

The Mysteries regarding the Church at Smyrna II

- I.** All seven churches existed while John wrote Revelation. There are two sets of mysteries for each church (Rev. 1:19-20):
 1. The messenger/pastor is responsible for the church's collective actions—blame or credit.
 2. Each church:
 - 1) Is compared or contrasted to the Image.
 - 2) Has its destiny prophesied which will be true of that individual church, and also a prediction of a future movement within Christianity.
 - 3) The promise to the overcomer, all Christians.
- II.** Smyrna, “crushed myrrh” (Rev. 2:8-11).
 1. Note switch between singular and plural “you” (v.10).
 2. There is no reprimand— “they” (v. 9).
 3. Therefore, the Image is comforting, not correcting.
- III.** The Image:
 1. “the first and the last”: Christ is all things to the Church.
 2. “became in the state of death and lived”: Christians have victory over death, no sting (Rev. 1:18; 1 Cor. 15:54,55).
- IV.** The Commendation to Smyrna (v. 9).
 1. “I know your works”: the attribute of omniscience (Heb. 4:14).
 2. “tribulation and poverty”—physical.
 3. “contrarywise you are rich” (1 Cor. 2:9; Col. 1:27, 2:3).
- V.** The warning regarding misappropriation of the Old Testament.
 1. They are of the synagogue belonging to Satan.
 2. **New** as opposed to **Old** Testament/Covenant, special promise.
 - 1) **New** = ‘Fresh, new in quality’ to the Church (1 Cor. 11:25; 2 Cor. 3:6, cf. 11).
 - 2) **New** = New in time (Heb. 12:24).
 - 3) **Old** = ancient, worn out, to the Nation Israel (Ex. 34:27-28; Deut. 4:1, 13-14).
 3. During this dispensation, there is no Jew or Gentile (non-Jew) **in Christ**, realm of salvation (1 Cor. 10:322; Gal. 3:28; 1 Pet. 2:8).
 4. Those who place themselves under the Old Testament, the 10 Commandments, the statutes, or the judgements:
 - i. Is saying they are a Jew.
 - ii. Is committing blasphemy: slandering God.
 - iii. Denying the work of the Cross (Col. 2:14; 20-21).