

Revelation Study
To The Church At Smyrna
Revelation 2:8-11

- I. Jesus: The Preeminent, Resurrected One (8)
 - A. The first and the last – supreme position over all
 - B. Was dead, has come to life – resurrected one
- II. Encouragement To Endure (9-10)
 - A. Enduring tribulation, poverty, and blasphemy
 - 1. Tribulation – persecution due to “religious patriotism”
 - 2. Poverty – economic distress, also due to “religious patriotism” (cf. 2 Cor. 6:10, James 2:5, 1 Cor. 1:26-29)
 - 3. Blasphemy: physical Jews maintaining position among the Romans by turning over Christians
 - B. Prison, and possible death
 - 1. Devil/Synagogue of Satan – a distinction between the “physical Jew” and the “spiritual Jew” (cf. Romans 2:17-29)
 - 2. For 10 days – an allusion to Daniel 1:12-15
 - a. A symbolic allusion to on-going persecution for an extended period under state-sponsored oppression
 - b. Modern day Babylon
 - 3. Endure for a crown of life
- III. To Him Who Overcomes – Not Hurt By Second Death (11)
 - A. Much pain and sorrow, and possibly first death experience

- B. Not hurt by the second death – eternal separation
- IV. He Who Has Ears To Hear
 - A. Spiritual Insight
 - B. Will we be oriented toward the things of Jesus or of ourselves?