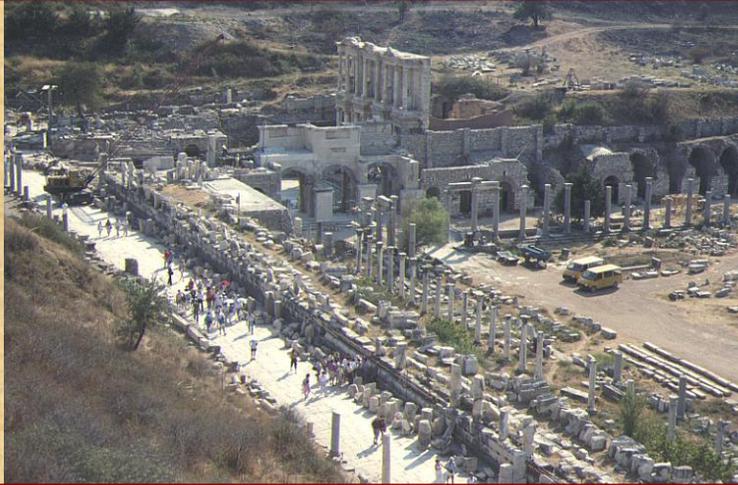


Ephesus

City of the Loveless Church



- Modern city of Seluk in Turkey.
- Location:
 - A city of Lydia in Paul's day.
 - A province of Asia Minor. Asia Minor is modern Turkey.
 - It lies between the Coressus mountain range and the Aegean Sea at the southeastern tip of the Gulf of Ephesus.
- Description:
 - Sits on a rocky hill at the mouth of the Cayster River.
 - Known as "the city of change."
 - Strabo speaks of Ephesus as being a coastal city (20 A.D.) Paul "set sail from Ephesus" in about 54 A.D. (**Acts 18:21**). Over the years silt filled the Gulf of Ephesus so that the city now sits 16 miles (10 kilometers) from the coast. The river which connects it to the Aegean Sea travels a winding course of nearly 32 miles. Some believe that when Paul "determined to sail past Ephesus" (**Acts 20:16**) in about 57 A.D. this was a sign that ships were already beginning to cargo or passengers there.
- Size:
 - The northern boundaries were about 1.6 miles apart.
 - The eastern and western boundaries were separated by approximately 1 mile.
- Brief history:
 - Founding date was approximately 1100 B.C.
 - Earliest settlers were the Anatolians (natives of Anatolia—ancient

name of Asia Minor). They were joined by the Ionian colonists (Greeks from Athens) by the 10th century B.C.

- Ephesus was conquered by Croesus in 560 B.C.
 - Ephesus came under Persian Rule in 546 B.C.
 - Alexander the Great conquered Asia Minor in 335 B.C.
 - The city was captured by Antiochus the Great, a Syrian monarch, in about 196 B.C.
 - Ephesus became a part of the Roman province of Asia in 133 B.C.
 - The city was invaded by King Mithridates in 88 B.C. wherein he ordered a great massacre in which 80,000 to 150,000 Asia Romans were put to death.
 - The Romans regained control of the province.
 - Ephesus was the most important city in Asia Minor.
 - It was a center of trade, commerce, idolatry, and cultural beauty.
 - During New Testament times, the population is estimated to have been between 250,000 and 300,000 people.
- Political status in New Testament times:
- Ephesus was under Roman rule during the lifetime of Paul and John.
 - The “town clerk” was the leading city official and was directly responsible to Rome for any problems. **Acts 19:39-41**
- Ephesus was a wealthy city.
- In Paul’s day this coastal city was one of Asia’s major port cities and was the gateway to the sea for nearly all cargo and passenger traffic through Asia Minor.
 - Wealthy Ephesians donated large sums of money to the project of keeping the silt dredged out of the Cayster River allowing the city’s harbor to be kept open.
 - The large upper middle class population lived in multi-storied homes on the north terraces of Mt. Coressus.
 - The homes often had mosaic floors and marble walls.
 - Many homes had running water.
 - Two houses have been found that had “heated” bathrooms.
- Ephesus was a prominent city.
- Ephesus ranked as one of the three greatest cities of the Eastern Mediterranean with Antioch in Syria and the city of Alexandria in Egypt.
 - Stephens, a geographer, gives Ephesus the title of “Epiphanestate” or “most illustrious.”
 - Pliny styles Ephesus as “the ornament of Asia.”
- Architecture:
- The marble way called “Arkadine,” led from the harbor to the theater.
 - It was 36 feet wide and about ~ mile long.

- It was enclosed on each side by rows of marble columns.
- Theater.
 - Seating capacity: 24,000-25,000.
 - Diameter: 495 feet.
 - Location of the riot of the silversmiths in Acts 19.
- Temple of Artemis. Roman name: Diana.
 - One of the seven wonders of the ancient world
 - One ancient writer wrote: I have seen the Walls of the Hanging gardens of Babylon, the Statue of Zeus of Olympia, the Colossus of Rhodes, the lofty Pyramids, the Pharos of Alexandria and the ancient tomb of Mausolus. But when I beheld the Temple at Ephesus towering in the clouds, all these other marvels were eclipsed.”
 - McGarvey wrote in his description: “Down in the pit lie the broken columns of white marble and the foundation walls of the grandest temple ever erected on earth.”
 - The temple was a pre-Greek structure built of Pavian marble in about 400 B.C.
 - The building was the largest building in the ancient world and took some 100 years to build.
 - Dimensions: 343 feet by 164 feet.
 - The platform of the temple was 418 feet long and 239 feet wide. A flight of ten steps lead from the pavement to the platform and an additional three lead to the temple.
 - The temple was supported by 127 marble columns, each weighing 150 tons, having a diameter greater than 6 feet, and standing 60 feet tall. 36 of the columns were ornately carved. Most of the columns were gifts from kings and rulers.
 - The sanctuary of Artemis (Diana) was 70 feet wide.
 - The sides of the square altar of Artemis were 24 feet long.
 - The statue of Artemis was a any breasted figure.
 - The temple’s doors were made of cypress and the covered section was roofed with cedar.
 - The temple had a large staircase constructed of wood and a vine from the island of Cyprus.
 - The temple was decorated with fine gold.
 - The temple, along with the city, was destroyed and burned by the Goths in 263 A.D.
- Civic Agora and Commercial Agora.
- Odeion (chamber for the city council)
- Baths
- Gymnasia

- Library of Celsus
- The Auditorium (hall of Tyrannus)
- The brothel
- Various temples:
 - Temple to Hadrian
 - Temple to Nero
 - Temple to Domitian
 - Sanctuary to Augustus (within the temple precinct of Artemis)

■ Religion:

- Believed that Diana ruled nearly all aspects of life.
 - Goddess of Fertility. - Guardian of springs and streams.
 - Goddess of Birth. - Protector of wild animals and hunters.
 - Goddess of nature. - Goddess of the moon.

■ The Church at Ephesus:

- Ephesus is referred to 21 times in the Bible.
- Paul preached the gospel for the first time in **Acts 18:19** (about 54 A.D.). This was near the end of his 2nd missionary journey.
- Having met Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth, Paul brought them to Ephesus and left them there. **Acts 19:19**
- The Jews wanted him to stay longer, but he refused because he wanted to be in Jerusalem for the time of the feast. **Acts 18:21**
- He promised the Ephesians he would return. **Acts 18:21** - "But took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing." And he sailed from Ephesus."
- Apollos arrived in Ephesus and was instructed in the "way of God" by Aquila and Priscilla. **Acts 18:26**
- On his third missionary journey, Paul preached in Ephesus for two years and three months.
 - He taught in the synagogue for three months. **Acts 19:8**
 - He taught daily in the school of Tyrannus for two years. **Acts 19:9**
 - Tyrannus finished his teachings in the school at about 11:00 a.m.
 - Paul used the school space from the fifth to the tenth hour of Sunlight (from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).
- Twelve men who had known only the baptism of John, were baptized. **Acts 19:1-7**
- **Acts 19:8-14** records the riot at Ephesus.
- All Asia heard the word. **Acts 19:10**— "And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks."

- The “seven churches of Asia” of Revelation 2 and 3 are all located in the general area of Paul’s work during his stay in Ephesus. This very well may have been the beginning of many of these congregations.

1. Ephesus	Loyal Church in a Pagan Center	Revelation 2:1-7
2. Smyrna	The Church Spiritually Rich	Revelation 2:8-11
3. Pergamos	A Steadfast Church	Revelation 2:12- 17
4. Thyatira	The Serving Church	Revelation 2:18-29
5. Sardis	The Dying Church	Revelation 3:1-6
6. Philadelphia	A Faithful Church	Revelation 3:7-13
7. Laodicea	The Lukewarm Church	Revelation 3:14-22

- Paul wrote the book of Ephesians about 58 A.D.

■ The Letter to the Church at Ephesus - **Revelation 2:1-7**

1 “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

2 ‘I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place -- unless you repent.

6 But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.’”

- John wrote the Revelation letter in about 95 A.D.

- Ephesus is listed first among the order of the seven churches and letters.

