

Doctrinal Studies:  
Revelation 2:10 - TEN DAYS

PHLIPSIS – Great Pressure

Ten persecutions in the Roman Empire

The survivors of Smyrna survived these persecutions because of their perception and their application of God's Word.

By 96 AD, Nero is dead, so the persecutions exclude his own:

1. *hemera deka* = 10 generations – 10 persecutions in the course of the Roman Empire.
2. These major persecutions covered approximately 300 years.
3. There were 10 emperors who administered the persecutions, which got the Church ready to evangelize the world.
4. Great persecutions began with Domitian, in AD 96, and terminated with the Edict of Milan in AD 313.

Doctrinal Studies:  
**Revelation 2:10 - TEN DAYS** (continued)

ROMAN EMPERORS OF PERSECUTION

- I. DOMITIAN – 96AD – Much physical torture
- II. TRAJAN – 98-117AD – A pastor named Phocus was placed into a pot of boiling water until dead. Ignacius, pastor of antioch, was tortured to death, Polycarp was burned alive. A roman general approached Trajan after a woman was tortured, made to watch her 7 sons each killed before she was drowned in a river.
- III. MARCUS AURELIUS – 161-180 AD – A stoic philosopher, athlete and hunter, who after a plague blamed it on the Christians.
- IV. SEPTIMUS SEVERUS – 193-211 AD – Continued persecutions.
- V. MASXIMUS THRAX – 235-238 AD – A large man, 8' 6" tall, strong and brutal, who ordered Christian leaders to be put to death. He was eventually assassinated by a group of people fed up with his brutality, waiting in ambush for his special-made chariot to pass by.
- VI. TRAJANUS DECIUS – 249-251 AD – Continued persecutions.
- VII. TREBONIUS GALLUS – 251-253 AD – Continued persecutions.
- VIII. PUBILIUS LICINIOUS VALERIAN – 253-270 AD – A Persian invasion interrupted the persecutions, and he was eventually skinned alive by his enemies.
- IX. LUCIUS DOMINIUS AURELIAN – 270-284 AD – His own generals conspired and murdered him, after his many persecutions of Christians.
- X. GAIUS AURELIUS DIOCLETIAN – 284-305 AD – A great administrator, who reduced taxes and corruption amongst the taxation authorities, but he became a worshipper of the sun god, then afterward began many persecutions of Christians, ordering them to stop meeting and arresting many.

Doctrinal Studies:  
Revelation 2:10 - TEN DAYS (continued)

EDICT OF MILAN

The Edict of Milan followed Diocletian in 313 AD; it was a proclamation in June 313, which established religious tolerance within the Roman Empire. These persecutions followed by the Edict of Milan prepared the way for worldwide evangelization by the Church. This edict also directed the prompt restoration of property that had been confiscated from Christians.

During the 300 years prior, many people who refused to turn their backs on their Lord Jesus Christ died as a result.

This is the reason the Christians of the Church at Smyrna were warned in Revelation 2:10 of the coming 10 persecutions (ten days of suffering).

Our Lord instructed them to *"be faithful unto death"* promising to give them the Crown of Life.