

**SERIES: REVELATION
DRIPPING FROM THE APOCALYPSE
CRUSHED AND BRUISED
Date: Probably 95 AD
TEXT: REVELATION 2:8-11
August 17, 2022**

Message to Smyrna

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: ⁹ ‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the slander by those who say they are Jews, and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw 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. ¹¹ The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.’

Glance Back on Ephesus

1 - Our Love for Christ is more important than all our Service to Him (Jesus).

2 - Our time with Jesus is more important than our talents for Him.

3 - Our worship comes before our work.

Censor Worship.

4 - Smyrna most beautiful city in Asia.

5 - Its name **reflects** and means Myrah, a spice that gives forth a fragrance when crushed and bruised.

Here is the point ...This church is being crushed and bruised but this church was giving off a perfume. What's your favorite perfume or cologne?

When you're crushed & bruised –

6 - You can be encouraged because of:

7 - Christ's power over time “first & last”

8 - Christ's power over sin “died & was resurrected.”

9 - This city was dead.

For 4 years – Dead and Came back.

10. What do you need to claim tonight?

...

11. Smyrna taught Satan that:

The Devil is powerful but not omnipotent.

The Devil is smart, **subtle**, **cunning** but not **omniscient**.

The Devil is not all knowing!

The Devil is quick, but not omnipresent.

Jesus is All Knowing!

Jesus is All Powerful!

Jesus is Always Ever Present.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

12. Jesus says, I know who you are.

Jesus says I know what you are going through.

Jesus says I am with you. I am with you to the outer parts of the Earth.

Here is the Point ...

There is a limit to what the enemy can do to us.

Jesus knows all about me and Loves me anyway.

13. The church of Smyrna was suffering.

Reasons why:

Poverty – Poor – no food for the table.

Pressure Squeezed – living on the edge of death.

Persecution, made an example of because they would not bow to Caesar as Lord.

Smyrna was poor materially but rich spiritually.

14. When you are experiencing suffering:

Don't be Afraid.

Be Fearless.

Be Faithful.

It will soon be Over.

Suffering is Limited.

Here is the Point ...

. God is in Control!

. God Limits the Devil!

15. Notice the Promises:

I will give you the Crown of Life.

You will not be hurt by the Second Death.

16. Polycarp was the Pastor of Smyrna and died burned at the stake.

Here is the Point ...

Jesus may not always give you the answers you seek but you will always get understanding.

Jesus knows.

Jesus cares.

Jesus understands.

The church at Smyrna had unbelievable Faith and unbelievable Commitment. Jesus gave the church at Smyrna Encouragement.

Here is the Point ...

Jesus says, I've Been there.

Jesus says, I've Done that.

Jesus says, I came back.

Hebrews 4:13 “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we must answer.”

. Jews falsely accused.

. Be faithful to the point of death.

Luke 12:4 “Now I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do.”

Born once to die.

Born twice to die once.