

The Revelation of
Yeshua The Messiah To Yochanan (John)

Study Notes

Smyrna PT. 2

Revelation 2: 8-11 (NASB) - “⁸And 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 blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Do 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. ¹¹He 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.’”

Part 2:

Isaiah 53:3-5 (NASB) – READ ALL

Isaiah 53:10 “But **the Lord was pleased To crush Him**, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

Word from the Lord: “**Tell My church: Endure the crushing, for it shall please their Father.**”

Note: There IS a persecuted church. The problem in America is that real persecution has not been experienced.

Alexander The Great:

- When Alexander the Great conquered the region, he turned it into a Greek state until it was absorbed into the Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman Empires.

Pagan Worship was great under Rome:

Note: The demand to worship the false gods was not the greatest threat that they had to face. It was the worship of the Emperors of the Roman Empire that brought the greatest persecution.

Revelation 2:8-11 (KJV) – “⁸And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; ⁹**I know** thy works, and **tribulation**, and **poverty**, (**but thou art rich**) and I know the **blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not**, but are the synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. ¹¹He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.”

Angel-(Greek)-*aggelos*-messenger, one sent to announce or proclaim. (Pastor).

Verse 9-Drill Down

Key: Jesus starts off the letter with such great compassion by using only two words as He does with all the Churches.

I Know-(Greek)-*Oida*-to see, perceive, understand, or comprehend, or a knowledge gained by a personal experience or by observation.

Tribulation-(Greek)-*Thlipsis*-(Greek)-Burden that is crushing.

Note: This is the word used for an ancient torture where they laid a victim on their back and then laid on their chest one weight after another weight slowly until the victim's chest was crushed until they suffocated. Yeshua understood this crushing (see Isaiah 53:10-11).

Understanding: It's also important to stop and really get a deeper understanding that this was not regular poverty.

Poverty-(Greek)-*penia*-a person that works for a living, a person capable of providing a mere income, but doesn't own land or have any investments.

-OR-

Poverty-(Greek)-*ptochos*- (The word used for Smyrna)- a state of total impoverished, appalling, and terrible level of poverty.

- A state of being deprived of the bare essentials.
- A homeless person digging through trash for food.
- An outcast from society, financially impoverished, poverty stricken.

The Cultural Barrier: Trade Guild

Note: To be a part of the Trade Guild there were things you had to do to participate in trade and commerce.

- At the start of each Trade Guild meeting, they had worship of the false gods.
- The Church in Smyrna refused to participate with the culture coming from the world system.
- They would have to sprinkle incense at the entry way to be a part of daily life.
- They were being watched.
- The Agora of Smyrna was the largest marketplace in the world.

Blasphemy-(Greek)-blasphemia-slander, detraction, speech that injures.

Understanding: Yeshua pointed out a group to John the Revelator in verse 9 that we need to look at a little deeper, *“those who call themselves Jews but aren’t, on the contrary they are of the synagogue of the adversary”*.

Most theologians and Bible historians believe these are those whom the Apostle Paul was speaking of in Galatians called the Circumcision Faction.

- These are the Gentile Christians who had become legalistic.
- They sought to force non-Jews into receiving circumcision to have a relationship with God.
- Apostle Paul rebuked Peter due to this hypocrisy (**Gal. 2:11-18**).

Note: Peter ate with the Gentile Believers when he was with the Gentiles, but when those believed to be influenced by those of the Circumcision Faction were around, he refused to eat with the Gentile Believers.

Understanding: When Jesus refers to the “those who call themselves Jews”. He is not talking about the ethnicity of a people; He is speaking to the hypocrisy of heart!

Romans 2:28-29 (AMP) - “²⁸For he is not a [real] Jew who is only one outwardly, nor is [true] circumcision something external and physical. ²⁹But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and [true] circumcision is *circumcision* of the heart, by the Spirit,

not by [the fulfillment of] the letter [of the Law]. His praise is not from men, but from God.”

KEY: Yeshua is focused on our heart’s identity, not our outward performance.

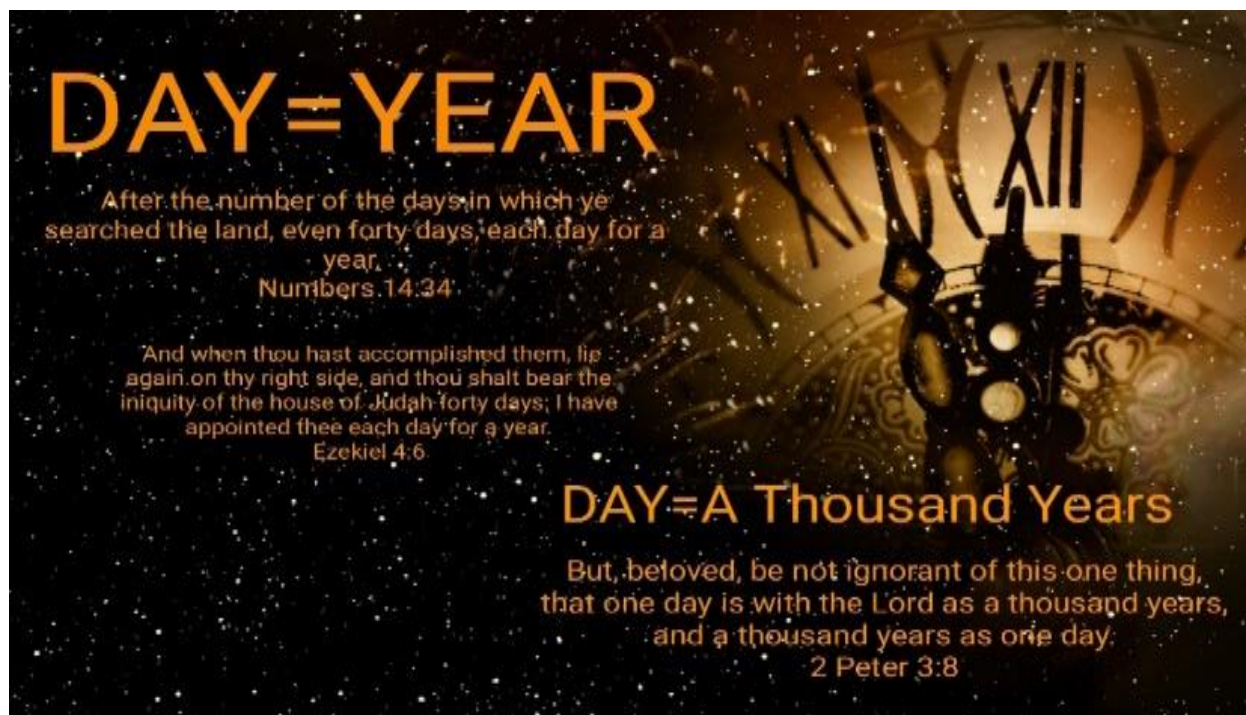
Matthew 7:21-23 (NASB) - “²¹ Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me on that day [when I judge them], ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, and driven out demons in Your name, and done many miracles in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them publicly, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME [you are banished from My presence], YOU WHO ACT WICKEDLY [disregarding My commands].’”

The Church of Smyrna Carried Three Weights:

- Smyrna carried the weight of tribulation.
- Smyrna carried the weight of poverty.
- Smyrna carried the weight of being an outcast.

Verse 10: Focus Phrase- (TEN DAYS) - *“behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: ...”*

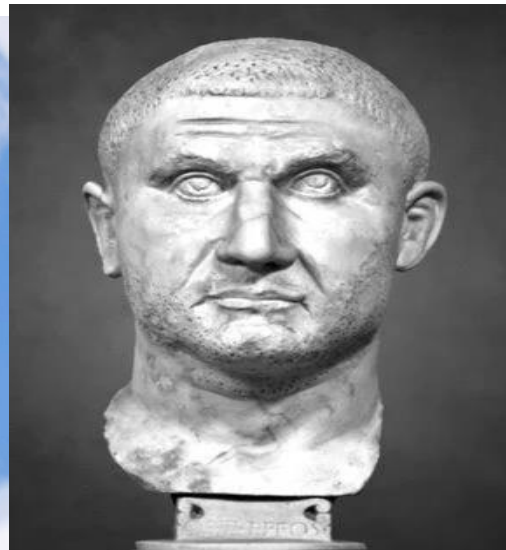
Key: When Jesus states in verse 10, that they would have this tribulation for 10 days He is speaking of years. (Time is inside of Father).



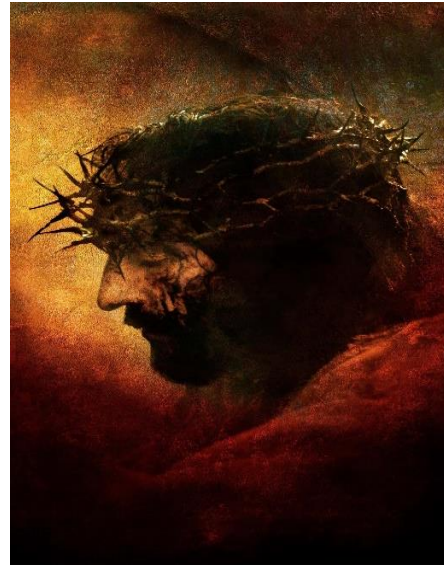
The persecution began with the reign of Emperor Diocletian



The Persecution ended exactly 10 years later by Emperor Constantine and Emperor Licinius.



Verse 10 - “be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life”.



But You Are Rich: (Read Luke 12:13-21)

Key: Jesus did not say to the rich man that he was a fool because of his riches, he said he was a fool because he was not rich towards God.

Note: For the Church in Smyrna, the reward was weightier than the weights!

- Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.



- He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

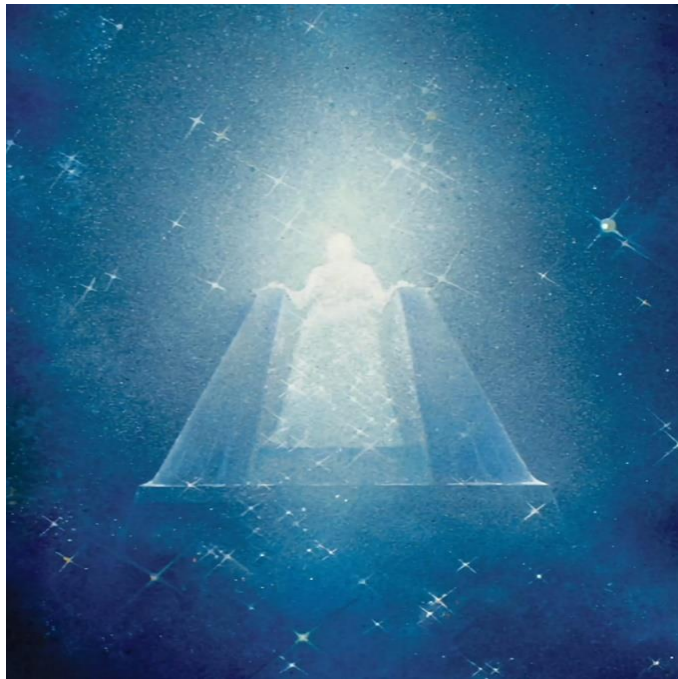
Understanding: The Second Death

Note: The Second Death is reserved for the unbelievers. Those who experience the second death are those whose names are *not* found in the Lambs Book of Life.

Revelation 21:8 (NASB) – “But for the cowardly, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and sexually immoral persons, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Understanding: The Great White Throne Judgement:

Note: Those judged at the Great white throne Judgement will be those who rejected the message of God. This judgment happens after death and hades give up the dead.



Revelation 20:11-12 (NASB) - “¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.”

Note: Believers will be judged at the judgement seat of Christ for what we did with the time God gave to us (**see 2 Corinthians 5:10**).

Remember: The crushing of the Church in Smyrna produced an oil that now goes up into the nostrils of God for all eternity!

Quote from Hal Lyndsey:

*Those whose hearts are truly after the Lord Jesus live twice and die once!
Those who do not have a heart toward the Lord Jesus shall live once and die twice!*

The End