

Aspects of Sardis at the time of Revelation

-) Regional capital of Lydia in Asia Minor.
-) Its mountaintop Acropolis was famous for being impregnable.
-) Twice subject to surprise attacks: by the Persian, Cyrus and Alexander the Great.
-) Refounded by Seleucids after Persian destruction.
-) By the time of Revelation, it was the center of the imperial cult in Lydia and a rival of Smyrna and Ephesus
-) Lydian wealth was legendary, based on the gold in the River Pactolus, back to King Croesus (6th century BCE)
-) Rebuilt after major earthquake in 17 CE with imperial aid, leading to many major monumental structures and repairs, such as
 -) the Metroon (Temple to Cybele, originally built in the Persian period)
 -) Artemision (Temple to Artemis, originally built in the Seleucid period after Alexander the Great)
 -) Bath-gymnasium complex (built in the late 1st/early 2nd centuries CE, and later held a Jewish synagogue)
-) Population estimated at 60-100,000
-) Focus of wool clothing and carpet industries