

A vibrant garden scene featuring a central pond with a stone waterfall. The garden is filled with various plants, including purple and white flowers, green foliage, and several blue butterflies. The background shows a well-maintained lawn and more garden beds.

PROVERBS.25:2

**IT IS THE GLORY OF GOD TO
CONCEAL A THING: BUT THE
HONOUR OF KINGS (ROYAL) IS TO
SEARCH OUT THE MATTER.**

LUKE.3:17

- “ WHOSE (Jesus) FAN IS IN HIS HAND, AND HE WILL THOROUGHLY PURGE HIS FLOOR, AND WILL GATHER THE WHEAT INTO HIS GARNER ; BUT CHAFF HE WILL BURN WITH FIRE UNQUENCHABLE.”

THE CHURCH IN SMYRNA (The Second Church Age)

- THE SECOND PARABLE
- Matthew.13:24-26
- “The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But when men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.”

THE SECOND PARABLE

- MATTHEW.13:27-28
- “So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in the field? From whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, **An enemy hath done this.** The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?”

THE SECOND PARABLE

- MATTHEW.13:29-30
- “But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in BUNDLES to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.”

THE SECOND PARABLE

- MATTHEW.13:37-39
- “He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; reapers are the angels (messengers).”

THE SECOND PARABLE

- MATTHEW.13:40-41
- “As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things (scandals) that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. THEN SHALL THE RIGHTEOUS SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN IN THE KINGDOM OF THEIR FATHER. Who hat ears to hear , let him hear.”

THE SMYRNA CHURCH AGE

- REVELATION.2:8-9
- “And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;
- I know thy works, and thy tribulation, and poverty, but thou art rich and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not , but are the synagogue of Satan.

THE SMYRNA CHURCH AGE

- REVELATION.2:10-11
- “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison , that have tribulation ten days be thou faithful unto to death, and I will give thee a crown of life.
- He that hath an ear , let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.



THE SMYRNA CHURCH AGE

TIME PERIOD – 170 AD TO 312 AD

THE MESSENGER – IRENAEUS

THE BIBLE REFERENCE - REV.2:8-11

THE CITY - SMYRNA

THE MESSENGER - IRENAEUS

- Using God's rule, the character and the attributes of the ministry of the Apostle Paul becomes a guideline in choosing all other church age messengers. There are certain attributes of character and ministry which are common to all of God's major messengers.
- Paul's manner of ministering set the pattern that all messengers and ministers of God were to aspire to, though not all would attain to such height in the prophetic realm as did by Paul.

THE MESSENGER - IRENAEUS

- Irenaeus was exalted by the Lord to be the messenger to the second church age. He was the disciple of that great saint and warrior of faith , POLICARP.
- POLICARP was one of truly illustrious saint of all ages when viewed in the light of blameless life.
- In his old age POLICARP was martyred.

THE MESSENGER - IRENAEUS

- IRENAEUS was militant against any form of organization, with “man over man” controlling the church. His life was one of the great Holy Spirit manifestations glorifying God. And it is no doubt that IRENAEUS sat at the feet of that great man POLICARP and learned Christian graces that flowed from the POLICARP’S consecrated life.

THE MESSENGER - IRENAEUS

- IRENAEUS clearly taught the Word always conforming to its original precepts. (the foundation of Apostles & Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself the chief corner stone.- Eph.2:20) His churches in France known to have the gifts of the Spirit among them. For the saints spoke in tongues prophesied, raised the dead and heal the sick by the prayer of faith.

THE MESSENGER- IRENAEUS

- Recognizing the danger of the “deeds of the Nicolaitians” Irenaeus opposed any organized brotherhood among elders, pastors etc. He stood solidly for a unified, Spirit – filled church – manifesting the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He stood for a Sovereign God working Sovereignly in the power of the Spirit in each local body of believers.
- He was also clear on his understanding of the Godhead. And since he was the disciple of POLICARP, who in turn was disciple of JOHN, we can know for sure he had a perfect teaching.

THE MESSENGER - IRENAEUS

- “All the other expression, likewise, bring out the title of One and the same Being, the Lord of power, the Lord, the Father of all ,God almighty, Most High, Creator, Maker, and such like, these are not the names and titles of a succession of different beings, but One and the Same.”
- **IRENAEUS**
- Vol.1. Page 412, Ante Nicene Fathers.

THE MESSENGER - IRENAEUS

- Irenaeus understood clearly all these “titles” were not referring different “person” but as other titles such as Rose of Sharon, Bright and Morning Star, Fairest of Ten Thousand, etc. All point to One God.
- His manifested Name
- LORD JESUS CHRIST.

THE MESSENGER - IRENAEUS

- The messenger to the Church Age was steadfast in his allegiance to the WORD of GOD. This characteristic, along with his wonderful understanding of scriptures, and manifestation of power of God upon that ministry vindicates him to have been God's choice for the age.
- Irenaeus possesses a balance of fruit, power, and leadership in the Holy Spirit, and the Word. In this age he was one who influenced the age for God by means of a ministry which was solidly based on the word, in the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit.

SMYRNA CHURCH AGE

- Christ graciously acknowledges that He is aware of the suffering of His Elect Children in this age. He encourages them to “be faithful unto death”. He then points out the “false ones” who are still very active in the age – identifying them as “the Synagogue of Satan”. They are not proclaiming themselves to be thus – just the opposite – they are professing to be “true believers”

SMYRNA CHURCH AGE

- It almost seems impossible that Church should go quickly from Holy Ghost control to Satanic control, through “false brethren” who bring in damnable heresies (2 Pet. 2:1). To understand this scenario we need only to remember what happened to Israel in it’s exodus. In less than five months Israel went from worshiping JEHOVAH on the shores Red Sea to worshiping “golden calf” in the wilderness.

SMYRNA – THE CITY

(The false church gains ground)

- The city of Smyrna was little north of Ephesus at the mouth of smyrna gulf. Because of its very fine harbor it was a commercial center renowned for its exports. It was also distinguished for its schools of rhetoric, philosophy, medicine ,science, and fine building . Many Jews lived there, and they were bitterly opposed to Christianity, even more than Romans. In fact ,Policarp the first Bishop at Smynan was martyred by the Jews.

SMYRNA – THE CITY

- The name of the city means “bitter” being derived from the word Myrrh. Myrrh was used in embalming the dead. Thus we have a two fold significance found in the name of this age. It was bitter age filled with death. The two vines within the framework of the church would this age drift further apart with the “false vine” harboring an even increasing bitterness towards the “true vine” . Spiritual death reigned in the false vine , causing them to persecute unto physical death to the remnants of the true vine.
- Thus the admonition of the Lord to His Elected Children in Smyrnaen Age “ BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH AND I WILL GIVE THEE A CROWN.” (Revelation.2:10)

SMYRNA – THE CITY

- Seeing these (little by little) things overtaking the church, was in “bitterness” instead to the heart and soul of the true vine.
- Taking a stand against it would cost them their lives. What transpires in the local smyrna church and in the city was but a reflection of what was to transpire in the Second (Smyranean) Church Age.

SMYRNA – THE CITY

- In this city there were two famous temples. One was the temple erected to the worship of ZEUS (a false god) , and the other was erected to CYBELE (a false goddess).
- And between those two temples was found the most beautiful road of ancient times called “golden street” was an indication of greater influence which paganism would have within the framework of the Christian church – strengthening the false vine but weakening the true vine.

SMYRNA – THE CITY

- Paganism was known to flourish greatly in Rome, in Rome the false vine , riddles with paganism would find its resting place. From these false vine church would spread it's false doctrines around the world.
- The joining the two pagan temples of a god and goddess would (in a latter age) influence the false vine church to introduce “ Mother (Mary) and Son (Jesus) worship. Mary would be elevated to a position co- equalness with Jesus Christ, and was given the title of “ Mother of God”.



Irenaeus



Smyrna
170 - 312

The message to the Second Church Age - Smyrna

- “And unto the angel of the church of Smyrna write; these things saith the First and the Last, which was dead and is alive” (Revelation.2:8)
- Addressing the messenger to this second age Jesus adds to the revelation of His Deity given to Ephesian age. Now, He declares Himself to be “the First and the Last, which was dead, and is alive;”
- To John in revelation, Jesus affirmed His “absolute Deity” saying “I am Alpha And Omega, saith the Lord which is , and which was , and which is to come, the Almighty...

The message to the Second Church Age - Smyrna

- Lord Jesus Christ is not first, second or third 'Person' – He is the One and Only Person in the Godhead.
- The first Adam took “life” and through disobedience turned it into “death”. Jesus Christ, the Second Adam, through , a sinless birth and absolute obedience to Every Word, takes “death” and turns it into “Eternal life” the First Adam took innocence and turned it into guilt.

The message to the Second Church Age - Smyrna

- On the basis of “Faith” in what He did, Jesus Christ takes “our guilt” and turns it into “innocence” giving us the Power (the Holy Spirit) in our lives to rise above the dominion of the world, the flesh and the devil.
- “Behold, I give unto you power ... over all the power of the enemy” (Luke.10;19) and“ “sin shall not have dominion over you. (Romans.6:14)

The message to the Second Church Age - Smyrna

- Seeing other influence, at work in the church , taking the leadership and authority of “man” over and above the leadership and authority of the Holy Ghost, The Lord Jesus Christ issues these messages to each Church Ages, reaffirming His Deity and His claim to His Elected Church, which He has purchased with His own blood. He warns the false vine, but comforts the true vine

The Message to the Smyrna Church Age

- “I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty,(but thou art rich).” Rev.2:9
- Jesus comforts His children with the knowledge that He **KNOWS** The tribulation and poverty they are called to endure in this age. He encourages them with the revelation that though they be enduring tribulation, and suffering poverty, yet they are rich Spiritually.

The Message to the Smyrna Church Age

- The Smyrnaen Saints had their treasures in heaven, their “portion” on earth, in this second age was “tribulation and poverty”
- In the second church age the Elect of God are under pressure from “within” and from “without”. From “within” they feel the pressure of “deeds of the Nicholaitians” brought over from the first age, and the pressure of the “false Jews” in the “Synagogue of Satan” hear in Smyrna age.
- The “false “ ones in their midst, under a religious anti-Christ anointing introduces “man made order” to the True Church of Christ.

The Message to the Smyrna Church Age

- But from without, the Christian Church (both true and false vine) is being persecuted by Jews and pagans.
- The Christian faith was a “threat” to Judaism. To the pagans, the Christians were a rebuke to all that paganism stood for- idol worship, the worship of emperors, pagan customs, festivals and their immoral living.
- Therefore, the faithful saints were in a warfare against “deception” from within and “persecution” from outside –”The Tribulation”

The Message to the Smyrna Church Age

- “And I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the Synagogue of Satan” (Rev.2:9)
- This perfectly describes the false Jews and those of Satan’s Synagogue in this second age.
- Many of these Jews are (self) righteous men, but like the pharisees of Jesus’s day full of unbelief in their heart, and the fear of God is taught by the precepts of men.

The Message to the Smyrna Church Age

- What does it mean by “Synagogue of Satan” . The Synagogue is not unlike our use of the word “Church”. It is the “Gathering together” of the people.
- The Synagogue of Satan is a church under Satan’s control by deception. The deception is that the people “think” they are doing God a service, when in reality there works, creeds, and dogma is a dishonour - to God. In fact God called it “Blasphemy”.

The Message to the Smyrna Church Age

- That same religious spirit is right among us today practically , all churches (Christian denominations) claim to be the Original and the True Church.
- Pointing to a particular church or religious group, they proclaim that salvation is found only in that church or group.
- One church claims to possess the keys of the kingdom which they received from Peter. Of course ,they have Absolutely No Scripture or Historical Proof for this claim.

The Message to the Smyrna Church Age

- In this age , under Satan's influence like Eve in the garden they continue to "add to" and "take away" from the Word. This then, is Satan's Synagogue full of Blasphemy, in which the deeds of the doctrine of Nicolaitanism are already deeply rooted.
- A few more years and this "Synagogue of Satan" enthrone a "Man" their Leader, and give him a "triple" crown falsely signifying his influence in heaven, hell and so called purgatory

The Message to the Smyrna Church Age

- You might call yourself a “Christian” because you are a member of a particular Denominational, Inter- Denominational , or Non-Denominational church or group, but church membership does not make a Christian.
- To belong to a church is have the “spirit” of that church and be “like that church” or what that church teachers.
- But to be a “Christian” is to be “Christ- like’. If you “Christ – like” then you will do what He says in His WORD.

The Message to the Smyrna Church Age

- If indeed you are a Christian you will **Grow Spiritually**. There is more to being a Christian than just saying “ I believe in God”. That doesn’t make you a Christian. Going to church doesn’t make you a Christian.
- Only a personal **EXPERIENCE** with Jesus Christ can make you “Christ – Like”. And if you had that **EXPERIENCE** you will “walk in the light of His Word” as He reveals it to you. By grace , you will Endeavour to Believe, Obey, and Live by Every Word.

The Message to the Smyrna Church Age

- “ If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness we lie, and do not the truth” (1John.1:6)
- The blood will only atone for our sins as” we continue to walk in his word”, failure to “walk in the light” takes us out from under the atonement.
- “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1John.1:7)

The Message to the SMYRNA Church Age

- In the Smyrna age the church became Hybrid – a mixture. Even today nominal church is a Hybrid product.
- People say “I am Baptist, I am Methodist, I am Pentecostal”. But it was not so in the beginning.
- Instead of saying what the Bible says, the people just recite a creed, ritual , programs and ceremony have taken the place of spontaneous praise in the Holy Ghost and Holy Ghost filled men, preaching the Word in its Power.

The Message to the Smyrna Church Age

- Hybrid religion reject portions of the word, saying that “ It is not for this day” or “We don’t have to do this and that”
- They believe the church not the Bible. No organized religion has ever had a “ Life – Giving” word revival. Once they organized they died. No Hybrid product can “produce” life.

The Message to the Smyrna Church Age

- “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer; Behold the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”
(Rev.2:10)
- The Saints in this age were persecuted, imprisoned and tortured even unto death. They were fed to the lions, given to the Gladiators sword.

The Message to the Smyrna Church Age

- EXACTLY AS THE Lord said , they were cast into prison, they were severely tried and tested.
- But He spoke of a “Span of time Ten Day “ where in they would suffer “Tribulation”. This is a prophecy. Taking a day for a year this prophecy refers to the last ten year reign of DIOCLETIAN, the most cruel of all the Roman Emperors. He launched a ten year reign of terror against the Saints of God.
- Lord was mindful of them and their sufferings. He gave them the promise “ be thou faithful unto death, I will give thee a crown of life.

The Message to the Smyrna Church Age

- He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death “
(Rev.2:11)
- What is this ‘Second death’ ? The answer is Rev. 20:14 “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”
- The over comers in all ages , receiving a crown of eternal life., will escape the “second death”. Death in the flesh comes to al of us (except the raptured saints). But whosoever was not found in the book of life was cast into lake of fire.

The Message to the Second Church Age

- Thank God for the hope which we have in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank God for the Revelation of Him in His Word.
- “And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.” (John.6:39)
- No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up the last day. (John.6:44)