

## **439 - How Far Form Home**

**How far from home? I asked, as on  
I bent my steps the watchman spake:**

**“The long, dark night is almost gone,  
The morning soon will break.**

**Then weep no more but speed thy flight,  
With Hope's bright star thy guiding ray,  
Till thou shalt reach the realms of light,  
In everlasting days.”**

## **439 - How Far Form Home**

**I asked the warrior on the field;**

**This was his soul-inspiring song:**

**"With courage, bold the sword I'll wield**

**The battle is not long.**

**Then weep no more, but well endure**

**The conflict, till thy work is done;**

**For this we know, the prize is sure,**

**When victory is won."**

## **439 - How Far Form Home**

**I asked again; earth, sea, and sun  
Seemed, with one voice, to make reply:  
"Time's wasting sands are nearly run,  
Eternity is nigh.  
Then weep no more-with warning tones,  
Portentous signs are thickening round,  
The whole creation, waiting, groans,  
To hear the trumpet sound."**

## **439 - How Far Form Home**

**Not far from home! O blessed thought!**

**The traveler's lonely heart to cheer;**

**Which oft a healing balm has brought,**

**And dried the mourner's tear.**

**Then weep no more, since we shall meet**

**Where weary footsteps never roam-**

**Our trials past, our joys complete,**

**Safe in our Father's home.**

# Opening Scripture

## Revelation 1: 10,11:

10) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,  
11) Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.



# **Study of Prophecy: “The Seven Churches”**

**Presenter:** Bro. Samuel Lee  
**Venue:** Crane SDA Church  
**Service:** Evangelistic Meeting  
**Date:** Sunday, May 1 2016

**SESSION 3:**

**1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup>  
CHURCHES:  
EPHESUS AND  
SMYRNA**

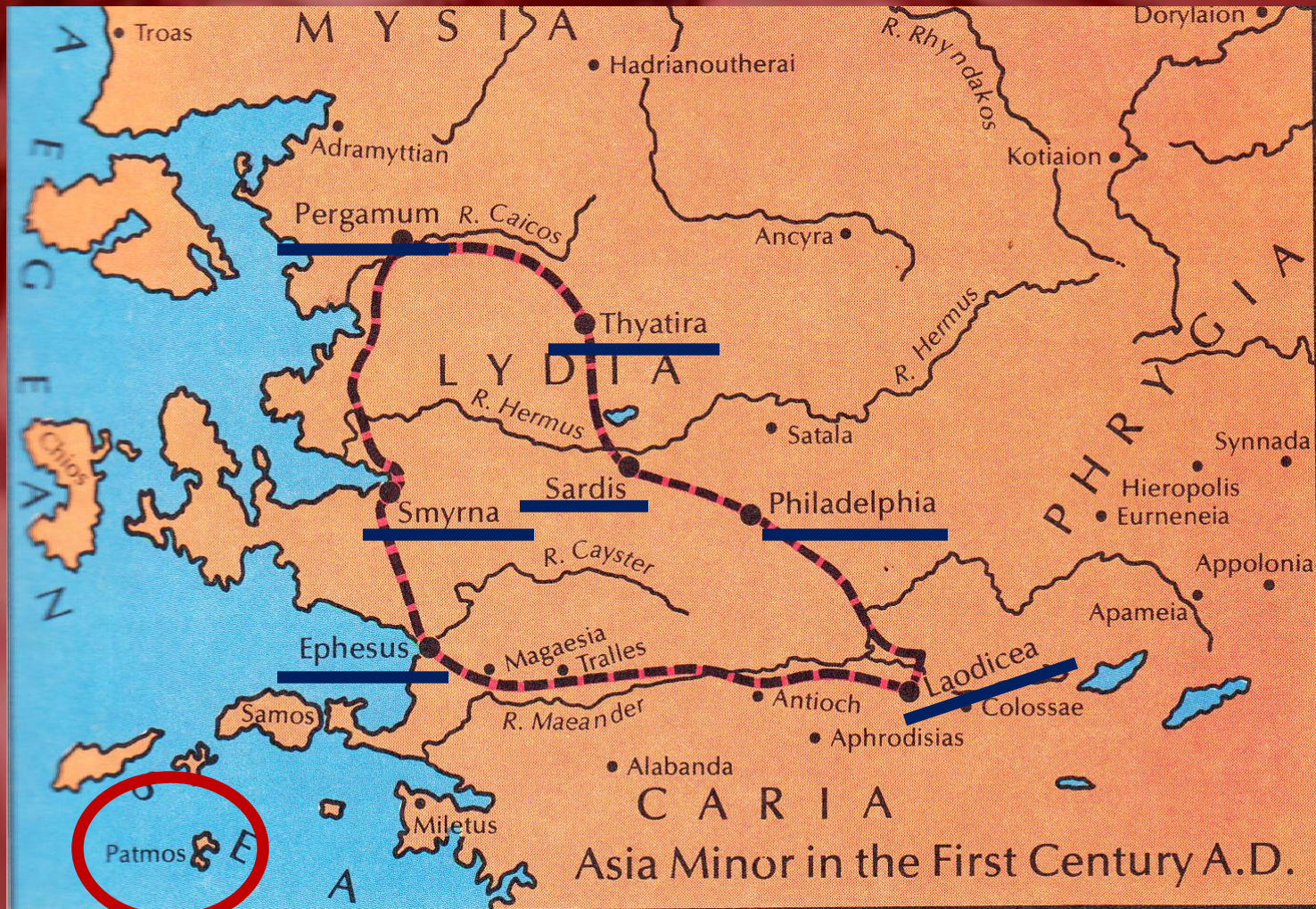
# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna



Jesus between the Seven Candlesticks.



# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna



Location of the seven Cities. Taken from “God Cares Vol. 2” pg 91.

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

## Historical Aspect of Asia Minor

Asia Minor, region of the ancient world, roughly corresponding to present Asian Turkey, or the peninsula of Anatolia. Some of the earliest Neolithic settlements in the Middle East have been found in Asia Minor.

**Taken from Microsoft ® Encarta ® 2007.**

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna



# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

# 1<sup>ST</sup> CHURCH: EPHESUS

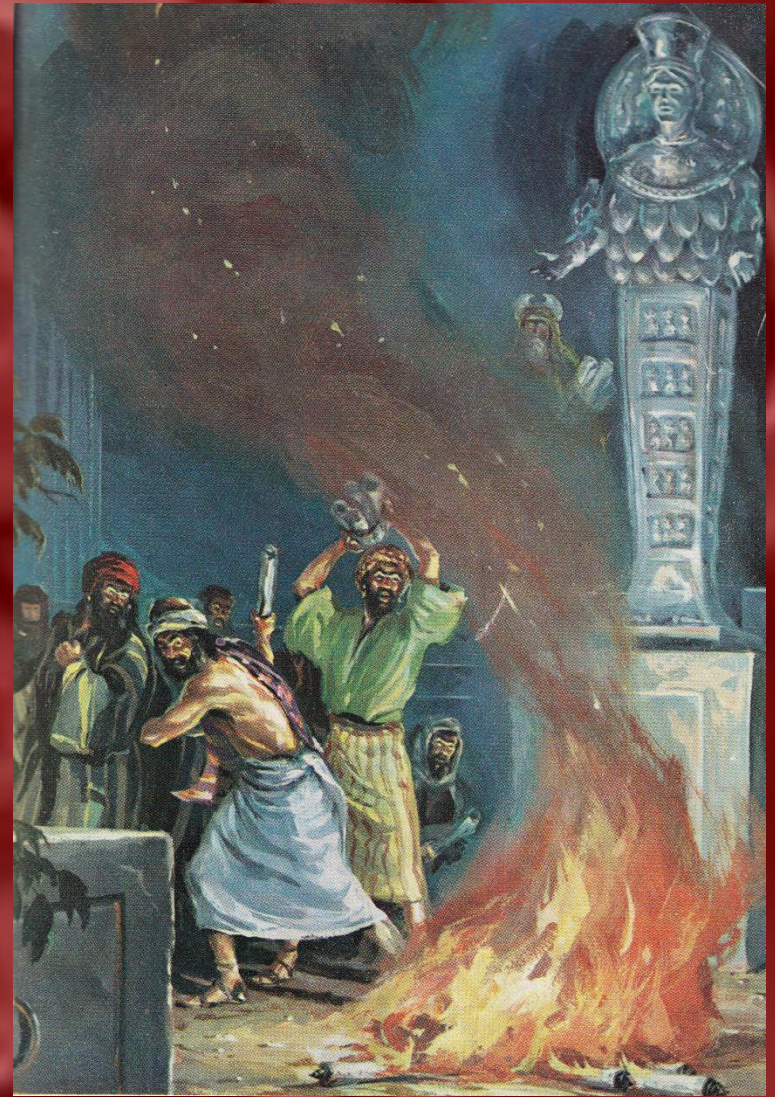
# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

## Historical Aspect of Ephesus

Ephesus, one of the 12 cities of Ionia (an ancient Greek district on the western coast of Asia Minor), located near modern İzmir, Turkey. As a port city at the mouth of the Cayster (modern Küçükmenderes) River, it was a major departure point for trade routes into Asia Minor. Known in antiquity for its sacred shrines, notably a famous temple (one of the Seven Wonders of the World) to the goddess Artemis, or Diana, the city was also an important center of early Christianity.

**Taken from Microsoft ® Encarta ® 2007.**

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna



Ephesus: Greco-Roman Theatre and Goddess Diana.

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

## 1<sup>st</sup> Church: Ephesus

### ❖ Revelation 2:1-7.

1) Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; 2) I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: 3) And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. 4) Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

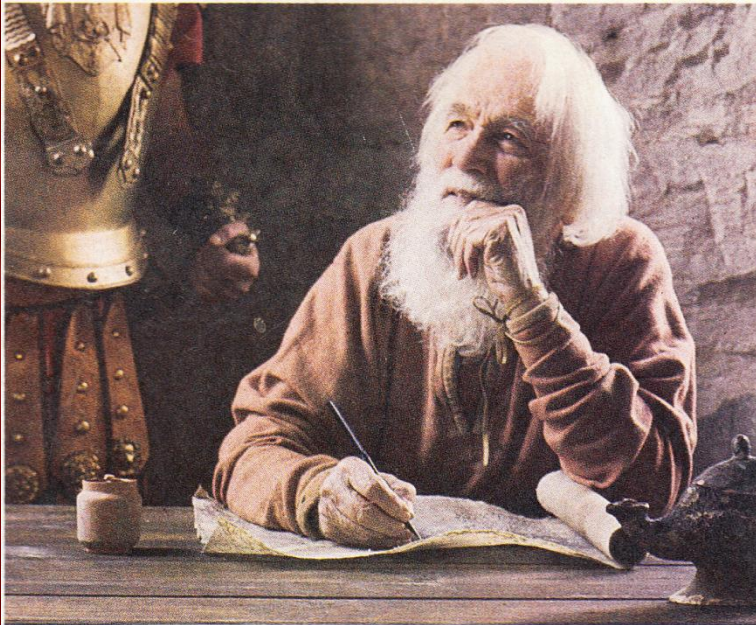
## 1<sup>st</sup> Church: Ephesus

### ❖ Revelation 2:1-7 Cont'd.

- ❖ 5) Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. 6) But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.



# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna



Angel of the Church of Ephesus: Paul & Apostles.

# **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna**

## **Character of the Church**

- 1. Meaning of Ephesus: “Desirable”.**
- 2. Period: A.D. 31 – 100.**
- 3. Era: Apostolic Age.**
- 4. Purity: Best – Doctrines of Christ**
- 5. Benefits/Blessings: Enjoyed the gifts of Holy Spirit.**

**NB:** A.D. Means “Anno Domini” = In the year of our Lord

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

## Description & Knowledge of Christ

### ❖ Revelation 2:1,2.

1. He holds the seven stars (angels/messengers) and walks among seven candlesticks (churches).
2. Knows the works, toils and endurance of His followers (patience).

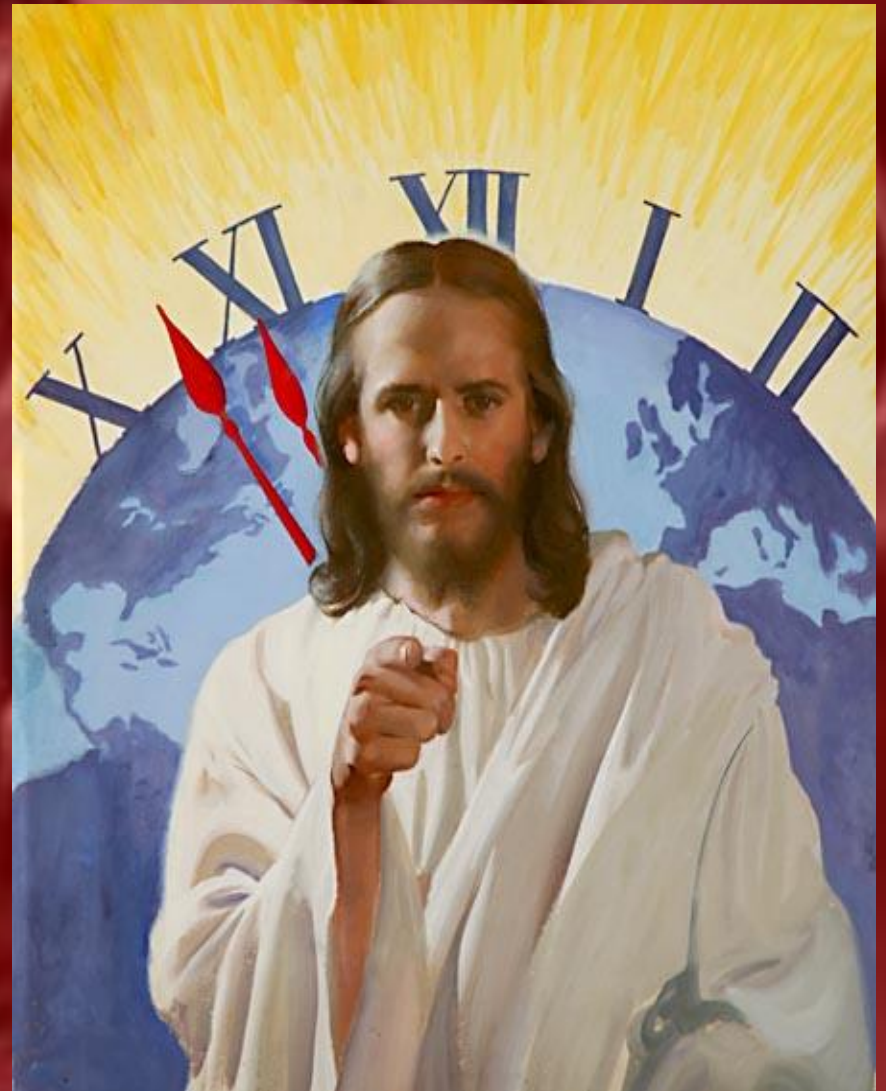
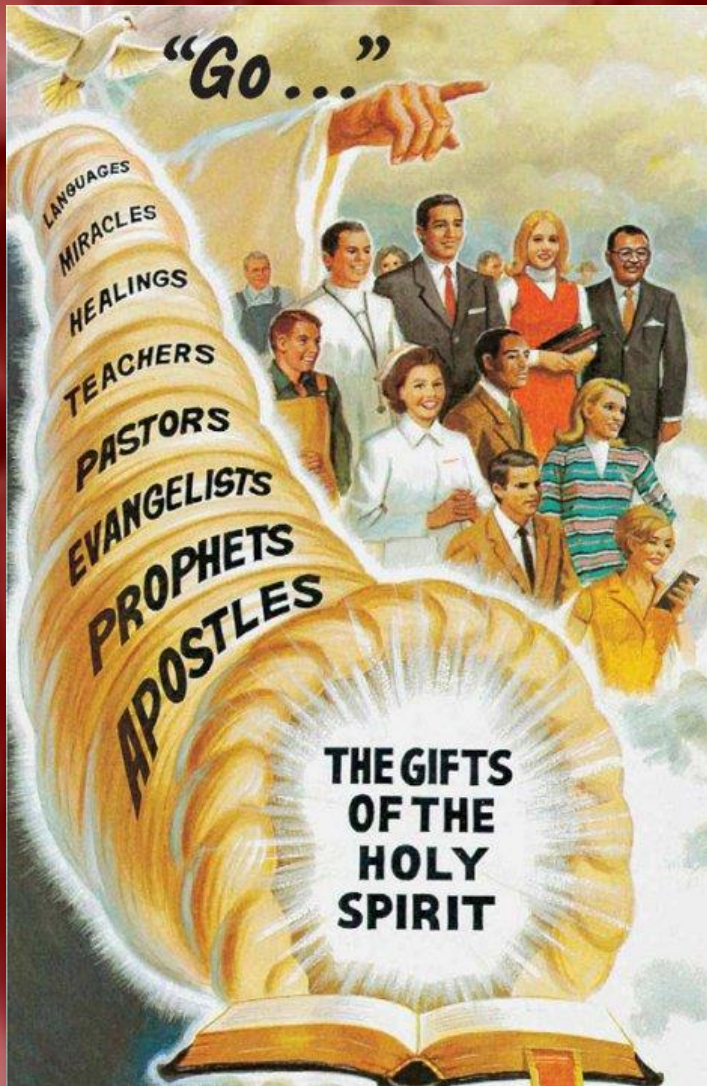
# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

## Commendation to the Church

### ❖ Revelation 2:2,3,6.

1. **They laboured; not weary. (Gospel to the World)**
  - **Colossians 1:23.** (See also Acts 8:4) If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.
2. **Tested supposed Apostles/teachers, found them liars.**
  - **Acts 13:8.** But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna



The Gospel Commission and its Soldiers.

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

## Commendation to the Church Cont'd

3. **Hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans.** See Daniel and the Revelation.

## Reproof and Warning to the Church

❖ **Revelation 2:4,5.**

1. **Abandoned their first love.**

- **Matthew 24:12.**(See 7:21-23) And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

2. **Remove their candlestick.**

- **Matthew 5:15.** Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

## Daniel and The Revelation by Uriah Smith (pp. 365-6)

### Chap. 2 – The Divine Method of Prophetic Revelation

**The Nicolaitanes.--...**It appears that they were a class of people whose deeds and doctrines were both abominable in the sight of Heaven. Their origin is involved in some doubt. Some say that they sprang from Nicholas of Antioch, one of the seven deacons (Acts 6:5); some, that they only attribute their origin to him to gain the prestige of his name; and others, that the sect took its name from one Nicholas of later date. **The latter theory is probably more nearly correct.** Concerning their doctrines and practices, there seems to be a general agreement that they held to a community of wives, regarded adultery and fornication as matters of indifference, and permitted the eating of things offered to idols.

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

## Counsel to the Church

### ❖ Revelation 2:5.

1. Repent .
  - **Acts 2:38.** (See also **1 John 1:9**) Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
2. Remember the first works.
3. Return to your first love and first works.



# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

## Promise to the Church

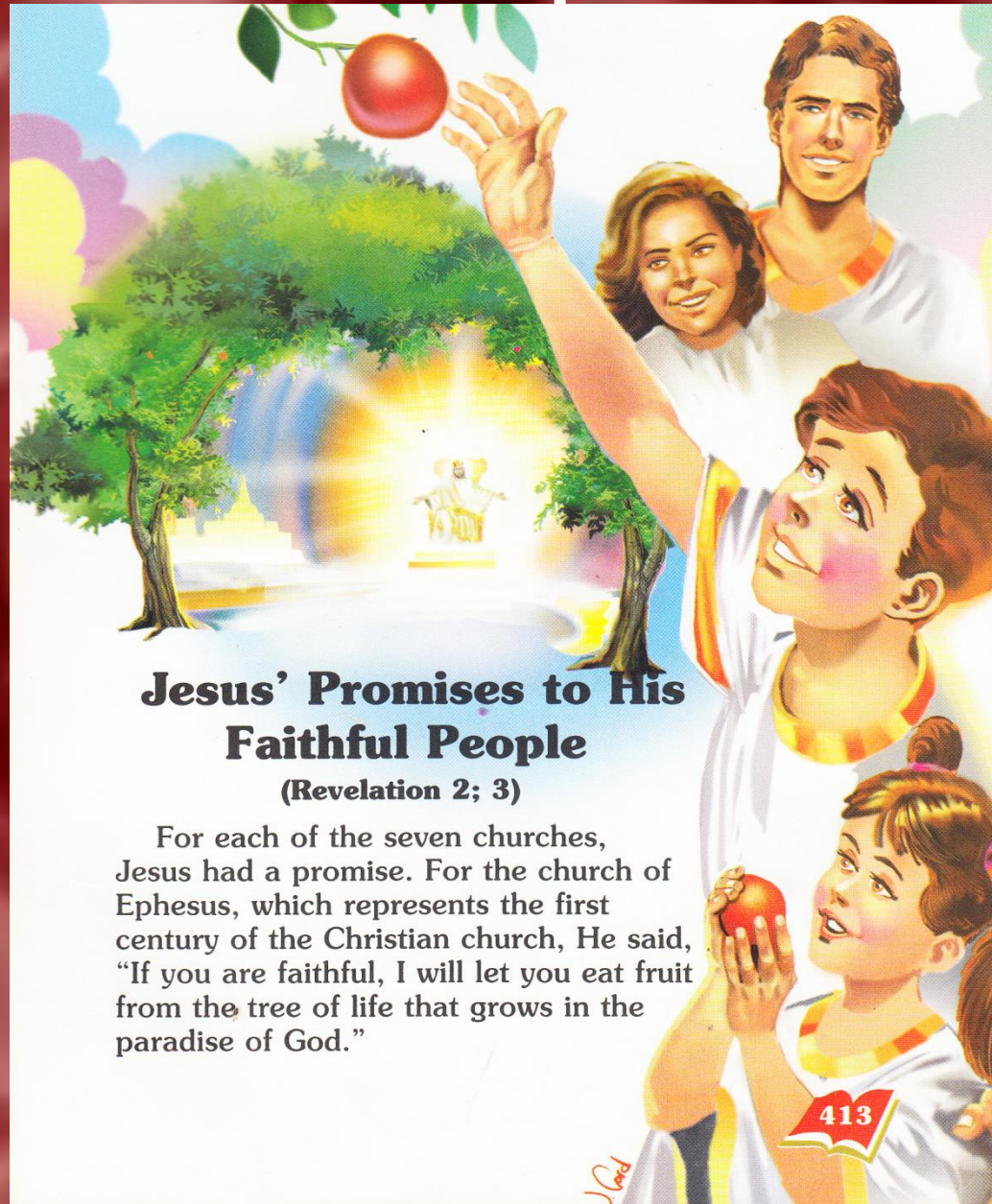
### ❖ Revelation 2:7.

1. Eat from the Tree of Life in Paradise (Heaven).

• **Revelation 22:1, 2 (See also Corinthians 12:2,4.)**

1) And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2) In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there **the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits**, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna



## **Jesus' Promises to His Faithful People**

**(Revelation 2; 3)**

For each of the seven churches, Jesus had a promise. For the church of Ephesus, which represents the first century of the Christian church, He said, "If you are faithful, I will let you eat fruit from the tree of life that grows in the paradise of God."

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

## 2<sup>nd</sup> CHURCH: SMYRNA

An open book with a yellow cover and a green bookmark, resting on a textured surface. The book is open to a page with some faint text. The background is a light-colored, textured surface with a repeating pattern of small, stylized figures or symbols.

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

## Historical Aspect of Smyrna

Founded in the 11th century BC by the Aeolians, a Greek people, the city was seized by the Ionians before 688 BC. Later in the 7th century BC, Smyrna was devastated by the Lydians, a people of Asia Minor. Antigonus I, king of Macedonia, restored the city in the 4th century BC, and subsequently it was fortified and improved by Lysimachus, a general in the service of Alexander the Great. Smyrna was conquered later by the Romans and subsequently became an early center of Christianity, referred to as one of the “seven churches” (see Revelation 1:11).

**Taken from Microsoft ® Encarta ® 2007.**

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna



Location of the seven Cities. Taken from “God Cares Vol. 2” pg 91.

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Church: Smyrna

### ❖ Revelation 2:8-11.

8) And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; 9) I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. 10) Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. 11) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna



Christian martyr: Christ or Diana?

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

## Character of Church

1. **Meaning of Smyrna:** “Myrrh – sweet smelling savour”. (See Matthew 2:11).
2. **Period:** A.D. 100 - 323.
3. **Era:** Describes the church to the conversion of Constantine when the Roman Empire became Christian and Pagan persecution largely ceased.
4. **State of Church:** Corruptions began entering the church.



# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna



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## Roman Empire – 1<sup>st</sup> Century A.D.

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

## Character and Knowledge of Christ

### ❖ Revelation 2:8,9.

1. Christ is the First and the Last.
2. He was dead and now is alive.
3. He knows the tribulation and poverty of the church.
4. Also He knows about their coming troubles.

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna



The Resurrection of Christ.

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

## Commendation to the Church

### ❖ Revelation 2:9.

#### 1. Rich in Heavenly goods.

- Matthew 6:19-21.

19) Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20) But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21) For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

## Commendation of Church

### 2. Withstood false Jews.

- **Romans 2:28,29 (See also John 1:47)**

28) For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29) But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

## Reproof and Warning to Church

**Jesus does not rebuke this church. It is the first of two churches that have no reproof.**

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

## Counsel to Church

### ❖ Revelation 2:10.

1. Do not fear the persecution.
2. Be faithful to the end.

### • Revelation 12:10,11.

10) And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

# The Great Controversy by E.G. White (pg 40)

## Chap. 2 – Persecution in the First Centuries

These persecutions, beginning under Nero about the time of the martyrdom of Paul, continued with greater or less fury for centuries. Christians were falsely accused of the most dreadful crimes, and declared to be the cause of great calamities, famine, pestilence, and earthquake. As they became the objects of popular hatred and suspicion, informers stood ready, for the sake of gain, to betray the innocent. They were condemned as rebels against the empire, as foes of religion, and pests to society. Great numbers were thrown to wild beasts or burned alive in the amphitheaters. Some were crucified; others were covered with the skins of wild animals, and thrust into the arena to be torn by dogs. Their punishment was often made the chief entertainment at public fêtes. Vast multitudes assembled to enjoy the sight, and greeted their dying agonies with laughter and applause.

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna



Smyrna suffered Pagan Persecution.



## Daniel and The Revelation by Uriah Smith (pg 369)

### Chap. 2 – The Divine Method of Prophetic Revelation

**Tribulation Ten Days.**--As this message is prophetic, the time mentioned in it must also be regarded as prophetic. Since a prophetic day stands for a literal year, the ten days would denote ten years. It is a noticeable fact that the last and most bloody of the ten great persecutions of the Christian church continued just ten years, from A.D. 303 to 313, beginning under Diocletian. It would be difficult to make an application of this language on the ground that these messages are not prophetic; for in that case only ten literal days could be meant. It would not seem improbable that a persecution of only ten days, or only a single church, would be made a matter of prophecy; and no mention of any such case of limited persecution can be found.

**See Numbers 14:34 & Ezekiel 4:6 for Day-Year Principle.**<sub>4</sub>

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna

## Promise to Church

### ❖ Revelation 2:11

1. Crown of life.
  2. Shall not be subject to the second death.
- **Revelation 20:6,14. (See also Matthew 10:28)**
    - 6) Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.
    - 14) And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna



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Reward of the Faithful: Crown of Life.

A classical painting depicting several angels with large, white, feathered wings flying through a cloudy sky. They are looking down towards a landscape below that features a city with a prominent tower, a river, and a bridge. The scene is rendered in a dramatic, high-contrast style with a rich color palette.

**MAY GOD  
RICHLY BLESS  
YOU.**