

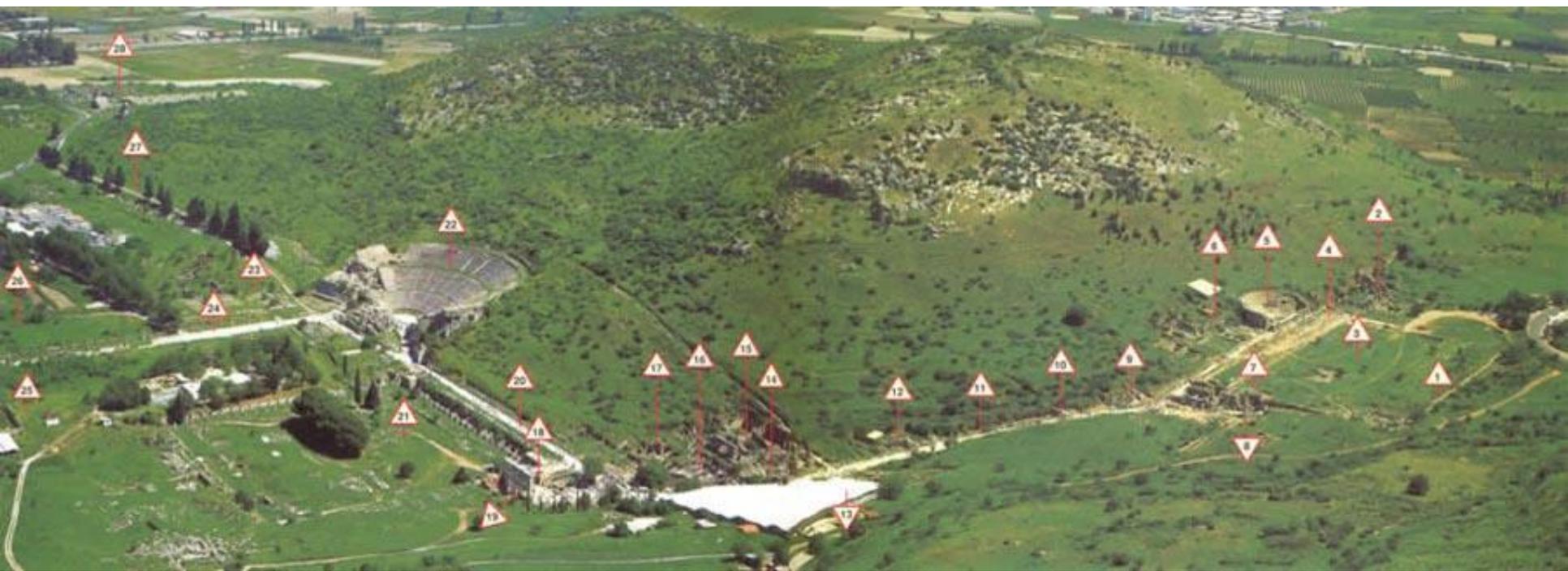
Week Two

Ephesus: Learning to Become Mature

Paul's Journeys to Ephesus



Third Journey:
picking up in
Ephesus...



Celsus Library: Manuscripts!



What do they value?

- Politics
- Engineering
- Business
- Nice Homes
- Learning & Education
- Commerce & Shopping
- Entertainment
- The Body & Fitness
- Sports
- Religion
- Sensuality/Sex

Philosophy was an important part of their learning, but in their daily lives they valued having Power. For this reason the occult held unusual fascination for the people of Ephesus. There was an “Ephesia grammatica” that was considered an especially powerful incantation particular to Ephesus. Even the Jewish synagogue leaders had gotten into wielding spiritual power.

You Enter Ephesus for the First Time...

No one believes in Jesus.

Everyone in the city is steeped in this culture around them.

This has been their way of life for...a very long time!

Twelve people hear about their need to repent and believe in Jesus for salvation.

What do you do now to take them from their first faith to being a mature believer?

The Ephesians: Who They Were

The Asiarchs: They regulated the worship of Rome and of the emperor. While many presided over the public games and the religious rites in honor of the gods and the emperor, some handled the clerical work. We find the names of many Asiarchs on coins and inscriptions. The office could only be held by men of wealth, as the expenses of the provincial games were often paid for by the Asiarchs.

The Ephesians: Who They Were

The Aristocrats: Not only did they live in beautiful homes near the theater, they also paid for the construction of the gymnasiums, the Odeon and other of places of public interest. They held power in the political governance of the city.

The Ephesians: Who They Were

The Artisans: In the 1st Century, it was common for artisans to form guilds organized around a patron idol. Usually, these guilds had an area in the city and a hall near the market square, which functioned as a center for the guild's religious and civic activities.

We know that there was a guild of silversmiths in Ephesus and that Aquila and Priscilla worked as leather workers (tentmakers) in the city.

The Ephesians: Who They Were

The Slaves: In *Rome* the slave population was estimated to be around 25-40% of the population as a whole. Although it would have been less in the outlying provinces, in larger influential cities like Pergamum and Ephesus it was likely around 20-30 % of the population of the city.

What Had Happened to Them

Adopted—Wanted! Chosen! No “accidental” adoptions!

Cleaned

A treasured inheritance

Chosen for good works

Holy Spirit of God lives inside

Power to live different

- From surroundings
- From Self

It took about two years for them to “get it.”

What Had Happened to Them

- Humble.
- Gentle.
- Patient.
- Bearing with one another.
- Speak truth.
- Work.
- Give generously.
- Building others up with my words.
- Kind.
- Compassionate.
- Forgiving.
- God's holy person.
- Thanksgiving.
- Good.
- Righteous.
- Truthful.
- Under the Influence—of the Holy Spirit.
- Speaking Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to others.
- Singing.
- Giving thanks.
- Submitting to each other.

What does that look like now?

Seven sons of the Jewish chief priest were performing exorcisms. They tried to use the name of Jesus. "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out."

The demon answers them, jumps on them and leaves them all beaten, naked and bleeding.

This becomes known to both Jews and Greeks.

FEAR

Up until this point the Ephesian believers had acted as though their faith were an "add on" instead of a "turn from."

The Believers get rid of what doesn't fit their NEW life in Jesus.

1. Confess
2. Disclose practices
3. Burn magic books



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The Believers of 2012

Who I was:

What happened to me:

Adopted, cleaned, treasured inheritance, chosen for good works, Holy Spirit of God lives inside, power to live differently from my surroundings and my old self.

What does that look like now: What doesn't fit the new and holy life that I have in Jesus?

The Believers of 2012

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

The Believers of 2012

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

The Believers of 2012

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than
all we ask or imagine,
according to his power that is at work within us,
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout
all generations,
for ever and ever!*

Amen.