



# FINAL CONQUEST

## A VERSE-BY-VERSE STUDY OF REVELATION

### POSTCARDS FROM PATMOS

#### REVELATION 2:1-11

**Introduction:** Today we have come to the second of three major divisions in the Book of the Revelation. In Revelation 2-3, Jesus Christ is pictured as evaluating seven key churches in Asia Minor. Those reports – or “letters” – reveal what Christ values and what He abhors in congregations, as well as in the lives of those Christians who comprise those churches.

#### I. Common Characteristics Of All The Letters

- A. Addressed to the Pastor of Each of the Churches
- B. Each Contains a Unique Description of Christ from Revelation 1
- C. Most Contain a Word of Affirmation for the Church
- D. With the Exception of Two, All Contain a Word of Admonition

#### II. Ephesus: The Cold Church (Revelation 2:1-7)

- A. The City of Ephesus
- B. The Description of Christ (2:1)

Revelation 2:1 “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands...”



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#### C. The Affirmation of Ephesus (2:2-3)

Revelation 2:2-3 <sup>2</sup> “I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; <sup>3</sup> and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary.”

1. Their **hard work**
2. Their **perseverance**
3. Their **orthodoxy**

#### D. The Admonition to Ephesus (2:4-5)

Revelation 2:4-5 <sup>4</sup> “But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. <sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.”

#### E. The Promise to Ephesus (2:7)

Revelation 2:7 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.”

1 John 5:5 “And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

### III. Smyrna: The Persecuted Church (Revelation 2:8-11)

#### A. The City of Smyrna



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#### B. The Description of Christ (2:8)

Revelation 2:8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life...”

#### C. The Affirmation of Smyrna (2:9)

Revelation 2:9 “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.”

#### Six Charges Against Christians in Smyrna

1. **Cannibals** because they partook in Communion—eating the “body” and “blood” of Christ.
2. **Immoral** because they practiced “love feasts” which were simply communal meals that included Communion (Jude 12).
3. **Destroyers of families** because believers were often ostracized from their unbelieving families.
4. **Atheists** because they refused to worship idols or engage in emperor worship.
5. **Treasonous** because their first and highest allegiance was the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. **Anarchists** because they taught that the world would burn up (2 Peter 3:10).

James 2:5 “Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?”

#### D. The Promise to Smyrna (2:10-11)

Revelation 2:10a “Do 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.”

Revelation 2:10b-11 <sup>10b</sup> “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. <sup>11</sup> He 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.”

Conclusion