



CHURCHES

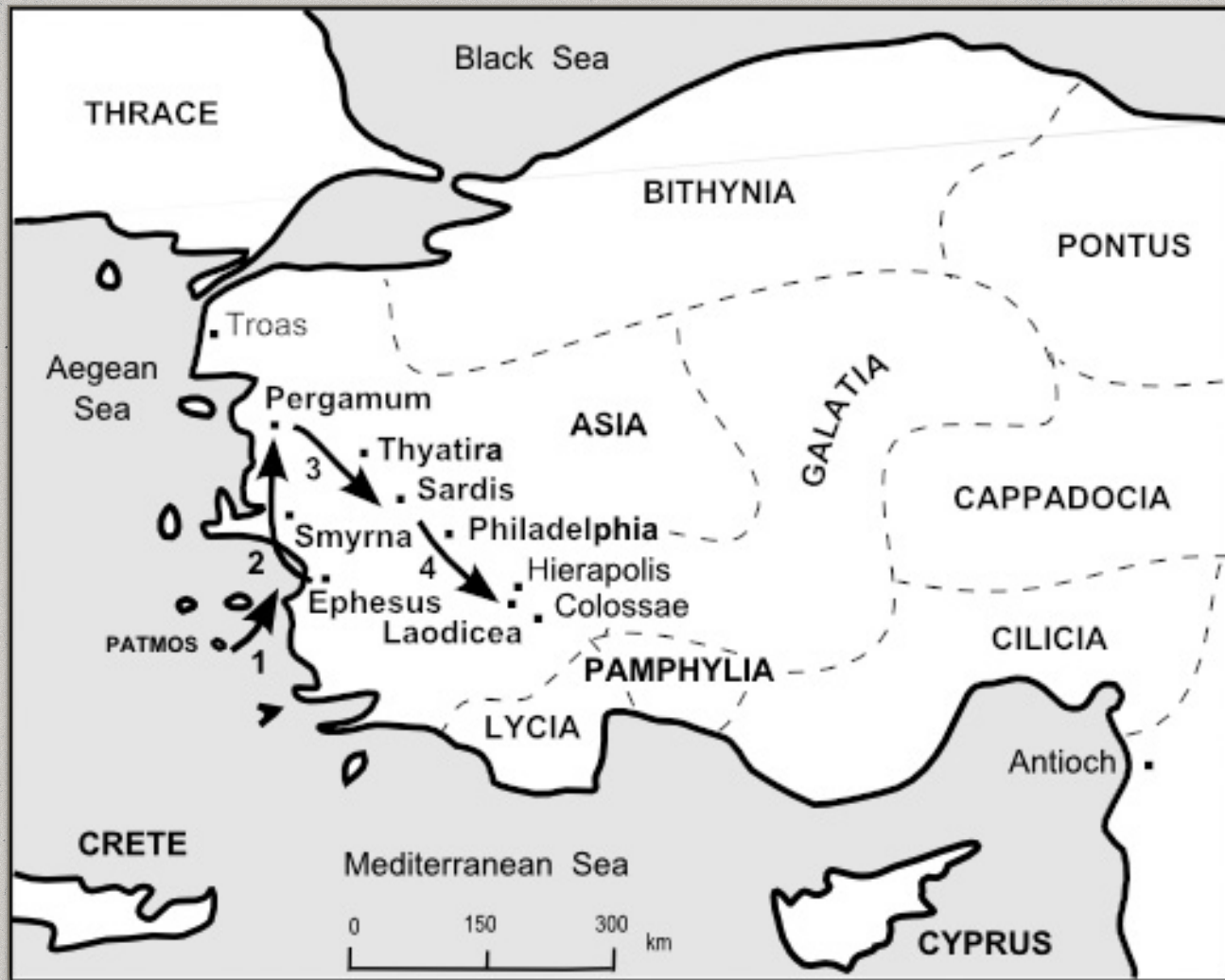
OF REVELATION



Patmos



Ephesus
↓
Smyrna
↓
Pergamum
↓
Thyatira
↓
Sardis
↓
Philadelphia
↓
Laodicea



“Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea... Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.”

(Revelation 1:11, 19)





*Love Grown
Cold*

EPHESUS

Ephesus

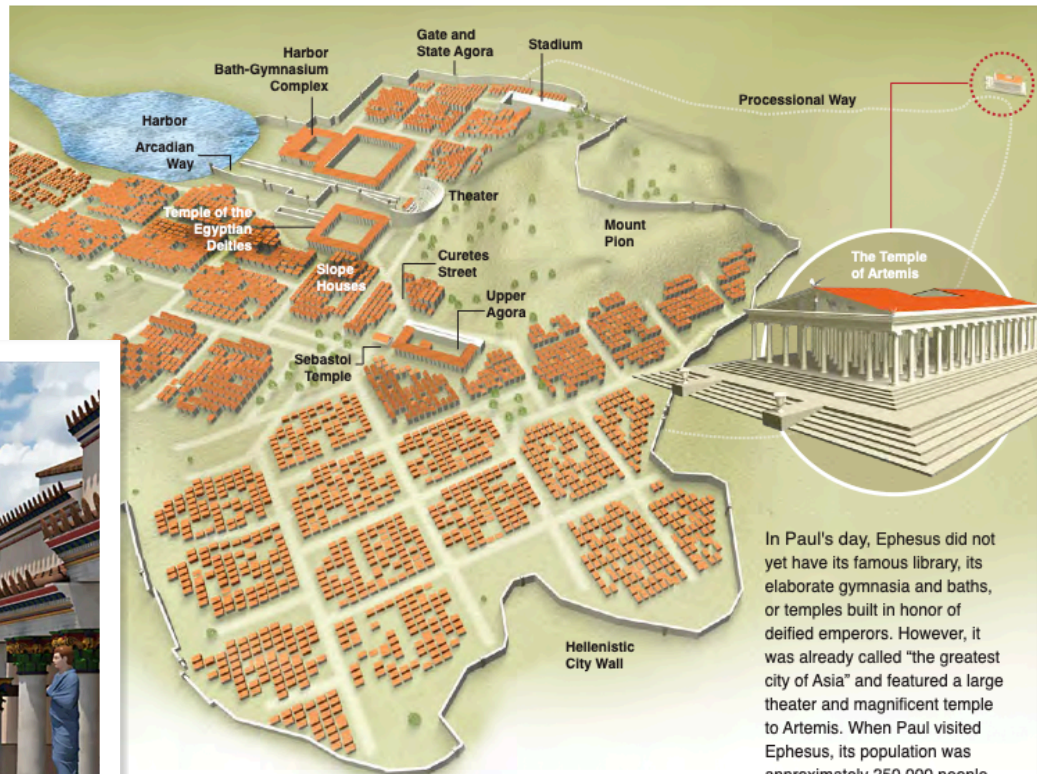


Ephesus

- Roman provincial capital & the leading city of Asia Minor (stable, peaceful, prosperous)
- Major commercial port city; nexus point for the region's north-south & east-west highways
- Boasts a population of a quarter million people (4th largest in the Empire)



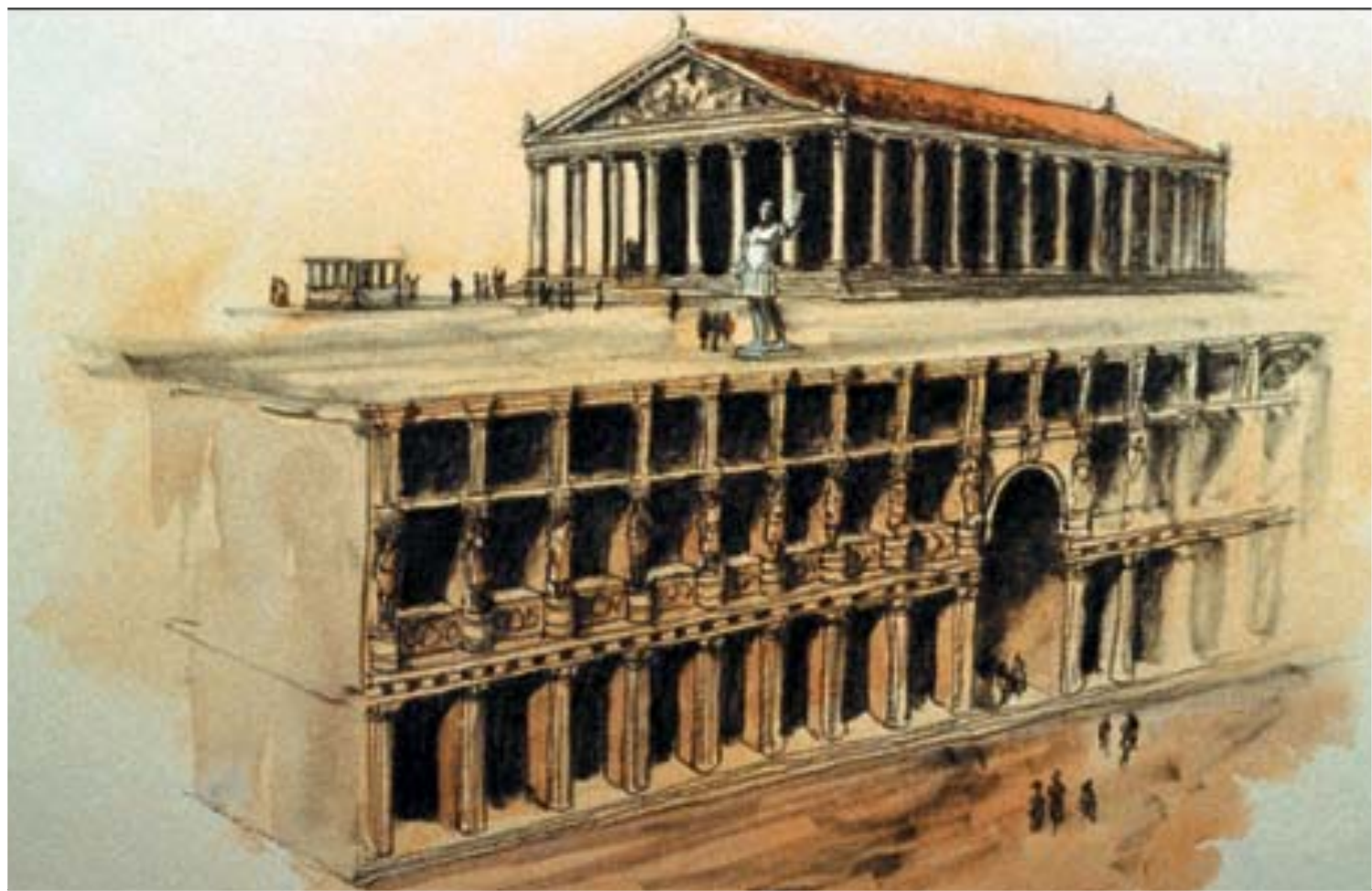
Ephesus



Ephesus

- Diverse mixture of Greeks, Romans, native Anatolians, and immigrants from all parts of the eastern empire
- Once famous for being the chief champion of Artemis, the Greek goddess of fertility, the city now enthusiastically promotes the patriotic worship of Rome and her emperors.
- Recently honored by Domitian as the official “temple warden” of the imperial cult in Asia





Temple dedicated to
“our Lord and god”
Domitian



“The cities of Asia Minor boasted of their imperial temples and honors like modern cities boast of their professional sports teams.” (De Silva)



Revelation 2:1-2 (ESV)

1 To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. 2 “I know your works...”



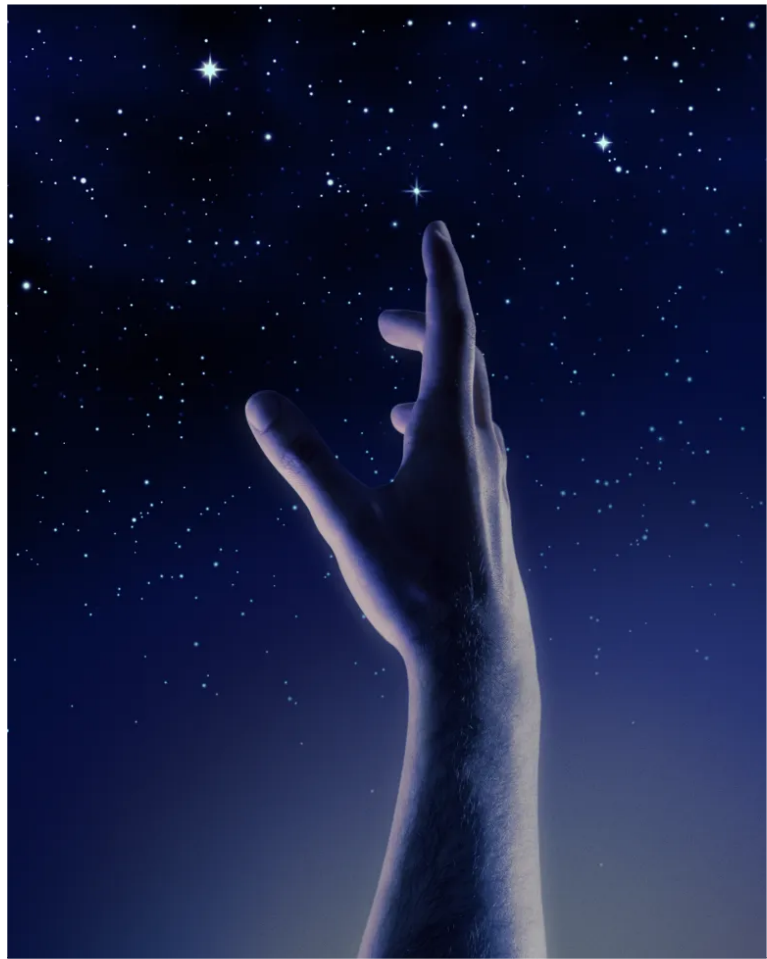
“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.”

(Matthew 18:10)



“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:4-7)





Revelation 2:2-3 (ESV)

2 “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. 3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary.”



“Watch your life and doctrine closely.
Persevere in them, because if you do, you
will save both yourself and your hearers.”
(1 Timothy 4:16; NIV)



“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard!” (Acts 20:27-31)



Revelation 2:4 (ESV)

4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.



“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.”

(1 Corinthians 13:1-3)



“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another... We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother or sister, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

(1 John 4:11, 19-21)



“And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:11-14)



“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.” (1 Peter 4:8)



Revelation 2:5 (ESV)

5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.



“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” (Luke 14:34-35)



Revelation 2:6-7 (ESV)

6 Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.



**They will know we are Christians by
our LOVE. If we are not a people of
love, we are not the people of JESUS.**



- Daily reminisce about how tender and gentle Christ is with us in our foolishness and weakness.
- Recall how much He laid down to save us.
- Let those realizations color how you see and treat others.

When you do, your love will rekindle.

