

Revelation and Daniel – Revelation 2:8-11

Church and Passage	Characterization Verse 8	Commendation Verse 9	Criticism	Charge Verse 10	Consequence Verses 10-11
Smyrna 2:8-11	The first and the Last, who was dead, and has come to life	You gracefully bear suffering "...you are rich"	None	Do not fear what you are about to suffer... Be faithful until death	The Crown of Life and abundant experience of eternal life

Verse 8

The first and the last – Note 1:17 and 1:8. Jesus is eternal God, one with the Father.

Who was dead, and has come to life – Note 1:18 and 1:5.
Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies.

John 11:25

Verse 9 - Commendation

I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) –
Jesus knew by experience!

For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted. Hebrews 2:18

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15

And the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan – Some of the persecutors were Jews but were not true believing Jews, either in Judaism or Christianity.

Synagogue of Satan = Those who are in Satan's camp.

The name Satan means "adversary."

"Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."

2 Corinthians 11:14

Verse 10 - Charge

Do not fear what you are about to suffer – The security of eternal life with Jesus, (*the One who was dead, and has come to life*) enabled them to not be fearful of persecution and even death.

The devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested – Just as God allowed Job to be tested

by the Devil (the slanderer or accuser), at times he allows other believers to be tested.

You will have tribulation 10 days – There are three possible interpretations of this phrase:

1 – It is symbolic of short times of trouble.

2 – It refers to persecution under 10 Roman emperors during this time.

3 – It refers to 10 literal days of intense persecution that are coming. Note Daniel 1:12.

Verse 10b - Consequence

I will give you the crown of life – This is a victor's crown given for enduring the trials and tests of life, even to the point of death. James speaks of this crown in James 1:12.

Believer's Crowns

Crown of Life – Revelation 2:10, James 1:12

Crown of Glory – 1 Peter 5:4 (Shepherding Faithfully)

Crown of Rejoicing – 1 Thessalonians 2:19 (Evangelism)

Crown of Righteousness – 2 Timothy 4:8 (Loving the Lord's Appearing)

Imperishable Crown – 1 Corinthians 9:25 (Disciplined life)

Verse 11 - Consequence

He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches – This admonition is repeated to each of the seven churches by Jesus warning them to understand and act on His words.

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

First death – Separation of the spirit from the body

Second death – Eternal separation from God

Is an unfaithful believer in danger of the second death? Arminian theologians would say yes! However, this is a Greek figure of speech used to emphasize the opposite of what is stated.

Litotes – A figure of speech in which the writer expresses an affirmative idea through the negation of its opposite. Note Acts 12:18, 19:24, 27:20, Hebrews 6:10. One of the clues that this is litotes is the double negative used in this verse. Literally it reads: The overcoming one *not, not (by no means)* will be harmed by the second death.

The overcoming believer will be more than amply repaid for whatever sacrifice he may make for Christ's sake and his eternal experience will be far beyond the reach of the second death. "The overcomer will have a superlative, 'crowning' experience of life in the age to come." Zane Hodges