

A study of Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus

Welcome for those who do not know me, my name is Rudy Brooks. Graham Fox ask my son-in-law , Trent Hoots, and me to lead our discussion of Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

We would like it to be an open discussion between everyone attending. Our hope is that everyone will express their opinions as we study together. Contrary to some beliefs, we do not have to agree on every small detail. However we do need to set a couple of guide lines.

1--The word of God must be the authority if and when we disagree.

A--When Jesus was on the earth in human form He spoke for God the Father---Heb. 1:1-2

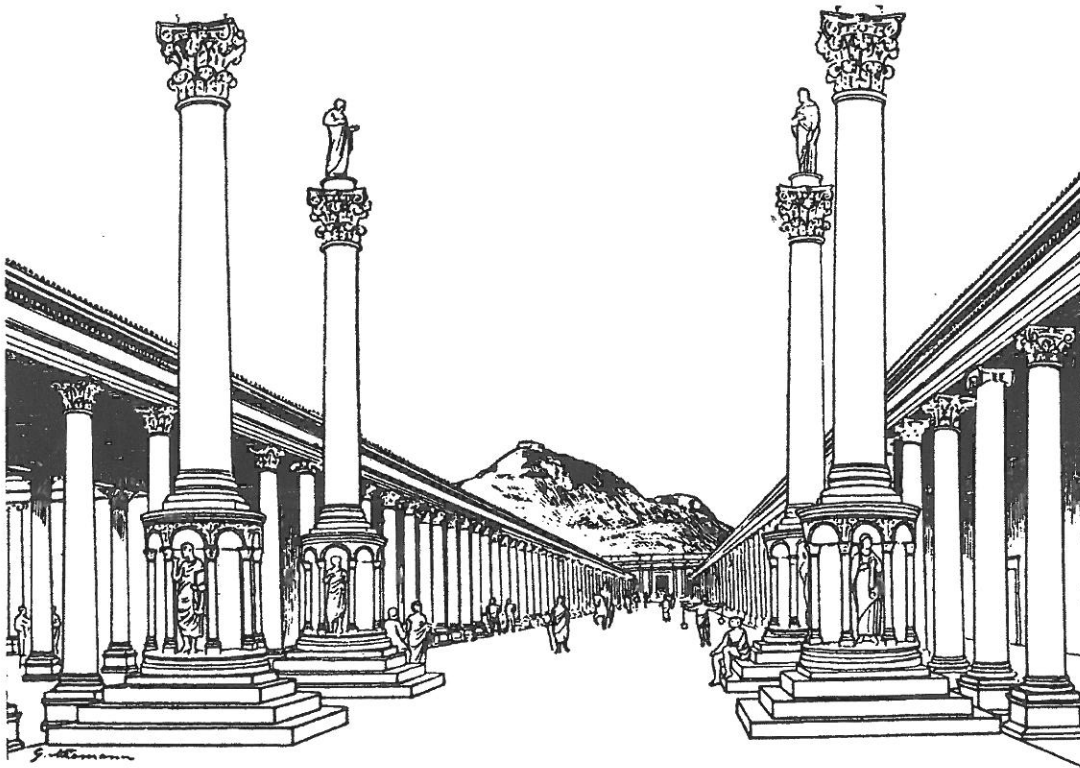
B--After Jesus suffered the cross an returned to His Father in heaven His Apostles spoke for Him---I Thess. 2:13 and II Pt. 3:1-2

C--The Heb. Writer explains how the word works in those who believe---Heb. 4:12 and Jesus confirms this in Jh. 12:47-49

#2--If we are to know God's will for us as it is revealed to us in His word we must study everything God has to say about any and all subjects pertaining to us

Example---The event of Jesus walking on the water is recorded in all four accounts of the gospel. Jh. 6:16-21--Lk. 8:22-25--Mk. 6:47-51--Mt. 14:22-33 If we are to know all God wants us to know about this event we must read all four.

The Biblical City Of Ephesus



“And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.” (Acts 19:8–10)

© 2005 David Padfield · All Rights Reserved

www.padfield.com



The Library Of Celsus



The Temple Of Hadrian



The Library Of Celsus



The Fountain Of Trajan



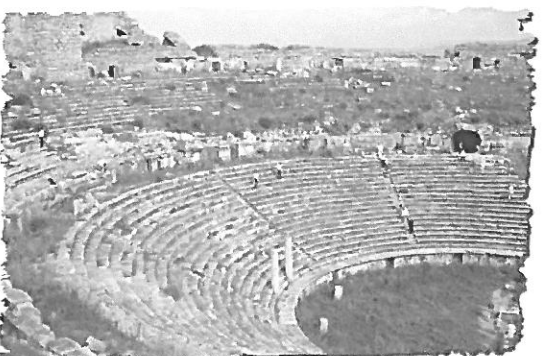
The Theater At Ephesus



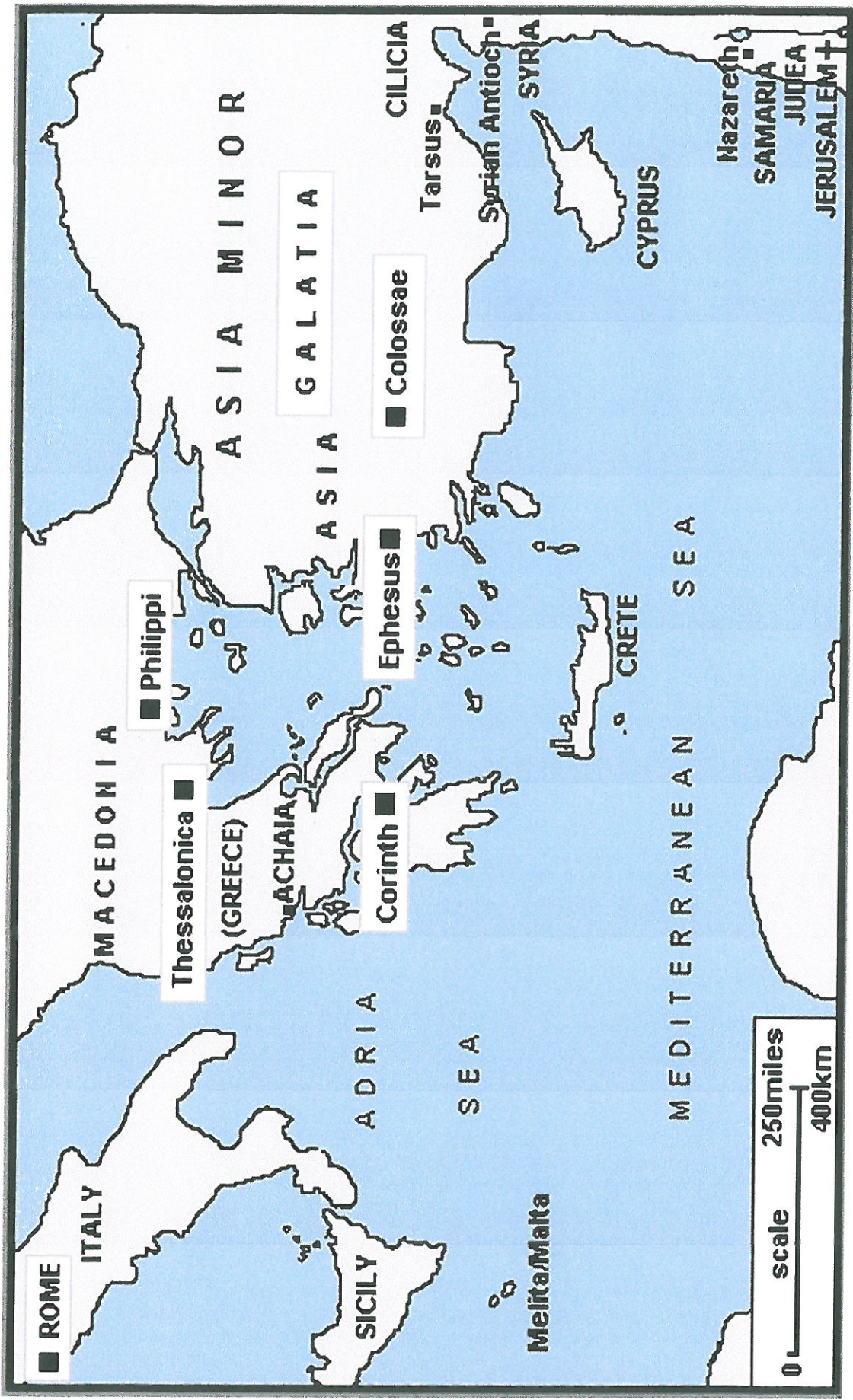
Arcadian Way (Harbor Street)



Nike, The Goddess Of Victory



The Theater At Miletus



The Biblical City of Ephesus

Ephesus is a centuries old city that is still in existence today. In Biblical times it was known as the gateway to Asia and was located on the Aegean Sea. The City is now located some seven to ten miles inland. In Biblical times, the city had two main distinctions, #1 it had a seaport on the Aegean Sea and 3 main roads that converged at Ephesus. One road brought trade from the East by way of Colosse and Laodicea, another came from Galatia via Sardis and brought trade from Asia Minor. The third road was to the north. Ephesus was the chief commercial city of the province, even though Pergamum was the capitol of the province of Asia during Roman times. In Paul's time, Ephesus was one of the 4 greatest cities of the first century, after Rome, Alexandria and Antioch of Syria. During Roman times the population of Ephesus was estimated to be around 300,000 people.

2. The temple of the Goddess Diana (Artemis) was located in Ephesus. Diana is the Latin term and Artemis is the Greek term. The temple of Diana was ranked as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. In the mythology of multiple gods and goddesses Diana was the twin sister of Apollo and the daughter of Zeus. The temple was four times as larger than the Parthenon and was supported by one hundred and twenty seven columns. Each one being one hundred and ninety seven feet high. The platform on

which the temple stood was four hundred eighteen feet by two hundred and thirty nine feet. The temple itself was 342 feet by 163 feet. The temple housed a carved image of the multi-breasted image of Diana, which was reputed to have come directly from Zeus (Acts 19:35). During Roman times the worship of Diana was heavily promoted throughout Asia, by the minting of coins with the inscription , Diana of Ephesus and by the selling of silver shrines that were dedicated to her honor. Because of the wide spread worship of the idol Diana, Ephesus was not an easy place to teach Christianity. (Acts 19:23-41). The temple of Diana was destroyed in AD 262.

The church at Ephesus was probably established sometime between AD 43 and AD 53. Bible scholars tell us that Paul's first visit to Ephesus came on the return of his second missionary journey sometime around AD 55. Paul did not remain in Ephesus for a great time on his first visit, however, he did leave 2 of his close friends: Aquila and Priscilla with the disciples there in Ephesus.

On Paul's second visit to Ephesus, he stayed almost three years teaching and preaching the gospel of Christ.

Paul's first visit to Ephesus
Acts 18: 1-6 and Acts 18:18-22

Paul's second visit to Ephesus
Acts 19: 1-41

Paul's farewell to the Ephesus Church
Acts 20: 17-31

Most bible scholars agree that Paul wrote his letter to the Church at Ephesus sometime after his farewell to them in Acts Ch. 20. This letter was one of four written while he was under house arrest in the city of Rome---Acts 28:16 and 28: 30-31.

It is interesting to note that John's first letter to the 7 Churches in Rev. 2: 4-5 was to the Church at Ephesus.