

# Introduction to First Timothy – EPHESUS

**Acts 18:18-28** - “After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow.

19 And they came to **Ephesus**, and he left them there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

20 When they asked him to stay for a longer period, he declined.

21 But on taking leave of them he said, “I will return to you if God wills,” and he set sail from Ephesus.

22 When he had landed at

Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and then went down to Antioch.

23 After spending some time there, he departed and went from one place to the next through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.”

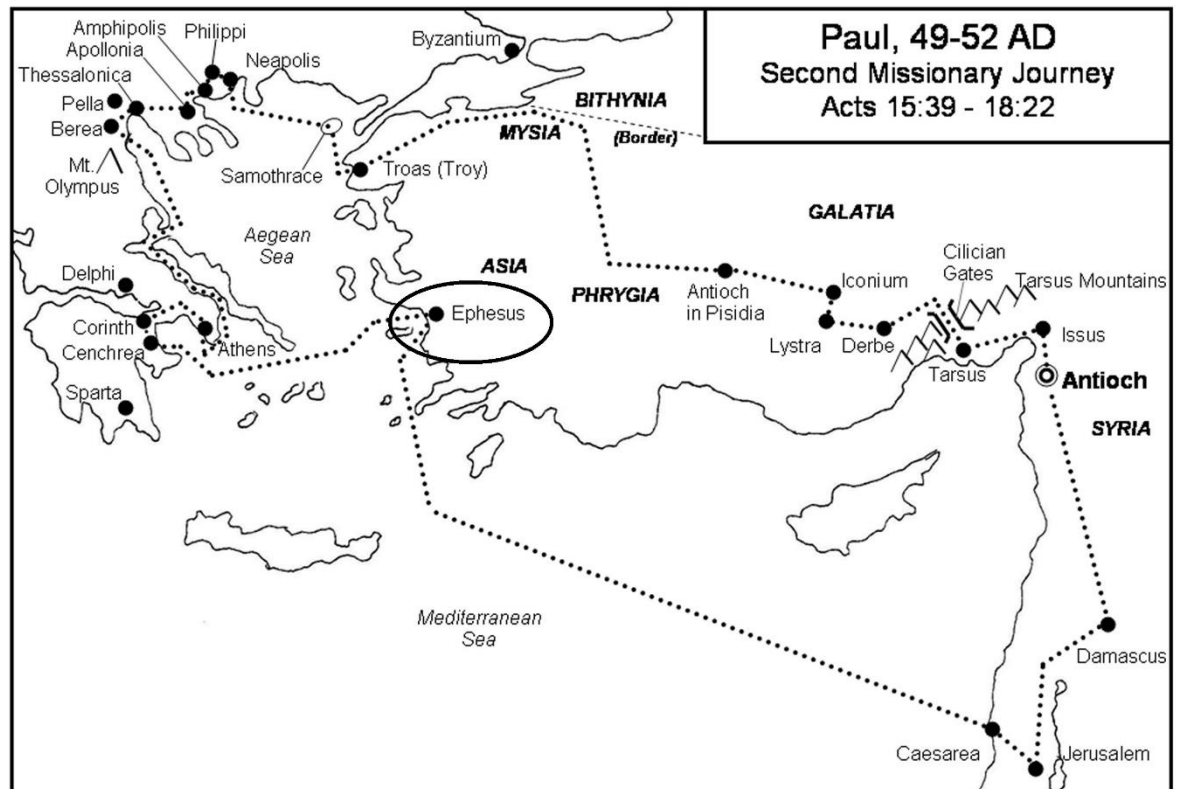
24 Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures.

25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John.

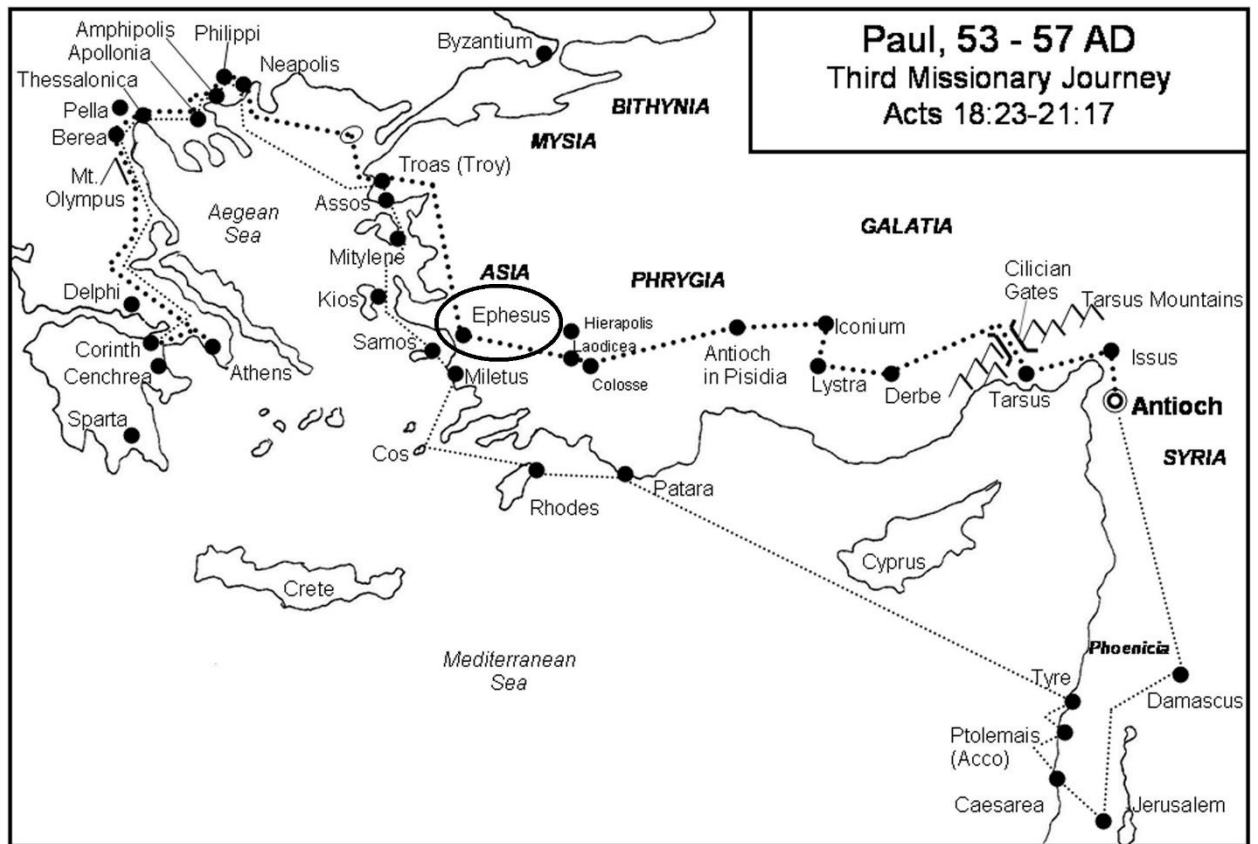
26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

27 And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed,

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



# Acts 19-20



- Paul meets some disciples, about twelve men (19:7), at Ephesus (19:1-7)
  - They had already accepted John the Baptist's baptism of repentance
  - These 12 men then were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus
  - Paul laid hands on them, they received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues and prophesied.
- Paul reasoned in the Ephesian synagogue for three months about the kingdom of God and the Way.
- When some Jews in the synagogue "became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation" Paul took the believers ("disciples") and reasoned daily 11 AM to 4 PM in Tyrannus' Lecture Hall for two years. (19:8-10)
  - God did extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul
  - Handkerchiefs and aprons that touched Paul healed the sick and drove out evil spirits
- Itinerant Jewish exorcists (19:13-17)
  - Invoked the name of the Lord Jesus over evil spirits
  - Seven sons of Sceva a Jewish high priest did this
  - The evil spirit answered them, beat them, overpowered all of them
  - All the residents of Ephesus (Jews and Greeks) heard this, They feared and honored Jesus.
- Many believers confessed of their evil magic practices (19:18-20)
  - A number who practiced magic arts
  - They brought their magic books and burned them
- Timothy and Erastus sent to Macedonia. Paul stayed in Asia (Ephesus) (19:22)
- The riot in Ephesus led by silversmith Demetrius for the trade guild of silversmiths and the merchants who prospered from the worship of Artemis. (19:23-32)

- The Jews Alexander tried to persuade the crowd (19:33-34)
- The town clerk quieted the crowd convincing them they need to use the court system and not a riot. (19:35)

Photos from Carl Rasmussen of Ephesus found here:

<https://holylandphotos.org/browse.asp?s=1,3,7,23,89>



**Theater of Ephesus seated 24,000. Built by the Greeks before the NT times. Claudius made significant alterations in 41-54 AD before Paul and Timothy arrived.**







### Ephesian Silversmith's Monument (200 AD)

"To good fortune. The silversmiths (*argyrochooi*) of the first and greatest metropolis of the Ephesians in Asia – thrice temple-warden of the Augusti – set this up for Valerius Festus, the proconsul (*anthypatos*) descended from proconsuls, founder of many works in Asia and in Ephesos after the passing of Antoninus, who enlarged the harbor of Croesus. He was their own savior and benefactor in everything."

**Discovered in 1984 in the street that connects the theater with the stadium**

### Curetes Street in Ephesus

Temple of Artemis construction began around 550 BC. It was first destroyed July 21, 356 BC, but reconstructed by New Testament times. Destroyed again by the Goths in 262 AD and in 401 AD a mob led by John Chrysostom finished it off. Some of the stones were taken 450 miles north to Constantinople for the construction of Hagia Sophia. Some of the green columns in Hagia Sophia originally belonged to the Temple of Artemis in Ephesus. One of the seven wonders of the ancient world it held sculptures by famous Greek artist including gilded columns of gold and silver and fine artwork. It was 377 feet long and 151 feet wide with 127 columns six feet thick and 40 foot high (one still stands today; some of the columns reached 62 feet). It stood on a 425 by 239-foot platform.

Population: 250,000

Religion: Official covenant with the Ephesian Artemis plus fifty other gods/goddesses

- a port city

- seat of Roman Government for Asia

Three main temples/religions: Artemis, Caesar, plus Jewish synagogue

