

# Revelation

## ***The 7 Churches:*** **Smyrna**

## Review ...

- Always need to SEE JESUS first w/prophecy
- In the Spirit, hears the call: WRITE (11,19)
  - Things SEEN; Things which ARE; Things which WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER (19)
- ESPTSPL...
- Ephesus –
  - Fought and challenged false doctrine
  - Lost it's first love! REPENT! Re-do first works!





## Our next church:

- Smyrna - 40 miles north of Ephesus
  - Large commercial center, easily defended port
  - Seat of emperor-worship - temple to Tiberius
  - Perfume, embalming, relief of pain, anointing
  - Polycarp, a pupil of John's, prominent leader in the church. He suffered martyrdom, A.D. 155
  - Heavy Jewish persecution of Christians

## To the Church IN Smyrna:

- Look at Jesus first (especially in persecution)
  - ‘First and Last’ – I know what was and what is...
  - “who became dead” - a short state of being!
  - “lived again” – emphasis on His LIFE!
  - Keep track of these titles!

## To the Church IN Smyrna:

- Three main situations addressed:
  - Tribulation – *thlipsis*, pressing, distress
  - Mt 10:17,18; Jo15:20,21; 2Ti 3:12; 1Pet 4:12,13
  - Poverty - *ptochēia*, destitute of riches abundance
  - “Caesar is Lord” before officials or lose home!
  - Blasphemy – *blasphemia*, slander, evil speech

# True Nature

- You are RICH!
  - Jesus reminds them material wealth is nothing!
  - They have SPIRITUAL Riches untold!
  - In giving up everything they had gained everything
  - The wonder of surrender!
  - Mt 6:20; Eph 1:18,19; 2:4-7; He 11:24-26; Ja 2:5

# True Nature

- Fear none of it! (10) *pascho* – *suffer*
  - Fear is the great enemy of faith
  - False Jews – synagogue of satan!?
  - Prison and death; 10 days? Limits of extent...
  - *diabolos* – slander, false accusation, calumny, lie

# Stay focused!

- “keep on proving faithful even to death” He 12:4
  - Many martyrs will need this encouragement
  - Mt 10:22; 24:9-13; Phil 1:28,29
- Crown of Life -1Co 9:25; 2Ti 4:8; Ja 1:12
  - One of the *stephanos* ; wreath or garland
  - Do we see what real life/riches/honor is?

# Stay focused!

- Hear what the Spirit is saying to **CHURCHES**
  - 2:7,11,17,28; 3:3, 6, 13, 22
- Overcomers – *nikao* pres. act, continuous...
- “to him” – not hurt by 2<sup>nd</sup> death (20:6,14; 21:8)
  - This is the call for our time!