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**B0828 – August 10, 2008 – Holy Land Tour - Part 7 – Ephesus**

EPHESUS

I. The Secular History

II. Geographical Region

A. SW Asia Minor (A Roman Province) Mentioned 19x's (Acts 2:9; 6:9; 16:6; 19:10, 22, 26, 27; 20:4, 16, 18; 21:27; 24:18; 27:2; Rom 16:5; 1 Cor 16:19; 2 Cor 1:8; 2 Tim 1:15; 1 Pet 1:1; Rev 1:4)

1. Ephesus mentioned 17x's (Acts 18:19, 21, 24; 19:1, 17, 26, 35; 20:16, 17; 1 Cor 15:32; 16:8; Eph 1:1; 1 Tim 1:3; 2 Tim 1:18; 4:12; Rev 1:11; 2:1)

a. Port City (Map)

b. Greatest Commercial City

i. Prosperity

ii. Import/Export Business

c. Plan of City (Slide)

i. Arcadian Way (Harbor Street). Lighted by 50 lamps, 70 feet wide.

ii. Marble Street



iii. Curetes Street

d. Harbor

i. Well-Protected

ii. Cayster River Silt Deposit

iii. Roman Engineers Dredging

iv. Changing Coastline (Today 5km from Ephesus)

v. Causes Decline in Import/Export Business

vi. The Rise of the Silversmiths

e. Major Sites

i. Temple of Artemis

a. One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

i. 1.2mi NE of Ephesus

ii. Base 360 x 180 feet

iii. 127 Columns (8 on W façade, 21 on N/S)

iv. Each column 60 feet tall

v. One remains (46 feet tall)

vi. Many taken to Hagia Sophia mosque in Istanbul by Emperor Justinian (AD482-565)

b. Ephesus was the Guardian City

i. Of the Temple of Artemis (*neokoros* – “gate-keeper” Acts 19:35. 33

Other Cities Worshiped Artemis of the Ephesians.

ii. Of the Meteor which Fell down from Heaven (Acts 19:35)

a. Meteor Contained an Image which looked Like a Many-Breasted Female

b. Heaven = *diopetes* “Jupiter” (Roman) = “Zeus” (Greek)

c. Artemis

i. Not Artemis of the Greeks who was “a queen and hunter, chaste and fair.”

ii. Ancient Mother Goddess (Cybele) – The mother of gods and men; esp Asia Minor; many-breasted (*polumastos*) embodying the nourishing capacity of nature.

d. Significance of Temple Imagery in Ephesians 2:19-22

ii. Great Theatre

a. 24,000 Spectators

b. Faces Arcadian Way and Harbor

B. Seed Planting in Asia

1. Pentecost (Acts 2:9)
2. Stephen (Acts 6:9)

C. Evangelism Forbidden in Asia (Acts 16:6-10)

D. Evangelism Open in Asia (End of Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Journey; Acts 18:19ff)

E. Paul Comes to Ephesus (Acts 18:19-22)

1. Enters Synagogue and Reasons (Acts 18:19)
2. Leaves Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:19)
3. Paul Departs for Caesarea (Acts 18:21-22)

F. Apollos Comes to Ephesus (Acts 18:24-28)

1. Speaks Boldly in Synagogue (Acts 18:26)
2. Priscilla and Aquila Update Apollos (Acts 18:26)
3. Refutes Jews Publicly (Acts 18:28)

G. Paul Returns to Ephesus (Acts 19)

1. The Twelve Disciples of John the Baptist (Acts 19:1-10)
  - a. Entrance into Church by Spirit Baptism
  - b. Manifestation of Tongues
2. Reasoning in Synagogue for 3 Months (19:8)
3. Teaching in School of Tyrannus for 2 years (19:9-10)

- a. School (*schole*) was probably a Lecture Hall
- b. Tyrannus (Tyrant) was perhaps the owner of the Lecture Hall and perhaps a friend of Paul sympathetic to Christianity
- c. The Western Text adds that Paul taught from 11am - 4pm each day. This being the hot time of the day was a siesta. It has been noted that more people were asleep in Ephesus at 1pm than 1am. Paul no doubt worked in the mornings making tents and taught in the afternoons. His teaching was so desired that people apparently gave up their siesta to hear him teach.
- d. This went on for two years so that all Asia heard the word of the Lord.
  - i. All Asia consisted of 350,000 people
  - ii. This is likely when churches of Lycus Valley were founded: Colossae, Hierapolis, Laodicea and perhaps all seven churches of Revelation 2-3 (Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia) .
  - iii. Christianity made deep inroads in Asia Minor and Ephesus was the center of it all.

#### 4. Magic and Demon Center (19:11-20)

- a. Ephesus a Known Ancient Center of Magical Practice

Shakespeare's description of Ephesus by the mouth of Syracusan Antipholus in *Comedy of Errors* says,

They say this town is full of cozenage,<sup>1</sup>  
As, nimble,<sup>2</sup> jugglers that deceive the eye,  
Dark-working sorcerers that change the mind,  
Soul-killing witches that deform the body,  
Disguised cheaters, prating mountebanks,<sup>3</sup>  
And many such-like liberties of sin.

- b. Large numbers who practiced magic, many of whom were Jews.
- c. The estimated value of burned books ~\$300,000 US dollars<sup>4</sup>
- d. Ephesians 5:7-14 “...do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness...”

5. The Riot Over Artemis (Acts 19:23-41)

- a. Demetrius
  - i. Leader of a guild of silversmiths
  - ii. They made silver trinkets of a niche with Artemis inside following the design that Jupiter had apparently crafted in heaven. The devoted would dedicate them in her Temple
  - ii. Archaeology has discovered an inscription on Curetes Street dedicated by the Sacred College of Silversmiths, the guild of Demetrius and his colleagues.

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<sup>1</sup> Fraud

<sup>2</sup> Clever, quick in motion

<sup>3</sup> A charlatan, pretender, quack.

<sup>4</sup> This calculation depends upon three things; 1) that the silver coin was the drachma, 2) that one drachma was a single days wage of a skilled laborer and 3) that a days wage of a skilled laborer today (AD2008) is about \$60 dollars.

- iv. They were making no small fortune in this business
- v. Paul's teaching was destroying the idol business. A backhanded compliment, "not only in Ephesus but almost all Asia!" (Acts 19:26)
- vi. His Argument is on Two Levels (albeit related)
  - a. Economic
  - b. Religious (Artemis not Diana if your Bible reads that strike it out. Diana is the Latin for the Greek Artemis which was "a queen, hunter, chaste, fair.")
  - c. These go hand-in-hand for the Silversmiths

b. The Rush to the Theatre

- i. The Great Theatre
- ii. Holds 24,000 people
- iii. Faces Arcadian Way and Harbor

c. Operation Confusion

- i. Mob Violence against Christianity
- ii. People don't even know why they are there

c. Jews who did not worship Artemis wished to distinguish themselves from Paul but got no opportunity

d. Great is Artemis of the Ephesians (2 hours)

e. The Town Clerk (*grammateus*) – secretary who published the decrees of the civic assembly.

Artemis

i. Ephesus is the Warden of the Temple of

Jupiter

ii. Ephesus is the Warden of the Meteor from

iii. There are no formal charges, no illegal activity

iv. Rome was “hands off” in religious disputes

inroads.

f. Tremendous to see the word of God make such  
The Word of God was conquering.

6. Paul Leaves Ephesus

7. Paul Puts in at Miletus, skipping Ephesus (Acts 20:16ff)

a. Why?

b. Were the Romans Dredging the Harbor?

8. Paul’s Farewell to Ephesian Elders (Acts 20:17-38)

a. Warns of Ravenous Wolves (fulfilled in Rev 2:1-7)

9. At least 3 NT Letters were written to Ephesus and perhaps as many as 7: Ephesians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy/1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Revelation

10. Christ’s Letter to Ephesus (Rev 2:1-7)

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