

EPHESIANS

# In Christ Jesus In Ephesus

Ephesians 1:1-2

# Ephesians Introduction

EPHESIANS

1. Who?

2. When?

3. To Whom?

4. Why?

Ephesians 1:1a

EPHESIANS

**1** Paul, an apostle  
of Christ Jesus by  
the will of God



# The Apostle Paul

## EPHESIANS

The letter explicitly ascribes authorship to Paul, and considering his close relationship with the church in Ephesus, the fact that the early church universally accepts the letter's inspiration and canonicity leaves no doubt that the Apostle penned this epistle.



“apostle”

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ἀπόστολος – *apostolos*

The term is used in the NT to designate ministers of the gospel in general (i.e., 2 Cor. 8:23; Phil. 2:25).

However, Paul’s designation of “an apostle of Jesus Christ” (ἀπόστολος Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ) groups him in an exclusive category.

# What Were The Requirements To Be Called An Apostle?

**13** And when day came,  
He called His disciples  
to Him and chose twelve  
of them, whom He also  
named as apostles



**21** “Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us— **22** beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

So...

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# How Can Paul Call Himself An Apostle?

# Paul's Apostleship

## EPHESIANS

- **Romans 11:13** – “But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry”
- **1 Corinthians 9:1** – “Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?”



# Paul's Claim to Apostleship

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Turn to  
Galatians 1:11-24

# Galatians 2:1-2a, 7b-9

## EPHESIANS

**1** Then after an interval of fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also. **2** It was because of a revelation that I went up; and I submitted to them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles... **7b** seeing that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised **8** (for He who effectually worked for Peter in his apostleship to the circumcised effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles), **9** and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship

Turn to...

EPHESIANS

1 Corinthians 15:3-10



And Notice:

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- Paul did not choose apostleship...

Paul is “an Apostle of Jesus Christ”  
“by the will of God”





## **C.S. Lewis on his conversion:**

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**I “admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England. The Prodigal Son at least walked home on his own feet. But who can duly adore the Love which will open the high gates to a prodigal who is brought in kicking, struggling, resentful, darting his eyes in every direction for a chance of escape. The hardness of God is kinder than the softness of men, and His compulsion is our liberation.”**



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# NT Timeline

## EPHESIANS

- Crucifixion: 33
- Paul's Conversion: 35
  - Acts 9
- Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey: 48-49
  - Acts 13-14
- Galatians: Fall, 49
- Jerusalem Council: Fall, 49
  - Acts 15

# NT Timeline

## EPHESIANS

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey: 50-52
  - Acts 15:36-18:22
  - Brief stay in Ephesus – Acts 18:19-22
- 1 & 2 Thessalonians: mid-51
- Paul's 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey: 53-57
  - Acts 18:23-21:16
- Arrival at Ephesus – Fall, 53



# Paul at Ephesus

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Paul would minister at Ephesus for  
3 years, his longest stay recorded in  
Acts: 53-56

Found in Acts 19:1-41

And Paul leaves amidst some  
chaos, but more on that in a  
moment.

# The Following Months EPHESIANS

- 1 Corinthians: **Spring, 56**
- Paul leaves for Macedonia: **Spring, 56**
- 2 Corinthians: **Fall, 56**
- Romans: **Winter, 56/57**

Paul Calls for the Ephesian Elders

**Spring, 57**

**Acts 20:17-38**

# Paul Writes

## EPHESIANS

- His letter to the Ephesians during his 1<sup>st</sup> Roman imprisonment in the **Fall of 61.**

- **Acts 28:30-31 –**

“And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.”

**\*Colossians, Philemon, & Philippians are also composed during this time.**



Ephesians

Colossians



# Evidence of Imprisonment

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- 3:1 – “I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus”
- 4:1 – “I, the prisoner of the Lord”
- 6:20 – “I am an ambassador in chains”

Anyone dating the epistle later in the 1<sup>st</sup> century does so in attempt to cast doubt on Paul's authorship of the letter.



# Paul's 4<sup>th</sup> Missionary Journey

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- This is not recorded in Scripture, however, the pastoral epistles help us connect the dots.
- Upon his release from Rome in Spring, 62, Paul will visit Ephesus (and most likely Colossae), leaving Timothy in Ephesus to “instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines” (1 Tim. 1:3) and to select elders and deacons (1 Tim. 3:1-15).



# From Macedonia

## EPHESIANS

- Paul would write 1 Timothy in Fall, 62
  - 1:3 – “As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus...”
- It is believed Paul travels as far as Spain.
  - Romans 15:28 tells us of Paul’s desire to do so.

# Paul in Spain?

## EPHESIANS

- *1 Clement* (70s)
- Muratorian Canon (170)
- Cyril of Jerusalem (315-386)
- John Chrysostom (347-407)
- Jerome (342-460)

**All Say Yes.**



**Perhaps upon his return (66?), Paul travels to Crete and places Titus there to “appoint elders in every city” (Titus 1:5).**



# Finishing His Race

## EPHESIANS

- Paul is arrested and brought to Rome under the Neronian persecution in Fall, 67.
- He concludes his writing with 2 Timothy (and possibly Hebrews) as he awaits execution.
  - 2 Timothy 4:6-7 – “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith”
- Paul will be executed in Rome by Nero in late 67.

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Ephesians 1:1b

EPHESIANS

**1b** To the saints who  
are at Ephesus...





# The New Testament World

*in the Time of the Roman Empire*

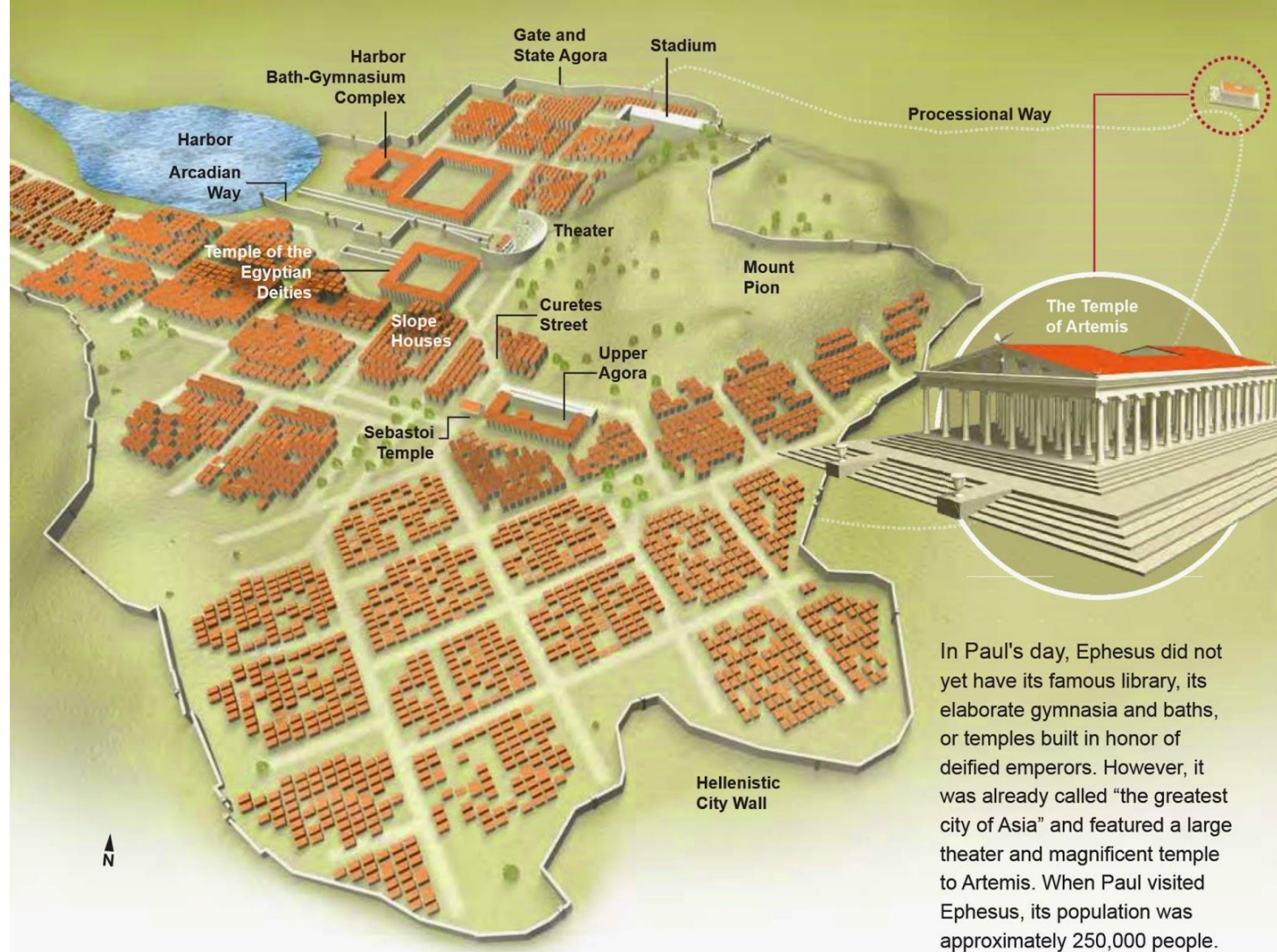
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# Ephesus

## EPHESIANS

- Modern day Turkey
  - Asia Minor from the medieval period
  - Anatolia in antiquity
- Capitol of the Roman province of Asia
- Became a Roman Republic in 129 B.C.
  - According to Strabo, it was second in importance and size only to Rome in the empire.
- Population may have been as high as 225,000 in the 1<sup>st</sup> century





# Ephesus in Paul's Day

Ephesus was a thriving port in the first century, situated on the only major east-west road system in the area. Nearly a century had passed since it had last been invaded. The city was proud and prosperous, and a strong Jewish community thrived there.













**Constructed in 323 B.C., it was 450 feet long by 225 feet wide and 60 feet high, with more than 127 columns gilded with gold and silver.**





# Temple of Artemis

EPHESIANS

- One poet opined:

“I have set eyes on the wall of lofty Babylon on which is a road for chariots, and the statue of Zeus by the Alpheus, and the hanging gardens, and the colossus of the Sun, and the huge labour of the high pyramids, and the vast tomb of Mausolus; but when I saw the house of Artemis that mounted to the clouds, those other marvels lost their brilliancy, and I said, ‘Lo, apart from Olympus, the Sun never looked on aught so grand.’”

**Turn to:**

# **Acts 19:23-41**





# Acts Account Confirmed EPHESIANS

- Luke describes a Jewish population in Ephesus in Acts 18 & 19, and Josephus confirms a Jewish population there, as well.
- Inscriptions found mention a guild of silversmiths and even give the names of specific smiths, including Demetrius (Acts 19:24).



# Another Apostle in Ephesus

- According to Church tradition, after the death of Mary, John the Apostle went to Ephesus.
- From there he may have written his gospel and the three epistles attributed to him.
- John is the longest surviving Apostle, and it is said that he lived to an old age, dying at Ephesus sometime after A.D. 98.

### 1c “and who are faithful”

- Not all saints are “faithful,” but the Ephesian believers were.
- They had been holding fast to the teaching they had received when Paul wrote this epistle and heeding his warnings that he said to them five years earlier.



# Acts 20:28-32

## EPHESIANS

**28** Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. **29** I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; **30** and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. **31** Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. **32** And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.



# Revelation 2:1-3

## EPHESIANS

**1** “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: **2** ‘I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; **3** and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary...”

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# Ephesians 6:21-22

## EPHESIANS

**21** But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you. **22** I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.

# A Pagan City

## EPHESIANS

- Acts 19:19 reports men who “practiced magic.”
- Before Paul’s day, Ephesus hosted the Temple of the Divine Julius (Caesar) and the goddess Roma.
- Later, Ephesus boasted memorials to the emperors Trajan (98-117), Hadrian (117-138).
- It also possessed a huge temple to Domitian (81-96), which may have been constructed during John’s time in the city.



# The Ephesian Church EPHESIANS

- Was surrounded by pagan and anti-Christian influences, and Paul felt compelled to protect them by reiterating the truths of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.
- With all the competing powers at play in the city, the Ephesians needed to be reminded of the power of God, the headship of Christ, and how that manifests itself in a unified and loving church.

### “in Christ Jesus”

- This phrase was a favorite of Paul's: He uses it nine times in 1:1-14, 27 times in this epistle, and it occurs approximately 130 times in the New Testament.
- Much of what follows in chapters 1-3 is an explanation of what it means to be “in Christ.”



“That phrase in Christ strikes the keynote of the entire Epistle; from that prolific germ ramifies the branching oak of the forest.”

Paul's Question is Always:

“Are You In Christ?”

# Ephesians 1:2

## EPHESIANS

**2** Grace to you and peace from God  
our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ.

**This is the standard greeting from Paul.**

In Christ, we have peace with God and we  
can experience the peace of God, the  
fullness of His blessing, only because of  
His grace.



## 2 Main Themes

## EPHESIANS

1. Christ has reconciled all creation to Himself and to God.
2. Christ has united people from all nations to Himself and to one another in His church.

And as he often does, Paul begins by setting forth foundational truth in Chapters 1-3, and then he concludes by applying that truth to the lives of his readers in Chapters 4-6.

# Doctrine & Application

## EPHESIANS

1. Reconciliation was accomplished through the powerful, sovereign, and free working of the triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and are recognized and received by faith alone through grace.
  - And in light of that truth...
2. Christians are to lead lives that are a fitting tribute of gratitude to their holy and righteous Lord.







LET THE PURE GOSPEL GO  
FORTH IN ALL ITS LION-LIKE  
MAJESTY, AND IT WILL SOON  
CLEAR ITS OWN WAY AND EASE  
ITSELF OF ITS ADVERSARIES.

CHARLES SPURGEON



# EPHESIANS