

May 24, 2017

Revelation 2:8-11
The Church of Smyrna

After the introduction to the churches (*unto the angel of the church of, write etc.*) John gives a different description of God to each of them.

- **Ephesus:** (Rev. 2:1) *He that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks.*
- **Smyrna:** (Rev 2:8) *The first and the last, which was dead, and is alive.*
- **Pergamos:** (Rev 2:12) *He which hath the sharp sword with two edges.*
- **Thyatira:** (Rev. 2:18) *The Son of God which hath His eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet like polished brass.*
- **Sardis:** *He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars.*
- **Philadelphia:** *He that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth and no man shutteth; and shutteth and no man openeth.*
- **Laodicea:** *The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God.*

Introduction:

Smyrna, a major city of the West Coast of Asia Minor, the modern city of Izmir, Turkey. Smyrna laid its claim on being the "first city of Asia in size and beauty" and it was indeed a city of great natural beauty. It had good harbor facilities, and it was at the end of a major road, surrounded by rich farmland. It is the second of the seven churches addressed in Revelation 2:8-11; and one of the two churches of which the Lord spoke no negative word. [Philadelphia was the other.]

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.*

a). The Pre-existent, Omnipotent One!

Rev. Vs. 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.

Rev. 2:10 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.

Many Christians feared for their lives due to heavy persecution; but John is encouraging the Smyeans to continue to endure hardships and realize their reward will far exceed their sufferings.

THERE ARE FIVE CROWNS MENTIONED IN SCRIPTURE FOR THE BELIEVERS

— Crown; Greek; *stephanos* (the source for the name Stephen the martyr) it means; a badge of royalty, a prize in the public games or a symbol of honor generally." Used in the ancient games, it referred to a wreath or garland or leaves placed on the victors' head as a reward for winning an athletic contest.

- The Crown of Glory
- The Crown Incorruptible
- The Crown of Life
- The Crown of Rejoicing
- The Crown of Righteousness

Rev. 2:11 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.

- Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply...
- * Friends are those rare people who ask how we are, and then wait to hear the answer... ~Stephen R. Covey ~