



The

Revelation of **Jesus Christ**

4. The Lord's message to the churches - Smyrna

Blessed is he who **reads** and those who **hear**
the words of this prophecy,
and **keep** those things which are written in it;
for the time is near.

(Revelation 1:3)

Heed them and
lay them to heart

*What
things?*

The warnings and
encouragements
to hold fast
to vision and faith.

Overview of the first two sections

Chapter 1

- Introduction
- The first vision – Christ in the midst of the lampstands

Chapters 2 & 3

- The Lord's messages to the seven churches

Chapters 4 & 5

- All heaven worships God upon His throne
- The Lamb takes the sealed scroll and is worshipped

Chapters 6 & 7 and 8:1

- The scroll's seven seals are opened



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Chapter 1

- Introduction
- The first vision – Christ in the midst of the lampstands

Chapters 2 & 3

- **The Lord's messages to the seven churches**



Chapters 4 & 5

- All heaven worships God upon His throne
- The Lamb takes the sealed scroll and is worshipped

Chapters 6 & 7 and 8:1

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*“Write what you see in a book
and send it to the seven churches...
(Revelation 1:11)*



“Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches...”

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

To the messenger of the church in Smyrna write,

These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

I know your tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich);

and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer.

Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days.

Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

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

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

(Revelation 2:8-11)

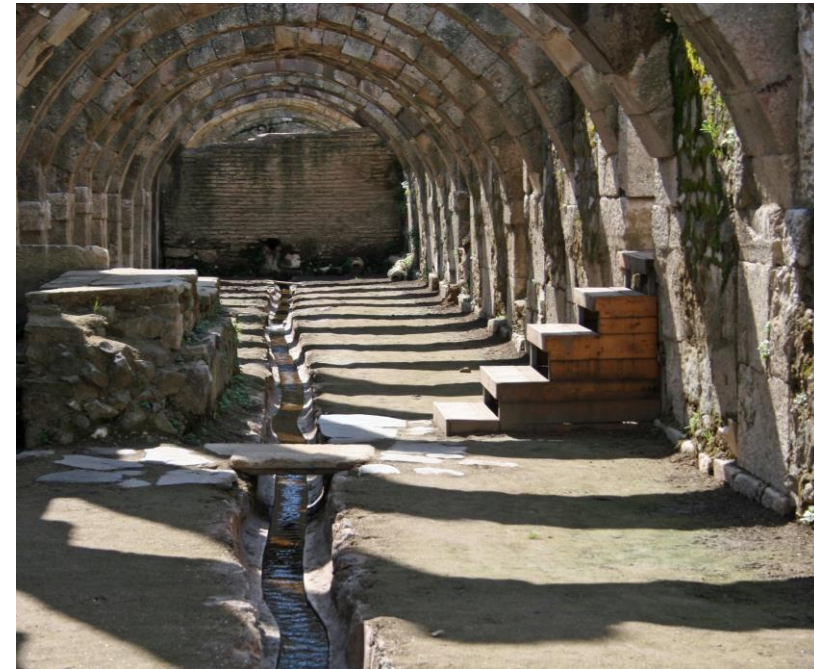
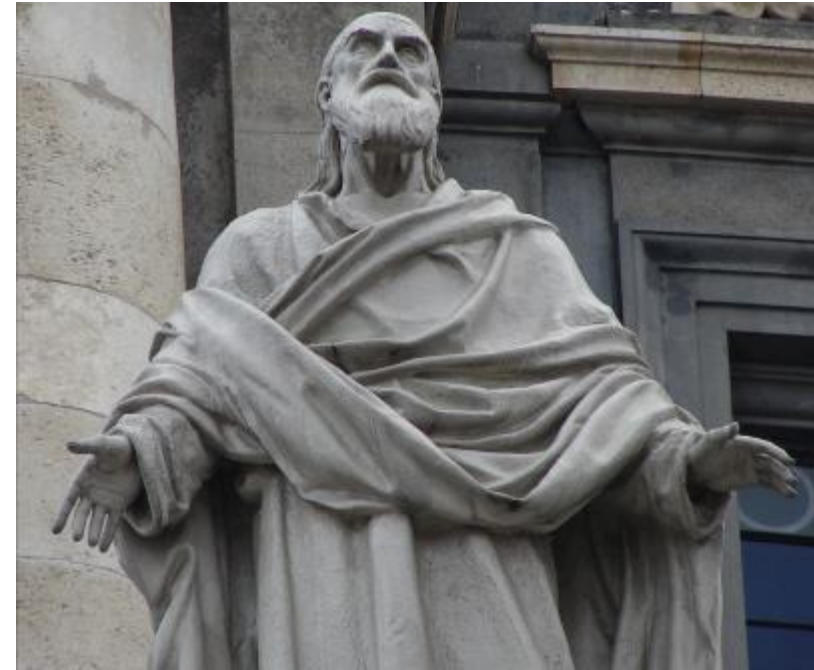
The Lord's message...

***To the messenger of
the church in Smyrna
write...***

SMYRNA in history

Smyrna (now called Izmir, Turkey) has a long history. It was pagan and prosperous in Roman times.

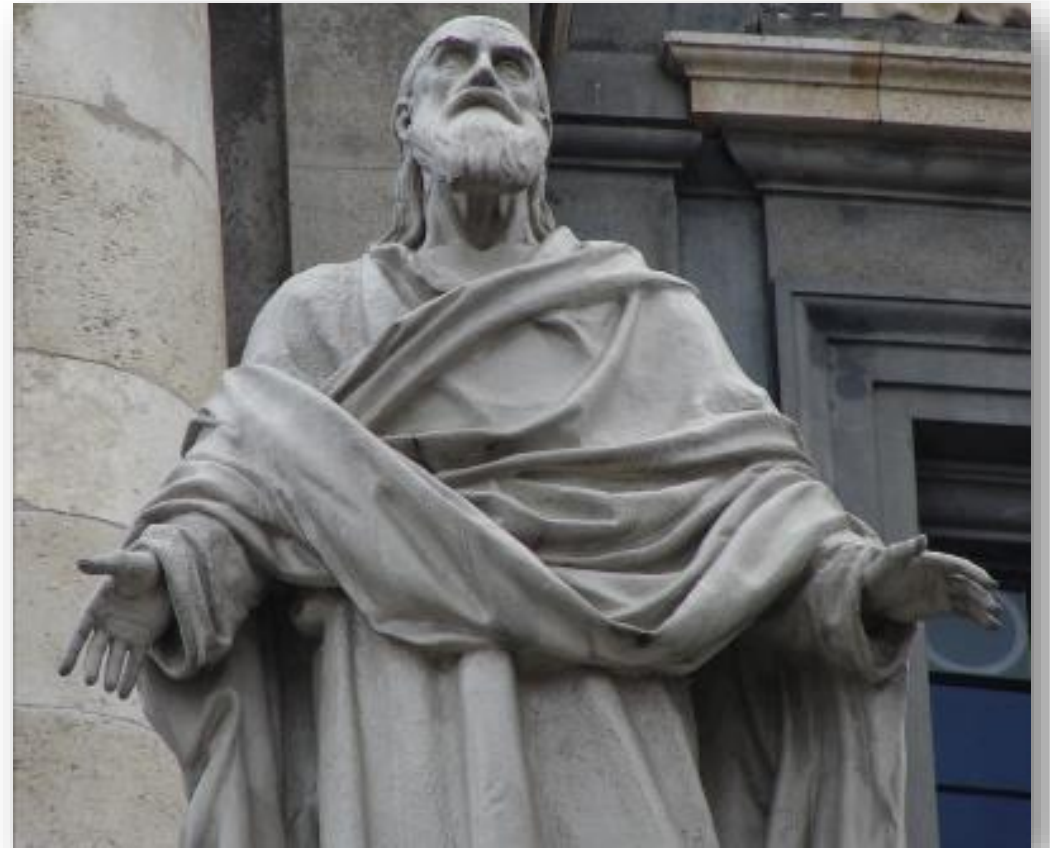
Polycarp was martyred in Smyrna.



“Swear,” urged the Proconsul,
“reproach Christ, and I will set you free.”

Polycarp answered,

**“Eighty six years have I have served Him,
and He has done me no wrong.
How can I blaspheme
my King and my Saviour?”**



Polycarp was martyred in Smyrna in about 155 AD

WORLD WATCH LIST

NORTH KOREA

#1

In this brutally hostile nation,
Christians have no freedom to
worship.



(Open Doors International - World Watch List 2023)

‘ALL FOR JESUS, EVEN IN DEATH’

At 5am on Sunday 30 April 2023 five Christians gathered, as was their custom, at a farmhouse in Tongam village, for a secret time of prayer and worship.

This time, however, police were there to arrest them.

Their crime was that they were worshipping God in a country where the Kim dynasty alone is to be worshipped and obeyed.

According to a local resident, **the believers have refused to renounce their faith.** ‘A staff member of the judicial agency told us that they refused to tell where they got their Bibles and said,

“All for Jesus, even in death”.’

The Lord speaks...

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the First and I am the Last;
Besides Me there is no god.

(Isaiah 44:6)

These things says the First and the Last,
who was dead, and came to life:

The Word became flesh
and dwelt among us...

(John 1:14)

I know...

Pressure, affliction, anguish,
burden, persecution, trouble.

I know

- Your tribulation
- Your poverty
- The blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

But you are rich

*If you were Abraham's children,
you would do the works Abraham did,
but now you seek to kill me...*

(John 8:39-40)



Do not fear
any of those things
which you are about to **suffer.**



Ephesians 6:12

The devil

is about to throw some of you
into prison,

1 Peter 1:7

that you may be tested,
and you will have **tribulation** ten days.



Be faithful until death,
and I will give you
the crown of life.

Pay attention!

He who has an ear,
let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
(Revelation 2:11)

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A gracious promise...

...by the **blood of the Lamb** and
by **the word of their testimony**,
for they loved not their lives
even unto death.
(Revelation 12:11)

He who **overcomes**
shall not be hurt by **the second death**.

It is appointed for men to die once,
and after that comes the **judgment**...
(Hebrews 9:27)

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Revelation 2:8-11

What have we seen?

- Smyrna was a **dangerous city** for believers
- The Christians suffered but **remained faithful**
- The Lord was always **with them**
- Their trial was for **the glory of God**
- A great and eternal **reward** awaited them

The
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Therefore
we also,
since we are surrounded
by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us lay aside
every weight, and the sin
which so easily ensnares us,
and let us run with endurance
the race that is set before us
looking unto Jesus

(Hebrews 12:1-2)



The
Revelation
of **Jesus Christ**

He who has an ear, **let him hear**
what **the Spirit** says to ^{*all*} **the churches**.