

Doctrinal Studies:
SMYRNA – THE CITY

1. A great trading city.
2. A beautiful city, convenient, safe, harbor, narrow foothills, a hill covered with Temples.
3. Founded as a Greek colony as far back at 1,000 BC- 600BC disaster, 200 BC rebuilt
4. Free city
5. A city where culture flourished, arts, knowledge, magnificent public library, home of great music, one of the largest theatres in Asia Minor, birthplace of Homer
6. Outstanding Architecture –pagan religion, heathen culture
7. Jews were numerous and had great influence.

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Overview

1. Smyrna: The word means *myrrh* – taken from Hebrew word *MOR*.
2. This city was located North of Ephesus on the gulf of Smyrna on the Aegean Sea.
3. It was a famous colony made up of Greeks (called Ionians), who came from Athens.
4. It was such a great city that the Lydians on their rise to power became jealous of it and destroyed it. Then for 400 years it remained in ruins, before Alexander the Great planned to rebuild it. He died before he could do so and one of his great generals, Lysimachus, rebuilt the city after Alexander's death.
5. It became one of the most prosperous cities of the Western seaboard of Turkey, known as *Anti-to-Lea*.
6. The population at one time reached 200,000.
7. Smyrna was a place where many Jews lived.
8. It was known as the center of Emperor Worship in that part of the world, and was famous for the function of the phallic cult under the worship of the goddess Sibyl (called the mother of the gods). The god Bacchus, the god of wine, was also worshipped there.
9. This church was famous in that it had a number of advanced believers.
10. This church remained famous throughout its history for its ability to move right on, never falling apart.
11. Of all the Churches of the Ancient world, the Church of Smyrna suffered the most, and lasted the longest. The reason for this was the good marriage between the pastor and his congregation.
12. In this Church there was always a group of people that were consistent in the intake of God's Word.
13. One of the most famous pastors in the second generation, after the Apostles, was [Polycarp](#) – a great believer.