

~ASIA (106)

.. The Roman Province Of Asia

- In the **Christian Greek Scriptures** the term Asia is used as referring to the Roman province occupying the western part of Asia Minor, not to the continent of Asia.

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- The Roman province of **Asia** included the older countries of **Mysia, Lydia, Caria, and, at times, part of Phrygia, as well as the adjacent islands**. It was thus bounded by the Aegean Sea and the provinces of Bithynia, Galatia, which embraced part of Phrygia, and Lycia. The precise borders, however, are difficult to define because of repeated shifting.

- Initially, the capital was located at Pergamum in Mysia, but during the reign of Augustus it was transferred to Ephesus, farther to the south. In the year **27 B.C.E**, the province was made senatorial and was thereafter governed by a proconsul.

- Therefore if Demetrius and the craftsmen with him do have a case against someone, court days are held and there are proconsuls, let them bring charges against one another. (**Acts of Apostles 19:38**)

- It was also divided into 9 judicial districts and subdivided into 44 city districts.

- Luke, in describing the regions from which the Jews had come to Jerusalem at the time of Pentecost in the year **33 C.E**, lists **Asia** along with the provinces of Cappadocia, Pontus, and Pamphylia.

- Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and the inhabitants of Mesopotamia, and Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and the district of **Asia**. (**Acts of Apostles 2:9**)

- And Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya, which is toward Cyrene, and sojourners from Rome, both Jews and proselytes. (**Acts of Apostles 2:10**)

- Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the temporary residents

- scattered about in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, **Asia**, and Bithynia, to the one's chosen (**1 Peter 1:1**)
- He there lists Phrygia apart from **Asia**, as he does again at;
 - Moreover, they went through Phrygia and the country of Galatia, because they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in the district of **Asia**. (**Acts of Apostles 16:6**)
 - Pliny the Elder, Roman author of the **First Century C.E**, did likewise. [**Natural History, V, XXVIII, 102**] The account at;
 - Moreover, they went through Phrygia and the country of Galatia, because they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in the district of **Asia**. (**Acts of Apostles 16:6**)
 - Further, when getting down to Mysia they made efforts to go into Bithynia, but the spirit of Jesus did not permit them. (**Acts of Apostles 16:7**)
 - States that Paul was **forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in the district of Asia** when traveling westward on his second missionary tour **circa 49-52 C.E.**
 - He therefore moved through Phrygia and Galatia northward toward the province of Bithynia, but he was again diverted westward through Mysia to the seaport of Troas, the natural point for embarking to Macedonia. Here Paul received his vision inviting him to step over into Macedonia and help us.
 - And during the night a vision appeared to Paul. A certain Macedonian man was standing and entreating him and saying, Step over into Macedonia and help us. (**Acts of Apostles 16:9**)
 - So, whereas Paul actually passed through the northern part of the province of **Asia**, he did not spend time there until his return trip after completing his work in Macedonia and Achaia. He then spent a short time in Ephesus, preaching in the synagogue and, at his departure, promised to return.
 - So they arrived at Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself entered into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. (**Acts of Apostles 18:19**)

- Although they kept requesting him to remain for a longer time, he would not consent. (**Acts of Apostles 18:20**)
- But said good-bye and told them; I will return to you again, if Yehowah is willing. And he put out to sea from Ephesus (**Acts of Apostles 18:21**)
- During his third journey **circa 52-56 C.E.**, Paul spent over two years in Ephesus, with the result that all those inhabiting the district of **Asia** heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.
- In the course of events, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul went through the inland parts and came down to Ephesus, and found some disciples. (**Acts of Apostles 19:1**)
- And he said to them; Did you receive Holy Spirit when you became believers? They said to him; Why, we have never heard whether there is a Holy Spirit. (**Acts of Apostles 19:2**)
- And he said; In what, then, were you baptized? They said; In John's baptism. (**Acts of Apostles 19:3**)
- Paul said; John baptized with the baptism in symbol of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 19:4**)
- On hearing this, they got baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 19:5**)
- And when Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. (**Acts of Apostles 19:6**)
- All together, there were about twelve men. (**Acts of Apostles 19:7**)
- Entering into the synagogue, he spoke with boldness for three months, giving talks and using persuasion concerning the kingdom of God. (**Acts of Apostles 19:8**)
- But when some went on hardening themselves and not believing, speaking injuriously about The Way before the multitude, he withdrew from them and separated the disciples from them, daily giving talks in the school auditorium of Tyrannus. (**Acts of**

Apostles 19:9)

- This took place for two years, so that all those inhabiting the district of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks. (**Acts of Apostles 19:10**)
- So he dispatched to Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, but he himself delayed for some time in the district of Asia. (**Acts of Apostles 19:22**)
- It was evidently at this time **circa 55 C.E.** in Ephesus, that Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians, to whom he sent greetings from **the congregations of Asia**, thereby indicating good progress.
- The congregations of **Asia** send you their greetings. Aquila and Prisca together with the congregation that is in their house greet you heartily in the Lord. (**1 Corinthians 16:19**)
- When he wrote his second letter to the Corinthians later from Macedonia, he made reference to the difficulties and grave danger experienced in **Asia**.
- At that particular time there arose no little disturbance concerning The Way. (**Acts of Apostles 19:23**)
- For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, by making silver shrines of Artemis furnished the craftsmen no little gain. (**Acts of Apostles 19:24**)
- And he gathered them and those who worked at such things and said; Men, you well know that from this business we have our prosperity. (**Acts of Apostles 19:25**)
- Also, you behold and hear how not only in Ephesus but in nearly all the district of **Asia** this Paul has persuaded a considerable crowd and turned them to another opinion, saying that the ones that are made by hands are not gods. (**Acts of Apostles 19:26**)
- Moreover, the danger exists not only that this occupation of ours will come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be esteemed as nothing and even her magnificence which the whole district of **Asia** and the inhabited earth worships is about to be brought down to nothing. (**Acts of Apostles 19:27**)

- **Hearing this and becoming full of anger, the men began crying out, saying; Great is Artemis of the Ephesians! (Acts of Apostles 19:28)**
- **So the city became filled with confusion, and with one accord they rushed into the theater, taking forcibly along with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, traveling companions of Paul. (Acts of Apostles 19:29)**
- **For his part, Paul was willing to go inside to the people, but the disciples would not permit him. (Acts of Apostles 19:30)**
- **Even some of the commissioners of festivals and games, who were friendly to him, sent to him and began pleading for him not to risk himself in the theater. (Acts of Apostles 19:31)**
- **The fact is, some were crying out one thing and others another, for the assembly was in confusion, and the majority of them did not know the reason why they had come together. (Acts of Apostles 19:32)**
- **So together they brought Alexander out of the crowd, the Jews thrusting him up front, and Alexander motioned with his hand and was wanting to make his defense to the people. (Acts of Apostles 19:33)**
- **But when they recognized that he was a Jew, one cry arose from them all as they shouted for about two hours; Great is Artemis of the Ephesians! (Acts of Apostles 19:34)**
- **When, finally, the city recorder had quieted the crowd, he said, Men of Ephesus, who really is there of mankind that does not know that the city of the Ephesians is the temple keeper of the great Artemis and of the image that fell from heaven? (Acts of Apostles 19:35)**
- **Therefore since these things are indisputable, it is becoming for you to keep calm and not act rashly. (Acts of Apostles 19:36)**
- **For you have brought these men who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess. (Acts of Apostles 19:37)**

- Therefore if Demetrius and the craftsmen with him do have a case against someone, court days are held and there are proconsuls, let them bring charges against one another. (**Acts of Apostles 19:38**)
- If, though, you are searching for anything beyond that, it must be decided in a regular assembly. (**Acts of Apostles 19:39**)
- For we are really in danger of being charged with sedition over today's affair, no single cause existing that will permit us to render a reason for this disorderly mob. (**Acts of Apostles 19:40**)
- And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly. (**Acts of Apostles 19:41**)
- For we do not wish you to be ignorant, brothers, about the tribulation that happened to us in the district of **Asia**, that we were under extreme pressure beyond our strength, so that we were very uncertain even of our lives. (**2 Corinthians 1:8**)
- On his return voyage, not wanting to spend further time in **Asia**, Paul sailed past Ephesus, touching in at the island of Samos and landing at Miletus in Caria, part of the province of **Asia**, to which point he invited the older men of the Ephesian congregation to come for a meeting with him.
- And, sailing away from there the succeeding day, we arrived opposite Chios, but the next day we touched at Samos, and on the following day we arrived at Miletus. (**Acts of Apostles 20:15**)
- For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, in order, that he might not spend any time in the district of **Asia**, for he was hastening to get to Jerusalem on the day of the festival of Pentecost if he possibly could. (**Acts of Apostles 20:16**)
- However, from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the older men of the congregation. (**Acts of Apostles 20:17**)
- When they got to him he said to them; You well know how from the first day that I stepped into the district of **Asia** I was with you the whole time. (**Acts of Apostles 20:18**)
- When traveling to Rome for his first trial **circa 60/61 C.E.**, which resulted from a mob action at Jerusalem instigated by **Jews from Asia**

- Now when the seven days were about to be concluded, the **Jews from Asia** on beholding him in the temple began to throw all the crowd into confusion, and they laid their hands upon him. (**Acts of Apostles 21:27**)
- Crying out; Men of Israel, help! This is the man that teaches everybody everywhere against the people and the Law and this place and, what is more, he even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place. (**Acts of Apostles 21:28**)
- While I was at these matters they found me ceremonially cleansed in the temple, but not with a crowd or with a tumult. But there were certain Jews from the district of **Asia**. (**Acts of Apostles 24:18**)
- Who ought to be present before you and to accuse me if they might have anything against me. (**Acts of Apostles 24:19**)
- But certain men rose up of those from the so-called Synagogue of the Freedmen, and of the Cyrenians and Alexandrians and of those from Cilicia and **Asia**, to dispute with Stephen. (**Acts of Apostles 6:9**)
- Paul initially embarked on a ship that was going to places along the coast of the district of **Asia**, but he then transferred to another ship at Myra in the neighboring province of Lycia.
- Going aboard a boat from Adramyttium that was about to sail to places along the coast of the district of **Asia**, we set sail, there being with us Aristarchus a Macedonian from Thessalonica. (**Acts of Apostles 27:2**)
- And the next day we landed at Sidon, and Julius treated Paul with human kindness and permitted him to go to his friends and enjoy their care. (**Acts of Apostles 27:3**)
- And putting out to sea from there we sailed under the shelter of Cyprus, because the winds were contrary. (**Acts of Apostles 27:4**)
- And we navigated through the open sea along Cilicia and Pamphylia and put into port at Myra in Lycia. (**Acts of Apostles 27:5**)

- But there the army officer found a boat from Alexandria that was sailing for Italy, and he made us board it. ([Acts of Apostles 27:6](#))
- Paul's words at;
- You know this, that all the men in the district of **Asia** have turned away from me. Phygelus and Hermogenes are of that number. ([2 Timothy 1:15](#))
- Evidently written from Rome about the year **65 C.E.**, may indicate that the strong persecution then beginning to rage against the Christians on the part of the Roman authorities had now caused many of the Christian **men of Asia** to shun association with the imprisoned apostle Paul, turning away from Paul at a critical time.
- The expression **all the men in the district of Asia** does not imply a total turning away of all Christians in **Asia**, because Paul immediately thereafter commended Onesiphorus, who was evidently a resident of Ephesus.
- May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often brought me refreshment, and he did not become ashamed of my chains. ([2 Timothy 1:16](#))
- On the contrary, when he happened to be in Rome, he diligently looked for me and found me. ([2 Timothy 1:17](#))
- May the Lord grant him to find mercy from Yehowah in that day. And all the services he rendered in Ephesus you know well enough. ([2 Timothy 1:18](#))
- Give my greetings to Prisca and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus. ([2 Timothy 4:19](#))
- A continuation of Christian faith is also manifest in the Revelation and the seven messages sent by John to seven congregations in prominent cities of **Asia**; **Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea**, most of these congregations being commended for having endured tribulation.
- John to the seven congregations that are in the district of **Asia**; May you have undeserved kindness and peace from The One who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven spirits that are before his throne. ([Revelation 1:4](#))

- **Saying; What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven congregations, in Ephesus and in Smyrna and in Pergamum and in Thyatira and in Sardis and in Philadelphia and in Laodicea. (Revelation 1:11)**
- **I know your deeds, and your labor and endurance, and that you cannot bear bad men, and that you put those to the test who say they are apostles, but they are not, and you found them liars. (Revelation 2:2)**
- **You are also showing endurance, and you have borne up for my names sake and have not grown weary. (Revelation 2:3)**
- **I know your tribulation and poverty, but you are rich, and the blasphemy by those who say they themselves are Jews, and yet they are not but are a synagogue of Satan. (Revelation 2:9)**
- **Do not be afraid of the things you are about to suffer. Look! The Devil will keep on throwing some of you into prison that you may be fully put to the test, and that you may have tribulation ten days. Prove yourself faithful even to death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Revelation 2:10)**
- **I know where you are dwelling, that is, where the throne of Satan is, and yet you keep on holding fast my name, and you did not deny your faith in me even in the days of Antipas, my witness, the faithful one, who was killed by your side, where Satan is dwelling. (Revelation 2:13)**
- **I know your deeds, and your love and faith and ministry and endurance, and that your deeds of late are more than those formerly. (Revelation 2:19)**
- **Because you kept the word about my endurance, I will also keep you from the hour of test, which is to come upon the whole inhabited earth, to put a test upon those dwelling on the earth. (Revelation 3:10)**
- **John was then, circa 96 C.E, on the island of Patmos, a short distance off the coast of the province of Asia. It is generally believed that John's Gospel account and three letters were written in or near Ephesus, subsequent to his release from Patmos.**

