

Revelation 2:8-11

Smyrna means “bitter”. This word is related to the word “myrrh”.

1. The HISTORICAL CONDITION of Smyrna

Revelation 2:8

Polycarp was sentenced to be burned. As he waited for the fire to be lighted, he prayed: Lord God Almighty, Father of your blessed and beloved child Jesus Christ, through whom we have received knowledge of you, God of angels and hosts and all creation, and of the whole race of the upright who live in your presence: I bless you that you have thought me worthy of this day and hour, to be numbered among the martyrs and share in the cup of Christ, for resurrection to eternal life, for soul and body in the incorruptibility of the Holy Spirit. Among them may I be accepted before you today, as a rich and acceptable sacrifice, just as you, the faithful and true God, have prepared and foreshown and brought about. For this reason and for all things I praise you, I bless you, I glorify you, through the eternal heavenly high priest Jesus Christ, your beloved child, through the ages to come. Amen.

2. The SPIRITUAL CONDITION of Smyrna

Revelation 2:9; John 16:33; John 8:33-47; Galatians 3:1-18

Tribulation is the GREEK WORD — QLIPSIS, which literally means “pressure, a literal crushing beneath a weight”

Warren Wiersbe, in His commentary on this church, gives us some insight:

“The large Jewish community also thrived in Smyrna. The Jews, of course, did not have to patronize the imperial cult since their religion was accepted by Rome, but they certainly would not cooperate with the Christian faith. So, from both Jews and Gentiles, the Christians in Smyrna received slander and suffering.” Warren Wiersbe

3. The PROPHETIC Condition of Smyrna

Revelation 2:10-11; 1 Peter 5:7; Philippians 4:6-8; Revelation 20:1, 14; James 1:12