

# THE OBJECTION PEOPLE HAVE

Why would a loving God send people to hell?

## THE SUMMARY RESPONSE

A loving God recognizes none of us are good (even though we sometimes think we are), and in spite of this, He offers us forgiveness and a life with Him in heaven. All of us deserve Hell. But **God does not send us to Hell**, even though this is true. Instead He offers to **pardon us** and prevent us from getting what we deserve

**(J. Warner Wallace - Cold Case Christianity)**

# “Letter to the Church of Smyrna”

**Revelation 2: 8-11**

**March 8, 2020**

# The following points are covered in each Church:

- 1) Destination - the messenger and the congregation
- 2) Description - of Jesus taken from Chapter 1
- 3) Commendation - what each Church does well
- 4) Condemnation - what each Church does wrong

**The following points are covered in each Church: (cont.)**

**5) Exhortation - an encouragement specific for that Church**

**6) Promise - what one can expect if they overcome the problems specific to that Church**

The seven Churches are placed in a clockwise manner suggesting the passage of time

modern day  
**TURKEY**

Pergamos

Smyrna

Ephesus

Laodicea

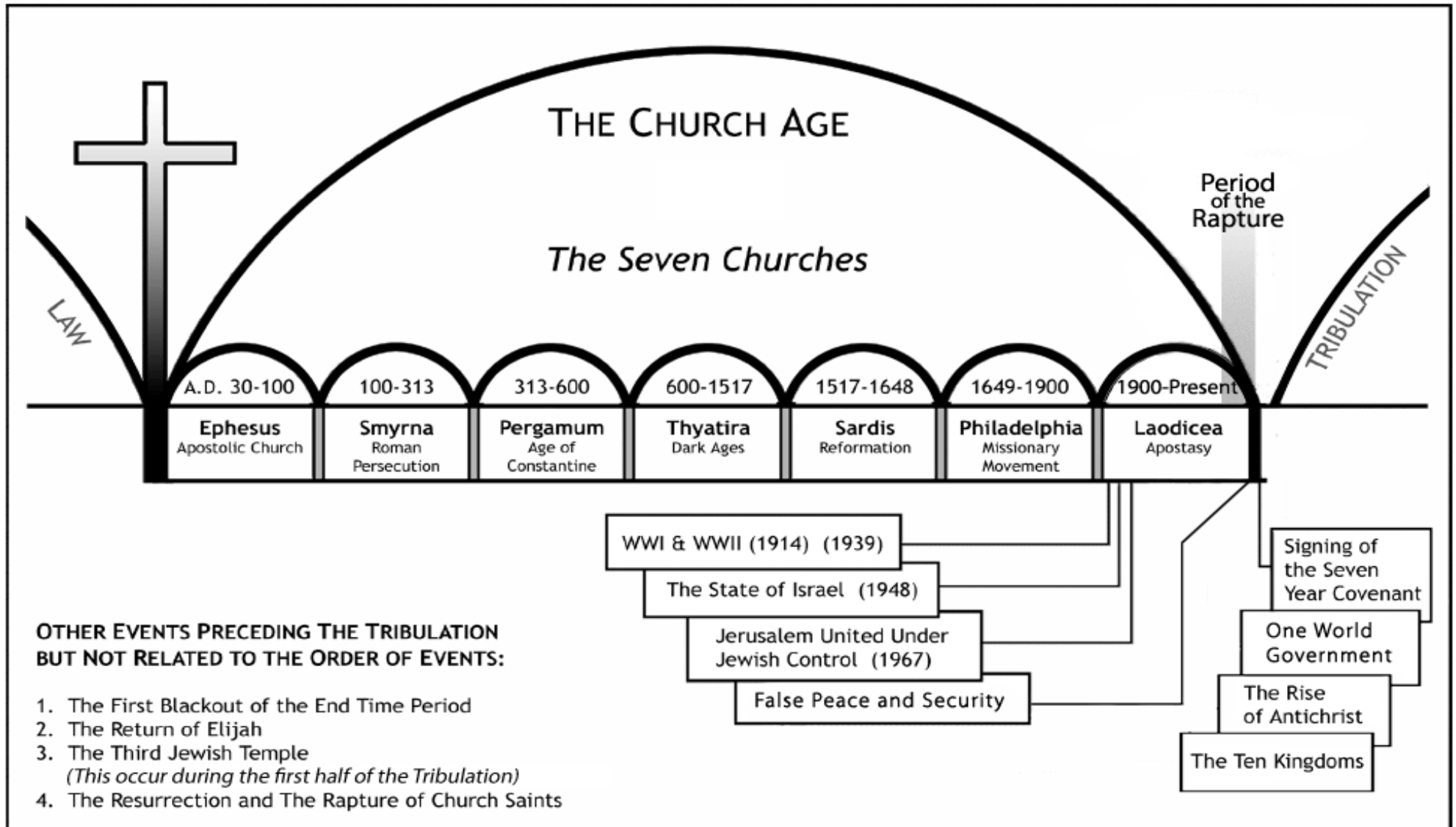
Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia



# A specific Church dominates at a specific time: (Arnold Fruchtenbaum)



## Verse 8

# Destination and Meaning



**Destination** - the messenger and congregation

**Smyrna** = means bitter; from myrrh, associated with death and embalming

**LESSON:** In the face of immense persecution, there are those who will stand

**HOW?**

*By the Holy Spirit's power*

*“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you”*

*Acts 1: 8*

***THE ABILITY TO STAND IS A  
GOD-GIVEN STRENGTH!!***

## Verse 8

# The Description of Jesus

A *must know* for those facing imminent death or persecution - **Jesus overcame death - *so will !!!***

A *must know* - this is all temporary - we gain strength knowing this will end - **Philippians 1: 20-21**

A *must know* - the key to any stressful situation - ***TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS!***

A **must know**- “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints” **Psalm 116: 15**

**Precious** = “*timos*” (Greek)  
= held in honor, esteemed, dear,  
very costly - ***you are dearly  
loved!***

Verse 9

Commendation

They were commended for their *works, tribulation, and poverty*

Poverty = the idea of having nothing, of being destitute

These people were forced out of their jobs and had property confiscated. Why?

*They would not bow to the state and say Caesar is Lord*

True believers ***must not*** pledge allegiance to antichrist, or our government, **over the True God!**

***“We ought to obey God rather than men”*** Acts 5: 29b



**How can we stand this type of pressure?**

*It must be God's miracle in us for the impossible!!*

**Zechariah 4: 6** tells us about Zerubbabel's impossible task to rebuild the destroyed temple

*“Not by might nor by power, but by MY SPIRIT, says the LORD of hosts”*

**Jehovah Sabaoth** = the God of Armies is with you!! *This is how you will stand !*

**Condemnation**

**None**

**Verse 10**  
**Exhortation**

***“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer”***

**A few things about suffering:**

**1) KNOW - This suffering was from the devil and not from God**

**suffer = “*pascho*” = to experience something evil**

***God never tests with evil! -***

**James 1: 13**

2) **KNOW** - We often don't know why we suffer - sometimes to purify us, or make us stronger, or to further His will. Many times, we simply ***JUST DON'T KNOW WHY!!***

3) **KNOW** - Rest in knowing that God knows!

4) **KNOW** - If I stay close to Jesus, He is with me in the suffering, and through the suffering, His presence makes all the difference

5) **KNOW** - Suffering has a time limit - *it will end!*

6) **KNOW** - Those who suffer for their faith will receive a martyrs crown (*reward*)

7) **KNOW** - An eternal perspective will help you -

**2 Corinthians 4: 16-18**

***GOD WILL GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH - STOP BEING AFRAID!***

**Verse 11**  
**Promise**

## God's promise to the overcomer:

*They will not be hurt by the second death*

The second death is the ***Lake of Fire***, which is torment and eternal separation from God - **Revelation 20: 14-15**

The believer will die physically once -  
“ . . .***it is appointed for men to die once***”  
**Hebrews 9: 27**

The unbeliever will die a second death -  
**Revelation 20: 5-6**



**CLOSING: THE CHURCH OF SMYRNA  
THE SUFFERING CHURCH**

God did not create us to suffer and die -  
*this was brought on by sin*

We avoid suffering as best we can  
because it's *not a natural* part of the  
way we were created

Because Jesus overcame this world of  
sin and suffering, *the believer's  
suffering is temporary!!*

God sent His Son into the world to allow the believer to transition from the abnormal (*suffering and death*), to the normal (wholeness and completeness), with Him forever

No more suffering - *no more abnormal!*

The only way to come out of the abnormal (sin and death), to the normal (eternal life), is to believe in God's Son and receive the *free gift of salvation!*  
John 1: 12

Believe and receive, or reject and regret  
- it seems so simple

The heart of God - 1 Timothy 2: 3-4

We must come to realize this life is not about me, *but about Him!*

**Come what may in this life:**

**MAY WE STRIVE TO BE OUR  
GREATEST FOR HIS GLORY**

***WE GLORIFY OUR LORD  
WHEN WE STOP BEING  
AFRAID!***