

## SOME QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT:

Have you ever faced any type of persecution for your faith in Jesus? (Perhaps it was over Sabbath or diet...) How did you respond?

In your own words, what does victorious Christian living look like?

The early Smyrna Church faced persecution from other Jewish leaders. Have you ever had another believer turn on you or slander you? How did you deal with it?

2

Study Guide



# FROM ANCIENT TO MODERN

## SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION TODAY

### *Smyrna: Faithful No Matter What*

*“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.’”*

Revelation 2:8-11 (NKJV)

## SMYRNA

Population: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Some Famous Temples:

\_\_\_\_\_, king of the gods

\_\_\_\_\_, Roman Emperor

\_\_\_\_\_, goddess of nature and wild animals

Notable Preachers in Smyrna:

Apostle \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, John's Disciple

\_\_\_\_\_, Church Father & Apologist

## ADDITIONAL NOTES:

## THE MESSAGE TO SMYRNA:

### COMMENDATION:

"I know your \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_."

NOTE: The word for "tribulation" in the NKJV, or affliction, is the Greek word *thlipsis*. It is the word used to describe a person lying on the ground and then being stoned to death. It's when the sky falls or hope is lost. It's life and death.

### CONDEMNATION:

### COUNSEL:

"Do not \_\_\_\_\_. Be \_\_\_\_\_ unto \_\_\_\_\_."

### CHALLENGE:

### COMPENSATION:

"I will give you a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

NOTE: The word for "crown" here is a special crown. In Revelation there were actually two tips of crowns. The *diadema* crown—worn by kings, worn by Jesus. And there was the *stephanos* crown—the crown given to the victor at the Olympic games. It was given to the victor in war and to the overcome. And that is the crown that the saved will receive here in Revelation 2.