

Final Countdown: The Book Of Revelation
“What Jesus Says To A Suffering Church” #4
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
August 23, 2020

Big Idea: God extends His mercy with a final countdown before He judges the World.

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you."

John 15:18-19 (NIV)

What Jesus Says To A Suffering Church:

1. “I Know” (I can trust Jesus knows)

"To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. I know your afflictions and your poverty--yet you are rich! I know the **slander** of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan." **Revelation 2:8-9 (NIV)**

- Poverty
- Slander
- Prison
- Death

"Therefore, it was necessary for Him to be made in every respect like us, His brothers and sisters, so that He could be our **merciful and faithful** High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would **take away the sins** of the people. Since he Himself has gone through suffering and testing, He is able to help us when we are being tested." **Hebrews 2:17-18 (NLT2)**

"You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings--what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived." **2 Timothy 3:10-13 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

2. “Do Not Be Afraid”

“Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will **suffer persecution for ten days.**"

Revelation 2:10a (NIV)

“I have told you all this so that you may have **peace in me**. Here on earth you will have **many trials and sorrows**. But take heart, because **I have overcome** the world.” **John 16:33 (NLT2)**

“So **do not fear**, for **I am with you**; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”
Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)

Look at the truth about Jesus in just these verses:

- He is eternal – First & Last – 2:8
- He is victorious – Who died and came to life again 2:8
- He is all-knowing – I know your afflictions... 2:9
- He is sovereign – you will suffer persecution for ten days 2:10

Notes: _____

3. “Be Faithful”

“**Be faithful**, even to the point of **death**, and I will give you the **crown of life**. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who **overcomes** will not be hurt at all by the **second death**.” **Revelation 2:10b-11 (NIV)**

“**He will keep you strong to the end**, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into **fellowship** with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, **is faithful**.” **1 Corinthians 1:8-9 (NIV)**

“And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.”
Revelation 12:11 (NASB)

“Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.” **Revelation 20:14-15 (NLT2)**

Notes: _____

- Is my faith stronger than my circumstances?

My next right step, I will:

- [] Draw closer to Jesus and God’s family
- [] Invite someone to join me in this study of the book of Revelation
- [] Join our zoom Bible Study on the Book of Revelation-Tuesdays 6:30
- [] Accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior
- [] Participate in The Return: Global Day of Prayer & Repentance – Sept. 26



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Family Corner: [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it under 12 minutes.]

Small Groups: [Choose as many questions that honor your group’s time commitment]

Open in Prayer:

- What thoughts from this week’s message encourage you to live like Jesus?

Icebreaker: If you were rich, what would you like to do?

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Review the Remember Verse: “**Blessed** is the one who **reads** the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who **hear** it and **take to heart** what is written in it, because the time is near.” **Revelation 1:3 (NIV)**

Read Revelation 2:8-11

If we were in the Church of Smyrna, how would this letter encourage us?

Read John 15:18-19

How does Jesus help us understand why we might go through suffering for His name sake?

What Jesus Says To A Suffering Church:

1. “I Know” (I can trust Jesus knows)

Read Revelation 2:8-9

How can they be poor and rich at the same time?

What do we learn about suffering?

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/>

Over 260 million Christians living in places where they experience high levels of persecution. In 2019:

2,983 Christians killed for their faith.

9,488 churches and other Christian buildings attacked.

3,711 believers detained without trial, arrested, sentenced or imprisoned.

Read Hebrews 2:17-18

What do we learn about Jesus taking on humanity?

We have all experienced different kinds of suffering in life. Some physical, emotional and spiritual. Write down some things Jesus went through.

Is there anything that I have gone through that I wonder if Jesus understands?

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-13

Why does Paul say we will go through suffering?

2. “Do Not Be Afraid”

Read Revelation 2:10

What has been my most painful experience in life so far?

How have I been able to endure?

Read John 16:33

How does Jesus encourage us?

3. “Be Faithful”

Read Revelation 2:10b-11

What reward does Jesus offer to us if we remain faithful?

What helps me to remain faithful?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:8-9

Where do we find our strength?

What promise is offered here?

Read Revelation 12:11

How do people overcome in what will be one of the worst of times in history?

Read Revelation 20:14-15

We will all live for eternity somewhere. How can we know if our name is written in the book of life?

Close in Prayer: _____