

~EPHESUS (592)

(Eph'e-sus)

.. Temple Of Artemis

.. Stadium, Theater

- Anciently, a wealthy and important religious and commercial center on the West coast of Asia Minor, nearly opposite the island of Samos. **Ephesus** was built on the slopes and at the base of several hills, chief of which were Mount Pion and Mount Koressos.
- This port lay astride the main trade route from Rome to the East. Its location near the mouth of the Cayster River, with access to the river basins of the Gediz, ancient Hermus, and the Menderes, ancient Maeander, placed the city at the junction of overland trade routes in Asia Minor. Roads linked **Ephesus** with the chief cities of the district of Asia.
- The writings of the **First-Century** Roman author Pliny the Elder and the ancient Greek geographer Strabo have given rise to the view that at one time a gulf of the Aegean Sea extended as far as **Ephesus** but that the coastline gradually moved seaward, for now the ruins of the city are several kilometers inland.
- However, excavator **J. T. Wood**, on the basis of his findings at **Ephesus**, concluded that the city anciently lay 6.5 kilometers (4 miles) from the Aegean Sea.
- If this is correct, then in Paul's time ships must have come up the mouth of the Cayster River to an inland harbor that was kept navigable by constant dredging. Over the centuries, though, the harbor and the mouth of the river have become filled with silt deposited by the Cayster.

.. Temple Of Artemis

- The most outstanding edifice of the city was the temple of Artemis, ranked by the ancients as one of the seven wonders of the world. The temple existing in the **First Century C.E.**, when the apostle Paul visited **Ephesus**, had been rebuilt according to the plan of an earlier Ionic temple said to have been set on fire by Herostratus in **356 B.C.E.**

- According to excavations of the site in the latter half of the **19th Century**, the temple was erected on a platform measuring about 73 meters (240 feet) in width and 127 meters (418 feet) in length. The temple itself was approximately 50 meters (164 feet) wide and 105 meters (343 feet) long.
- It contained 100 marble columns, each standing almost 17 meters (55 feet) high. The columns measured 1.8 meters (6 feet) in diameter at the base and at least some of them were sculptured to a height of about 6 meters (20 feet). The temple's inner sanctuary measured about 21 meters (70 feet) in width and 32 meters (105 feet) in length.
- The altar contained therein was approximately 6 meters (20 feet) square, and the image of Artemis may have stood directly behind this altar.
- The fragments that have been found indicate that brilliant color and sculpture adorned the temple. Large white marble tiles covered the roof. Instead of mortar, gold is reputed to have been used between the joints of the marble blocks.

• Stadium - Theater

- About 1.5 kilometers (1 miles) to the Southwest of the temple of Artemis was a stadium that had been rebuilt under Nero, **54-68 C.E.** This was probably the site for athletic contests and possibly also gladiatorial combats. If the apostle Paul's statement in;
- If, like men, I have fought with wild beasts at **Ephesus**, of what good is it to me? If the dead are not to be raised up, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we are to die. (**1 Corinthians 15:32**)
- About fighting with wild beasts at **Ephesus** is to be understood literally, perhaps he had to defend himself against wild beasts in this stadium.
- The theater where the Ephesians rioted at the instigation of Demetrius was less than 800 meters (0.5 miles) South of the stadium. This theater was situated within the hollow of Mount Pion.
- 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**)
- Its facade was decorated with pillars, niches, and fine statuary. The marble seats for the spectators were arranged in a half circle of 66 rows, these, it has been estimated, afforded room for about 25,000 persons.
- The acoustic properties of the theater were excellent. Even today, a word spoken in a low voice at the location of the stage can be heard at the top seats.

- In front of the theater was a wide marble-paved road that ran directly to the harbor. This street was nearly 0.5 kilometers (0.3 miles) long and about 11 meters (36 feet) wide.
- Colonnades 4.5 meters (15 feet) deep lined both sides of this street, and behind these were shops and other buildings. A monumental gateway occupied each end of the street.
- It was to **Ephesus**, crossroads of the ancient world, that the apostle Paul, accompanied by Aquila and Priscilla, came, probably in 52 C.E.
- Paul immediately went to the Jewish synagogue to preach. However, although being requested to remain longer, the apostle left **Ephesus**, stating that he would return if it should be Yehowah's will.
- However, after staying quite some days longer, Paul said good-bye to the brothers and proceeded to sail away for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila, as he had the hair of his head clipped short in Cenchreae, for he had a vow. (**Acts of Apostles 18:18**)
- 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**)
- Aquila and Priscilla, who remained in **Ephesus**, met Apollos, a Jew from Alexandria, Egypt, who was acquainted only with John's baptism, and they expounded the way of God more correctly to him.
- Now a certain Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, an eloquent man, arrived in **Ephesus**, and he was well versed in the Scriptures. (**Acts of Apostles 18:24**)
- This man had been orally instructed in the way of Yehowah and, as he was aglow with the spirit, he went speaking and teaching with correctness the things about Jesus, but being acquainted

with only the baptism of John. (**Acts of Apostles 18:25**)

- And this man started to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him into their company and expounded the way of God more correctly to him. (**Acts of Apostles 18:26**)
- When Paul returned to **Ephesus**, likely by the winter of **52/53 C.E.**, he found several men who had been baptized with John's baptism. Upon his clarifying the matter of baptism to them, they were re-baptized.
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- 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**)
- This time Paul taught in the Jewish synagogue for three months. But when opposition arose, he moved to the school auditorium of

Tyrannus with those who had become believers, there he discoursed daily for two years.

- **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)**
- **In addition, Paul preached extensively from house to house.**
- **While I did not hold back from telling you any of the things that were profitable nor from teaching you publicly and from house to house. (Acts of Apostles 20:20)**
- **But I thoroughly bore witness both to Jews and to Greeks about repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus. (Acts of Apostles 20:21)**
- **Paul's preaching, attended by miraculous healings and the expelling of demons, caused many Ephesians to become believers. Also, the unsuccessful attempt at exorcising by the seven sons of a certain Jewish chief priest named Sceva stirred up much interest.**
- **Former practitioners of magical arts publicly burned their books, which had a combined value of 50,000 silver pieces, if denarii, \$37,200.**
- **And God kept performing extraordinary works of power through the hands of Paul. (Acts of Apostles 19:11)**
- **So that even cloths and aprons were borne from his body to the ailing people, and the diseases left them, and the wicked spirits came out. (Acts of Apostles 19:12)**
- **But certain ones of the roving Jews who practiced the casting out of demons also undertook to name the name of the Lord Jesus**

- over those having the wicked spirits, saying; I solemnly charge you by Jesus whom Paul preaches. ([Acts of Apostles 19:13](#))
- Now there were seven sons of a certain Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, doing this. ([Acts of Apostles 19:14](#))
 - But in answer the wicked spirit said to them; I know Jesus and I am acquainted with Paul, but who are you? ([Acts of Apostles 19:15](#))
 - With that the man in whom the wicked spirit was leaped upon them, got the mastery of one after the other, and prevailed against them, so that they fled naked and wounded out of that house. ([Acts of Apostles 19:16](#))
 - This became known to all, both the Jews and the Greeks that dwelt in **Ephesus**, and a fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus went on being magnified. ([Acts of Apostles 19:17](#))
 - And many of those who had become believers would come and confess and report their practices openly. ([Acts of Apostles 19:18](#))
 - Indeed, quite a number of those who practiced magical arts brought their books together and burned them up before everybody. And they calculated together the prices of them and found them worth fifty thousand pieces of silver. ([Acts of Apostles 19:19](#))
 - Thus in a mighty way the word of Yehowah kept growing and prevailing. ([Acts of Apostles 19:20](#))
 - **Ephesus** was so renowned for magical arts that Greek and Roman writers referred to books, or rolls, of magical formulas and incantations as **Ephesian** writings.
 - Since many **Ephesians** had forsaken the worship of Artemis, the silversmith Demetrius pointed out to fellow craftsmen that Paul's preaching was a threat to their occupation and also endangered the worship of Artemis.
 - Enraged silversmiths shouted; Great is Artemis of the **Ephesians**! The city was thrown into an uproar, climaxed by a two-hour riot at a theater capable of holding some 25,000 spectators.

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- After this, Paul left **Ephesus**. Later, from Miletus he sent for the older men of the congregation at **Ephesus**, reviewed his own ministry in the district of Asia, and gave them instructions on caring for their duties.
- Now after the uproar had subsided, Paul sent for the disciples,

and when he had encouraged them and bidden them farewell, he went forth to journey into Macedonia. (**Acts of Apostles 20:1**)

- 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**)
- slaving for the Lord with the greatest lowliness of mind and tears and trials that befell me by the plots of the Jews. (**Acts of Apostles 20:19**)
- While I did not hold back from telling you any of the things that were profitable nor from teaching you publicly and from house to house. (**Acts of Apostles 20:20**)
- But I thoroughly bore witness both to Jews and to Greeks about repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 20:21**)
- And now, look! Bound in the spirit, I am journeying to Jerusalem, although not knowing the things that will happen to me in it. (**Acts of Apostles 20:22**)
- Except that from city to city the Holy Spirit repeatedly bears witness to me as it says that bonds and tribulations are waiting for me. (**Acts of Apostles 20:23**)
- Nevertheless, I do not make my soul of any account as dear to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received of the Lord Jesus, to bear thorough witness to the Good News of the undeserved kindness of God. (**Acts of Apostles 20:24**)
- And now, look! I know that all of you among whom I went preaching the kingdom will see my face no more. (**Acts of Apostles 20:25**)
- Hence I call you to witness this very day that I am clean from the blood of all men. (**Acts of Apostles 20:26**)
- For I have not held back from telling you all the counsel of God.

(Acts of Apostles 20:27)

- Pay attention to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, to shepherd the congregation of God, which he purchased with the blood of his own Son. **(Acts of Apostles 20:28)**
- I know that after my going away oppressive wolves will enter in among you and will not treat the flock with tenderness. **(Acts of Apostles 20:29)**
- And from among you yourselves men will rise and speak twisted things to draw away the disciples after themselves. **(Acts of Apostles 20:30)**
- Therefore keep awake, and bear in mind that for three years, night and day, I did not quit admonishing each one with tears. **(Acts of Apostles 20:31)**
- And now I commit you to God and to the word of his undeserved kindness, which word can build you up and give you the inheritance among all the sanctified ones. **(Acts of Apostles 20:32)**
- I have coveted no man's silver or gold or apparel. **(Acts of Apostles 20:33)**
- You yourselves know that these hands have attended to the needs of me and of those with me. **(Acts of Apostles 20:34)**
- I have exhibited to you in all things that by thus laboring you must assist those who are weak, and must bear in mind the words of the Lord Jesus, when he himself said; There is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving. **(Acts of Apostles 20:35)**
- And when he had said these things, he kneeled down with all of them and prayed. **(Acts of Apostles 20:36)**
- Indeed, quite a bit of weeping broke out among them all, and they fell upon Paul's neck and tenderly kissed him. **(Acts of Apostles 20:37)**
- Because they were especially pained at the word he had spoken

that they were going to behold his face no more. So they proceeded to conduct him to the boat. ([Acts of Apostles 20:38](#))

- His reference on that occasion to three years spent at **Ephesus** should evidently be regarded as a round number.
- Therefore keep awake, and bear in mind that for three years, night and day, I did not quit admonishing each one with tears. ([Acts of Apostles 20:31](#))
- 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](#))
- 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](#))
- With the passing of years, the Christians at **Ephesus** endured much. However, some did lose the love they had at first.
- To the angel of the congregation in **Ephesus** write. These are the things that he says who holds the seven stars in his right hand, he who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands. ([Revelation 2:1](#))
- 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](#))
- Nevertheless, I hold this against you, that you have left the love you had at first. ([Revelation 2:4](#))
- Therefore remember from what you have fallen, and repent and do the former deeds. If you do not, I am coming to you, and I will remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. ([Revelation 2:5](#))
- Still, you do have this, that you hate the deeds of the sect of Nicolaus, which I also hate. ([Revelation 2:6](#))

See Also ARTEMIS

See Also DEMETRIUS 1

See Also EPHESIANS, LETTER TO THE.