

# The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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## Chapter 2

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### Revelation 2:1-11

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<sup>1</sup> To the angel of the church in Ephesus

write:

The One who holds the seven stars in

His right hand, the One who walks

among the seven golden lampstands,

says this: <sup>2</sup> 'I know your deeds and your

toil and perseverance, and that you

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#### CHRIST'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS...

- A little history — The church in Ephesus seems to have been “seeded” by Paul with a brief but amiable visit to the local synagogue (Ac. 18:19). Aquila and Priscilla, Paul’s fellow workers, appear to have built on Paul’s original work in Ephesus, where they converted Apollos (Ac. 18:24ff). When Paul returned to Ephesus (Ac. 19:1ff) he converted 12 disciples of John to faith in Jesus as Christ, and effectively spread the Gospel in Ephesus. The letter of Colossians (1:7) implies that while in Ephesus Paul’s evangelistic efforts extended to other cities in Asia, too. The apostle John is reported by the “church father” Irenaeus to have lived in Ephesus, from which he was exiled to Patmos.

- Who is it Who is addressing the church in Ephesus?
- Is this important for the church to know?
- Is it important today?
- In what ways had the church in Ephesus excelled? What are these things?

cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; <sup>3</sup> and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. <sup>4</sup>

'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. <sup>5</sup> 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place — unless you repent. <sup>6</sup> 'Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. <sup>7</sup> 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- cannot \_\_\_\_\_ evil men
- put to the test so-called \_\_\_\_\_ (how do tests work?)
- \_\_\_\_\_ for My name sake
- and have not grown \_\_\_\_\_
- But where did Jesus find fault?
- What does He mean, when He says that they have left their first love?
- What is the remedy?
- \_\_\_\_\_ from where you have fallen,
- and \_\_\_\_\_ and do the deeds you did at first
- What's the consequence for not repenting?
- Who are the Nicolaitans?
- Connected with \_\_\_\_\_ and stumbling blocks in Rev. 2:14,15 (Numbers 22-25)
- Teachers corrupting Christians through sexual immorality, idolatry, and other \_\_\_\_\_ with the culture (some varieties of gnosticism promoted this)

overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'

<sup>8</sup> “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: <sup>9</sup> ‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are

- What does “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” mean?
- What promise is there for those who overcome?



### CHRIST’S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN SMYRNA

• A little history — Smyrna was a center of Roman loyalty and emperor worship from a very early time 195 BC and was rewarded for it frequently. It was therefore a center of persecution, because Christians would not acknowledge the Roman emperor as a god. Polycarp, a man taught the faith by the

apostle John who also appointed him as an elder in Smyrna, was burned at the stake for his faith and loyalty to Jesus in AD 155 — “Eighty and six years I have served Him, and He has done me no wrong.”

- What effect or impact would Jesus description of Himself — who was dead and has come to life — have among the Christians in Smyrna?
- Is it important to you (and to the Smyrna Christians) to know that Jesus knows...
  - ...our \_\_\_\_\_?
  - ...our \_\_\_\_\_ struggles?
  - ...the \_\_\_\_\_ things others say about us?

Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

<sup>10</sup> ‘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. <sup>11</sup> ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.’

- Who had apparently had a leading hand in these persecutions?
- What is meant by saying, “who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.”
- How would you feel, if you had already been persecuted and you heard Jesus say, “Do not fear what you are about to suffer.”
- ...some to be \_\_\_\_\_
- ...some to be \_\_\_\_\_ (what does this mean?)
- What’s the significance of “10 days”?
- What may be implied by the phrase “**be faithful until death** and I will give you the crown of life”?
- There are two kinds of crowns in Greek: the “*stephanos*” (the crown of \_\_\_\_\_) and the “*diademata*” (the crown of a \_\_\_\_\_). Both were coveted in the ancient world. Which is used in verse 10?
- Overcomers will not be hurt by the second death; what is this?
- Smyrna received no criticism from Jesus, but they were receiving persecution; what does that imply for us?