

revelation

SESSION #3 – SMYRNA & PERGAMUM

SMYRNA BACKGROUND

- Smyrna is related to word “bitter” from the word “myrrh.” (*which was used to embalm dead bodies*)
- Thirty-five miles north of Ephesus.
- Located in modern-day Izmir, Turkey.
- Known as the “*Ornament of Asia*” or the “*Crown City of Asia.*”

JESUS REMINDS THE CHURCH WHO HE IS (v.8)

- **“I AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST.”**
 - We see this same phrase in [Revelation 1:17](#).
- **“I AM ETERNAL”**
- **“I AM UNIQUE”**

JESUS REMINDS THE CHURCH OF WHAT HE KNOWS (v.9-10)

- **“I KNOW YOUR SUFFERING”**
- **“I KNOW YOUR POVERTY”**
- **“I KNOW YOU ARE SLANDERED”**
- **“THINGS ARE GOING TO GET WORSE”**
 - Suffering is a real part of the Christian life.
 - [John 16:33](#)
 - [Acts 14:22](#)
 - [Philippians 1:26](#)

JESUS OFFERS SOME ADVICE AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE CHURCH (v.10-11)

- **“FEAR NOT”**
- **“BE FAITHFUL”**

CHURCH AT PERGAMUM

Revelation 2:12-17

PERGAMUM BACKGROUND

- Referred to themselves as the *“Greatest City in Asia Minor.”* They were also referred to as the *“Religious Capital of Asia.”*
- Library with 200,000 volumes. Second only to the great Library in Alexandria.
- They had the first temple dedicated to Caesar.

JESUS TELLS THE CHURCH WHAT HE KNOWS (v.13)

1. **“I KNOW WHERE YOU DWELL, WHERE SATAN’S THRONE IS”:**
 - a. Several interpretations as to what this means:
 - i. **Aeropolis:**
 - ii. **The Altar of Zeus:**
 - iii. **Temple of Asclepius:**
 - iv. **Imperial Cult Worship:**

WORD OF APPROVAL FROM JESUS (v.13)

1. **“YOU HAVE REMAINED TRUE”**

WORDS OF ACCUSATION FROM JESUS (v.14-15)

1. **“ALLOWING FALSE TEACHING IN THE CHURCH”**

WORDS OF WARNING FROM JESUS (v.16-17)

- **“REPENT”**
- **“LISTEN”**