

## Aspects of Smyrna at the time of Revelation

- ) Like Ephesus, Smyrna had an ancient history, back to Ionian times, circa 900 BCE. Today it remains as Izmir, Turkey. Late first century population was perhaps 100,000. Under Roman control after 133 BCE and was a close ally of Rome.
- ) Rival to Ephesus as a port city and very wealthy for the elite.
- ) Host to the temple and cult to Dea Roma, the personification of the city of Rome, established in 195 BCE.
- ) The Senate in 23 CE officially designated Smyrna neokoros to the cult of the emperor and the city built a temple to Tiberius and Livia in 26CE.
- ) Well-established Jewish community since probably the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE.