of persecution until Constantine
  - A specific and \_\_\_\_\_ time
- Suffering for being a Christian has \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Disciplinary to bring us \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ (Corinthians)
  - Preventative to keep us from \_\_\_\_\_-exaltation (Paul’s thorn in the flesh)
  - Educative to teach us \_\_\_\_\_ that we would not have known (Jesus in Hebrews 5:8, and Rom. 5:3-5)
  - Have a \_\_\_\_\_ testimony for Christ (Paul in Acts 9:16)
- \_\_\_\_\_ encouragement
  - “Stop being afraid” – they could not be \_\_\_\_\_ of their priceless eternal blessing in Christ!
  - “Become faithful even unto death” – their \_\_\_\_\_ would be eternal life itself
  - Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna and example for many years, was pressured to recant his Christian faith. He said, “Four score and six years have I served the Lord, and He never wronged me. How then can I blaspheme my King and Savior?”