

Corinth, Greece



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- Fourth largest city in the Roman Empire.
 - Capital of Achaia.
 - Situated on an isthmus near two harbors through which much of the commerce of the world flowed.
 - The isthmus was between the Aegean Sea and the Adriatic Sea.
 - Many small ships were rolled or dragged across the isthmus from one sea to another so as to avoid the dangerous 200 mile voyage around southern Greece.
 - Nero and others began to build a canal at the narrowest point. After many, many centuries of work, the canal was completed in 1893.
 - This famous “Corinth Canal” is in use today.
 - Romans Greeks and Jews lived there.
 - It was a city of:
 - Wealth
 - Luxury
 - Immorality
 - It was destroyed by the Romans in 146 B.C.
 - Julius Caesar rebuilt it as a Roman colony in 46 B.C.
 - Its official language was Latin, but the common language remained Greek.
 - The city was filled with shrines and temples.
 - The most famous one was the Temple of Aphrodite on top of a 1,800 foot promontory called the Acrocorinthus.
 - Worshippers of the “goddess of love” made free use of the 1,000 Hieroduli (consecrated temple prostitutes.)
 - Immorality abounded to the point that the term “Korinthiazomai” (“to

- act like a Corinthian”) became a synonym for debauchery and prostitution.
- In Paul’s day the population is thought to have been about 700,000 people, of which about half were slaves.
 - Paul established a church in Corinth on his second missionary journey.
 - Acts 18:1-7**
 - He worked with Aquila and Priscilla in tent making to support his preaching.
 - When Silas and Timothy arrived, they apparently brought a gift from Philippi (**Philippians 4:15**; **2 Corinthians 11:8-9**) which enabled Paul to work full time in his preaching and teaching.
 - From Corinth Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians.
 - Because of opposition, he moved his ministry from the synagogue to the house of Justus.
 - He converted Crispus, the leader of the synagogue.
 - Paul remained and taught the gospel in Corinth for 1½ years.
 - After Paul’s departure Apollos came to Corinth where he was further taught by Aquila and Priscilla. **Acts 18:24-28**

Background of the Writing of the 1 and 2 Corinthians Letters

- When Paul was preaching and teaching in Ephesus during his third missionary journey, he was disturbed by reports from the household of Chloe concerning quarrels in the church at Corinth. **1 Corinthians 1:11**
- The church sent a delegation of three men (**1 Corinthians 16:17**), who apparently brought a letter that requested Paul’s judgment on certain matters. **1 Corinthians 7:1**.
- According to 1 Corinthians 5:9, he had apparently written a previous letter. This may have been the one the three men from Corinth took back with them.
- **1 Corinthians 16:5-8** indicates that Paul was planning to leave Ephesus.
- He expected Timothy to visit Corinth and return to him with a report. **1 Corinthians 16: 10-11**
- Apparently Timothy did bring Paul a report of the opposition that had developed against him in Corinth.
- Paul made a brief but painful visit to the Corinthians (this visit not mentioned in Acts, but it can be inferred from **2 Corinthians 2:1**; **12:14**; **13:1-2**).
- Upon returning to Ephesus, Paul wrote 1 Corinthians to urge the church to discipline the leader of the opposition. **2 Corinthians 1:1-11**; **7:8**

- Paul wrote I Corinthians as his response to the problems in Corinth.
- I Corinthians was written earlier in A.D. 56
- Titus carried the first Corinthian letter to the church in Corinth.
- Paul, anxious to learn the results, went to Troas and then to Macedonia to meet Titus on his return. **2 Corinthians 2:12-13; 7:5-16**
- Paul was greatly relieved by Titus's report that the majority of the Corinthians had repented of their rebelliousness against Paul's apostolic authority.
- Apparently a minority opposition still persisted, evidently led by a group of Judaizers.
- There in Macedonia Paul wrote 2 Corinthians and sent it with Titus and another brother. **2 Corinthians 8: 16-24**
- The Macedonian city from which he wrote and sent II Corinthians may have been Philippi.
- The second Corinthian letter was written late in A.D. 56

- Great statement from Paul's 2nd Corinthian letter.
 - **2 Corinthians 4:3** – “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,
 - **2 Corinthians 4:7** – “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.
 - **2 Corinthians 6:2** – “For He says: ‘In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you. ‘Behold, now is he accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.’”
 - **2 Corinthians 9:15** – “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”
 - **2 Corinthians 5:17** – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

