

## **Week 4 Biblical Text (Revelation 2:8–11)**

<sup>8</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.

<sup>9</sup> “ ‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. <sup>10</sup> Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. <sup>11</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’

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### **Additional Notes**

## **Intertextual Parallels - Smyrna**

Testing for Ten Days (Rev 2:10; Dan 1:12)

- Both texts speak of a time of testing for 10 days
- At the end of the 10 days, those who have been faithful to God have been vindicated.

Receipt of the Crown of Life (Rev 2:10; Jas 1:12)

- Each of these texts speaks of receipt of the crown of life after having suffered
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## **Intratextual Parallels - Smyrna**

Came to Life (Rev 2:8; Rev 20:4)

- Having recognized Christ as the one who was dead and came to life, the faithful in this congregation see that the faithful will come to life and reign with Christ for 1,000 years.

Faithful unto Death (Rev 2:10; Rev 12:11)

- The believers receive the command to be faithful unto death.
- In Rev 12, the faithful overcome and do not love their lives even to the point of death.

The Second Death (Rev 2:11; Rev 20:6, 14; 21:8)

- Jesus promises that the overcomers will not be hurt by the second death.
- Revelation 20:6 points out that the second death has no power over the resurrected saints.
- Additionally, Rev 20:14 and 21:8 identify the second death as the lake of fire.

## **Week 4 Biblical Text (Revelation 3:7–13)**

<sup>7</sup>“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

<sup>8</sup>” ‘I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

<sup>9</sup> Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie— behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you.

<sup>10</sup> Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. <sup>11</sup> I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.

<sup>12</sup> The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. <sup>13</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

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### **Additional Notes:**

## **Intertextual Parallels - Philadelphia**

Bowing Down (Rev 3:9; Isa 49:23)

- The people of God have others bow down before them in Isa 49.
- This happening for the Philadelphians identifies them as God’s people.

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## **Intratextual Parallels - Philadelphia**

Holy and True (Rev 3:7; Rev 6:10)

- The title appears later and identifies God as the righteous one who judges the earth-dwellers.

Earth-dwellers (Rev 3:10; Rev 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8; 13:14; 17:2; 17:8)

- In the initial mention of the earth-dwellers, there is a promise that they will endure trial.
- The subsequent accounts reveal
  - the cry for justice against them (6:10)
  - the declaration of woe against them (8:13)
  - the activity of these people (11:10; 13:8)
  - the relationship between them and the empire (13:14; 17:2, 8)

Writing Names on Individuals (3:12; 7:3; 14:1)

- Jesus promises the overcomer that they will have names written on them.
- In Rev 7:3, people receive seals that protect them from the judgments about to come on the world. They are still on the earth. In 14:1, we see that the seals contain the names of God and the Lamb.

New Jerusalem (Rev 3:12; 21:2ff)

- The victors have their citizenship there.