



Conversions at Ephesus

The Great Commission

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Mk. 16:15-16	Preach	Believe		Baptize	Saved
Lk. 24:46-47	Preach		Repentance		Rem. / sins

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Acts 2:22-36	Sermon	“Know assuredly” vs. 36-37	Repent vs. 38	be baptized vs. 38	rem. sins vs. 38 saved, vs. 47

The Great Commission Carried Out – Acts

Basics of Conversion

Acts 2:36-41

37 Now when they heard this they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”

*Change of
mind*

38 Peter said to them, “Repent and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

*Change of
will*

*Change of
state*

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This message met with different people, cultures, obstacles, and some advantages in every city where apostles preached. However, the same message was preached, believed and obeyed. People had to change their minds, will, and status to be saved.





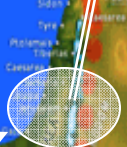


The Roman Empire
AFTER THE BIRTH OF JESUS

- ROMAN PROVINCE
- SENATORIAL PROVINCE
- Provincial City
- Boundary of the Roman Empire
- Client States

Acts 8:5 -- ch. 12

Acts 1-8:4





Acts 13-28 -- Paul's work "to the uttermost part of the earth"



Acts 8:5 -- ch. 12

Acts 1-8:4

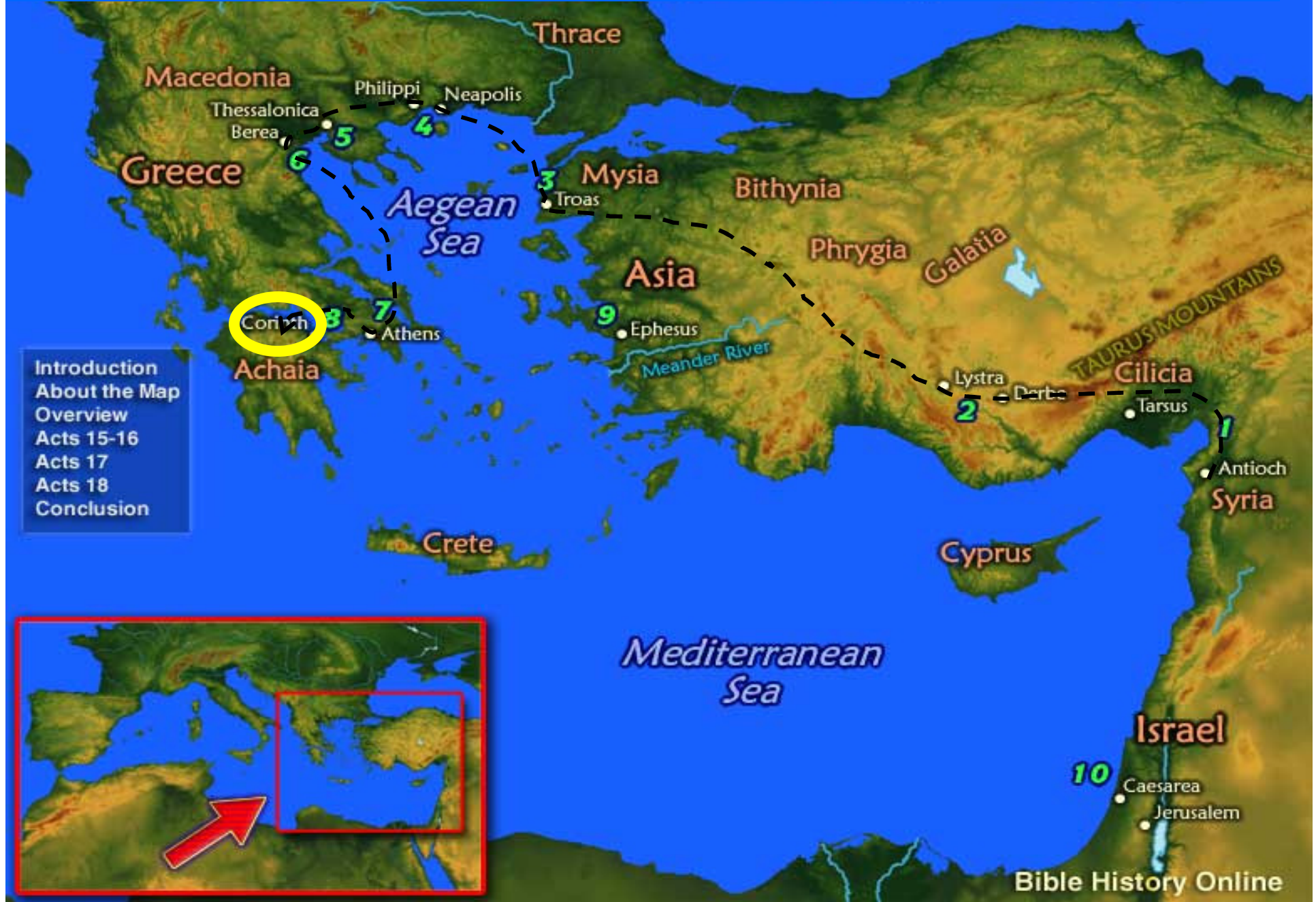
Paul's 1st Journey – Acts 13-14



Paul's 2nd Journey – Acts 15:36 -- 18:22



Paul's 2nd Journey – Acts 15:36 -- 18:22



Paul's 2nd Journey – Acts 15:36 -- 18:22



Close of Paul's 2nd & early part of 3rd Journeys – Acts 18-19



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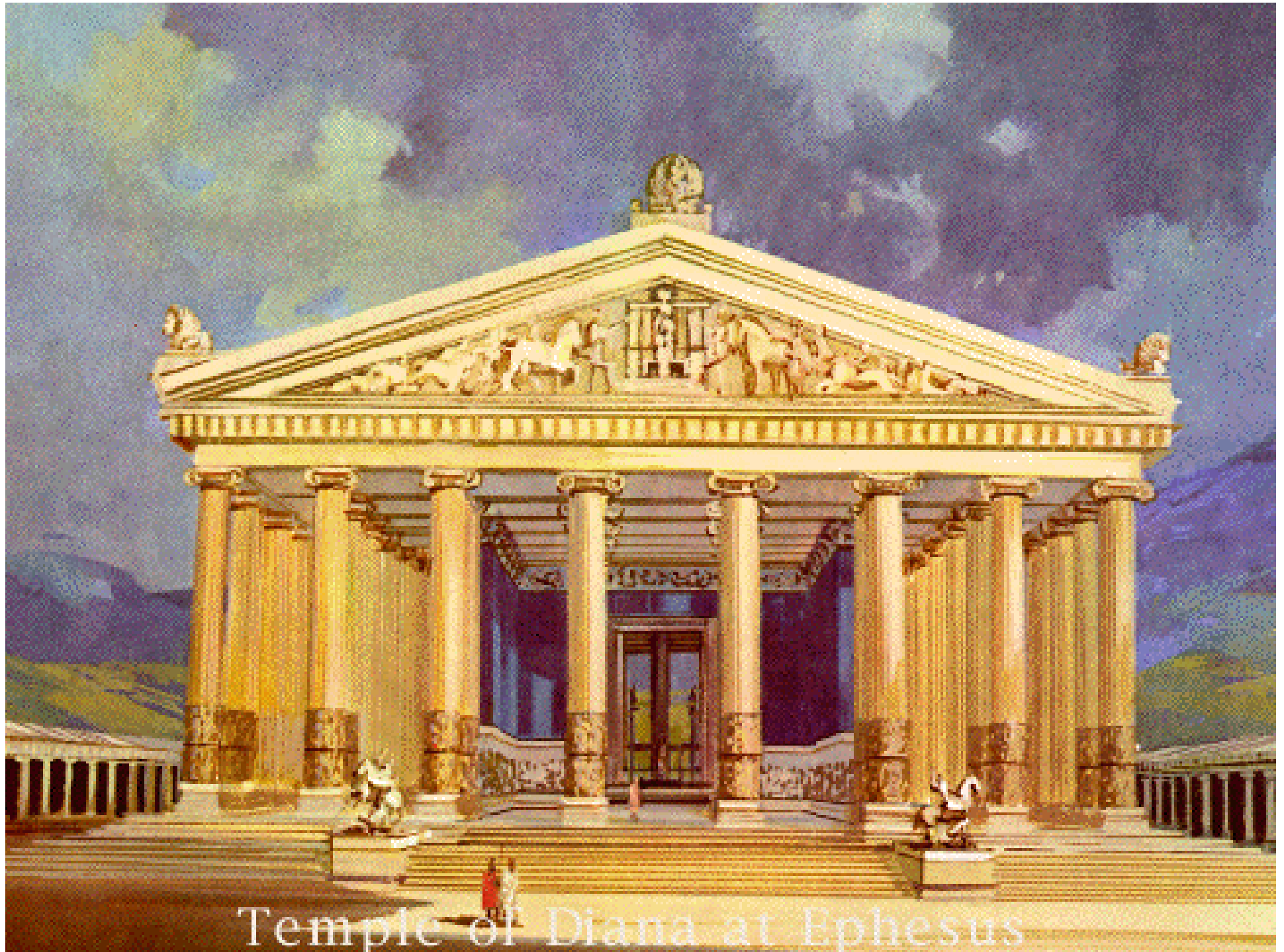
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However, its claim to fame was derived from the temple of Diana or Artemis, one of the "Seven Wonders of the World."

This must have been an awesome sight. It was 425 feet long, 220 feet wide, had 127 columns, each 60 feet high which supported its roof, and was made of pure marble.

Ephesians worshipped Diana, the Asiatic goddess.

However, the gospel emphasized one God, Jehovah, and was diametrically opposed to such idolatry. Due to Ephesus' being the "temple-keeper of the great Diana" (Acts 19:35), plus the fact that lucrative employment could be found making "silver shrines of Diana (Acts 19:24), introduction of the gospel to its citizens brought a decline in sales and militant opposition.



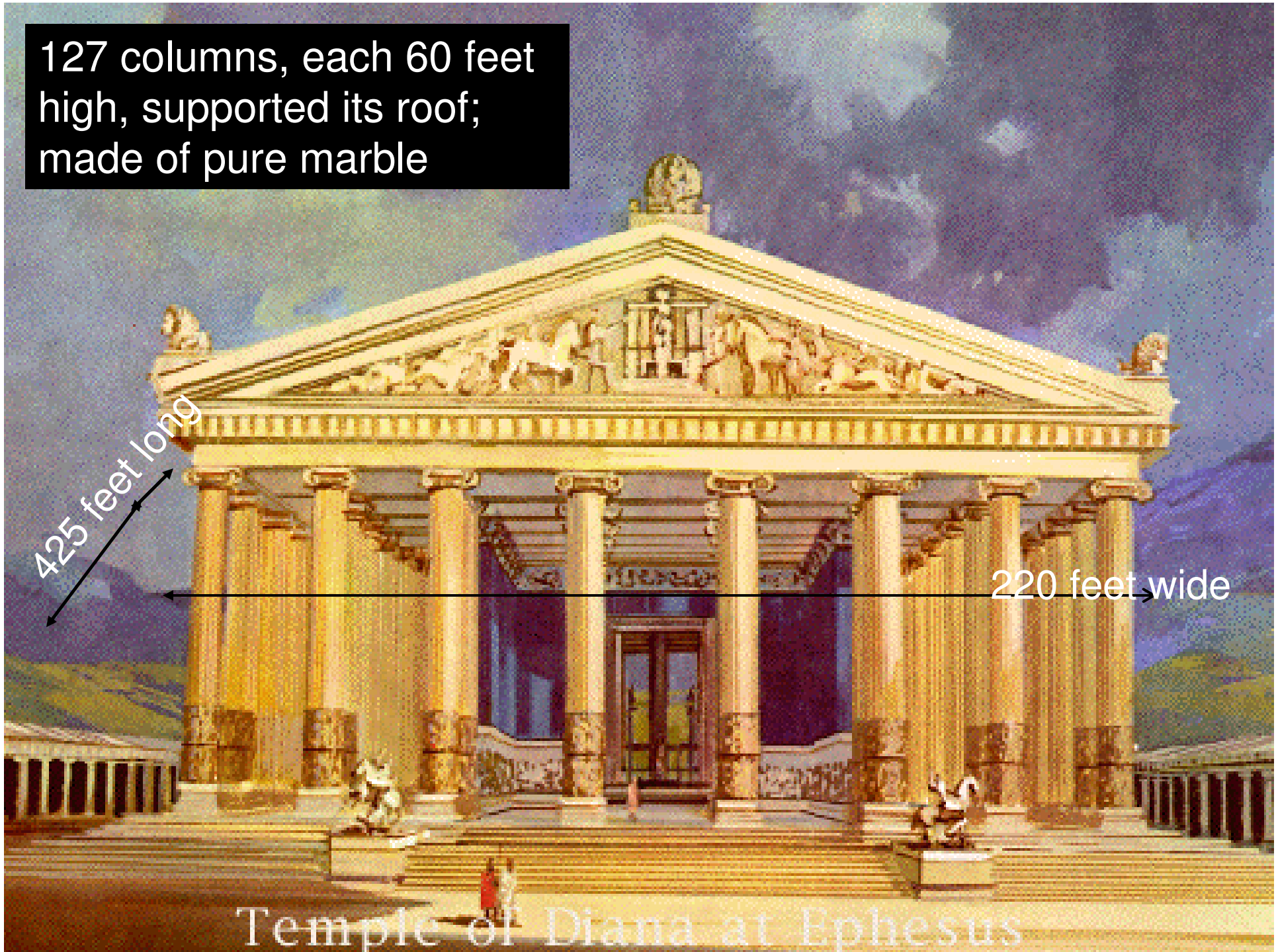
Temple of Diana at Ephesus

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Temple of Diana at Ephesus



The temple was not covered; the walls surrounded an open court area inside of which was a small temple-like building containing the cult statue. This temple dominated Ephesus' religion, joined by temples of the Roman Emperor cult in the late 1st century A.D. Artemis was the virgin goddess of the moon, the hunt, and in some ways of fertility and "nature." Called Diana by the Romans, she was the twin sister of Apollo and daughter of Zeus. She begged Zeus to allow her to remain unmarried, and so she roamed the forests with her bow and arrow and accompanied by her beloved deer and wild beasts. She protected hunters and was like "Mother Nature"—fertile and supportive—but was also cruel, revengeful and destructive. One of the most popular of Greek deities, she was the patron goddess of the city of Ephesus.



Temple of Diana at Ephesus

Image of Artemis.
Making “silver shrines of
Diana” (Diana, Latin;
Artemis, Greek) was a
lucrative trade (Acts
19:24).



Known as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, this is all that is left of this temple.



Ephesus is significant to the spread of Christianity and the rest of the Bible story.

The church was evidently begun during the latter part of Paul's second journey when he was there only for a brief period (Acts 18:18-21).

By the beginning of his third journey, "brethren" had sent Apollos to Corinth from Ephesus with a letter of recommendation (Acts 18:27). When he arrived, Paul found twelve men who had been mistakenly taught and whom he taught correctly and baptized (Acts 19:1-7). After the better part of three years (19:8,10; 20:31), Paul departed.

It was from Ephesus that "all they that dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord" (Acts 19:10), likely through helpful efforts of others such as Epaphras who traveled to and from Paul and other congregations in Asia (see Col. 1:7-8; 4:12; Philem. 23).

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- **From** Ephesus Paul wrote I Corinthians (16 chs.) on his third journey (1 Cor. 16:8).
- **To** Ephesian elders he gave inspired speech (Acts 20:17-34).
- **To** Ephesus (6 chs.) later from Rome during 1st imprisonment Paul wrote *Ephesians* (Acts 28).
- **To** Timothy **at** Ephesus Paul wrote *1 Timothy* (6 chs.) (1 Tim. 1:3)
- **To** Timothy **at** Ephesus Paul wrote *2 Timothy* (4 chs.) when in final Roman imprisonment before his death (1:16,18; 4:19).
- The Lord through John wrote a letter **to** Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7).

(approx. 33 chapters came from & to Christians at Ephesus)

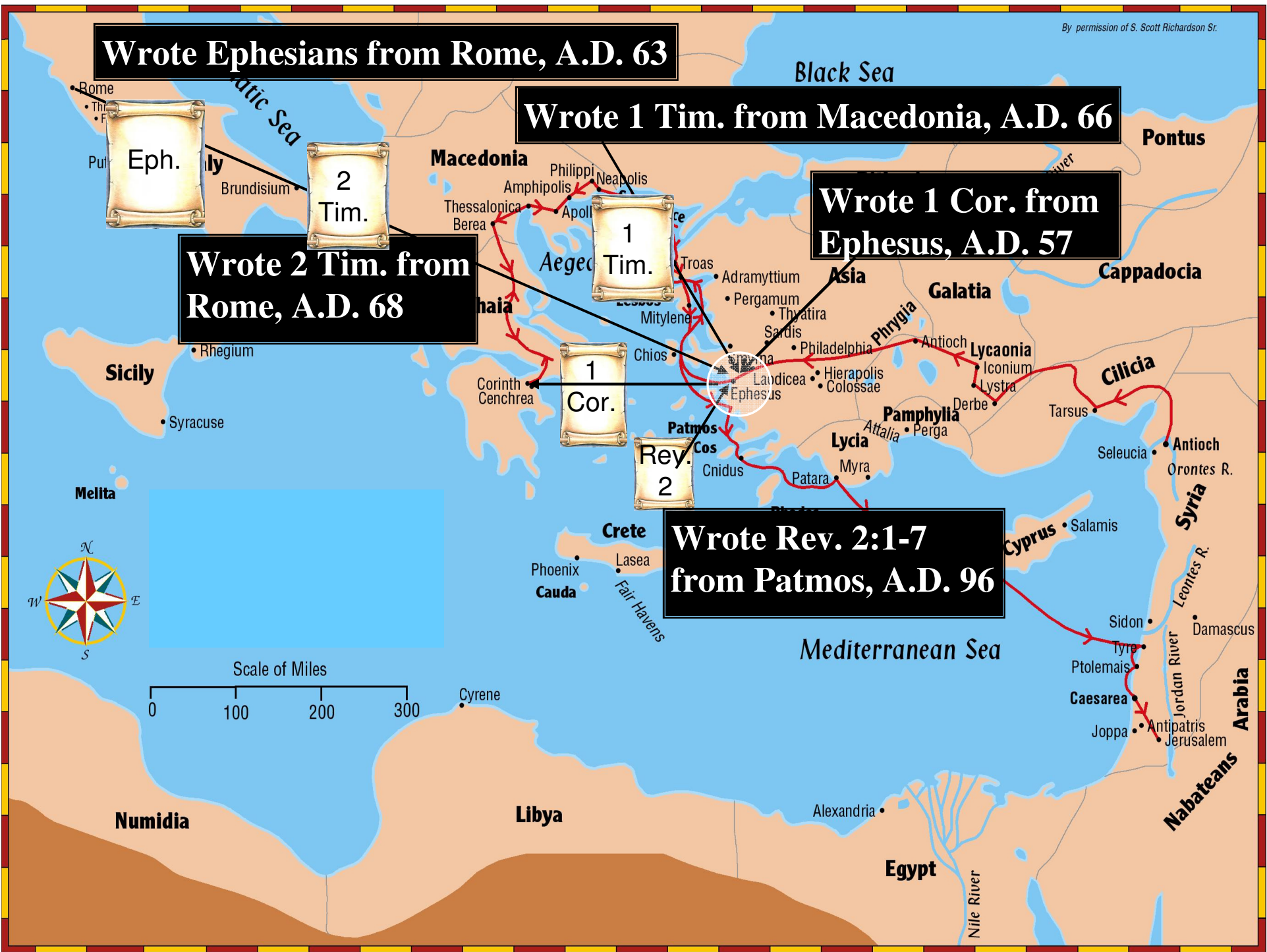
Wrote Ephesians from Rome, A.D. 63

Wrote 1 Tim. from Macedonia, A.D. 66

Wrote 1 Cor. from Ephesus, A.D. 57

Wrote 2 Tim. from Rome, A.D. 68

Wrote Rev. 2:1-7 from Patmos, A.D. 96





The theater (or amphitheater) at Ephesus. This held 25,000 people. It is the place to which Demetrius influenced fellow craftsmen to gather and mount a campaign against Paul and the gospel. It was also here that two of Paul's companions, Gaius and Aristarchus, having been earlier seized, were brought before the idolatrous mob. Eventually, the city clerk brought the mob under control and dismissed it. Following this mob scene, Paul left Ephesus and went into Macedonia.





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John's Baptism

Purpose: Prepared Jews for the Kingdom

- Matt. 3:6 confessed sins
- Matt. 3:8 repented of sins
- Mk. 1:4 unto remission of sins
- Lk. 7:30 part of counsel of God
- Jno. 3:23 required much water
- Acts 19:4 believed on Him who came after John – Jesus.

Jesus' Baptism by John

Purpose: Revealed Jesus to Israel as God's Son

- Matt. 3:15 fulfilled all righteousness
- Jno. 1:31 revealed Jesus as the Messiah

Not for same reasons that Jews were baptized

- Had no sins to confess
- Had no sins to repent of
- Needed no remission of sins
- He was the one on whom others were to believe

Baptism of the Great Commission

(Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16)

-The “one baptism” now (Eph. 4:5) -

- Must HEAR the gospel (Matt. 28:18; Mk. 16:15; Lk. 24:46,47)
- Must BELIEVE the gospel (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:36-38)
- Must REPENT of sins (Lk. 24:47; Acts 2:38)
- Must CONFESS Jesus Christ as Son of God
(Acts 8:36-37; Rom. 10:9-10)
- We are then
BAPTIZED (Matt. 28:19; Mk. 16:16)
 - “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38)
 - “into Christ” (Gal. 3:27)
 - into the death of Christ (Rom. 6:3)
 - into the “one body” of Christ (I Cor. 12:13)

The reasons Jesus was baptized by John differed from...

1. John's baptizing Jews then, and
2. Our being baptized today.

Note: We are not baptized today for the same reasons Jesus was baptized.

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2. Some misunderstanding in earlier teaching concerning baptism (ch. 18:24-28).
3. Paul recognizes problems & states solution (ch. 19:1-7).

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→ Religious problems

(Acts 19:23-41 → Eph. 4:4-6).

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3. Emphasis on growth from & faithfulness to the word (Acts 20:32; Eph. 6:10ff).

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“Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly & remove your lampstand from its place -- unless you repent” (Rev. 2:5)

What eventually happened to the church at Ephesus?

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- According to Eusebius, John spent his last years in Ephesus.
- By the middle of the third century, the city was decaying, and in 263, Goths raided it and dealt it a blow from which it never recovered.
- By the tenth century, Ephesus of Roman times was deserted and covered by marshes.

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Where are you?

