

**“Letter to the Church of
Smyrna - *The Persecuted
Church*”**

Revelation 2: 8-11

May 24, 2020

**The Seven Churches were real
Churches at the time of John**

They existed in a clockwise manner suggesting the passage of time

Seven Churches of Revelation

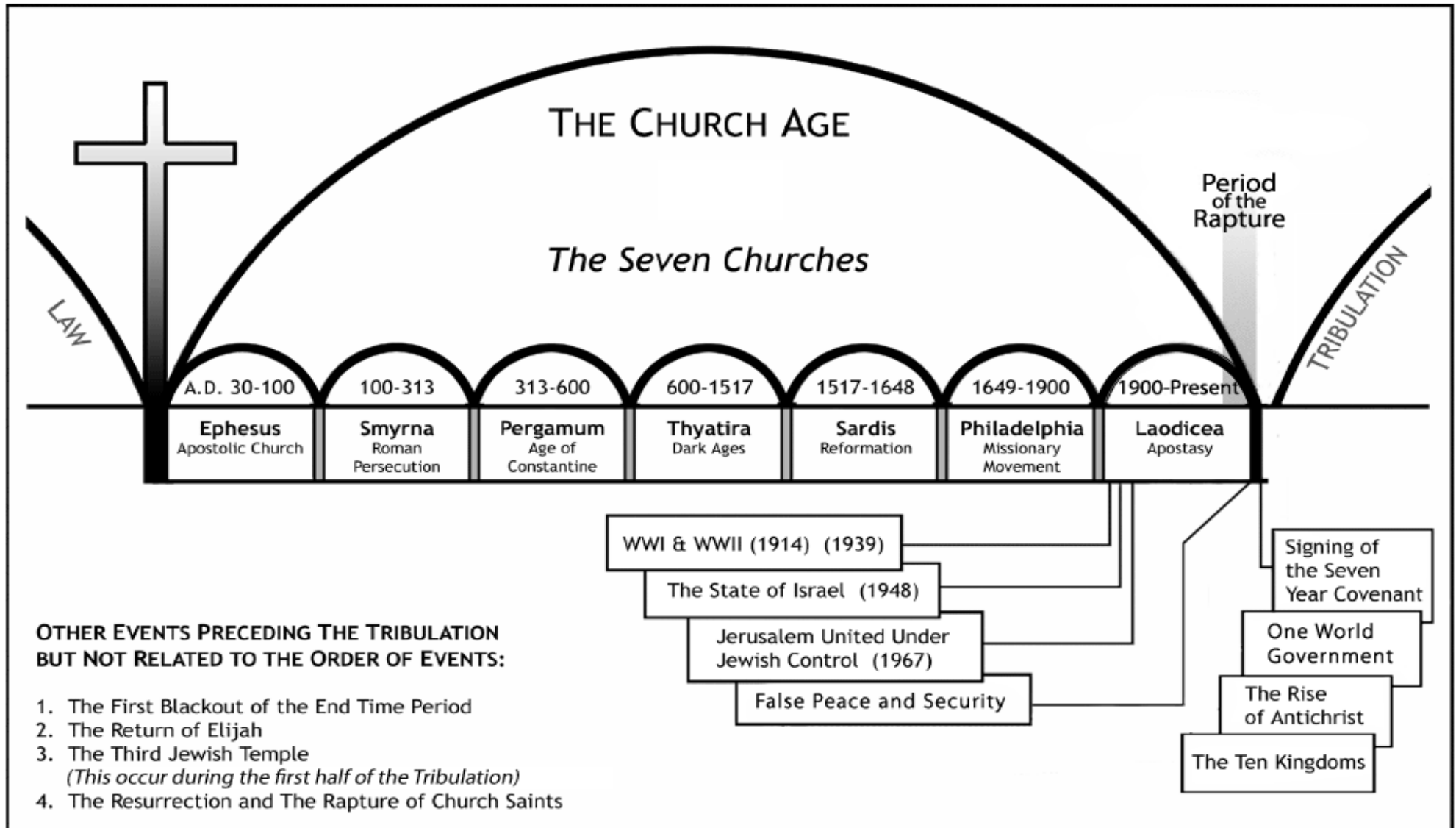
— Chapters 2-3 —

- ① Ephesus
- ② Smyrna
- ③ Pergamos
- ④ Thyatira
- ⑤ Sardis
- ⑥ Philadelphia
- ⑦ Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision



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



Verse 8
Destination

The destination is the Pastor and the congregation

God wants His people to know what is coming - Amos 3: 7

The Pastor's job is to lead from the front, *this is most important in persecution!*

Many Pastors are imprisoned for simply teaching the Word





Why imprison and persecute Pastors?

Satan fears God's Word, which is powerful in changing lives and exposes Satan - Hebrews 4: 12-13

The persecuted Church is a meeting Church:

- They will sacrifice to meet
- They will sacrifice to have a Bible
- They will sacrifice to be baptized

Verse 8

The Description of Jesus

“The First and the Last, who was dead and came to life”

Those who face death daily know that Jesus conquered death for every believer!

We must have a Paul attitude:

“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain” - Philippians 1: 20-21

Paul knew what awaited him; he was caught up to the third heaven - **2 Corinthians 12: 2**

It is important to remember how
God views your passing -

Psalm 116: 15

God views your passing as
precious, honored, dear; *you are
dearly loved!!*

Verse 9
Commendation

They were commended for what they sacrificed - works, tribulation and poverty

God always sees your sacrifice to serve Him!

What was their problem?

They would not declare loyalty to Caesar over Christ!

As our government demands more allegiance - remember the words of Peter - Acts 5: 29

Know that the globalist, government gods, want to control you!

The synagogue of Satan is alive and well today!

Remember it is not a flesh battle, but a spiritual battle - Ephesians 6: 12

This battle is fought in the
trenches of prayer and the Word
of God - Ephesians 6: 17-18

When facing impossible
situations, recall - *God will give
you the strength at the time*
Zechariah 14: 6

Verse 10
Exhortation

God has a word for you today -

DO NOT FEAR!!

Satan persecutes, but know he is on a leash and his actions are ***constrained by God!***

We must know that when suffering comes, ***God has a reason!***

So when I do not know why, I must simply trust and know -

Romans 8: 28 is still true!!

Please know that suffering is limited - ***this too shall end!!!***

An eternal perspective will help you- **2 Corinthians 4: 16-18**

When I do not know why, this is the time that ***I must trust in the LORD!!*** **Proverbs 3: 5-6**

Verse 11

Jesus' Promise

**The promise is specific to those
who hear what the Spirit says**

**Overcomers will not be hurt by
the second death -**

**The second death is eternal
separation from God and the
Lake of Fire forever -**

Revelation 20: 14-15

Believers die once - Hebrews 9: 27

Unbelievers (*earth dwellers*) **die twice!**

Those deceived (*those whom the god of this age has blinded, those who reject the truth*) **will experience the second death!**

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

Why all the suffering?

*One simple answer - **SIN!!***

**We were not created to suffer, *but to
serve and enjoy God forever!***

**Anytime you see suffering, disease,
death and the misery of earth,
*think SIN!!***

***DO NOT BLAME GOD FOR
SOMETHING MAN CHOSE!!***

Those living in a fallen world can
expect suffering, *Jesus said so!*

John 16: 33

God has made a way for anyone to
escape hell - ***remember hell is forever!!***

Every person must deal with Jesus'
sacrifice for them - ***Jesus died for me!!***

The ball is in your court:

Believe and receive or

Reject and regret

This is an eternal decision!

Allow me to ask you an important question:

***What will you do with Jesus
who is called the Christ?***

Matthew 27: 22

There must be a day
when I realize

This life is *not* about me,
but about HIM!!