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2020 REVELATION SERIES

Unfolding The Power of Prophecy

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DO REV #13

2020 REVELATION SERIES

Unfolding The Power of **Prophecy**

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH



Dr. Stephen R. Phinney

My primary objective is to equip individuals through the believer's identity in Christ - all based on the message of identification with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. My passion is to deliver this message to a worldwide audience by making use of the internet, live presentations, writing, podcasting & through the effective use of media.

A portrait of Pastor Stephen R. Phinney, a man with short grey hair, a mustache, and glasses, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue quilted jacket over a black polo shirt. The portrait is set within a circular frame with a maroon outer ring and a white inner ring. A dark grey circle is overlaid on the bottom left of the portrait.

PASTOR

Nominated **top 100** online educators.

ILLUSTRATIVE VIDEO

VIEW ONLINE

A world map is displayed on a laptop screen. The landmasses are colored in a dark red or maroon shade, while the oceans are a light gray. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean. Overlaid on the map is the text "VIEW ONLINE" in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. The laptop itself has a black bezel and a silver base. There are some dark red decorative elements: a horizontal bar at the top center, a vertical bar on the left side containing the text "ILLUSTRATIVE VIDEO", and a square on the bottom right.

DON MOEN

A world map is displayed on a laptop screen. The map uses a light gray color for landmasses and white for oceans. Several regions are highlighted in a dark red color: Alaska, the contiguous United States, Canada, South America, Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. The text "VIEW ONLINE" is superimposed over the center of the map in a large, bold, black font.

VIEW ONLINE

PRAYER

VIEW ONLINE

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LET'S GET STARTED





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THE PERSECUTED CHURCH





The Bitter/Persecuted Church

“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this: “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. 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. 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 will not be hurt by the second death.” ’ ”

Revelation 2:8-11





CHURCH | BITTER/PERSECUTED


Smyrna (Greek: Σμύρνη) is an ancient city (present-day Izmir, Turkey). Izmir also incorporates the nearby ancient Biblical cities of Ephesus, Pergamon, and Sardis. Smyrna was founded by the Ionians (Coastal Greeks) at a central and strategic point on the Aegean coast of Anatolia (Asia Minor). Smyrna rose to prominence before the Classical Era.

modern day
TURKEY


 Pergamos


 Smyrna

 Thyatira

 Sardis

 Philadelphia

 Ephesus

 **Laodicea**

Its importance has remained practically uninterrupted to this day.

CHURCH | KEY NOTE

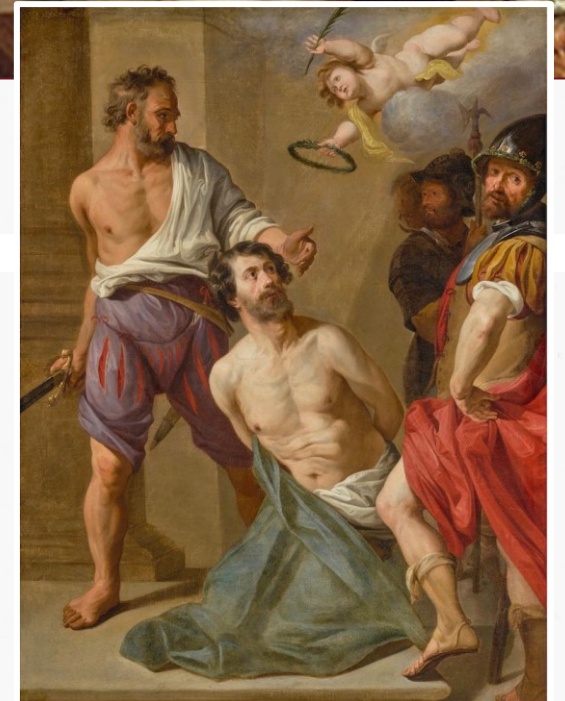
This is the second church named in our study. The message to this church represents a period of unbelievable persecution, starting AD 303. Constantine (a known Catholic political) had returned to Nicomedia (Smyrna) from the eastern front by the spring of AD 303, in time to witness the beginnings of Diocletian's "Great Persecution," the most severe persecution of Christians in Roman history.



SMYRNA | RELEVANT TODAY

- † Constantine the Great = **Fake Christian**
- † **Smyrna** known for practicing idolatry
- † **Polycarp** = he wasn't a "Pope"
- † **Smyrna means** = bitterness & dead myrrh
- † **Smyrna** = suffered at the hands of the fake church
- † **The Gospel That Hurts** = the second death
- † **Smyrna's Price** = the cost of the authentic

Take joy in the power of refinement.



Persecution Defines Authenticity

SMYRNA TODAY

>>>
PRESENT DAY

In just the last year*, there have been:

- † **Over 260 million** Christians living in places where they experience high levels of persecution
- † **2,983 Christians killed** for their faith
- † **9,488 churches** and other Christian buildings attacked.
- † **3,711 believers detained** without trial, arrested, sentenced or imprisoned

Data: Open Doors

These numbers are heart-breaking. And yet, they do not tell the whole story.

James 1:2-4 says, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” That joy is what we see when we hear and work with Christians all over the world who suffer because of they serve Jesus. God cares for His people, and He will never leave or forsake them.

Next: Culture & Pergamum



Beloved indwelt Christian, take joy in the power and strength of the Lord. Take courage in the everlasting covenant of God's eternal protection; not of your body, but of your hearts. Jesus wants all believers to know He is amid their pain. He will meet them there, despite the persecution.



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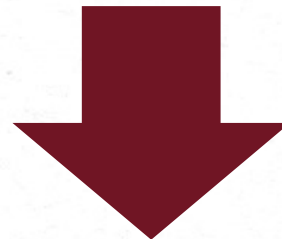
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THANKS

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In Description.



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