

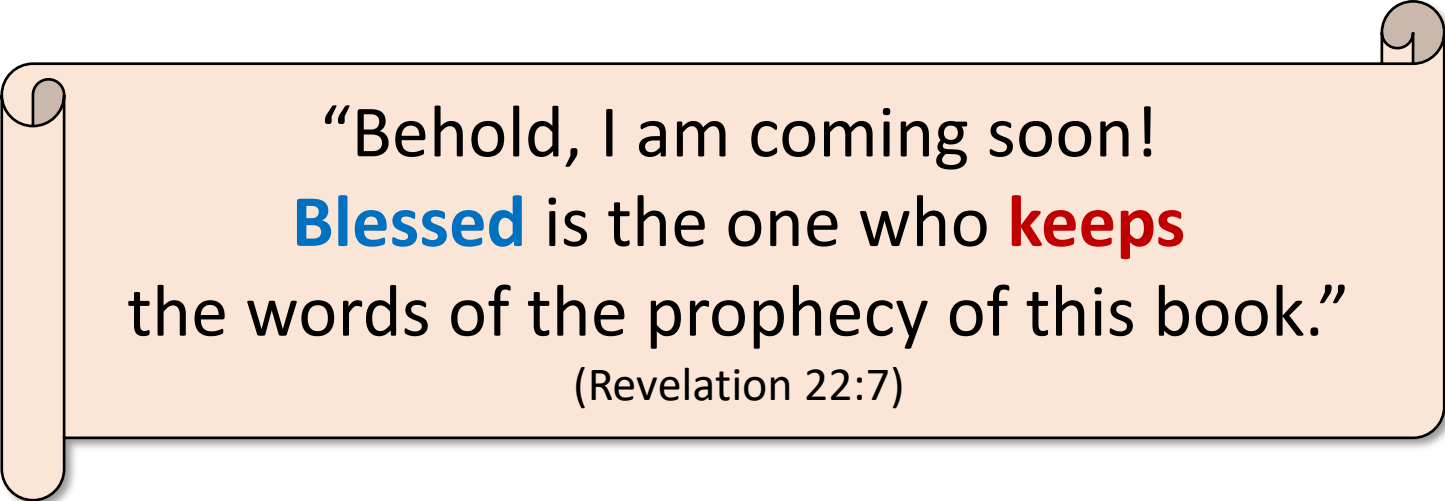


The

Revelation of **Jesus Christ**

An overview

3. The Lord's message to Smyrna



“Behold, I am coming soon!
Blessed is the one who **keeps**
the words of the prophecy of this book.”

(Revelation 22:7)

Overview of the first section

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



The Lord's messages to the seven churches

"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...

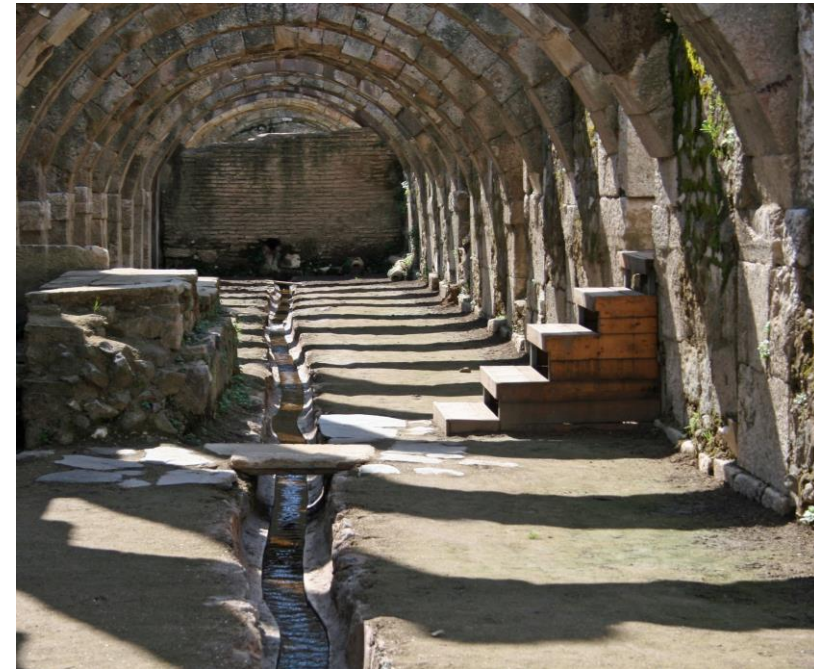
Revelation 2:8-11

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

But first...

SMYRNA in history

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



Polycarp was martyred in Smyrna.

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

Polycarp answered,

“86 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

What about today?



- Approximately 70 million Christians have been martyred since Christ ascended.
- Over half of these were in the 20th century under fascist and communist regimes.
- From 2000 to 2010 approximately 100,000 Christians were killed each year.



200 million Christians
persecuted in 105 countries*

1 killed every 5 minutes*

Come and join us

*US Centre for the study of Global Christianity

World Watch List 2025

Source: Open Doors

Country	Source	Score	No. of Christians	Government	Region	Religion
1 North Korea	Communist and post-Communist oppression	98	400,000 (Open Doors estimate)	Dictatorship, Single-party communist state	Asia	Agnosticism
2 Somalia	Islamic oppression	94	Hundreds (Open Doors estimate)	Federal Parliamentary Republic	Africa	Islam
3 Yemen	Islamic oppression	94	Small number (Open Doors estimate)	In transition	Asia	Islam
4 Libya	Islamic oppression	91	35,500 (0.5% of population)	In transition	Africa	Islam
5 Sudan	Islamic oppression	90	2,028,000 (4.1%)	Presidential Republic	Africa	Islam
6 Eritrea	Dictatorial paranoia	89	1,687,000 (44%)	Presidential Republic	Africa	Islam
7 Nigeria	Islamic oppression	88	106,608,000 (46.5%)	Federal Presidential Republic	Africa	Christianity
8 Pakistan	Islamic oppression	87	4,526,000 (1.8%)	Federal Parliamentary Republic	Asia	Islam
9 Iran	Islamic oppression	86	800,000 (Open Doors estimate)	Theocratic Republic	Asia	Islam
10 Afghanistan	Islamic oppression	85	Thousands (Open Doors estimate)	Theocratic	Asia	Islam

World Watch List 2025

Source: Open Doors

Country	Source	Score	No. of Christians	Government	Region	Religion
11 India	Religious nationalism	84	73,233,000 (5%)	Federal Parliamentary Republic	Asia	Hinduism
12 Saudi Arabia	Islamic oppression	81	2,274,000 (6%)	Absolute Monarchy	Asia	Islam
13 Myanmar	Religious nationalism	81	4,760,000 (8.7%)	Military Regime	Asia	Buddhism
14 Mali	Islamic oppression	80	542,000 (2.3%)	Semi-Presidential Republic	Africa	Islam
15 China	Communist and post-Communist oppression	78	96,700,000 (Open Doors estimate)	Communist Party-led state	Asia	Agnosticism
16 Maldives	Islamic oppression	78	Hundreds (Open Doors estimate)	Presidential Republic	Asia	Islam
17 Iraq	Islamic oppression	78	187,000 (0.4%)	Federal Parliamentary Republic	Asia	Islam
18 Syria	Dictatorial paranoia	78	579,000 (Open Doors estimate)	Authoritarian Presidential Republic	Asia	Islam
19 Algeria	Islamic oppression	77	144,000 (Open Doors estimate)	Presidential Republic	Africa	Islam
20 Burkina Faso	Islamic oppression	76	6,169,000 (26%)	Presidential Republic	Africa	Islam

Before President al-Assad was overthrown on Dec 8, 2024

WORLD WATCH LIST

NORTH KOREA

#1

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



(Open Doors International - World Watch List 2023)

INSIDE NORTH KOREA

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”.'

Christian Woman Miscarries after Assault in India

Village head and family assault her on expectation she would pray for relative. *By Our India Correspondent*

NEW DELHI, January 20, 2025 (Morning Star News) – A Christian woman in central India suffered a miscarriage this month after tribal relatives who practice traditional religion beat and strangled her, sources said.

Kunika Kashyap was more than six weeks pregnant when she was admitted to Government District Hospital-Maharani in Jagdalpur, Bastar District, Chhattisgarh state in serious condition on Jan. 2. Tribal village headman Ganga Ram Kashyap, his wife and adult daughter had assaulted her that day after the headman began video recording her in hopes that he might catch her praying for a common relative – also a Christian – as evidence of some perceived crime, said her husband, Mandu Ram Kashyap.

The 25-year-old Kunika Kashyap, of Bade Bodal village, had gone to visit her cousin's sister, a Christian who was ill, about 150 meters from her



Five Muslims Abduct Christian Girl, 14, in Pakistan

Family fears she is forcibly converted to Islam for 'marriage.' *By Christian Daily*

International-Morning Star News

LAHORE, Pakistan, January 21, 2025 (Christian Daily International-Morning Star News) – Five Muslims on Jan. 9 abducted a 14-year-old Christian girl from outside her home in Pakistan, her father said.



Sharif Masih, of the Korpur area of Sialkot, Punjab Province, said he fears the kidnappers may try to forcibly convert his daughter, Saneha Sharif, to Islam and force her to marry one of the Muslim suspects.

“Saneha was lured out of the house by a Muslim girl whose family had recently moved to our neighborhood,” Masih told Christian Daily International-Morning Star News. “A neighbor, Rehan Razaque, saw her being bundled into a van by the accused, which included two women, one of whom was the mother of the girl who had brought Saneha out of her home.”

A sweeper at a wedding marquee who is a member of the Brethren Church, Masih said the suspects included Muhammad Dildar, who had been making unwelcome advances toward his daughter that she always discouraged. He said he informed police as soon as learned of her

70 Christians beheaded in DRC church attack: 'Grim tapestry of violence'

By Anugrah Kumar, Christian Post Contributor **Thursday, February 20, 2025**

Seventy Christians were discovered beheaded inside a Protestant church in the Democratic Republic of Congo's North Kivu Province, according to reports, which say the victims had been kidnapped by suspected Allied Democratic Forces terrorists.

The terrorists arrived in Mayba, a village in the territory of Lubero, at around 4am last Thursday and ordered residents to quietly get out, said Open Doors, adding that at least 20 Christian men and women had to leave their homes, leading to their capture.

Later, concerned residents gathered to plan a rescue, but the armed group is said to have surrounded the village and managed to seize 50 more believers. The abducted residents were then taken to a Protestant church in Kasanga, where they were found beheaded, said the ministry.

“This recent massacre ... is not an isolated incident but part of a grim tapestry of violence **that has claimed over 6 million lives in the DRC over two decades** of on-and-off war,” said ICC President Jeff King in a statement provided to The Christian Post.

What about us today?

God did not give us a Spirit of fear
but of **power** and **love** and **self-control**.

(2 Timothy 1:7)

Or trial

No temptation has overtaken you
that is not common to man.

God is faithful, and He will not let you
be tempted beyond your ability,
but with the temptation
He will also provide the way of escape,
that you may be able to endure it.

(1 Corinthians 10:13)

...now for a little while, if need be,
you have been grieved by various trials,
that the genuineness of your faith,
being much more precious than gold
that perishes, though it is **tested by fire**,
may be found to praise, honour, and glory
at the revelation of Jesus Christ...

(1 Peter 1:6-7)

When He comes

The Lord's message...

Revelation 2:8-11

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

The Lord who is speaking...

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:

“Why do you seek the living
among the dead?”

(Luke 24:5)

The One who knows...

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

I know

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

"You are of your father the devil..."

(John 8:44)



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

Singular



Ephesians 6:12

1 Peter 1:7

The devil is about to throw some of you into prison, **that you may be tested**, and you will have **tribulation** 10 days.



Singular

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

(Revelation 2:10)

The victor's
crown

Pay attention!

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

Pay attention!

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

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)

The one who **conquers**
shall not be hurt by **the second death.**

It is appointed for men to die once,
and after that comes the **judgement...**

(Hebrews 9:27)

The
Revelation
of **Jesus Christ**

Revelation 2:8-11

What have we seen in Smyrna?

- 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
Revelation
of **Jesus Christ**

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**.

The **Revelation** of **Jesus Christ**

Next stop:

To the angel of the church of Pergamum write...

(Revelation 2:12)

