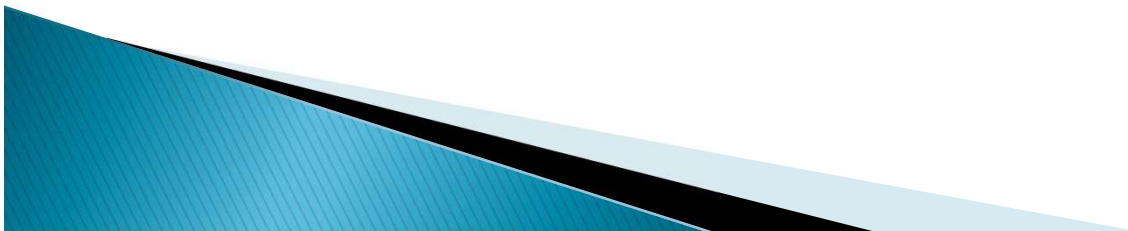


Ephesians – Introduction

- ▶ The city of Ephesus
- ▶ Ephesus in New Testament writings
- ▶ The beginnings of the gospel in Ephesus
- ▶ Place and time of writing of the letter
- ▶ Recipients and theme of the letter



Ephesus – The city

- ▶ Described as the “gateway of Asia”
- ▶ “For all the travelers and the trade, from Cayster and Maeander Valleys, from Galatia, from the Euphrates and from the Mesopotamia, Ephesus was the highway to Rome. In later times, when the Christians were brought from Asia to be flung to the lions in the arena of Rome, Ignatius called Ephesus the Highway of the Martyrs” (William Barclay, The Revelation of John, Vol.1, page 58).
- ▶ Economically, a center of commerce
- ▶ Religiously, the center of mother goddess worship of western Asia



Ephesus – The city

- ▶ In New Testament times, the fourth greatest city in the world behind Rome, Alexandria, and Antioch of Syria
- ▶ 4 miles inland from Aegean Sea
 - Inland harbor connected with the Cayster River
- ▶ Population about 300,000
- ▶ The Temple of Artemis (Diana was the Roman name) in Ephesus ranked as one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world.



Ephesus – The city

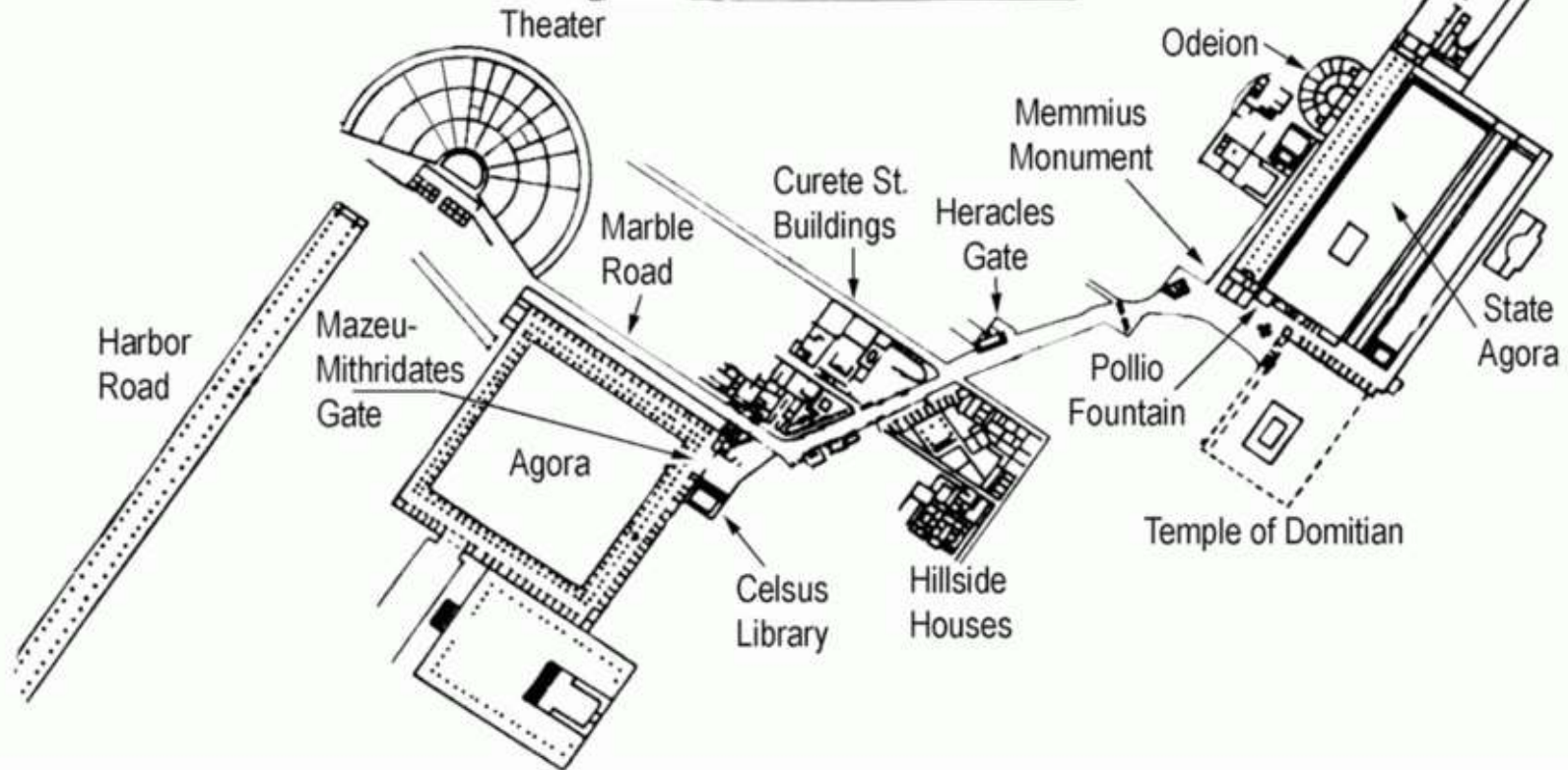
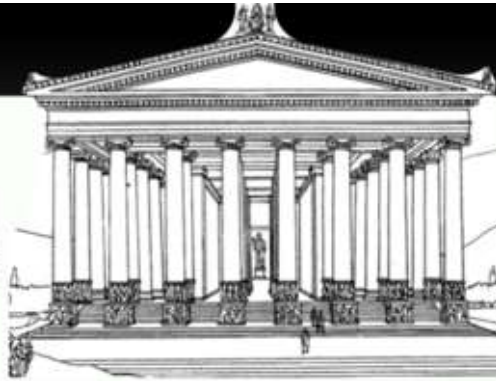
- ▶ The home of the native goddess Diana
 - Its wealth and prominence due to the temple of Diana
 - A city of immorality
 - Home of hundreds of “sacred” prostitutes, priestesses to Diana
- ▶ Generally speaking, the people of Ephesus were refined, luxurious, lovers of the arts, dancing, seduction, and indulgence



Ephesus

Temple of Artemus/Dianna

One of the 7 Wonders of Ancient World
Rebuilt during life of Alexander the Great
Set Outside the City Walls beyond the Magnesia Gate



Ephesus – the theater seating about 25,000



Ephesus in New Testament Writings

- ▶ Acts – chapters 18, 19, 20
 - Paul's work there and the later meeting with the elders from Ephesus
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 15, 16
- ▶ 1 and 2 Timothy – from Paul to Timothy while Timothy was in Ephesus doing the work of an evangelist
- ▶ Revelation 2 – Jesus' assessment of the church in Ephesus later in the first century
- ▶ Letter to the Ephesians







Dating Events in Acts: Working Backwards

Year	Event	Rationale for Date
60	Festus begins as procurator	Historians generally recognized as beginning in 59 or 60
58	Paul brought before Felix in Caesarea	Acts 24:27 – “after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix”. Therefore, backing up 2 years from Festus (60) brings us to 58
May/ June 58	Paul in Jerusalem for Pentecost	His intention to be in Jerusalem for Pentecost – Acts 20:6, 16
March/ April 58	Paul left Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread	Acts 20:6
Late 57/ Early 58	3 months in Greece (Achaia). Winter.	Acts 20:2–3 1 Corinthians 16:5–6 – Paul intended to spend winter in Corinth
Summer/ Fall 57	In Macedonia	Acts 20:1–2. Went to Macedonia from Ephesus, and then on to Greece. If he was able to stay in Ephesus until Pentecost as he intended (1 Corinthians 16:8), then he would not have left Ephesus until at least May/June. Thus, summer/fall 57 in Macedonia
From Late 54/ Early 55 To Summer 57	In Ephesus	Paul in Ephesus 3 years – Acts 20:31; consisting of: 3 months – Acts 19:8 2 years – Acts 19:10 “stayed for a time” – Acts 19:22
54	Upper regions	Acts 19:1
Late 53/ Early 54	Galatia and Phrygia	Acts 18:23 (possibly Spring 54, due to winter travel challenges?)
53	Antioch	Acts 18:23 – “spent some time there”
Before winter 53	Sailed from Ephesus to Caesarea	If Acts 18:21 is Pentecost, then earlier in 53 Would not sail over large bodies of water in the Winter
51–53	Corinth	Gallio proconsul 51–52AD. Acts 18:4,11,18 – Paul in Corinth > 1.5 years

History of the church in Ephesus

- ▶ Acts 18 – on Paul’s second journey
 - Most likely 53AD
 - Priscilla and Aquila with him, and remained
 - Paul intended to return
- ▶ Acts 19
 - Paul returned on his third preaching trip
 - Stayed “3 years” (20:31)
- ▶ Acts 20
 - On his way to Jerusalem, Paul called for the elders from Ephesus and met them in Miletus
 - Recounts his manner of work, issues warnings and exhortation



Significant Events in Ephesus: Acts 18, 19

- ▶ Apollos knew only the baptism of John; Aquila and Priscilla taught him the way more accurately
- ▶ Twelve men who had been baptized into John's baptism were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus
 - Paul laid hands on them and imparted spiritual gifts
- ▶ Paul taught 3 months in the synagogue
- ▶ Due to the hardening and blasphemy of some, Paul withdrew with disciples and taught daily in the school of Tyrannus
 - Continued for 2 years
- ▶ Unusual miracles worked by God through Paul's hands
- ▶ Many penitent magicians
- ▶ Paul sent Timothy and Erastus into Macedonia
- ▶ Riot in the theatre because of the gospel's impact on the city's idolatry



Other Activities In Ephesus

- ▶ Acts 19:22 – sent Timothy & Erastus into Macedonia
- ▶ Stephanus, Fortunatus, Achaicus come from Corinth (1 Corinthians 16:17)
- ▶ News of problems from those of Chloe's household comes from Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:11)
- ▶ Timothy sent to Corinth (1 Corinthians 4:7; 16:10–11)
 - (Could be part of Paul's sending of Timothy into Macedonia, with intent for him to go on to Achaia)
- ▶ 1 Corinthians written by Paul to the church in Corinth
 - From Ephesus, before Pentecost (1 Corinthians 16:8)
 - Before the great riot in Ephesus (1 Corinthians 16:9; Acts 20:1)
 - Possibly Stephanus, Fortunatus, Achaicus carried the letter based on 1 Corinthians 16:18
- ▶ At some point, whether in Ephesus or Macedonia, Timothy returned to Paul because he is present with Paul when Paul writes 2 Corinthians (1:1)



Time & Place of Epistle to the Ephesians

- ▶ Written from prison
 - 3:1; 4:1; 6:20
- ▶ Generally thought to be from his imprisonment in Rome that is described in Acts 28
- ▶ Written between 62–64 A.D.
- ▶ Believed by some that it was written about the same time as Colossians
 - Sent by the hands of Tychicus (6:21–22)
 - Colossians also sent by the hands of Tychicus and Onesimus (Colossians 4:7–9)
 - It is possible that both letters were delivered on the same trip



Recipients & Theme of the Epistle to the Ephesians

- ▶ Written to:
 - The saints who are in Ephesus
 - The faithful in Christ Jesus
- ▶ Theme:
 - God's eternal plan for man's redemption

