



# Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

Every word inspired.



Every word proclaimed.

*"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ." Col 1:28*

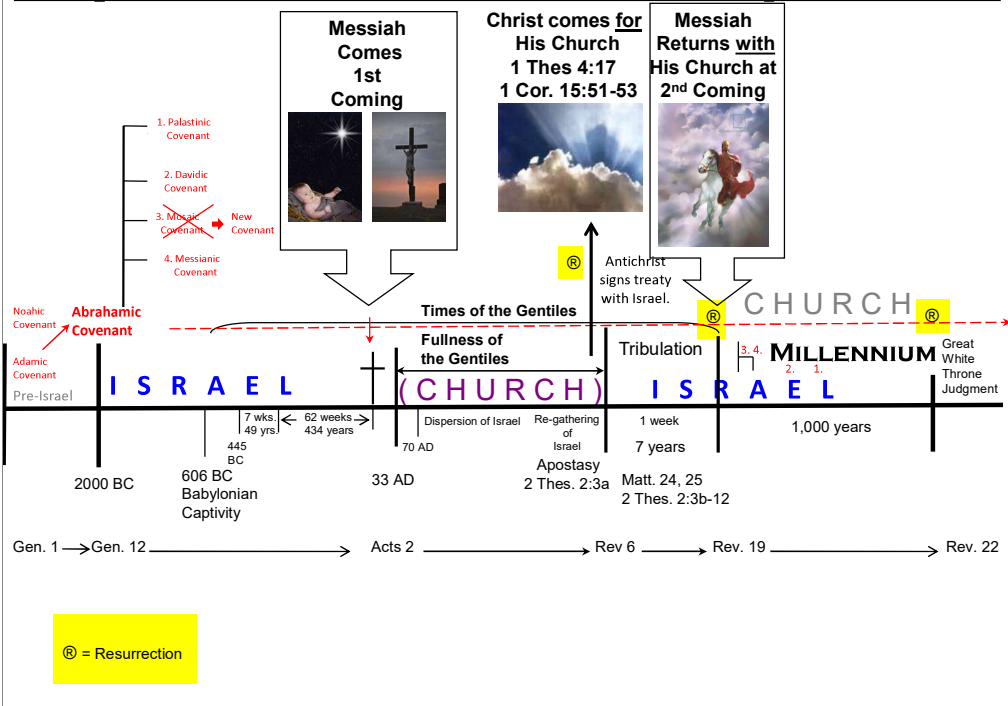
## The Church at Smyrna

**"Poor But Rich"**

**Rev. 2:8-11**

Nov. 6, 2016

### Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events



### Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3 —

- 1 Ephesus
- 2 Smyrna
- 3 Pergamos
- 4 Thyatira
- 5 Sardis
- 6 Philadelphia
- 7 Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision

## Rev 2:8-11

8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:

9 'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

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## Isa 60:1-6

1 "Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

2 "For behold, darkness will cover the earth  
And deep darkness the peoples;  
But the Lord will rise upon you  
And His glory will appear upon you.

3 "Nations will come to your light,  
And kings to the brightness of your rising.

4 "Lift up your eyes round about and see;  
They all gather together, they come to you.  
Your sons will come from afar,

And your daughters will be carried in the arms.

5 "Then you will see and be radiant,  
And your heart will thrill and rejoice;  
Because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you,  
The wealth of the nations will come to you.

6 "A multitude of camels will cover you,  
The young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
All those from Sheba will come;  
They will bring gold and frankincense,  
And will bear good news of the praises of the Lord.

## Smyrna –

- comes from Greek word meaning “myrrh.”
- Myrrh was a substance that was used for 2 purposes:
  1. Used as a perfume for the living.
  2. Used to embalm the dead.

### Matt 2:11

11 After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

### Mark 15:23

23 They tried to give Him wine mixed with myrrh; but He did not take it.

### John 19:39,40

39 Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight.

40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

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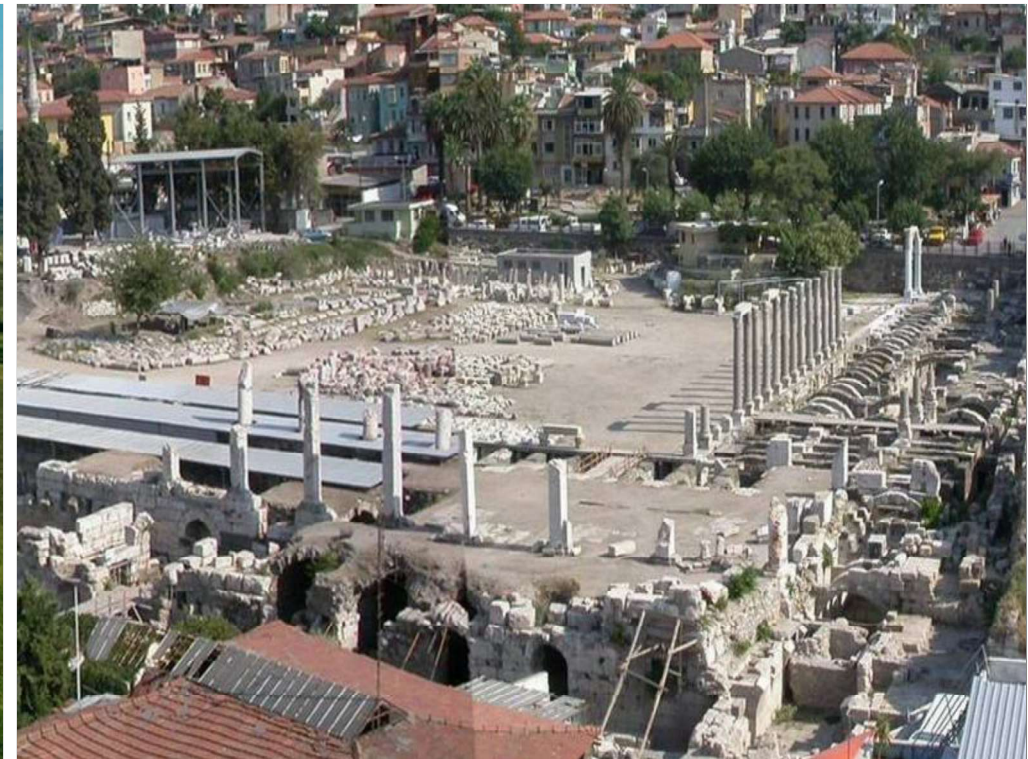
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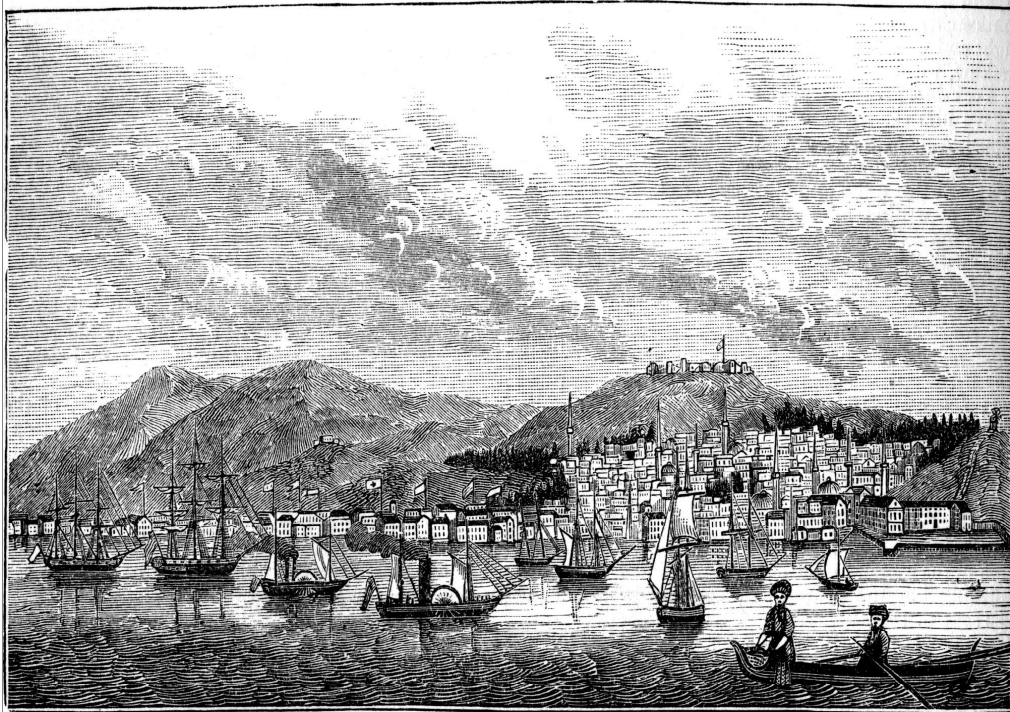
40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

- ***In order to extract the substance from the plant, you had to crush the plant and then the fragrance would be released.***

## ***Smyrna*** -

- Had a history of dying as a city but coming back to life.
- Population: 200,000.
- Very wealthy city.
- Emperor worship.
- Loyalty to Rome.
- Large Jewish population.

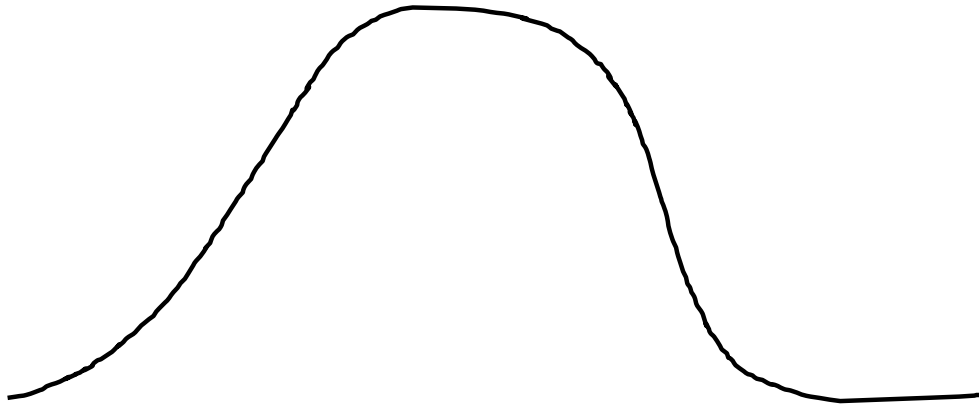




The Port of Smyrna.



SMYRNA



The temple to Cybele sat on one side while a temple to the chief god of the Greek pantheon, Zeus, sat on the other side. In between were the pagan temples of Apollo, Asclepia, Aphrodite, and Emperor Tiberius.



### **Rev 2:8-11**

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- The church at Smyrna was experiencing 3 things:
  1. Tribulation

9 'I know your tribulation . . .

“tribulation” – θλιψις – pressure.

### **John 16:33**

33 In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

### **2 Tim 3:12**

12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

### **Rom 5:3-5**

3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;

4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

### **Rom 8:35**

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

### **Rom 12:10-13**

10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,

13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

### **John 17:14**

14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

### **1 John 3:13**

13 Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.

### **1 Peter 4:12,13**

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

### **1 Peter 5:9,10**

9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

### **2 Cor 1:8,9**

8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life;

9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;

### **2 Cor 4:16-18**

16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

### **2 Cor 12:9-10**

9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

### **Rom 8:18**

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

### **3 THINGS THAT WILL BRING YOU TO MATURITY -**

#### **1. The Word of God.**

##### **1 Peter 2:2**

2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

##### **2 Tim 3:16-17**

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

17 so that the man of God may be perfect, equipped for every good work.

#### **2. Trials.**

##### **James 1:2-4**

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

#### **3. Suffering.**

##### **1 Peter 5:10**

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"tribulation" – θλιψις – pressure.

- It was the "pressure" of persecution that released the fragrance of the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **2. Poverty**

**"and your poverty . . ."**

### **There are two Greek words for poor or poverty -**

**πενησ** – one who is struggling to meet basic needs, poor, only has absolute essentials.

**πτωχεια** – one who has nothing at all, destitute, a beggar, in poverty.

### **Why was the church in poverty?**

*Because it was tied to their persecution -*

1. Couldn't find jobs.
2. If self-employed, couldn't find customers.
3. Disinherited by their family.
4. Ostracized by the community.

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αλλα – but (strong adversative)

“Rich” – πλουσιος - wealthy.

- You can be physically wealthy but poor in your soul.
- Souls can't live on worldly goods.
- Souls live on that which God can only supply.
- So some people are rich but they are really poor.
- Some people are poor but their really rich.

### **Prov 13:7**

7 There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing;  
And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches.

*"It's better to be poor and commended by Christ  
than to be rich and condemned by Christ."*

## **The Believer's Position in Christ**

The believer is:

1. Elect/Chosen (Eph. 1:4)
2. Foreknown (I Pet. 1:2)
3. Predestined (Rom. 8:29,30)
4. Called (I Thes. 5:24)
5. Redeemed (Rom. 3:24)
6. Reconciled (Rom. 5:10)
7. Related to God through propitiation (Rom. 3:24-26)
8. Forgiven all sin (Eph. 1:7)
9. Joined to Christ (Rom. 6:1-10)
10. Free from the Law (Rom. 7:2-6)
11. Made a child of God (Gal. 3:26)
12. Adopted (Rom. 8:15, 23)
13. Made acceptable to God through Christ (Eph. 1:6; Col. 1:12)
14. Made righteous (Rom. 3:22)
15. Sanctified (1 Cor. 1:30; 6:11)
16. Perfected forever (Heb 10:14)
17. Justified (Rom. 5:1)
18. Made close to God (Eph. 2:13)
19. Delivered from the power of darkness (Col.1:13)
20. Translated into the Kingdom (Col. 1:13)
21. Planted on the Rock, Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:9-15)
22. A gift from God to Jesus Christ (Jn. 17:6,11,12,20)
23. Circumcised in Christ (Col. 2:11)
24. A Priest in the Holy and Royal Priesthood of believers (1 Pet. 2:5,9)
25. Part of a chosen generation, a holy nation, and a peculiar people (1 Pet. 5:9)
26. A heavenly citizen (Phil. 3:20)
27. In the family & household of God (Eph. 2:19)
28. In the fellowship of the saints (Jn. 17:11,21-23)
29. In a heavenly association (Col. 1:27; 3:1)
30. Given access to God (Eph. 2:18)
31. Within the care of God (Rom. 5:8-10)
32. An object of God's love (Jn. 3:16)
33. An object of God's Grace (Eph. 2:7-9)
34. An object of God's power (Eph. 1:19)
35. An object of God's faithfulness (Phil. 1:6)
36. An object of God's peace (Rom. 5:1)
37. An object of God's consolation (2 Thes. 2:16,17)
38. An object of God's intercession (Rom. 8:26)
39. God's inheritance (Eph. 1:18)
40. Given the inheritance of God Himself (1 Pet. 1:4)
41. Given light in the Lord (2 Cor. 4:6)
42. United to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (1 Thes. 1.1)
43. Blessed with the earnest or first-fruits of the Spirit (Eph. 1:14)
44. Born of the Spirit (Jn. 3:6)
45. Baptized in the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13)
46. Indwelt by the Spirit (Rom. 8:9)
47. Sealed by the Spirit (2 Cor. 1:22)
48. Complete in God (Col. 2:9,10)
49. Blessed with every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3)
50. Glorified (Rom. 8:18)

*"I counted dollars while God counted crosses.  
I counted gain while He counted losses.  
I counted my worth by the things gained in store,  
But he sized me up by the scars that I bore.  
I coveted honors, and sought for degrees.  
He wept as he counted the hours on my knees.  
I never knew till one day by a grave,  
How vain are the things that we spend life to save.  
I did not yet know, 'til a Friend from above,  
Said, richest is he who is rich in God's love!"*

- Anon.



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"and your poverty . . ."

### **3. Slander**

"and the blasphemy . . ."

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## **5 major slanders:**

1. Because believers partook of symbols of Christ's body and blood, they were accused of being cannibals.
2. Because believers gathered together for their "love feasts" of fellowship, they were accused of gathering together for orgies and immorality.
3. Because families of believers at times resulted in split families, they were accused of being antifamily.
4. Because believers worshiped without images of gods, they were accused of being atheists.
5. Because believers would not say that "Caesar is Lord," they were accused of being politically disloyal (rebels). These believers would not go every year to the temple of Caesar, take pinch of incense, and burn it, and say, "Caesar is Lord," and receive a little paper that indicated that they were in good standing in the Roman Empire. They did not mind if you worshipped Caesar and any other god you wished to worship, but you must say that "Caesar is Lord." So they were accused of being rebels.

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**Rom 2:28-29**

28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.

29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

**Rom 9:6-8**

6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;

7 nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED."

8 That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.

**Eph 6:12**

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

**1 Cor 10:19,20**

19 What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything?

20 No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons.

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• 3 things to strengthen us in time of persecution:

1. **Persecution is to test us.** It will strip off the superficial supports that we have been leaning on. It will reveal how much we rely on His grace for strength.

***Suffering and persecution are not given to us so that God may find out what is in us, for He already knows, but is given so that we may find out what is in us.***

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- 2. Persecution will be only for a set time that God has determined.** Here God has determined it will last 10 days. The test cannot go beyond it. No force or power on earth could make this last eleven days!
- 3. Persecution and suffering will be rewarded.** Trials, testings, persecution, suffering, and pressures are doing something valuable for us. They are producing an eternal reward.

## The Four Crowns of Scripture



### The Crown of Righteousness

- 2 Tim. 4:6-8
- 1 Cor. 9:24-27

*Faithfulness for fighting the good fight.*



### The Crown of Life

- James 1:12
- Rev. 2:10

*Faithfulness in trials.*



### The Crown of Joy

- 1 Thes. 2:19
- Phil. 4:1

*Faithfulness in evangelism & making disciples.*



### The Crown of Glory

- 1 Pet. 5:1-4
- 1 Cor. 3:12-15

*Faithfulness in shepherding the flock of God.*

When asked to declare “Caesar is lord” or face death, Polycarp replied -

***“Eighty and six years have I served Him and He has done me now wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who has saved me?”***

- Polycarp

Pastor, Church at Smyrna

Feb. 23, 155 AD

“These things happened with such swiftness, quicker than words can tell, the crowd swiftly collecting wood and kindling from the workshops and baths, the Jews being especially eager to assist in this, as is their custom.”

- Physically, they were fed to lions or torn asunder by wild dogs, some crucified, tarred, burned at the stake.
- Some were boiled in oil.
- Others included imprisonment, racking, searing, scourging, stoning, and hanging.
- Many were lacerated with red hot pincers, and some were thrown upon the horns of wild bulls.
- Others were sewed up in the skins of wild beasts and then mauled by dogs; while still others were dressed in shirts made stiff with wax, fixed to trees and set on fire."

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## **Rev 20:5-6**

5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

## **Rev 20:11-15**

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

## **Rev 21:8**

8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

## ***What does the church at Smyrna teach believers today about persecution?***

1. Believers must have convictions.

## **Mark 4:16,17**

16 "In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy;

17 and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.

## ***What does the church at Smyrna teach believers today about persecution?***

1. Believers must have convictions.
2. Revival meetings are not needed.
3. People will stop “playing church.”
4. Persecution is not to be feared. His grace will be sufficient.
5. Marginal Christianity will not exist.
6. The tares will disappear.
7. Everything is serious and sober.
8. Bible teaching, prayer, and fellowship is experienced at a whole different level.
9. Materialism is irrelevant.
10. Death is merely a stepping-stone into a greater life.



**Martin Luther  
(1483-1546)**

Born in Eisleben, Germany, in 1483, Martin Luther went on to become one of Western history’s most significant figures. Luther spent his early years in relative anonymity as a monk and scholar. But in 1517 Luther penned a document attacking the Catholic Church’s corrupt practice of selling “indulgences” to absolve sin. His “95 Theses,” which propounded two central beliefs—that the Bible is the central religious authority and that humans may reach salvation only by their faith and not by their deeds—was to spark the Protestant Reformation. Although these ideas had been advanced before, Martin Luther codified them at a moment in history ripe for religious reformation. The Catholic Church was ever after divided, and the Protestantism that soon emerged was shaped by Luther’s ideas. His writings changed the course of religious and cultural history in the West.

### **A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD**

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| 1. A mighty fortress is our God,<br>A bulwark never failing;<br>Our helper He, amid the flood<br>Of mortal ills prevailing:<br>For still our ancient foe<br>Doth seek to work us woe;<br>His craft and power are great,<br>And, armed with cruel hate,<br>On earth is not his equal.            | 3. And though this world, with devils filled,<br>Should threaten to undo us,<br>We will not fear, for God hath willed<br>His truth to triumph through us:<br>The Prince of Darkness grim,<br>We tremble not for him;<br>His rage we can endure,<br>For lo, his doom is sure,<br>One little word shall fell him. |
| 2. Did we in our own strength confide,<br>Our striving would be losing;<br>Were not the right Man on our side,<br>The Man of God’s own choosing:<br>Dost ask who that may be?<br>Christ Jesus, it is He;<br>Lord Sabaoth, His name,<br>From age to age the same,<br>And He must win the battle. | 4. That word above all earthly powers,<br>No thanks to them, abideth;<br>The Spirit and the gifts are ours<br>Through Him who with us sideth:<br>Let goods and kindred go,<br>This mortal life also;<br>The body they may kill:<br>God’s truth abideth still,<br>His kingdom is forever.                        |