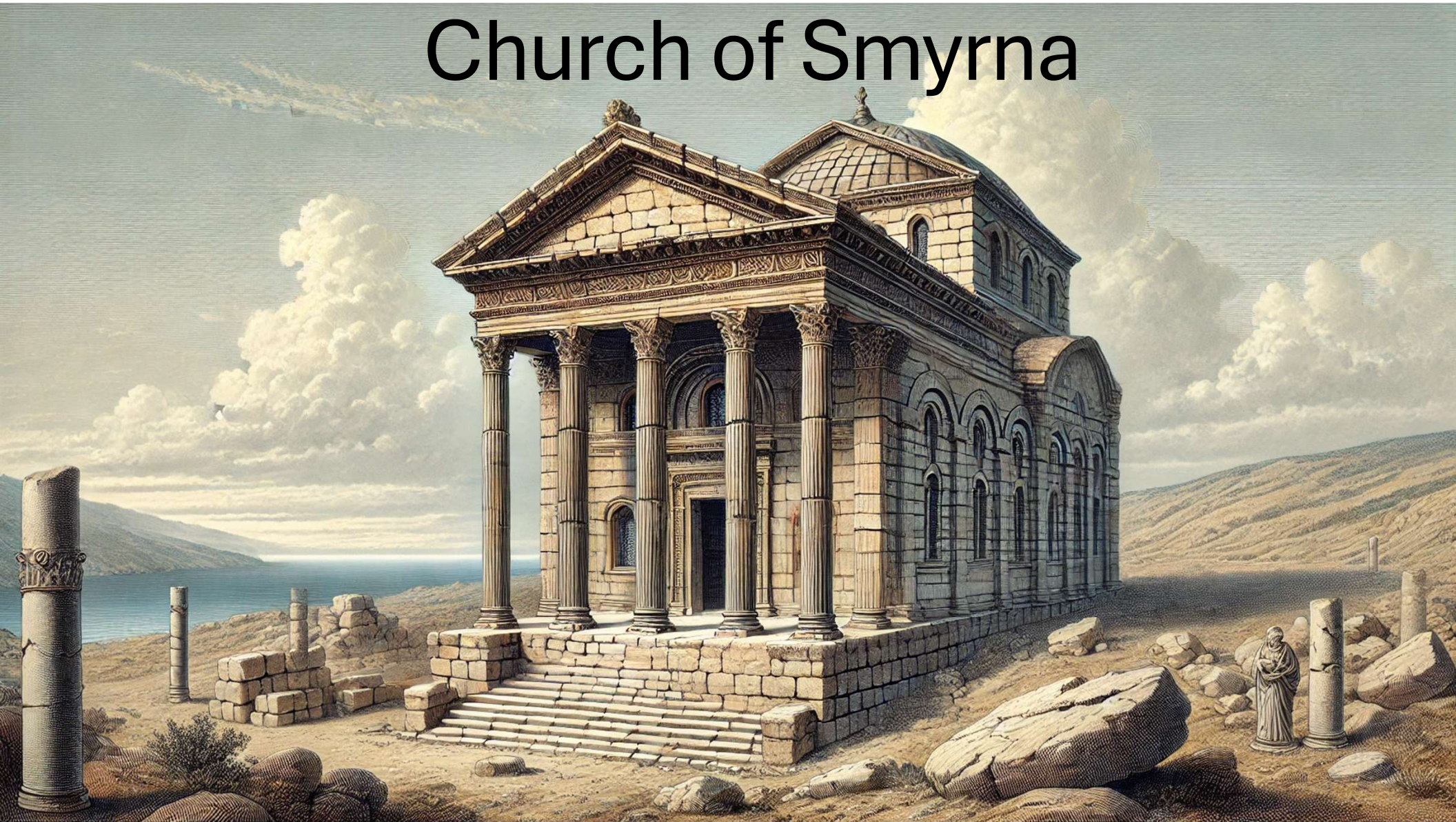


# Church of Smyrna



# Revelation 2:8-11

- An address to a particular congregation. (Name of the church)
- An introduction of Jesus.
- A statement regarding the condition of the church.
- A verdict from Jesus regarding the condition of the church.
- A command from Jesus to the church.
- A general exhortation to all Christians.
- A promise of reward.

# Revelation 2 and 3 Report card

Name	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodiceans
Title	X						
Commendation	X						
Concerns	X						
Exhortation	X						
Promise	X						

# Revelation 2 and 3 Timeline

	Apostolic church 32-100AD					
Ephesus	→→→→→→→→→→→→					
	Smyrna					
		Pergamos				
			Thyatira			
				Sardis		
					Philadelphia	
						Laodiceans

# Revelation 2:8 To the church

- The church of Smyrna (Greek word with a Hebrew root Myrrh)
  - This was a large, beautiful, and proud city. It was a center of learning and culture, and was proud of its standing as a city. “Smyrna was an outstandingly beautiful city. It claimed to be the ‘Glory of Asia.’”
  - We also know from history that it was a city deeply committed to idolatry and the worship of the Roman Emperor.
  - built the first temple to *Dea Roma* — the goddess of Rome,
  - Emperor worship had begun as spontaneous demonstration of gratitude to Rome;
  - All that the Christians had to do was to burn that pinch of incense, say, ‘Caesar is Lord,’

# Revelation 2:8 Smyrna

- The church of Smyrna (Greek word with a Hebrew root Myrrh)
- A bitter gum and costly perfume which exudes a type of tree (shrub) in Arabia and Ethiopia.
- It gets its name from Marar, which means bitterness.

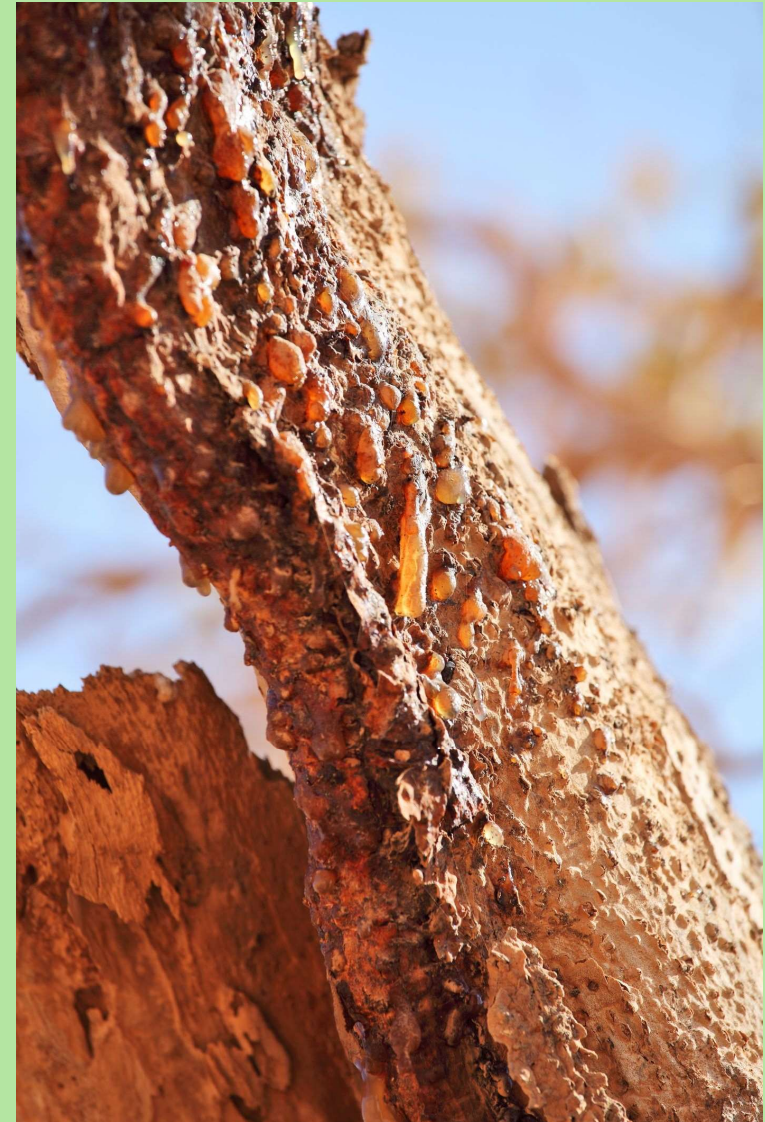


# Revelation 2:8 Smyrna

- Ingredient for (had more value than Gold!)
  - Perfume Ps 45:8
  - 'holy anointing oil for priests. Ex 30:23
  - Purification of women. Esther 2:12
  - Wedding and love. Proverbs 7:17
- It was used in embalming. John 19:39
- Brought to Baby Jesus by the wise men. Matt 2:9-11
- Myrrh gives off its scent when crushed!

## Revelation 2:8 Smyrna

- Most Bible teachers and preachers share how myrrh symbolizes the death and burial that Jesus would have to face on the cross. And I believe that is a clear connection, but it goes so much deeper!
- For myrrh to be cultivated, it must be extracted by piercing the tree's heartwood and allowing the gum to trickle out into bitter red droplets called tears.





## Revelation 2:8 Smyrna



- Today Smyrna is called Izmir.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city in Turkey
- Population 4.3 Million.

# Revelation 2:8 Smyrna



# Revelation 2:8 Title of Jesus.

- First and the Last
  - 7 times in the Bible
  - 2 times He say He was dead and now is Alive.
  - Isa 41:4,44:6,48:12
  - Revelation 1:11,1:17-18, 2:8, 22:13
- He who was dean and is now alive.
  - 2 times with in the First and the Last. 1:18 and 2:8

# Revelation 2:9 Commendation (good news)

- I know thy works
- Tribulation
  - Not the great tribulation but their persecution.
  - Thlipsis = Pressing together or pressure.
  - Used for affliction, distress....
- Poverty (but you are rich)
  - They thought they were poor
  - Contrast to the Laodicea church 3:17 / 2 Cor 8:9
  - Ptocheia = beggary helplessness
  - Penes, another word but mean poor but capable for providing.

# Revelation 2:9 Commendation (good news)

- The blasphemy of those...
  - Jews who are not..
  - Legalism, the leaven of the Gentiles. (Circumcision)
  - First persecution on Christians where from the Jews before the Romans.
  - Could be the pinch to Ceaser.
- Matthew 13:36 Tares and Wheat.
  - False believers in the Church who bring false doctrine.
    - Legalism
    - Gnosticism
    - Caesar worship

# Revelation 2:10,11 Exhortation

- Do not fear
  - Fear none of these things. Opposite of faith. (Rev 21:8)
- You're going to suffer
- Go into Prison
  - The Devil (Eph 6)
- Will be tested
  - 10 days, could be a short time.
  - Could be the 10<sup>th</sup> emperor. Who was the worse one Diocletian.
  - The list covers 250 years.
  - When Rome fell, Rome was under Famines and such.
  - Rome blamed the Christians and thus cause a war on Christians.
  - The great death toll upon Christians was at this time. (5 million@) is the 20<sup>th</sup> century.)
- BE faithful
  - Until death

# Revelation 2:11 Promise

- Crown of life.
  - For those who have suffered for His sake 2 time
- Crown of Righteousness
  - For those who loved His appearing
- Crown of Glory
  - For those who fed His flock
- Crown of Incorruptible
  - For those who pressed on steadfastly
- Crown of Rejoicing
  - For those who wins souls

# Revelation 2:11 Promise

- The Overcomer!
  - 24 verses
  - Means to prevail, get the victory.(Rev 15:2)
  - Revelation 21:7
  - Most important! (Rev 12:11)
    - Blood and the word of their testimony.
  - Going back...
    - He who has an ear!



# Revelation 2:11 Levels of application

## Local

The local church was under great persecution and was told they would suffer until death.

## All the Churches

Don't get trapped by the tares and those who say they are but are not! The church suffer and become an enemy of the world. (light vs darkness)

## Personal

2 Tim 3:12 You will suffer! When you suffer what comes out?

We suffer: To glorify God, Known sin, prevent us from falling into sin, keep us from pride, to build our faith, to cause growth, teach obedience and discipline, to equip us to minister to others, to prove the reality of Christ in us, for the testimonies to angles.

(JAMES 1), Don't compromise (but it will cost you) (3<sup>rd</sup> commandment)

## Prophetic

2<sup>nd</sup> church is the persecuted church.

# Revelation 2 and 3 Report card

Name	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodiceans
Title	X	x					
Commendation	X	x					
Concerns	X						
Exhortation	X	x					
Promise	X	x					

