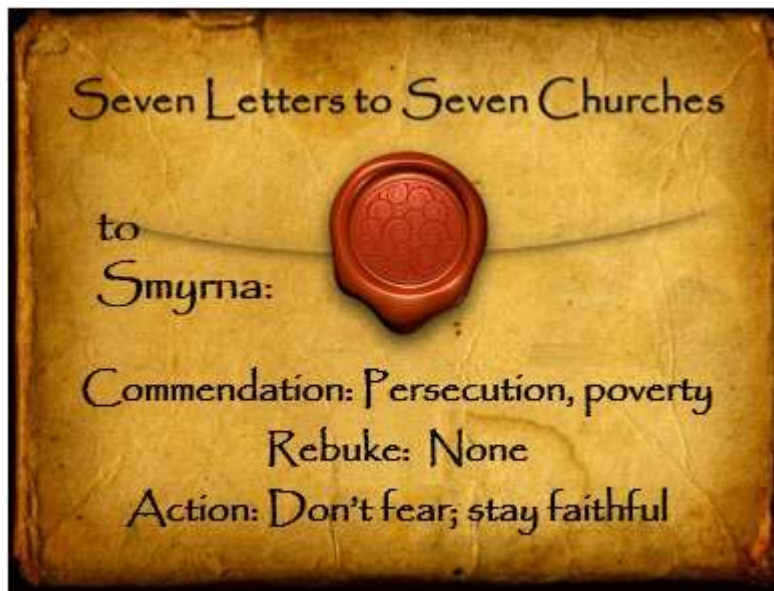


CCCN Bible Study End Times Notes – Pastor John Stackhouse

Revelation 2 – Letter to the church in Smyrna:

2:8 – commentary states, “Smyrna (modern Izmir) lay almost due north of Ephesus, a distance of about forty miles. The city was exceptionally beautiful and large (c. 200,000 pop.) and ranked with Ephesus and Pergamum as “First of Asia.” Known as the birthplace of Homer, it was also an important seaport that commanded the mouth of the Hermus River valley. Smyrna was a wealthy city where learning, especially in the sciences and medicine, flourished. An old city (third millennium B.C.), allegedly founded by a mythical Amazon who gave her name to it.”



2:9-10 - Christ speaks to their earthly poverty but their spiritual richness in Christ. “But are of the synagogue of Satan” reveals for the first time in Revelation the ultimate source of the persecution of Christians — Satan. “Synagogue of Satan” refers to certain Jews in ancient Smyrna who, motivated by Satan, slandered the church there. In the first-century Roman world, prison was usually not punitive but the prelude to trial and execution, hence the words “Be faithful, even to the point of death.”