

Back to the Future

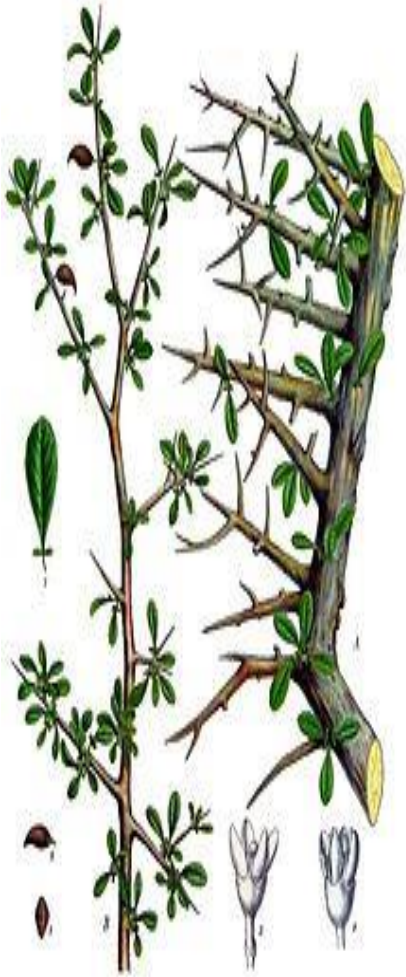
Revelation 2:8-11

- **Revelation** means to “uncover” or “unveil”
 - **Author:** John the Beloved
 - **Date for writing:** 95-96 AD
 - **Place:** Island of Patmos

I. The City (2:8)

- A. Smyrna was founded in 1000 BC
- B. Smyrna was a wealthy city, but also the most beautiful city of all Asia Minor
 - It was located 40 miles north of Ephesus
 - It was a “free city”

I. The City (2:1)



C. Smyrna was the center of “Caesar worship”. Because of their worship of the emperors, they were known as the “*city of the crown.*”

- Smyrna comes from a Greek word “myrrh” a perfume that came when the myrrh plant was crushed.

II. The Commendation (2:8-9)

A. Jesus sees the pain in this church:

- Tribulation – “pressed or crushed”
- Poverty - poverty toward beggary
- Blasphemy – hurt by religious people



III. The Command (2:10)

A. “*Do not fear what is in your future.*”

- Jesus is in control of life itself (vs. 8)
- Satan is the author of persecution against Christians

B. “*Be faithful until death.*”

- This church/soldiers will receive the true crown of life.
- Suffering is not minimized, it is real for this church

IV. The Condemnation

Nothing Bad to Point Out!

V. The Comfort (2:11)

- A. **Overcomers** are the ones who believe that Jesus is God. (see 1 John 5:5; John 16:33)

- B. “Second death” refers to the lake of fire.
(Rev. 20:13-15)

- C. Hope for the Christian come through death.

V. The Example

- Bishop Polycarp was the pastor of the church of Smyrna till 155 AD.
 - Polycarp was a disciple of the apostle John.



“Eighty and six years have I served Christ, and he never did me any injury; how then can I blaspheme my King and my Savior.” (spoken ca. 155)

When Polycarp was being burned at the stake, the Christians who were watching insisted that they perceived a sweet odor as of incense coming from the scene of his death.