



# **THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

**Bereans Adult Bible Fellowship  
Placerita Baptist Church**

# Place in the Book of Revelation

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



## B. Smyrna (2:8–11)

- **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.**



*myrne. Aqueducs Romains.*







## B. Smyrna (2:8–11)

- **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.**





## **B. Smyrna (2:8–11)**

### **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.**

## **B. Smyrna (2:8–11)**

### **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.**

## **B. Smyrna (2:8–11)**

### **3. Complaint by Christ**

- He has no complaint about the church at Smyrna.**

## **B. Smyrna (2:8–11)**

### **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.**

## **B. Smyrna (2:8–11)**

### **5. Caution by Christ (v. 10)**

- He warns the church at Smyrna that they will experience suffering for ten days.**

## **B. Smyrna (2:8–11)**

### **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.**

## **B. Smyrna (2:8–11)**

### **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.**

## B. Smyrna (2:8–11)

### 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.