

# *Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship*

*Every word inspired.*



*Every word proclaimed.*

***“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28***



# **The Church at Ephesus**

***“Having Everything Yet Having Nothing”***

***Rev. 2:1-7***

Oct. 23, 2016

# **Chapter 1**

I. The Revelation of Jesus Christ

II. The Supremacy of Jesus Christ

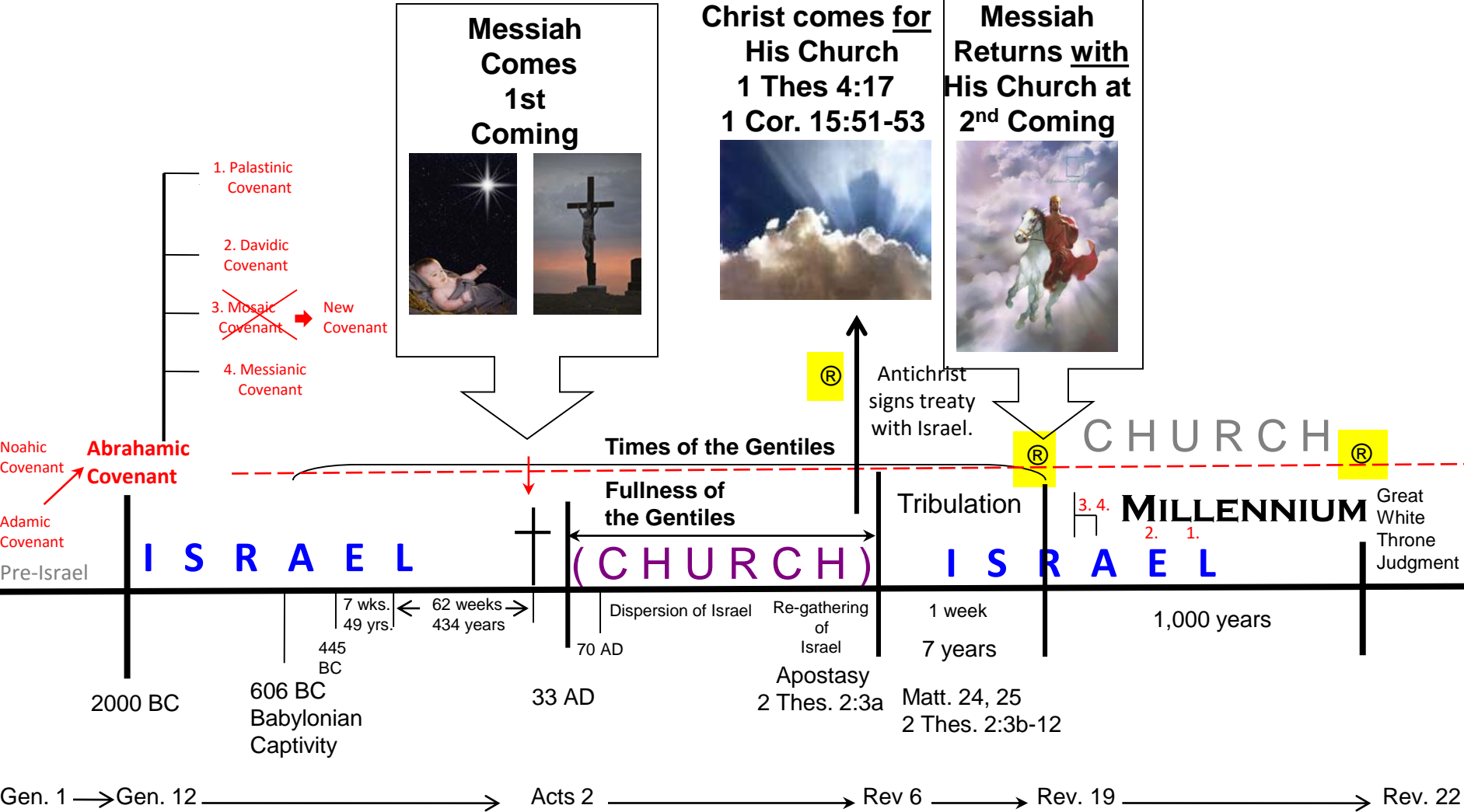
III. The Glorified Appearance of Jesus Christ

IV. The Aseity of Jesus Christ

## Rev 2:1-7

- 1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:  
The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:
- 2 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;
- 3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.
- 4 'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.
- 5 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place — unless you repent.
- 6 'Yet this you do 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 grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'

# Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events



® = Resurrection

# Seven Churches of Revelation

Chapters 2-3

- 1 Ephesus
- 2 Smyrna
- 3 Pergamos
- 4 Thyatira
- 5 Sardis
- 6 Philadelphia
- 7 Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision



# 7 Stages of Church History

Church	Era	Years
Ephesus	Apostolic Era	33-64
Smyrna	Period of Persecution	64-313
Pergamum	Era of Official Patronage	313-606
Thyatira	Middle Ages	606-1520
Sardis	Protestant Reformation	1520-1750
Philadelphia	Missionary Era	1750-1900
Laodicea	Modern Period	1900-?

## ***Several weaknesses of the prophetic view of the 7 churches:***

1. There has never been any consensus on which church represents which period in church history.
2. This prophetic scheme doesn't fit every category of church history in every period.
3. This view is very subjective, making it rather unlikely even as a secondary interpretation.
4. Though the Bible teaches imminence (i.e., Christ could return at any moment), we really do not know when Christ is returning. Therefore, the church at Laodicea may not characterize the church when Christ returns.
5. While this view may characterize the history of our country, it does not necessarily hold true for the rest of the world.



## ***A better way to view the 7 churches:***

- “Seven” is the number of completeness, perfection, and fulfillment.
- These seven churches perfectly represent the strengths and weaknesses that have been and will be characteristic of churches throughout history.

# Seven Churches of Revelation

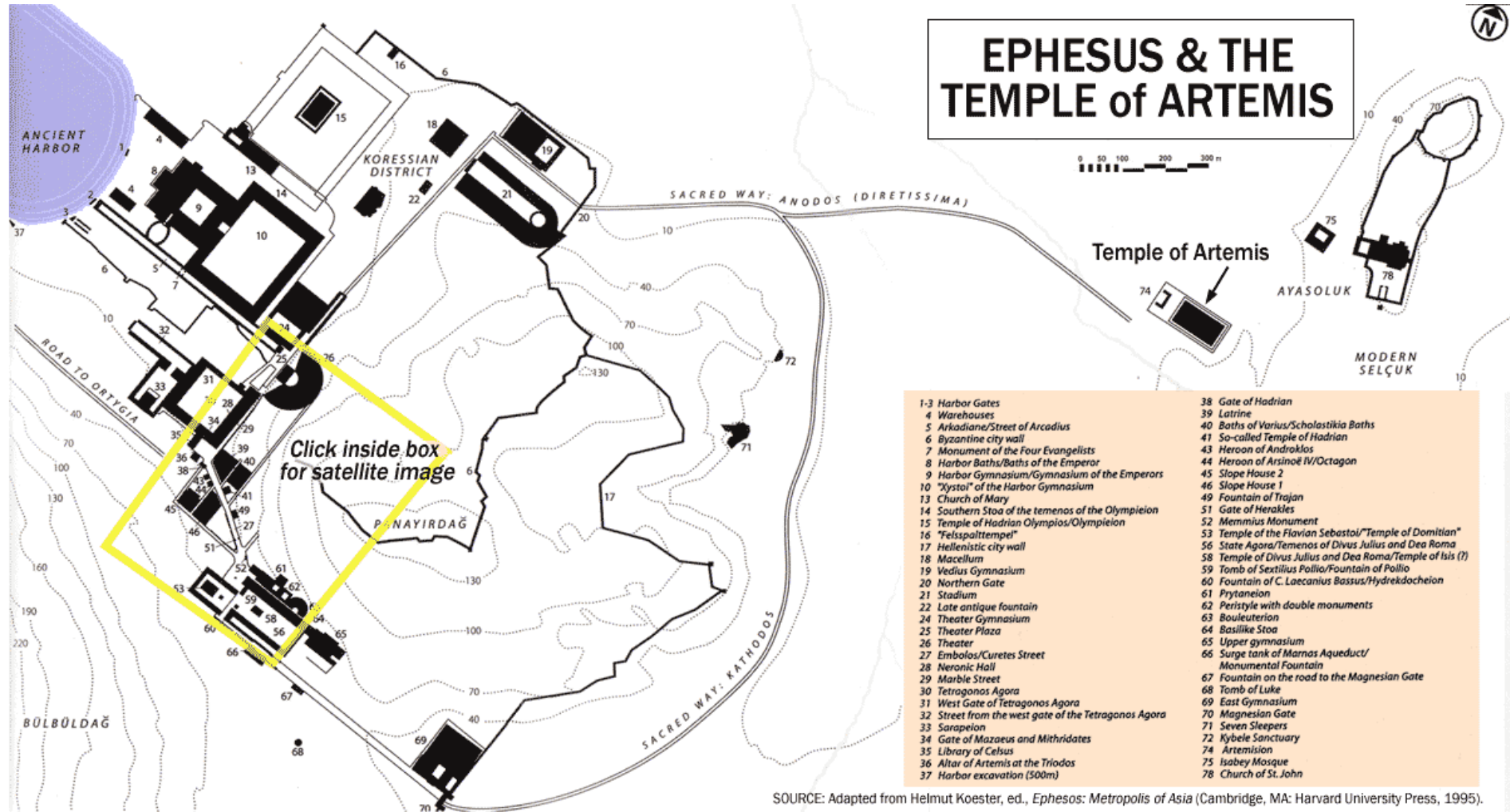
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# The City of Ephesus



SOURCE: Adapted from Helmut Koester, ed., *Ephesus: Metropolis of Asia* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1995).

The Roman emperor had made Ephesus a free city (self government) and it was given the title

**“Supreme Metropolis of Asia.”**









Asphalt Parking

Image from Google Earth









# **1 Cor 15:31-32**

31 I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

32 If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, LET US EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE.



























## Size of the Temple:

- 450 ft long (1 ½ football fields)
- 225 ft wide (¾ of a football field)
- 60 ft high columns (6 stories high)
- 127 columns.
- Made of glittering Persian marble.
- Columns were embellished with gold and jewels that had been given by kings and embedded in the marble.
- It was one of the “7 wonders of the world.”



## The scene at the Temple of Diana/Artemis -

- There were thousands of priestesses who were nothing but prostitutes who believed that in sexual orgies they could lift the worshiper up into the presence of the deities.
- There were those who roamed the temple and did nothing but proclaim various kinds of information.
- There were singers, there were flutists, there were dancers.
- There were people doing banking. It was the bank of the Mediterranean. The wealthy kept their treasures there in the inner shrine.
- It was also big business. They sold little gods, little idols. They sold idols for your neck. This is the first place we find little idols to put on the front of your chariot.
- There were criminals trying to find asylum – once inside the temple, no one could touch them.
- There were tourists trying to look at the museum pieces collected from all over the world.
- There was worship going on.
- There was prostitution, music, feasts, festivals and the whole hysteria became a chaotic frenzy of shameless sexual exhibition.
- Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher in Ephesus, said, **"The morals of the temple were worse than the morals of animals, for even dogs do not mutilate each other."** And he said, **"The people there were fit only to be drowned."**

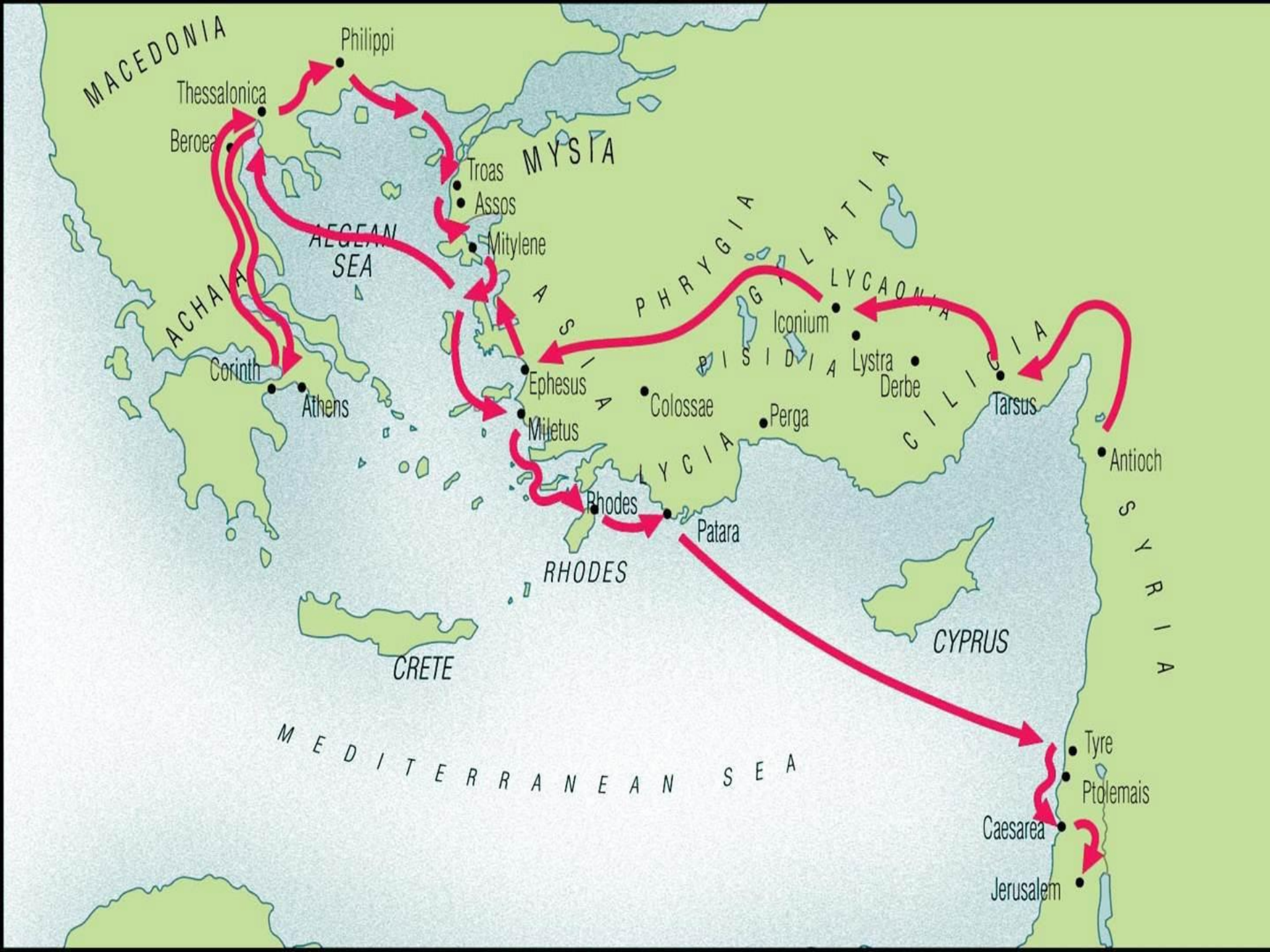






# The Church at Ephesus

- Founded by the apostle Paul - 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey.



## **Acts 18:18-19:11**

18 Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchrea he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow.

19 They came to Ephesus, and he left them there. Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

20 When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent,

21 but taking leave of them and saying, "I will return to you again if God wills," he set sail from Ephesus.

22 When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and went down to Antioch.

23 And having spent some time there, he left and passed successively through the Galatian region and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.



24 Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures.

25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John;

26 and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

27 And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace,

28 for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

## Acts 19

- 1 It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples.
- 2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."
- 3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism."
- 4 Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus."
- 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.
- 7 There were in all about twelve men.
- 8 And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God.
- 9 But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.
- 10 This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.



- 11 God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul,  
12 so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick,  
and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.
- 13 But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place,  
attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the  
Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches."
- 14 Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.
- 15 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I  
know about Paul, but who are you?"
- 16 And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all  
of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked  
and wounded.
- 17 This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and  
fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.
- 18 Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and  
disclosing their practices.
- 19 And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and  
began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price  
of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.
- 20 So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.

- 23 About that time there occurred no small disturbance concerning the Way.
- 24 For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing no little business to the craftsmen;
- 25 these he gathered together with the workmen of similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that our prosperity depends upon this business.
- 26 "You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods at all.
- 27 "Not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be regarded as worthless and that she whom all of Asia and the world worship will even be dethroned from her magnificence."

- 28 When they heard this and were filled with rage, they began crying out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"
- 29 The city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia.
- 30 And when Paul wanted to go into the assembly, the disciples would not let him.
- 31 Also some of the Asiarchs who were friends of his sent to him and repeatedly urged him not to venture into the theater.
- 32 So then, some were shouting one thing and some another, for the assembly was in confusion and the majority did not know for what reason they had come together.
- 33 Some of the crowd concluded it was Alexander, since the Jews had put him forward; and having motioned with his hand, Alexander was intending to make a defense to the assembly.
- 34 But when they recognized that he was a Jew, a single outcry arose from them all as they shouted for about two hours, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"



- 35 After quieting the crowd, the town clerk said, "Men of Ephesus, what man is there after all who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of the image which fell down from heaven?"
- 36 "So, since these are undeniable facts, you ought to keep calm and to do nothing rash.
- 37 "For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess.
- 38 "So then, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a complaint against any man, the courts are in session and proconsuls are available; let them bring charges against one another.
- 39 "But if you want anything beyond this, it shall be settled in the lawful assembly.
- 40 "For indeed we are in danger of being accused of a riot in connection with today's events, since there is no real cause for it, and in this connection we will be unable to account for this disorderly gathering."
- 41 After saying this he dismissed the assembly.

# Paul

## **Acts 20:31**

31 "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

## **Aquila & Priscilla**

### **Acts 18:18-19**

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## **Apollos**

### **Acts 18:24,25**

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25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John;

# Timothy

## **1 Tim 1:3**

3 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, **remain on at Ephesus** so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines,

# Tychicus

## **Eph 6:21-22**

21 But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you.

22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.

# John

John wrote his gospel and 1,2,3 John from Ephesus.



## Rev 2:1-7

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The Greek word for angels is αγγελος. It is not only used for heavenly angels, but also used for human messengers, such as John the Baptist (Matthew 11:10, Mark 1:2, Luke 7:27)

### **Matt 11:10**

10 "This is the one about whom it is written,  
'BEHOLD, I SEND MY **MESSENGER** AHEAD OF YOU,  
WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.'