



Goodhope Ministries Bible Study
Jesus Christ Our Good Hope - II Thess 2:16

CLASS 6: SCROLL OF REVELATION
THE LETTERS TO THE SEVEN ASSEMBLIES/CHURCHES
PART 3 THE LETTER TO SMYRNA

HISTORY/LOCATION OF SMYRNA: The persecuted church that suffered poverty and martyrdom. Located north of Ephesus in a powerful trading position on the Aegean Sea at the mouth of the Hermus River. Known for its harbors, commerce, market places & underground sanitation system. The primary ruins of Smyrna are located in the center of the modern Turkish city of Izmir. In 26 CE it was chosen to be the center of the imperial cult which worshipped the Emperor. There is still a Christian congregation in the city.

SMYRNA CHAPTER 2:8-11

TO: The Angel of the Assembly/Church in Smyrna
Smyrna a physically persecuted church. It is not compromised.
Christ has nothing against it.

FROM: He Who is The First and Last, Who was dead, and has come to life (Rev. 1:18)

This is a very appropriate description of the Lord for this church. As the Sovereign of time and One who has experienced death, the Lord's description is an encouragement to the Smyraeans. As the persecuted church, the Smyraeans may face death, but the Lord will raise them as He Himself was raised.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DEEDS:

- I know your pressures/tribulations and your poverty (BUT YOU ARE RICH!)
- The blasphemy/slander of those who say they are Jews (followers of God) and are not
- But (They) are a synagogue of Satan.

EXHORTATION - URGING:

- Do not fear what your about to suffer.
- Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison,
- You may be tested and you will have tribulation ten days.
- Be faithful/trustworthy until the end/death and I will give you the crown of life.

NOTES ON SMYRNA – This is not the good-times trust God to fulfill our American dream message so many modern day churches preach. This was & is a faith where people gave up their lives. There is salvation and yes it is free, But is not Cheap. It cost Yeshua His life and it cost these people theirs.

- Is the modern day church ready to hear this message?
- When persecuted will the Bride be prepared to give up everything for Him who gave His life for us?

NOTES TO ALL THE CHURCHES AT END OF LETTER: He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches: He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.

- Rev. 2:8
 - Yeshua Messiah –Power over Death Matt 27:50-54
- Rev. 2:9
 - Those who hate you hated ME .. servant isn't greater than his Master John 15:18-20
 - Those claiming to be Jews aren't (don't know God don't know ME) John 15:21, 16:3
 - Persecuted by those who think they are doing it for God John 16:1-14
 - Persecution within the faith as well as with out.
 - Steven's witness, persecution and death Acts 6 & 7
6:8-15/7:51-53
 - Polycarp of Smyrna 1st post New-Testament Martyr from a 2nd Generation of believers
- Rev. 2:10
 - Number of the martyred for the Word completed Rev 6:9-11
 - Drink from the cup that Christ was to drink – death Matt 20:22
- Rev 2: 11
 - The Second Death - No harm for those who overcome until end Rev: 21:8
Rev 20:14
Rev. 20:6
- Why does Christ address these 7 churches as examples throughout the life of the Church & into the end times with so little known of them historically in modern day?
 - Isaiah 46:10 *"declaring the end from the beginning and from old that which has not been done.."*
 - Is modern day Turkey and it's role in persecution of Christians relevant now?
 - Pastor Andrew Brunsen captivity and bartering for release of Iman
 - Turkey's Erdogan to End Secular Democracy, Invoking New Holy War Between 'Cross and Crescent'
 - Intentional flood of Europe and near East of Muslim extremists
 - Other Current Persecuted Areas:
 - China - Chinese Christians ask themselves each day *"Is this the Day I will Die (for my faith)?"*