

# ***For God's Glory***

## ***Ephesians 1:1-2***

### **The Ancient City of Ephesus**

- The City of Ephesus was a major port city in the Roman empire with an estimated population of around 150,000 – 280,000 people. The city was known for trade, the Temple of Artemis, an outdoor amphitheater and library. *(More details on back of Guide)*

### **Paul in Ephesus – around 48-55 AD**

Acts 18:19-21 – Second Missionary Journey (Short Stay)

Acts 19 – Third Missionary Journey (2 years)

- Paul teaches about the Holy Spirit (19:1-7)
- Paul begins sharing the gospel with the Jews in the synagogue (19:8-10)
- Paul takes the gospel to the gentiles (19:8-10)
- God brings a revival (19:11-20)
- The world hates the gospel (19:21-41)

Acts 20:17-38 – Third Missionary Journey (Meet with the Elders of Ephesus)

- Acts 20:24 & Philippians 1:21

### **Ephesians 1:1-2 (written around 60 AD)**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will (*who he is...God's servant*) to the faithful saints (*holy ones = set apart ones*) in Christ Jesus (*Jesus in our holiness*) at Ephesus.

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you (*typical Greek greeting*) and peace (*typical Jewish greeting*) from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (*source of grace and peace*).

### **The Church of Ephesus at the turn of the Century – Revelation 2:1-7 (written around 90 AD)**

- The Good of the Church of Ephesus
- The struggle of the Church of Ephesus

### **The book of Ephesians is divided into two parts.**

- Section 1 is chapters 1-3 and focus on "Who we are in Christ"
- Section 2 is chapters 4-6 and focus on "How we are to live in Christ"

# ***Random Facts About Ancient Ephesus***

## **The Trade & Education**

During the reign of Tiberius, Ephesus flourished as a port city. A business district was opened around 43 B.C. to service the massive amounts of goods arriving or departing from the man-made harbor and from caravans traveling the ancient Royal Road.

According to some sources, Ephesus was at the time second only to Rome as a cosmopolitan center of culture and commerce.

The historian Aristo, and others, describe Ephesus as being recognized by all the inhabitants of the region as the most important trading center in Asia. It also remained a leading political and intellectual center, boasting the impressive Celsus Library and the second school of **philosophy** in the **Aegean**.

## **The Temple of Artemis (Diana)**

The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus (Diana is the Roman goddess) located on the western coast of **Asia Minor** (modern **Turkey**) was built in the 6th century BCE, and such was its tremendous size, double the dimensions of other **Greek** temples including the **Parthenon**, that it was soon regarded as one of **the Seven Wonders** of the ancient world. Artemis was the goddess of the hunt, chastity, childbirth, wild animals and the wilderness. Once stood 418' by 239' with over 100 marble pillars each 56' high.

Destroyed by a deliberate fire in the 4th century BC and then rebuilt, the great Ionic **temple** survived until Late Antiquity and the Gothic invasion of c. 267 AD. Once again rebuilt, in 401 AD it was torn down for the last time by a Christian mob. Today only the foundations and a solitary **column** stand as a reminder of the site where once stood the greatest temple in the ancient **Mediterranean**.

## **The Amphitheater**

Ephesus had the largest open-air theaters, capable of holding 25,000-50,000 spectators.

## **Estimates of Ephesus**

Population Estimations: 100,000 - 280,000

Around 1,000 Acres

Library contained 12,000 scrolls

6 Miles of walls

## **Resources**

- History.com (History Channel)
- Ancient History Encyclopedia
- The New International Commentary of the New Testament