

## **EPHESUS - THE CHURCH**

- The other 6 churches were founded as “daughter” churches out of the Ephesian church.
- Ephesian church founded by Paul’s ministry.
- Aquilla and Priscilla had been left there by Paul (Acts 18:21).
- Apollos came there from Alexandria, knowing only the baptism of John The Baptist – not yet knowing about Jesus the Messiah. Aquilla and Priscilla taught him the gospel and he, along with them had a great influence on this church (Acts 18:24-28).
- Paul returned to Ephesus and was there approximately 3 years. God performed extraordinary miracles through Paul (Acts 19:11-20):
  - Handkerchiefs and aprons on Paul were carried to the sick and diseased left them and the evil spirits went out.
  - Jewish exorcists were going from place to place, attempting to rid people of demons with the name of Jesus. In one instance, the demon answered, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?". The demon overpowered these Jewish exorcists.
  - Many who practiced magic became believers in Christ and brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone!
  - The name of the Lord Jesus was magnified and the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.
  - Paul’s preaching and teaching threw the entire city into chaos.
- Timothy served the church at Ephesus as well as Tychicus.
- John, the writer of Revelation, had also served in the Ephesian church. It was from this church that the Roman emperor Domitian had him arrested and exiled to the island of Patmos.

## **EPHESUS – THE CITY**

- Many regard Ephesus as being the greatest city in the region.
- A Roman writer once called Ephesus, “Luminasia, the Light of Asia”.
- It had the greatest harbor in Asia Minor.
- It was a major trade center.
- It was an inland city, then about 3 miles from the sea standing on the Cayster River which allowed sea access.
- 4 great roads came into Ephesus – one of them being a great trade route from the Euphrates River through Colossae and Laodicea into Ephesus.
- Was known as the marketplace of Asia and the gateway to Asia.
- In later times, many people including believers, came through Ephesus heading toward Rome and were thrown to the lions in the arena. The highway became known as the Highway of the Martyrs.
- Rome gave Ephesus the right to self-govern. There were no Roman troops stationed there.
- The Ephesian Games were held there which rivaled the Olympic Games.
- A massive theater was there with a great promenade running from the river front to it.

- It was the center of worship for the Roman god Diana (Greek god Artemis), the goddess of hunting, and their place of worship was known as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.
  - **Pharos Lighthouse** in Alexandria, Egypt
  - The **pyramids** near Cairo, Egypt
  - The **hanging gardens of Babylon**
  - The **Tomb of King Mausolus** in Halicarnassus in Asia Minor – present day Bodrum, Turkey. He was a governor of Persia.
  - The **Colossus of Rhodes**, a statue of the Greek god Helios in the city of Rhodes on the Greek island of Rhodes.
  - The **statue of Zeus** on Mount Olympus in Olympia, Greece
  - The **Temple of Diana/Artemis** in Ephesus

### **The Temple Of Diana**

- Made of glittering Persian marble.
- Approximately 425' long and 260' wide (about one and half blocks), 130 columns, 60' high – 37 of which were embellished with gold and jewels.
- The temple was a museum as well and housed collections from all over the world.
- It was located on the bank of the Mediterranean Sea.
- The wealthy kept their treasures in the inner shrine.
- A profitable marketplace existed in the temple where “little” gods – household idols, even idols for your chariot were sold.
- Banking was performed in the temple.

### **The Worship Of Diana**

- Scores of eunuchs had been castrated for the purpose of serving Diana.
- Thousands of priestesses who were prostitutes believed that in sexual orgies they could lift the worshipper up into Diana.
- There were hundreds of heralds (proclaimers), singers, flutists, dancers in the temple.
- Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher that preceded Socrates and lived in Ephesus, stated, “The morals of the temple were worse than the morals of animals, for even dogs do not mutilate each other. The people there were fit only to be drowned.”