

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

A Letter to the Church @ Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11



Revelation 2:8–10 (AV)

⁸ And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; ⁹ I know thy works, and 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. ¹⁰ 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.



Revelation 2:8

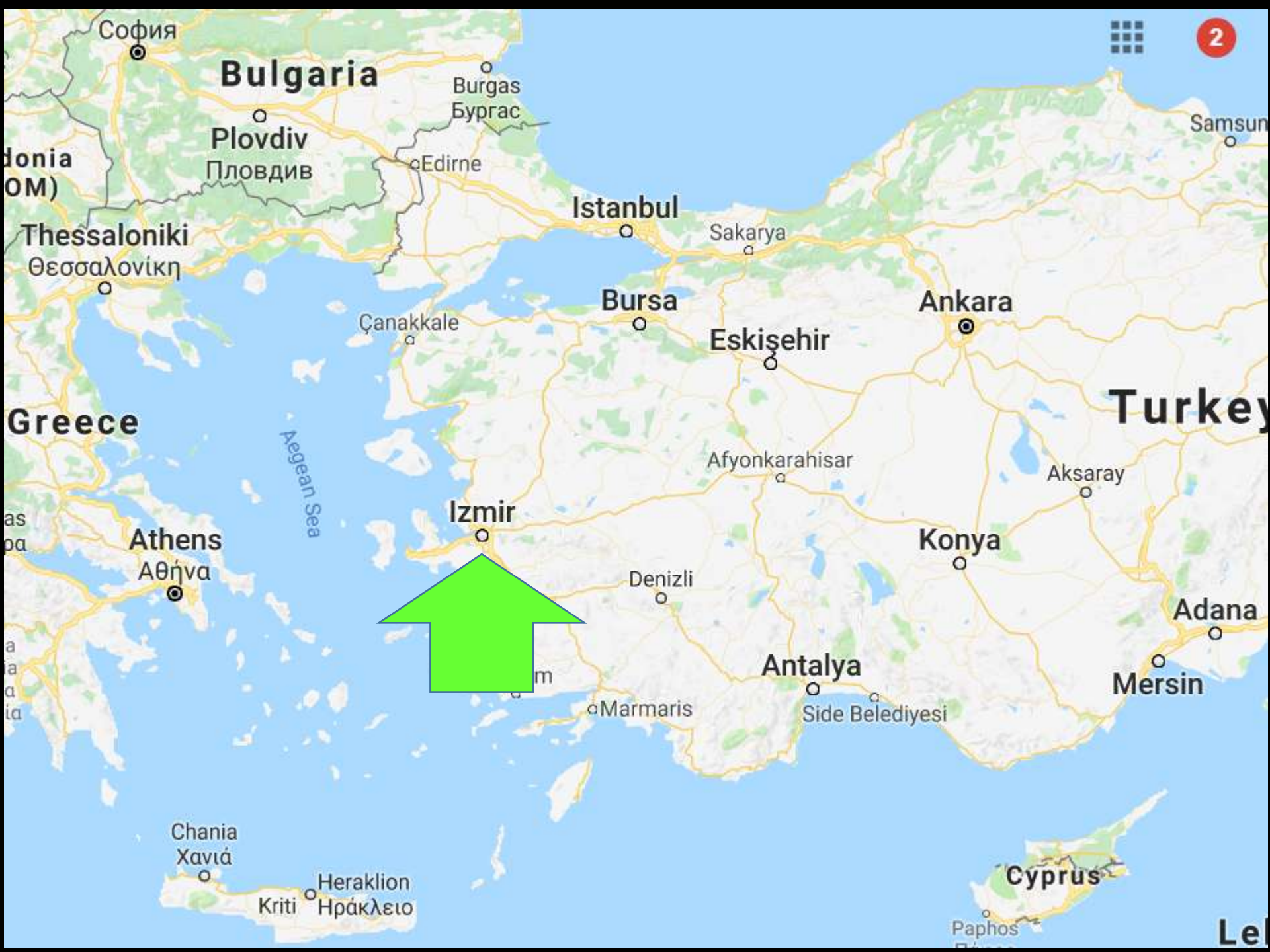


- “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write:



Revelation 1:11

- and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia;
 - Ephesus,
 - Smyrna,
 - Pergamos,
 - Thyatira,
 - Sardis,
 - Philadelphia,
 - Laodicea.



Bulgaria

Plovdiv
Пловдив

Thessaloniki
Θεσσαλονίκη

Greece

Athens
Αθήνα

Aegean Sea

Istanbul

Bursa

Eskişehir

Ankara

Turkey

Izmir

Denizli

Antalya

Konya

Aksaray

Adana

Mersin

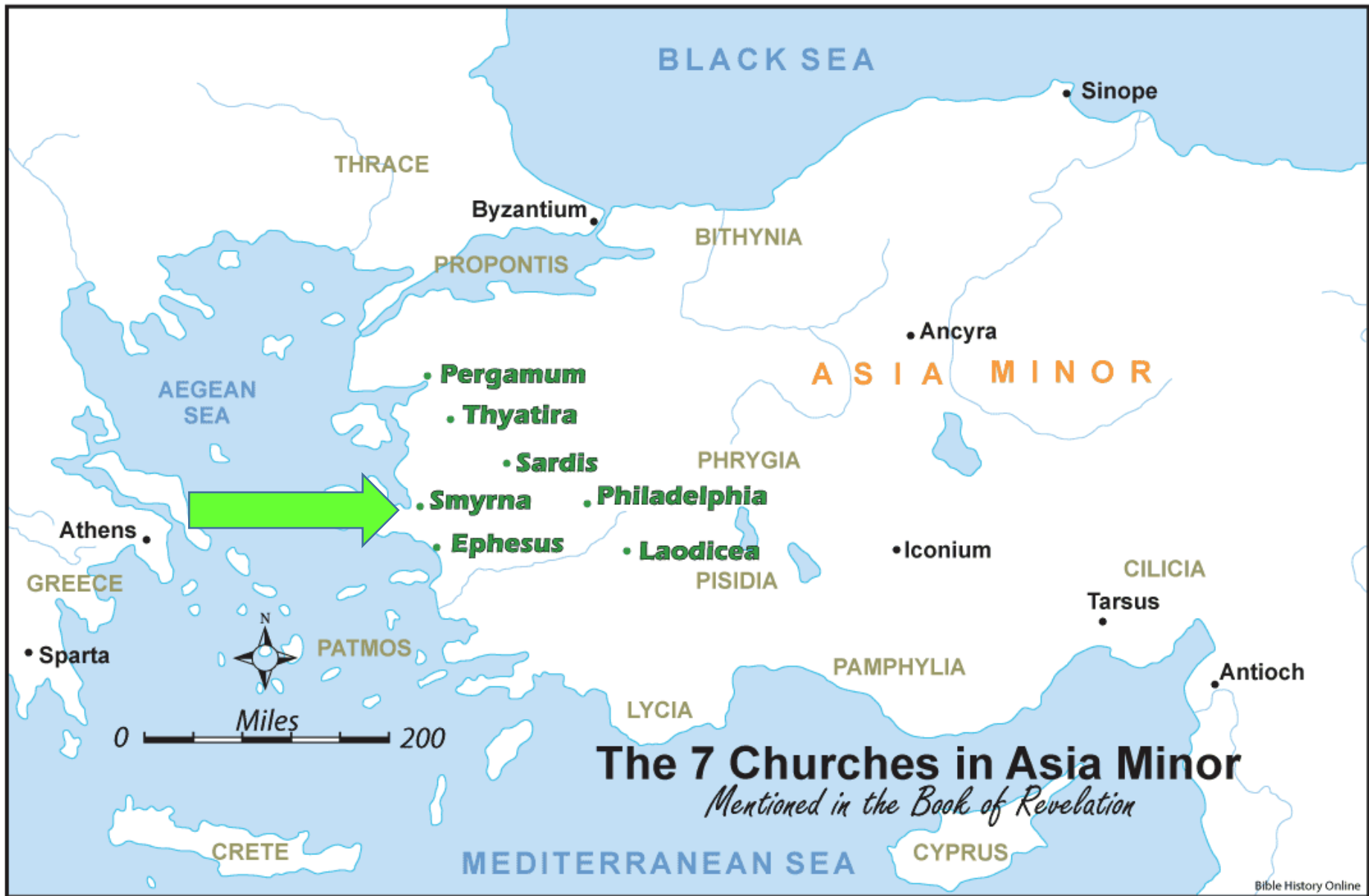
Chania
Χανιά

Heraklion
Ηράκλειο

Cyprus

Paphos

Le



Revelation 2:8



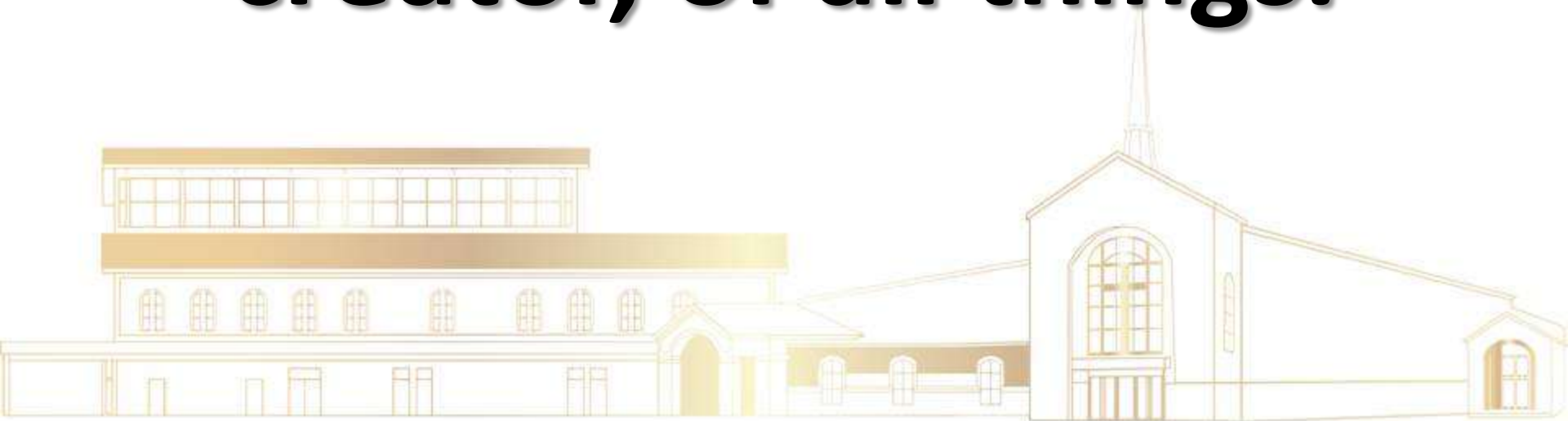
- “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.’

Notice everything that is reinforced or taught in this single sentence.

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He is the First

**He is the originator, the
creator, of all things.**



John 1:3

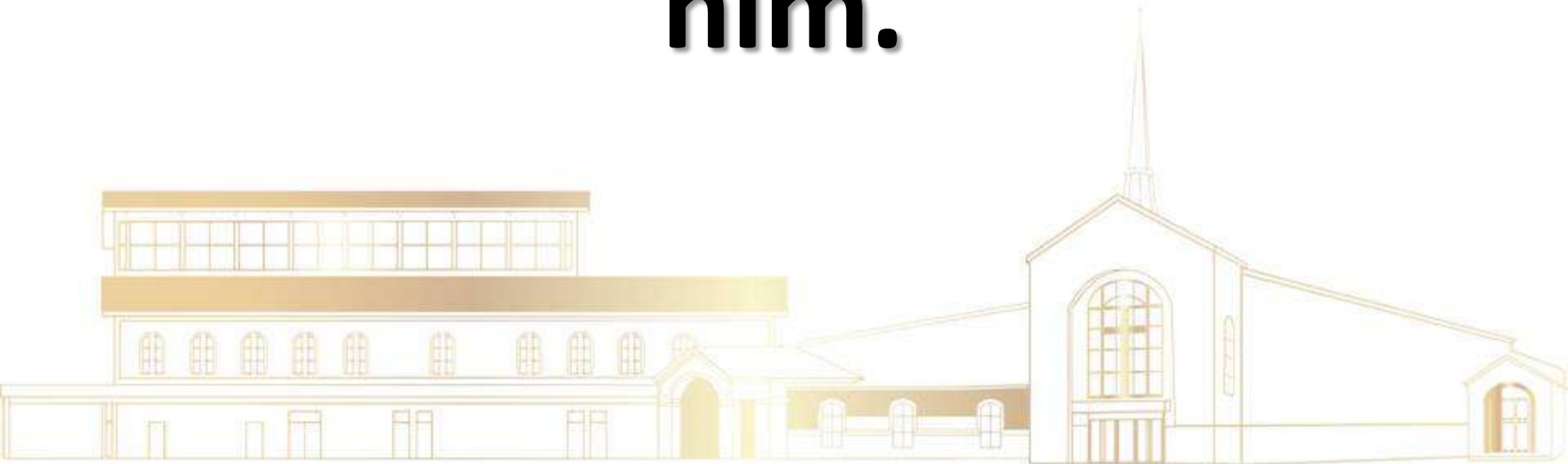
- All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.



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He is the Last

**There is nothing beyond
him.**



Colossians 1:17

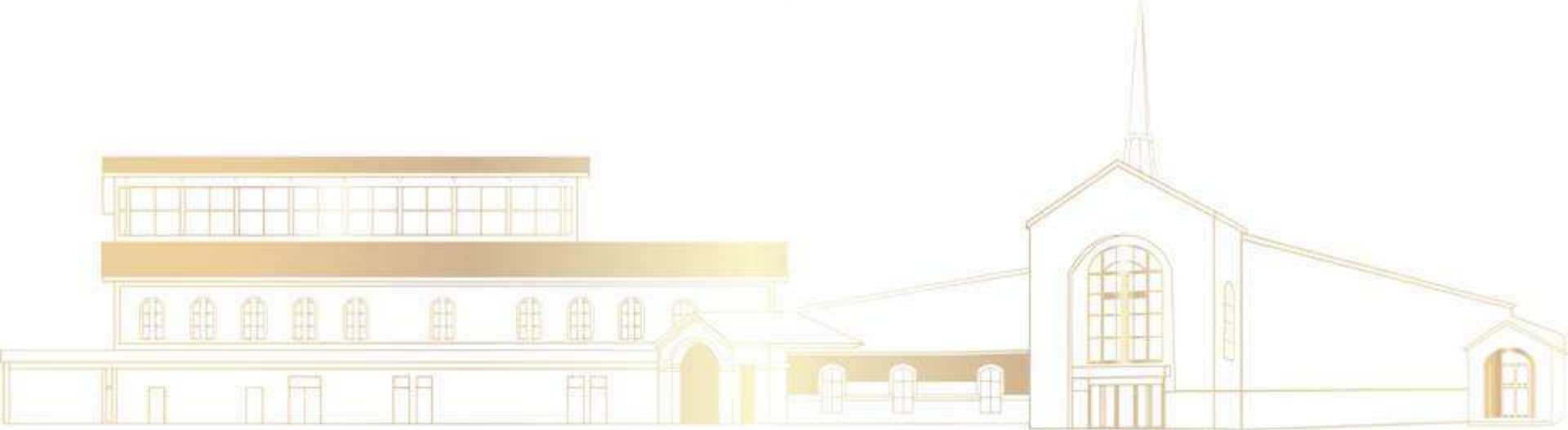
- And he is before all things,
- and in him all things hold together.



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He Died

**Jesus, an innocent man, died
for the sins of the world.**



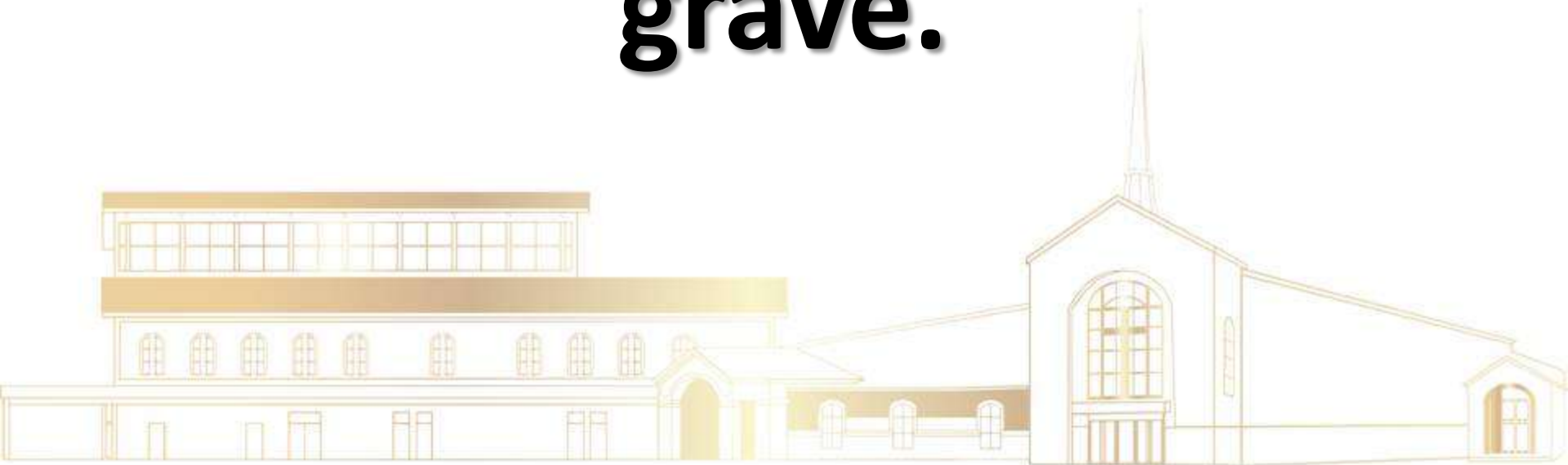
1 Corinthians 15:3

- For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: **that Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures,



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He is Alive
**Christ rose from the
grave.**



1 Corinthians 15:4

- that he was buried, **that he was raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures,



We Believe

Jesus (the speaker of these letters) is the one and only Son of the True and Living God.

Jesus is NOT a created being.

Jesus left the glories of heaven, his home, and became a human through a supernatural conception and natural birth.

His mother was the virgin Mary.



We Believe

Jesus kept God's law perfectly, thus He lived a sinless life, so that He could appease His Father's holy wrath toward the sin of humanity.

The miracles Jesus performed validated His claim that the Creator God was His own Father and He was His Son—making Himself equal with God.

Jesus' crucifixion was orchestrated by God so that God could be merciful toward humans without compromising His Holiness.



We Believe

Jesus, the man, died on a cross 2000 years ago in the city of Jerusalem.

Jesus was buried in a tomb for 3 days and 3 nights.

On the third day, Jesus the man came to life and appeared to hundreds validating His own prophecy that He would die and be raised from the dead on the third day.



We Believe

After 40 days of being alive after the resurrection Jesus physically ascended into the sky until no human could see Him and was translated to heaven where He is presently on the right hand of God.

Jesus is presently interceding as the only mediator between our Holy God and sinful humanity for all who believe these truths—the one and only gospel.



We Believe

This same Jesus is coming back to the earth to judge both the living and the dead and to reign supreme in a kingdom for the people of God that will never end on a new earth and new heaven.

This same Jesus is the head of the church and thus through His Word He speaks to His churches.



Revelation 2:9

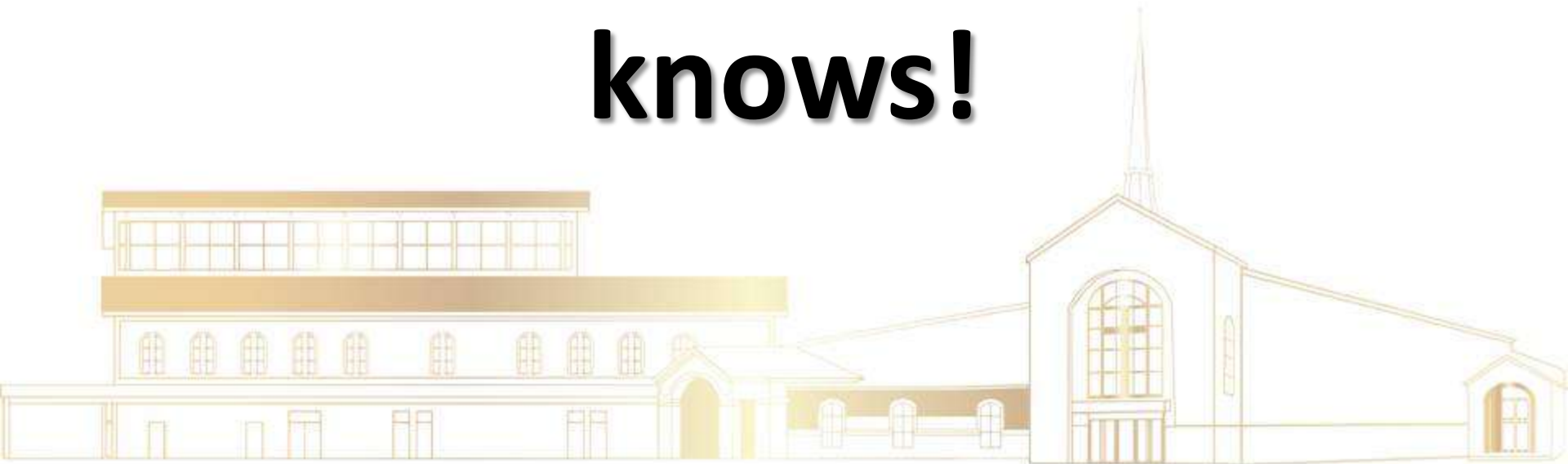


[This Jesus says]

•“ ‘I know your tribulation

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**When Jesus says,
“I know your
tribulation”—He
knows!**



Hebrews 4:15

- For we do not have a high priest incapable of sympathizing with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way just as we are, yet without sin.

See the double negative.



**What pain
What sorrow
What suffering
What heartache
What persecution
What alienation
What loss
What agony
What trial
What temptation**

**Are you
going
through
that Jesus
hasn't?**





Revelation 2:9

[Jesus says]

- “and your poverty

**Poverty is not a sign of
spiritual illness or sin**



Revelation 2:9

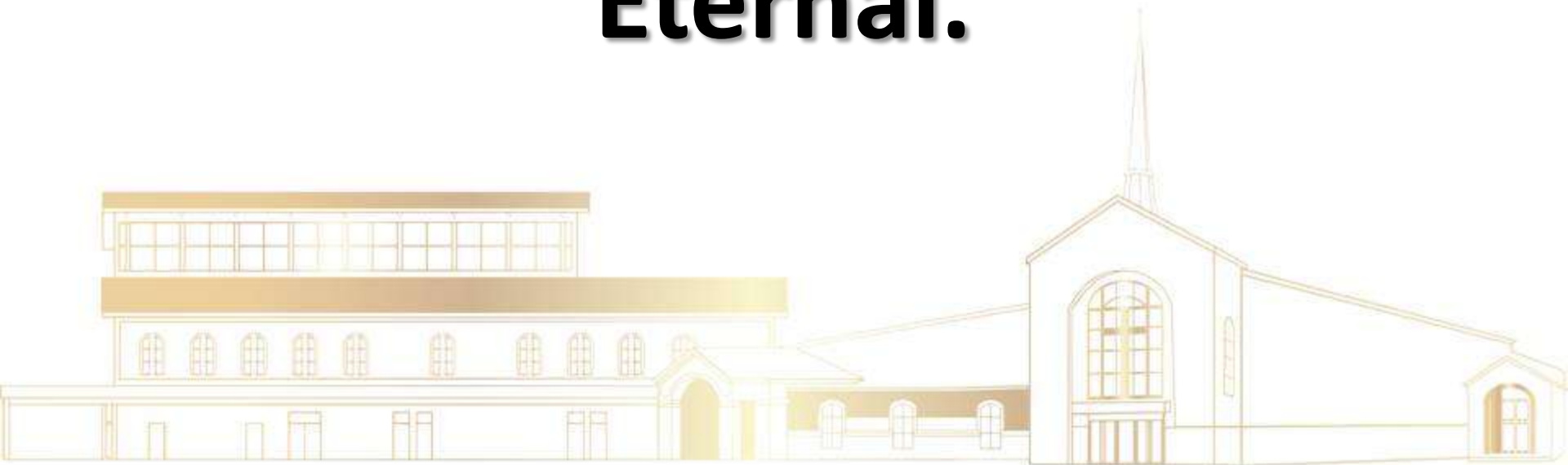
[Jesus says]

• “and your poverty
(but you are rich)

which is it?

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Poverty is Temporary
Spiritual Riches in Christ is
Eternal.



James 2:5

- Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world **to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?**



Matthew 25:34 (ESV)

- Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, **inherit** the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'



2 Corinthians 8:9

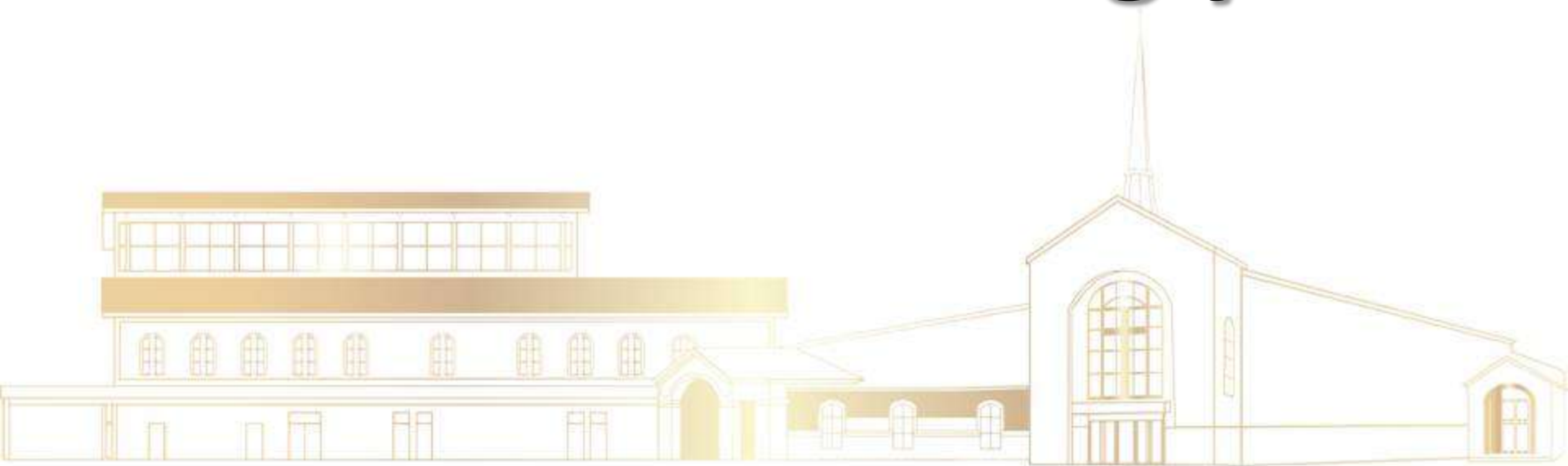
- For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty **might become rich.**

NOT on this earth. The Apostles died broke.



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**Jesus knows when the
world is slandering you.**



Revelation 2:9



- and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not,
- but are a synagogue of Satan.

To say that you are a Jew—2000 years ago was to claim to be a child of God.

To say that you are a Jew is to claim allegiance to being a descendent of Abraham having all the rights of the Abraham covenant.

See John 8:39-44

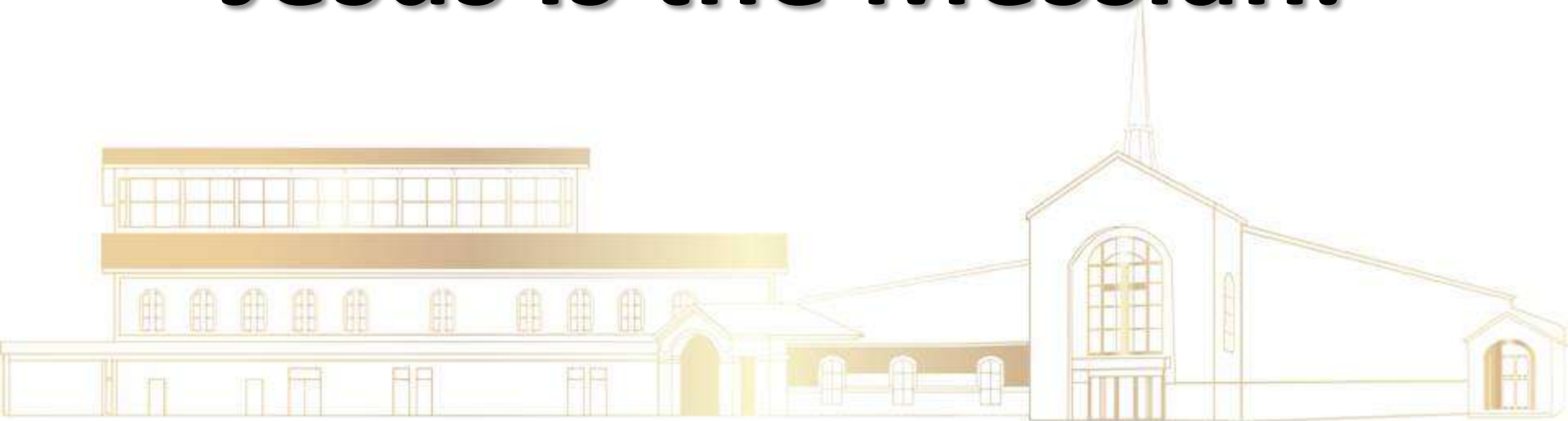


³⁹ They answered him, **“Abraham is our father.”** Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, ⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. ⁴¹ You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, **“We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.”** ⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.



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Biblically
True Jews believe that
Jesus is the Messiah.



Romans 9:6

- But it is not as though the word of God has failed.
- For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel,



Revelation 2:9



- **but are a synagogue of Satan.**

**What a
statement!**

**Jesus is not “ok’ with
you rejecting Him.**

Satan, the Enemy of

- **God**
- **Christ**
- **The true Church**
- **The Kingdom of God**
- **The People of God**
- **The Bible**
- **Truth**

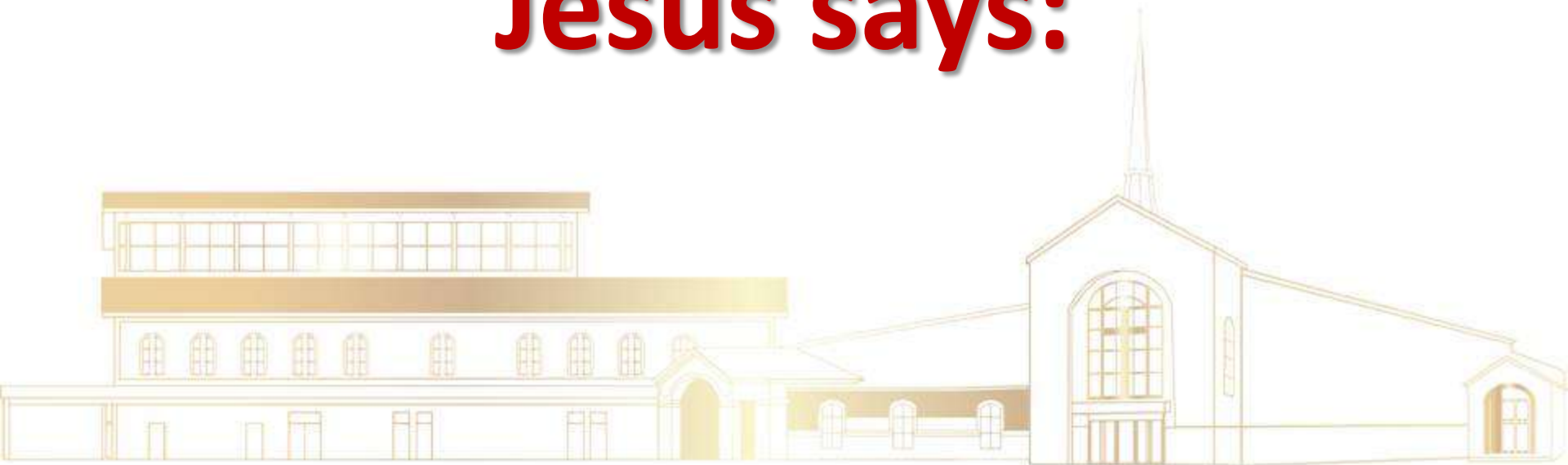
Matthew 13:39

**and the enemy
who sowed
them is the
devil.**



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**To those about to suffer
for His name's sake—
Jesus says:**



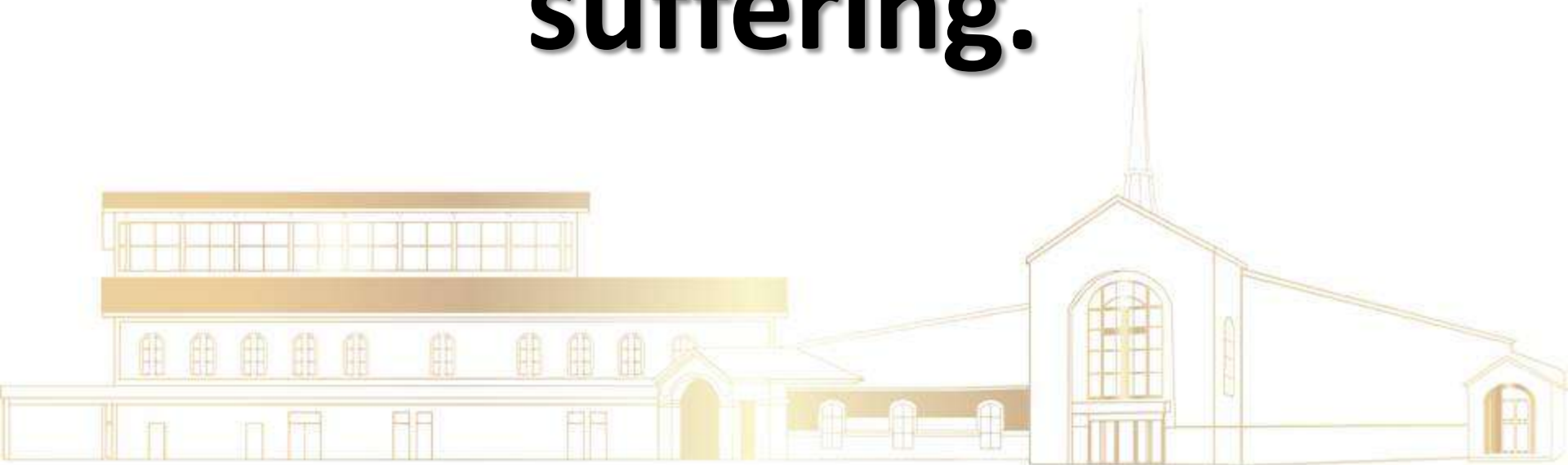
Revelation 2:10



- **Do not fear what you are about to suffer.**

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**Next notice who is
responsible for this
suffering.**



Revelation 2:10



- **Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested,**
- **and for ten days you will have tribulation.**

Jesus clearly affirms the reality of Satan as the enemy of God, His People, and the church.

And where do you think He focuses His efforts to destroy what God is doing?



For such a time as this our Sovereign God permits Satan to have some (unknown to us) degree of freedom to cause pain, sorrow, heartache, etc. upon humans.

God is not responsible for this suffering—Jesus places the blames directly on Satan.



1 Peter 5:8

- Be sober-minded; be watchful.

Your adversary the devil
prowls around like a roaring lion,
seeking someone to devour.



Satan creates

- **Disharmony**
- **Disagreements**
- **Discord**
- **Dissension**
- **Division**

Among the people of God in the church of God.



Luke 22:31-32

- “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”



Revelation 2:10



- **Be faithful unto death,**
and I will give you the crown of
life.

God is ALL About Life

Breadth of Life

Crown of Life

Bread of Life

Light of Life

Eternal Life

Tree of Life

Book of Life

