

THE CHURCH AT SMYRNA

Revelation 2:8-11

Smyrna is an Asian city now called Izmir.

- This congregation aligned with Roman rule and willingly engaged in emperor worship.
- A segment of the Jewish population was hostile to the church.
- The culture made living for Jesus exceedingly difficult.
- Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, was martyred for the faith.

The messenger (angel) speaks the words of God (the first and last).

Jesus is honored as the one who died and now lives.

Jesus understands their pain and poverty. Yet they are rich contrary to their perception.

Those who claim to be Jews slander Jesus. These Jews comprise a synagogue of Satan.

Do not be afraid of suffering!

- **How can that be?**
- **Can we really become unafraid of pain?**

The devil will put you to the test in prison.

You will suffer persecution for 10 days.

Be faithful even to death.

Promise: "I will give the crown of life."

Do we have an ear to hear the Spirit?

He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.

- **What is the second death?**
- **What is the first death?**
- **How can we be injury free from the second death?**

How is the Smyrna church commended, corrected and challenged?