

## JESUS' LETTER TO THE "POOR, YET RICH" CHURCH Studies in the Revelation

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy,  
and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.  
Revelation 1:3

"And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the  
words of the prophecy of this book."  
Revelation 22:7

### THE 10 DAYS OF TRIBULATION AND PERSECUTION:

"Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you  
will be tested, and you will have (what) tribulation for ten days."  
Revelation 2:10b

#### The 10 Periods of Roman Persecution

<b>Nero</b>	54-68 AD	Peter, Paul
<b>Domitian</b>	91-96 AD	John exiled
<b>Trajan</b>	98-117 AD	Ignatius burned
<b>Marcus Aurelius</b>	161-180 AD	Polycarp burned
<b>Severus</b>	193-211 AD	
<b>Maximinus</b>	235-238 AD	
<b>Decius</b>	249-251 AD	
<b>Valerian</b>	253-260 AD	
<b>Aurelian</b>	270-275 AD	
<b>Diocletian</b>	284-305 AD	

And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon,  
Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by  
faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained  
promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped  
the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty  
in war, put foreign armies to flight. They were stoned, they were sawn in  
two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went  
about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated  
(men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and  
mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

Hebrews 11:32-34, 36-38

### THE PROPHETIC NAME OF THE CHURCH:

"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write..."  
Revelation 2:8

#### "Smyrna" means: \_\_\_\_\_

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 (or  
smyrna).  
Matthew 2:11

And Nicodemus came also, who had first come to Him by night; bringing  
a mixture of myrrh (or, smyrna) and aloes, about a hundred pounds  
weight.  
John 19:39

### THE DESCRIPTION CHRIST CHOSE FOR HIMSELF:

"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..."  
Revelation 2:8

"When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His  
right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and  
the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I  
have the keys of death and of Hades."  
Revelation 1:17-18

#### One of the Old Testament Names for God:

"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of  
hosts: I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides Me."  
Isaiah 44:6

"Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called; I am He, I am the first,  
I am also the last."  
Isaiah 48:12

#### One of the New Testament Names for God:

"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to  
every man according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega,  
the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Revelation 22:12-13

## THE GOOD STUFF... (AD 100–312)

“I know (the good things about you)

- (1) your tribulation and
- (2) your poverty (but you are rich), and
- (3) the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.”

Revelation 2:9

### Now, to the church at Laodicea:

“So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,’ and you do not know that you are (1) wretched and (2) miserable and (3) poor and (4) blind and (5) naked.”

Revelation 3:16-17

### Paul’s letter to Timothy:

But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

1 Timothy 6:9-11

### The parable of the seed and the sower:

#### The Path / Road:

“Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.

#### The Rocky Soil:

The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.

#### The Thorns:

And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

#### The Good / Fertile Soil:

And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.”

Matthew 13:18-23

## THE “NOT SO GOOD”...UH, MAKE THAT “BAD” STUFF:

### THE COMMAND OF JESUS TO THE “RICH” CHURCH:

“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.”

Revelation 2:10

### THE “EVERYTHING MEANS SOMETHING” PHRASE:

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Revelation 2:11a

### THE “PROMISE” TO THE OVERCOMER:

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

Revelation 2:11b

### Question:

### **What is the second death? When does it take place?**

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, (what) the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:14-15

“He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. 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.”

Revelation 21:7-8