

## Ephesian Map



**Ephesus** was a wealthy port city in the Roman province of Asia. It was a center of learning and was near several key land routes. Paul wrote his letter to the **Ephesians** while under house arrest in Rome.

**The Introduction to Ephesians - Ephesians the 8<sup>th</sup> book of the New Testament**

**6 Chapters - 155 Verses - 3,039 Words**

- In scripture the story goes from ... **Genesis 12** to **Acts 28:28** ... the Jew was in ... the leading edge ... of God's purpose, but **now** ... **after** ... **the events that took place at ... Acts 28:27-29** ...
- **Acts 28:27** For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.
- **Acts 28:28** Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and *that* they will hear it.
- **Acts 28:29** And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had great reasoning among themselves.
- In **Acts 28:28** ... the Jew has been set aside ... **temporarily in belief**. This possibly means that God must have some ... **new method** ... or ... **new way** ... of dealing with mankind, otherwise the devil would have triumphed, and His plans would have been very frustrated. Either God has appointed a fresh channel through which to bless all the families of the earth, or that God has revealed another part of the purpose of the ages through Christ. Only God's Word can settle this for you and me.
- Somewhere around the year ... **63** or **64 A.D.** ... **4 men** left Rome and headed for the province of Asia which was located in what was designated as Asia Minor and is currently called Turkey. They had in their possession 4 of the most terrific writings of the Christian faith. In fact, these **original documents** would be very valuable today if they were still in existence.
- When these 4 fellows left or said their goodbyes to the apostle Paul while he was in prison, each one of the individuals was given an epistle to carry or to be in charge of. These 4 letters or these 4 epistles were given to and by the Word of God, and they were designated as what we now know as ... **the Prison Epistles of Paul** ... since Paul wrote them while he was being held as a prisoner in Rome. Because Paul while he was still waiting for a hearing that was to be held before Nero who was the Caesar, at that time. Paul as a Roman citizen had appealed his case to the emperor, and Paul was waiting to be heard.
- The group of 4 men included ...
  - **Onesimus** ... who was a runaway slave from Colossae, and Onesimus had in his possession ... **the Epistle to Philemon** ... (Philemon who was Onesimus's master as it tells us in **Philemon 10**).
  - **Epaphroditus** ... who was from the town of Philippi, Paul sent Epaphroditus back home to Philippi to deliver Paul's letter ... **the Epistle to the Philippians**
  - **Epaphras** ... who was from Colosse, and he had in his possession ... **the Epistle to the Colossians**. Which represents ... **Christ** ... as ... **the Head of the Body, the Church**. The point here is on ... **Christ** ... rather than on **the Church**, in ...
    - Ephesians the emphasis is ... **On the Body**, and in
    - Colossians the emphasis is ... **On the Head**.

- **Tychicus** ... who was from **Ephesus**, had in his possession ... **the Epistle to the Ephesians**, which is the invisible church of which Christ is the Head which presents **the Church, which is Christ's Body**.

The Apostle Paul is the author of **Ephesians**. Due to the Apostle Paul's failing eyesight, he normally dictated his letters to a personal secretary. In this particular case **Tychicus** was apparently called upon for the task at hand. We do know for certain that **Tychicus** carried the Epistle to its final destination according to **Eph 1:1 & Eph 6:21**.

There are some individuals who have gone on to find some difficulty in **Ephesians**. Some individuals have even doubted whether Paul was the author of the letter to Ephesians ... **at all**. And just on ... what grounds do they base their doubts?

Some individuals would like to say that ...

**The vocabulary that is used is different from the vocabulary of the Apostle Paul** and ... that is true ... There are some ... **70 words in Ephesians** ... that are not found in any of the other letters written by Paul. But that alone should not need to concern us ...

The fact is that ... **in Ephesians** ... **Paul was saying things that he had never said before**.

Remember that Paul was traveling a road of thought along which Paul had never before traveled and naturally **Paul needed some new words to express his new thoughts**.

It would sort of be ridiculous to expect that a person like the Apostle Paul with a **mind** like Paul's mind should never have any need to add to his vocabulary and should always express himself in the same way.

Some individuals would also like to say that ... **the style** ... is ... **not the style** ... **of Paul**.

Which probably is true – we can see that ... even in the English, let alone in the Greek – that ... **the style of Ephesians** ... is different from that of any of the other letters that Paul wrote.

The other letters were all written to meet a definite situation. **Ephesians** is a religious meditation. Even the use of some of the language is different. Generally speaking, Paul's language pours out like a steady stream that happens in a ... gradual smooth and regular way without sudden change or interruptions. But here ... in **Ephesians** ... we have ... a slow, clear stream of information, flowing steadily along, which even touches the high banks ... **filling the stream to its fullest**.

Also, the **length** of some of the sentences in **Ephesians** is a little different than how Paul usually writes. All of this is very much ... **unlike** ... Paul's normal writing style and in ... **4 places** ... **in** ... **the original Greek** (not English) ... of **Ephesians** there are some sentences that are ... **very lengthy sentences**. Example ...

- **Eph 1:3-14 (12-Vs's long), Eph 1:15-23 (9-Vs's long)**
- **Eph 2:1-9 (9-Vs's long)**, and
- **Eph 3:1-7 (7-Vs's long)**.

So, what is there that can be said about this difference? 1<sup>st</sup> of all the general fact is that no great writer always writes in the same style. Any great writer ... and the Apostle Paul was a good example of a great writer ... Paul wrote in a style to fit his own circumstances ... **after all, remember** ... **that** ... Paul was confined to jail, in Rome at the time of the writing of Ephesians.

Let's take a minute here and just remember how Paul wrote most of his letters. Paul wrote most of his letters in the midst of a very busy ministry, while he was on the road. He

wrote most of his letters to meet a demanding problem which had to be dealt with ... **at the moment** ... not next week. Usually, Paul was writing against time. Keep in mind as I said earlier that when Paul wrote **Ephesians** ... he was ... **in prison**. God chose to use the Roman Empire's jail system to provide safety and meals for Paul while Paul had all the time in the world to write his letters. Is it any wonder ... that **maybe ... the style of Ephesians** ... is ... **not the same style** ... of his earlier letters.

The difference in **style** is very apparent in the 1<sup>st</sup> three chapters of Ephesians, where there is the ... **one long prayer** ... at the end of **Eph 3:14-19** ... finishing in a great ... **doxology** ... in **Eph 3:20-21**. There is nothing like this in any of Paul's other letters.

**Ephesians** could possibly be said to be the greatest of all the Pauline letters. There are a few individuals who **would like** to suggest that Paul did not write Ephesians himself ... **then** ... I would have to ask **you** a question ... as to who then was the writer ... **is there possibly** ... **someone else** ... **who was** ... **greater than Paul**. Can we believe that ... in the Church of Paul's day that there was actually ... **an unknown teacher** ... with this special ... **supreme writing quality**? And we may believe that no man ... **other than Paul** ... could rise to the occasion like Paul did. The differences that you might see ... **are far from** ... proving that Ephesians is not written by Paul.

Here is a list of ... **12 certainties** ... that we do know about ... **Ephesians** ...

**Ephesians** ... is the 1<sup>st</sup> of Paul's prison epistles written ... **after** ... **Acts 28:28** ... which marks the division point between the apostle's early and latter ministries.

The church at Ephesus that Paul addresses was a ... **Gentile assembly** ... that had been raised up to make ... **all men see** ... what is ... **the fellowship of the Mystery**.

- **Ephesians** ... was written ... from a prison in Rome, probably somewhere about the end of A.D. 61-62 by the Apostle Paul.
  - In this particular case **Tychicus** was apparently called upon for the task at hand.
- **Ephesians** ... was written to ... **Gentiles** ... while Paul was in prison ... **after** ... the landmark decision of ... **Acts 28:28** ... was reached.
- **In Ephesians 3:1** ... Paul calls ... **himself a prisoner** ... **for** ... **Christ** ... Paul urges them to walk worthy of the calling which they were called.
  - The fact is that Paul spent more time in the town of ... **Ephesus** ... than in any other city, Paul spent no less than 3 ½ years in Ephesus
- **Ephesians** ... was written when ... **signs, wonders, and miracles** were ... **no longer** ... the order of the day, in fact if you would notice they were ... **not even mentioned**
- **Ephesians** ... was written ... **for those believers** ... who had passed on **from** ... **types, shadows, and symbols**
- **Ephesians** ... is and was written ... **for those individuals** ... who have ... **enlightened eyes** ... so that they may see the revelation of ... **the Mystery**.
- **Ephesians** ... is also ... **for** ... **those individuals who** ... **have grown in grace** and **have grown in the knowledge** ... of the Lord Jesus Christ ...

- **Even Today - 2024** ...It is almost impossible today ... for those individuals who ... **still like to hold on to** ... **rituals, rites, forms,** and **ceremonies** just ... **to mentally comprehend** and **to even understand** ... **the Truth**. That is recorded here in **Ephesians**.
- **Ephesians** ... is written ... **for** ... **those individuals** ... who are ... **faithful** ... or ... **full of faith**.
  - Our goal as believers should be to strive to be ... **the faithful ones**
- **Ephesians** ... is often considered to be the ... **strong meat** ... of ... **God's Word**.
- **Ephesians** ... is the most ... **impersonal letter** ... that Paul ever wrote, it is focused ... **only** ... **on the business at hand**.

A little history on the city of **Ephesus**, in Paul's day, **Ephesus** was **religiously** like **Rome**, and **commercially** like **New York City**. Since **Ephesus** seems to be the most prominent city ... **after the end** ... of the Acts period, we might do well to find out a little more about it and how **Ephesus** figures into the biblical accounts.

I want you to also keep in mind that the city of **Ephesus**, is **not** mentioned **one time** in ... **the Old Testament records**. The word or name of **Ephesus** occurs a total of **17 times** in the New Testament, **13 of those times** was ... **during** the Acts period and **4 of those times** were ... **after** ... the Acts period. According to the information that is given in scripture ... **Paul made his** ... **1<sup>st</sup> visit** ... to **Ephesus** back in **Acts 18:19-21**.

- **Acts 18:19-21**

**Acts 18:19** And **he** (Paul) came to **Ephesus** and left them there: but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

**Acts 18:20** When they desired *him* to tarry longer time with them, he consented not;

**Acts 18:21** But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from **Ephesus**. (Paul may have spent only one Sabbath there and then Paul went to Jerusalem).

**Paul made his** ... **2<sup>nd</sup> visit** ... to **Ephesus** that is recorded in **Acts 19:1** & **Acts 19:26** ...

- **Acts 19:1** ¶ And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, **Paul** having passed through the upper coasts came to **Ephesus**: and finding certain disciples,
- **Acts 19:26** Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at **Ephesus**, but almost throughout all Asia, this **Paul** hath persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

The **City of Ephesus** was the principal city and was one of the great commercial centers of Asia Minor, and it was one of the great cities of the world. **Ephesus** was **second only to Rome**.

- The city of **Ephesus** had been founded around 2000 B.C. by the Hittites.

It was located at the mouth of the **Cayster River**, it had an artificial harbor that had been built; it was accessible to even the largest ships of that time period. It is not a harbor anymore; in fact, it is about **six miles** from the ocean today. At the time Paul went there, he

sailed right up to that beautiful white marble freeway. It was a very wide street, and the marble for it was supplied from the quarries of Mount Prion.

- The **Cayster River** flows through Southern Lydia and empties into the Aegean Sea Northwest of Ephesus. The lower part of its fertile valley belonged to Ephesus in the Hellenistic and Roman period. A substantial part of this region belonged to Ephesian Artemis.

**Ephesus** was the most accessible city of Asia, both from land and from sea. It became the greatest commercial city of the Roman province of Asia. It is estimated that the great theatre, in the center of the city, had a capacity of about 20,000 people. It occupied a sizable area, and Ephesus's population which may have numbered up to 300,000+ people. **Ephesus** also during all their growth still maintained its religious importance under Roman rule. Consequently, commerce flourished in **Ephesus**. The town of **Ephesus** was famous for the manufacturing of luxurious tents and canvases. Even in ancient times, however, engineers had trouble keeping the harbor and canal dredged of silt from the river. Consequently, the harbor had to undergo extensive **clearing operations** at various times from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC; and this **clearing operations** is possibly, why Paul had to stop at Miletus in ... **Acts 20:15-16**.

The **Crown Jewel** of the city of **Ephesus** was **the Temple of Artemis** or more often referred to as ... **the Temple of Diana** which was also located in **Ephesus**; the temple was one of ... **the 7 wonders of the ancient world**. It was built on marshy ground, historians tell us that it measured 220 feet by 425 feet ... *(just to give you an idea of the temple size, an NFL football field **today** measures 160 feet wide x 360 feet long, the temple of **Diana** was just a little over ... **1½ times larger** ... than a regular football field of today)* ... with its roof that was supported by 127 pillars, each pillar was 60 feet tall. Archeologists have discovered that **Diana's** image was quite common on Greek coins in Asia. The temple of **Diana** took nearly 220 years from beginning until its completion. The temple of **Diana** was not only a place of worship, but it was a museum of the best monuments and paintings. The temple of **Diana** owned valuable lands and the temple controlled the fisheries. Its priests were the bankers of its enormous revenues. Because of its resources, the people stored money there for safe keeping. **The temple of Diana** was burned and rebuilt ... **7 times** ... over the centuries, each time on a grander scale. The temple of **Diana** was there when Paul went to **Ephesus**. The site of the city is now covered with ruins, the only inhabited part being a small Turkish village. Although Paul stopped briefly at **Ephesus** during the end of Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> apostolic trip, Paul returned about 2 years later for an extended visit. Paul was there for the better part of 2 years and at which time Paul ... **boldly proclaimed** ... in **Acts 19:26** that ...

**Acts 19:26** Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this ... **Paul hath persuaded and turned away many people**, saying that ... **there are no gods, which are made ... with hands:**

Of course, Paul's statement that ... **there are ... no gods made ... with** (human) **hands** ... and this particular information did not sit well with the craftsmen of that day who made silver shrines for the goddess **Diana** – their livelihood was being placed in jeopardy by Paul. And consequently, they literally dragged Paul and his companions into the open-air

theater, and they would have beaten them to death had it not been for the intervention of ... **the town clerk** ... As it tells us in ... **Acts 19:34-35 (35)**

**Acts 19:34** But when they knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

**Acts 19:35** And when ... **the townclerk** ... had appeased the people, he said, Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, and of the *image* which fell down from Jupiter?

Nevertheless ... **Paul, without regard for his own life, still continued to preach the Cross during this intense opposition.** As a result, many Ephesians turned from their idol worship to serve ... the living and the true God.

The temple of **Diana** became to the ancient world as practically all that ... **the Federal Reserve system** ... is to the United States today.

In 1870 the site was **re-discovered** and excavated, a frog pond now covers the site of Diana's temple and a snowy water weed fills the pond.

The book of **Ephesians** has clearly a very close connection with **Colossians**.

Approximately 1/3 of the words in the book of **Colossians** are repeated in the book of **Ephesians**. They claim that **73 of the 155 verses** in **Ephesians** contain similarities with **Colossians**.

In **Eph 1:1** ... **none** ... of the great early manuscripts of the Greek New Testament contain the words ... **In Ephesus** ... they all read :

- Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus.

**Colossians** possibly is what might be called ... **the overflow ... of Ephesians**, or ...

**Ephesians** is a greater version of **Colossians**. Some words and phrases are not only reproduced from **Colossians** but also, **the interesting point is** ... that **they seem** ... to bear ... **a different meaning on occasion**.

There are almost a ... **100 words** and **phrases** ... in the book of **Ephesians** that are ... **not** ... found elsewhere in Paul's writings.

The style in **Ephesians** matches Paul's mood.

As we go through and study Ephesians, I want **you** to ... **notice this ... one point** or **one fact** ... and that is that ... **Paul mentions ... no one by name** ... in **Ephesians**. Could an **imitator** have given birth to anything at once so real and yet so original? Also, as we go through **Ephesians** ... keep in mind that **Ephesians** is also dependent on ... **all the other 13 Pauline letters**.

**An interesting point here is that** ... Timothy was with Paul as he wrote to the **Ephesians**. **Remember that ... Timothy was well known** in **Ephesus**, yet ... **Timothy was ... not** ... so much as ... **even mentioned** ... in **Ephesians**, although Timothy's name occurs in ... **the other epistles**.

The unique truths which are peculiar to this ... **new calling of the Church** ... which is ... **the fulness of Him that filleth all in all** ... but nevertheless, securely based upon the foundation of Christ crucified, risen, and ascended to the Father's right hand in the heavenly places.

As you and I continue to grow in our spiritual awareness we will see that, just as ... **Israel** ... was to be used in carrying out ... **God's plan for ... the earth** ... so ... **the Church** ... that Paul writes about here in Ephesians is linked with ... **God's plan for ... the heavens**.

The confusion that exists today in Christendom is largely because these 2 differing purposes are either ... **confused** or they are **misunderstood**. The first Epistle ... **after ... Acts 28**, that reveals this ... **heavenly calling** ... is the ... **Epistle to the Ephesians**, and from it I shall ... **attempt** ... to lift out some of the main features which stand out like precious jewels ... **to all of you ... who have eyes to see** and **hearts to believe**. As the events took place.

When it comes to understanding ... **the Body of Christ**, there are ... **2... bodies ... of Christ** ... **mentioned in the Bible**, let's take a moment to go over the information that has been given to us.

**One of the bodies** ... mentioned is ... **the actual physical, fleshly Body in which the Son of God became embodied in or was alive in**. For your information there are some ... **27 references** ... to the Savior's ... **physical Body** ... in the New Testament. (The most familiar passage is that when Christ was at ... **the Last Supper**).

**The other ... Body of Christ** ... is ... **the 'C'hurch or (big 'C' or capital 'C')** ... which is ... **His Body** ... that is mentioned in ... **Eph 1:22-23**. **This Body** is mentioned in Ephesians approximately ... **29 times** ... in reference to the corporate ... **Body of Christ**, which is made up of all the saved people of ... **this present dispensation** ... with ... **Christ as its Head**.

### **Eph 1:22-23**

**Eph 1:22** And hath put all *things* under **His feet** and gave him *to be* the head over **all things to ... the Church**,

**Eph 1:23** Which is ... **His body**, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.

There are **2 Christs** in the New Testament.

- 1<sup>st</sup> of all there is ... **the personal Christ**. Most of these references are to that name referred to as Jesus Christ ... **personally**.
- Paul does use this in referring to ... **both ... the Head** and **the Church which is ... His Body**.

Paul also speaks of ... **the Mystery** ... and ... **the Mystery of Christ**. When Paul speaks of the ... **Mystery** ... in these 2 epistles, **Ephesians** and **Colossians**, Paul is speaking of the up until then un-prophesied ... **Church** or capital 'C', **which is His Body**. **Christ** personally was prophesied hundreds of times, but ... **the Christ, composed of ... the Body and the Head** ... was **never** predicted.

The English word ... **Mystery** ... is translated from the Greek word **Musterion** – (#3466), it was a secret or **a Mystery** through the idea of silence imposed by initiation into a religious rite, to keep silent.



The **Mystery** of which Paul speaks about is thus ... **a Body of Truth** ... about which ... **God had kept silent**.

It is sometimes applied in a peculiar sense to the calling of the Gentiles. In fact, the Gentiles could be fellow-heirs and of the same Body and partakers of Christ by the Gospel. In other generations, such a thing was not made known to the sons of man as it has been revealed to His apostles by the Spirit.

In Paul's own words in ...

**Col 1:25-26**

**Col 1:25** Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God, which is given to me for you, to ... **fulfil the word of God**;

**Col 1:26** *Even* the **mystery** which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but **now** is made manifest to his saints:

The **Mystery** is that **program** that ... **fulfills** ... the word of God. The word ... **fulfill** ... literally means ... **to complete**.

There was a gap in the revelation of God's great plan caused by the fact that God had kept silent about a part of it, and this ... **secret or Mystery** ... part, which is now revealed, fills up ... to the **full** ... that particular gap.

**The Dispensation of the Mystery** ... is not only a distinct part of God's **eternal purpose** which God had never before made known, but also ... **a revelation of a distinct ... out calling** or **Church** (big 'C' or capital 'C') ... **which is called ... the Body of Christ** ... of which ... **Christ Jesus is the Head**. The literal word **church** (little 'c') simply means ... **an out calling** or **assembly of people**.

In the Bible the word **church** (little 'c') is **1<sup>st</sup> used** of the Israelites who came out of Egypt ... in **Acts 7:38** ... (it reads)

- **Acts 7:38** This is he, that was in ... **the church** (little 'c') ... in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and *with* our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

There are some **40 times** the congregation of Israel is called ... **a church** ... (little 'c') in the Septuagint Greek version of the Old Testament.

Also, when Jesus called His band of 12 disciples whom He had called out by this name in ... **Matt 18:17**.

- **Matt 18:17** And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* unto ... **the church** (little 'c') ... but if he neglects to hear ... **the church** (little 'c'), let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

In the **Millennial Kingdom**, that is ... **yet to come** ... Christ's redeemed Jewish brethren will be called ... **a church** (little 'c' )

Gods ... **called out people** ... in ... **our present dispensation** ... is called ... **a Church** (big 'C' or capital 'C') ... and **this Church** (big 'C' or capital 'C') is identified as ... **the Church** ... which is ... **His Body** or as ... **the Body of Christ**.

A lot of confusion has resulted from a failure to keep ... **the Church** (big 'C' or capital 'C') ... **which is His Body** ... separate and distinct ... **from** ... **the other churches** (little 'c') ... of the Bible.

**The Body of Christ Church** (big 'C' or capital 'C') ... is the subject of ... **the Mystery** ... which was never before made known to the sons of men ... **until** ... it was revealed to Paul by the ascended Lord Jesus Christ.

**That is all, for now!**

**I really want to Thank You! For listening!**

Next time we will start ... **Eph 1:1**

- **In the Name of our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus! ... Amen!**

The word ... **Mystery** ... occurs **6 times** in **Ephesians** (1:9, 3:3, 4, 9, 5:32, 6:19).

- The word ... **Mystery** ... occurs **4 times** in **Colossians** (1:26, 27, 2:2, 4:3)
- **The Church as the Body of Christ** ... is mentioned ...

**8 times** in **Ephesians** ... (1:23, 2:16, 4:4, 12, 16, 16; 5:23, 30).

- **The Church as the Body of Christ** ... is mentioned ...

**5 times** in **Colossians** ... 1:18, 24, 2:17, 19; 3:15. (75)

Most commentaries are quick to recognize the similarity of **Ephesians** and **Colossians**. But the facts are that ...

- The headship of **Christ** as presented in the book of **Ephesians** is universal
- **Christ** is ... **exalted far above all heavens**
- **Christ's** name ... **heads the list of all names** in this world and in that which is to come
- **Christ** has a position as ... **Head over all rule and authority, power and dominion**
- All things have been put in subjection under ... **His feet**
- **Christ** has been given to be ... **Head over all things to the Church which is His Body**.