



f.001.tiff



f.002.tiff



f.003.tiff



f.004.tiff

8“AND TO THE ANGEL OF THE CHURCH IN SMYRNA WRITE: ‘THE WORDS OF THE FIRST AND THE LAST, WHO DIED AND CAME TO LIFE. 9“‘I KNOW YOUR TRIBULATION AND YOUR POVERTY (BUT YOU ARE RICH) AND THE SLANDER OF THOSE WHO SAY THAT THEY ARE JEWS AND ARE NOT, BUT ARE A SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN. 10 DO NOT FEAR WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO SUFFER.

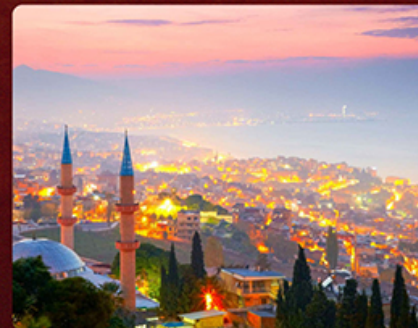
f.005.tiff

BEHOLD, THE DEVIL IS ABOUT TO THROW SOME OF YOU INTO PRISON, THAT YOU MAY BE TESTED, AND FOR TEN DAYS YOU WILL HAVE TRIBULATION. BE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH, AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE CROWN OF LIFE. 11“HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES. THE ONE WHO CONQUERS WILL NOT BE HURT BY THE SECOND DEATH.’
—REVELATION 2:8-11

f.006.tiff

I. EXAMINE THE
CONTEXT AND CONFLICT
OF THIS CHURCH

f.007.tiff



f.008.tiff



f.009.tiff



f.010.tiff



f.011.tiff

KAISER ES KURIOUS
CAESAR IS LORD!

KRISTOS ES KURIOUS
JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

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2. HEAR THE
AFFIRMATION AND COMPASSION
FOR THIS CHURCH
REVELATION 2:8; 1:17-18

f.013.tiff

2 CORINTHIANS 1:7-9

⁷OUR HOPE FOR YOU IS UNSHAKEN, FOR WE KNOW
THAT AS YOU SHARE IN OUR SUFFERINGS, YOU WILL
ALSO SHARE IN OUR COMFORT. ⁸FOR WE DO NOT
WANT YOU TO BE UNAWARE, BROTHERS, OF THE
AFFLICTION WE EXPERIENCED IN ASIA.

f.014.tiff

2 CORINTHIANS 1:7-9

FOR WE WERE SO UTTERLY BURDENED BEYOND
OUR STRENGTH THAT WE DESPAIRED OF LIFE ITSELF.
⁹INDEED, WE FELT THAT WE HAD RECEIVED THE
SENTENCE OF DEATH. BUT THAT WAS TO
MAKE US RELY NOT ON OURSELVES
BUT ON GOD WHO RAISES THE DEAD.

f.015.tiff

ISAIAH 53:3-4

³HE WAS DESPISED AND REJECTED BY MEN,
A MAN OF SORROWS AND ACQUAINTED
WITH GRIEF; AND AS ONE FROM WHOM
MEN HIDE THEIR FACES HE WAS DESPISED,
AND WE ESTEEMED HIM NOT.

f.016.tiff

ISAIAH 53:3-4

⁴SURELY HE HAS BORNE OUR GRIEFS AND
CARRIED OUR SORROWS;
YET WE ESTEEMED HIM STRICKEN,
SMITTEN BY GOD, AND AFFLICTED.

f.017.tiff

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

FOR YOU KNOW THE GRACE OF
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THAT THOUGH
HE WAS RICH, YET FOR YOUR SAKE
HE BECAME POOR, SO THAT YOU BY
HIS POVERTY MIGHT BECOME RICH.

f.018.tiff

HEBREWS 4:14-16

¹⁴SINCE THEN WE HAVE A GREAT HIGH PRIEST
WHO HAS PASSED THROUGH THE HEAVENS, JESUS,
THE SON OF GOD, LET US HOLD FAST OUR
CONFESSION. ¹⁵FOR WE DO NOT HAVE
A HIGH PRIEST WHO IS UNABLE TO SYMPATHIZE
WITH OUR WEAKNESSES,

f.019.tiff

HEBREWS 4:14-16

BUT ONE WHO IN EVERY RESPECT
HAS BEEN TEMPTED AS WE ARE, YET WITHOUT SIN.
¹⁶LET US THEN WITH CONFIDENCE DRAW NEAR
TO THE THRONE OF GRACE, THAT WE MAY RECEIVE
MERCY AND FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED.

f.020.tiff

• SUFFERING DOES NOT
DEplete US, IT COMPLETES US
REVELATION 2:9a

f.021.tiff

"FOR CHRISTIANS, THE LANGUAGE
OF SUFFERING HAS A UNIQUE
AND PROFOUND DIALECT,
OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD
BY THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER
LEARNED THE LANGUAGE OF THE
FAITH. CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THAT
ALL SUFFERING HAS A SPECIFIC
PURPOSE IN GOD'S SOVEREIGN
PLAN, SO UNDER THE SURFACE OF
ITS APPARENT MEANINGLESSNESS,
SUFFERING SPEAKS TO THE SOUL
LIKE NOTHING ELSE.

f.022.tiff

THIS ISN'T INTENDED TO MAKE
THE CLAIM THAT PERSECUTION IS
A THING OF BEAUTY OR
THAT WICKED PEOPLE WHO
CAUSE SUFFERING ARE ACTUALLY
GOOD. BUT CHRISTIANS KNOW
THAT GOD CAN TURN AROUND
THE INTENDED OR NATURAL
OUTCOME AND BRING ABOUT
BLESSINGS. NEVERTHELESS,
THE BENEFITS OF SUFFERING
CAN EASILY BE OVERLOOKED
AS PAIN INTENSIFIES OR AS FEAR
AND UNCERTAINTY SET IN."
—CHARLES SWINDOLL

f.023.tiff

LUKE 22:31-32

³¹"SIMON, SIMON, BEHOLD, SATAN DEMANDED
TO HAVE YOU, THAT HE MIGHT SIFT YOU LIKE
WHEAT, ³²BUT I HAVE PRAYED FOR YOU THAT
YOUR FAITH MAY NOT FAIL. AND WHEN YOU HAVE
TURNED AGAIN, STRENGTHEN YOUR BROTHERS."

f.024.tiff

• SLANDER MAY SURROUND YOU,
BUT THE SAVIOR
WILL STAND WITH YOU

f.025.tiff

ACTS 7:54-56

⁵⁴NOW WHEN THEY HEARD THESE THINGS
THEY WERE ENRAGED, AND THEY GRIND
THEIR TEETH AT HIM. ⁵⁵BUT HE,
FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, GAZED INTO HEAVEN
AND SAW THE GLORY OF GOD,

f.026.tiff

ACTS 7:54-56

AND JESUS STANDING AT THE RIGHT HAND
OF GOD. ⁵⁶AND HE SAID, "BEHOLD, I SEE THE
HEAVENS OPENED, AND THE SON OF MAN
STANDING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD."

f.027.tiff

JOHN 16:33

"I HAVE SAID THESE THINGS TO YOU,
THAT IN ME YOU MAY HAVE PEACE.
IN THE WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TRIBULATION.
BUT TAKE HEART;
I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD."

f.028.tiff

"GOD WHO FORESAW YOUR TRIBULATION,
HAS SPECIFICALLY ARMED YOU TO
GO THROUGH IT, NOT WITHOUT PAIN
BUT WITHOUT STAIN." —C.S. LEWIS

f.029.tiff

• STRENGTH IS FOUND IN KNOWING
DEATH ISN'T THE FINAL STORY

f.030.tiff

⁴"HE WILL WIPE AWAY EVERY TEAR
FROM THEIR EYES, AND DEATH
SHALL BE NO MORE, NEITHER
SHALL THERE BE MOURNING,
NOR CRYING, NOR PAIN ANYMORE,
FOR THE FORMER THINGS HAVE
PASSED AWAY." ⁵AND HE WHO WAS
SEATED ON THE THRONE SAID,
"BEHOLD, I AM MAKING ALL THINGS
NEW." ALSO HE SAID, "WRITE THIS
DOWN, FOR THESE WORDS ARE
TRUSTWORTHY AND TRUE." ⁶AND
HE SAID TO ME, "IT IS DONE!
I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA,
THE BEGINNING AND THE END.

f.031.tiff

TO THE THIRSTY I WILL GIVE FROM
THE SPRING OF THE WATER OF LIFE
WITHOUT PAYMENT.
⁷THE ONE WHO CONQUERS WILL
HAVE THIS HERITAGE, AND I WILL
BE HIS GOD AND HE WILL BE MY
SON. ⁸BUT AS FOR THE COWARDLY,
THE FAITHLESS, THE DETESTABLE,
AS FOR MURDERERS, THE SEXUALLY
IMMORAL, SORCERERS, IDOLATERS,
AND ALL LIARS, THEIR PORTION
WILL BE IN THE LAKE THAT
BURNS WITH FIRE AND SULFUR,
WHICH IS THE SECOND DEATH."
—REVELATION 21:4-8

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