THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

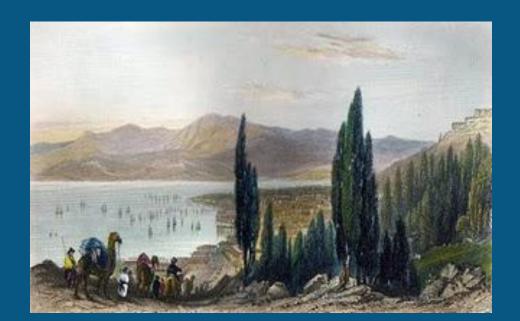
Bereans Adult Bible Fellowship Placerita Baptist Church

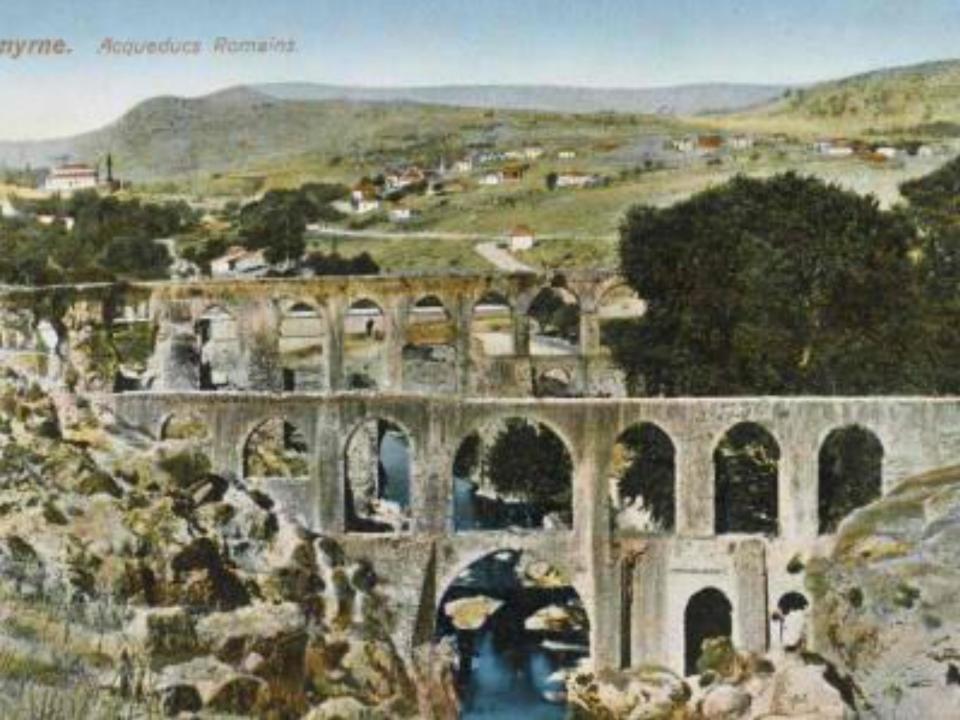
Place in the Book of Revelation

- . What you have seen (Rev 1).
- What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
 - A. Ephesus (2:1–7)



- Lysimachus, rebuilt Smyrna, 3rd cent. B.C.
- Roman commercial center with a port.
- Nearly 100,000 in time of Paul and John.
- Apostate Jews persecuted its Christians.









- City of life: "the beauty of Asia."
- Izmir still exudes joy, life, and brightness as Turkey's 3rd largest city.
- 1 of the 7 churches still prospering.
- Large population professes Christianity.



1. Characterization of Christ (v. 8)

- He is the first and the last—He is Creator, Redeemer, and Completer of the work of God. He is sovereign over all history past, present, and future.
- He is the victor over death—the first to be resurrected.

2. Commendation from Christ (v. 9)

- He commends the church at Smyrna for its faithfulness during persecution by some Jews who are tools of Satan (cp. John 8:31– 47).
- He commends the church at Smyrna for being spiritually rich, even though they are materially impoverished.

- 3. Complaint by Christ
 - He has no complaint about the church at Smyrna.

4. Counsel from Christ (v. 10)

- He counsels the church at Smyrna to not fear the suffering that they are about to experience.
- He counsels the church at Smyrna to remain faithful through the testing which will occur by means of persecution.

- 5. Caution by Christ (v. 10)
 - He warns the church at Smyrna that they will experience suffering for ten days.

- 6. Commitment of Christ (vv. 10, 11)
 - The faithful at Smyrna will receive the crown of life (see James 1:12).
 - The overcomers at Smyrna will not be harmed by the second death.

7. Practical Implications

- Believers need to prepare themselves for immediate persecution.
- Persecution can be the result of engaging
 Satan and his forces in spiritual combat.

Questions for Discussion a) What "riches" does

possess in Christ?

- b) How can _____ prepare for suffering or persecution?
- c) Why would Christ have no complaint about

Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

- He is sovereign over all history.
- He lives for His church.
- He knows His church's sufferings.
- He gives spiritual riches to His church.
- He calms His church's fears.
- He desires His church's faithfulness.
- He rewards faithful believers.
- He leads in battle with Satan.