

Suffering Smyrna
Revelation 2:8-11
Al Gascon | February 18, 2024

“The fire took the shape of a vaulted room, like a ship’s sail filled with wind, and surrounded the body of the bishop like a wall. And he stood inside it—not as burning flesh, but as bread that is being baked, or as gold and silver being refined in a furnace. And we smelled a fragrant aroma, like the scent of incense or other costly spices.”

Revelation 2:8-11

Revelation 21:1-14, 18-21

- ⇒ I will give you life as your victor’s crown... The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

- ⇒ Stay faithful, even unto death. The life you may forfeit will be victoriously crowned for all eternity. Stay faithful, especially through your poverty. The riches you already possess aren’t in this world. You live poorly in a beautiful city by the standards of man. Stay faithful and you’ll forever be rich in the glorious city of God.

Discussion Questions

- a. Do you think the letter to Smyrna is more applicable to the churches in the west or the churches in the east? Or both?
- b. Do you know of any other amazing stories of God’s presence or a miracle during a martyrdom?
- c. Have you ever been in the midst of any sort of suffering and heard a message or the gentle whisper of God? What did he say to you and how were you encouraged through your suffering?
- d. Has anyone ever slandered or spread false rumors about you to ruin your reputation? If you were a believer during that time, how did God move in the midst of this?
- e. Personal question: Have you ever been crowned as a victor in any event or activity?