

REVELATION 2:8-11 (THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT SMYRNA)

Introduction: Remember the ___ purposes of each letter

1. The City itself

- ___ miles north of Ephesus—temple of _____, god of wine, was there
- It was on a direct _____ from India and Persia to Rome.
- The birthplace of _____. Many apostate ___ lived there—in reality they were _____ of Satan.

2. The Counselor

- _____ Himself
- He was the _____ and the last.
- He was _____ and now alive.

3. The Commendation

- They had suffered _____ for Christ—they had belonged to labor guilds.
- They had suffered _____ for Christ—at the hands of the apostate Jews.
- It may refer to an actual ten ___ period but probably to the church period.

4. The Condemnation

_____ given.

5. The Counsel

- Be _____.
- Be _____.

6. The Challenge

- Christ will give them the _____ of life. (James 1:12).
- They will not be hurt by the _____ death.

7. The Church Period (100-313)—

The ten Roman persecutions during this era:

- 1) Nero (64-68)—killed Peter and _____.
- 2) Domitian (81-96)—atheistic, killed _____ of believers, banished _____ to Patmos.
- 3) Trajan (98-117)—was first to pass _____ against Christianity. He had _____ killed.
- 4) Pius (137-161)—killed _____, disciple of John.
- 5) Marcus Aurelius (161-180)—to him, Christianity was _____. He had _____ beheaded.
- 6) Severus (193-211)—killed _____'s father.
- 7) Thracian (235-238)—brutal _____ --Commanded all Christian _____ to be killed.
- 8) Decius (249-251)—determined to exterminate _____.
- 9) Valerian (253-260)—killed _____, Bishop of Carthage.
- 10) Diocletian (284-305)—last and most _____ persecution. For ___ years believers were hunted in caves and _____. They were _____, thrown to wild beasts, etc. Note: His own _____ and daughter were _____ to Christ.

Some champions of this era were:

- 1) Justin Martyr (100-167)—died for Christ in _____.
- 2) Irenaeus (130-200)—student of _____.
- 3) Tertullian (160-220)—great defender of _____.
- 4) Eusebius (264-340)—the _____ of Church History.