

**Journey Through the Bible: Revelation**

Session 3: The Busy Church: Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7)

Remember Acts 17:11

**The Apocalypse (Unveiling-SINGULAR)**

- (1:19) Christ's Instruction and Outline for the Book
- "Have Seen" Risen Christ (Ch. 1)
- "Is" The Seven Churches (Ch. 2-3)
- "Hereafter" The Conquest (Ch. 4-22)

**Promised Blessing to the Reader (1:3)**

**Questions from Previous Session (1:7)**

- 2 Quotes from the OT Prophets & 1 from Jesus
  - Dan. 7:13-14; Zech. 12:8-11; Mat. 24:29-31
- Summery Introduction to the Conquest (Post-Church)
- Jerusalem Will Be Attacked by All Other Nations
- God (Christ) Will Empower Them and Rescue Them
- Jerusalem Will Repent and Cry Out to Christ
- The Nations Will Cry Out in Fear of Christ
  - Ref. Armageddon

**The Truths in the Image of The Risen Christ (1:12-16)**

- Dressed as a High Priest Tending the Lamps in the Holy Place
  - Making Intercession (Heb. 7:23-28)
  - Righteous and Holy (White Hair)
  - Sees All (Eyes Like Fire)
  - Speaking "in the Spirit"  
(Like Rushing Waters: Ez. 43:1-2)
  - Speaking Judgement from the Word of God  
(Two-Edged Sword)
  - Walking in Judgment Among the Churches  
(Feet of Fine Brass)
- Responsible for the Fire Coming from the Menorah

**Letters to the Churches of Asia (Ch.'s 2-3):**

- Application:
- Local Churches with Local Church Problems
  - Personal Challenges Within the Church
  - Open Letters So that Every Church Can Learn
  - Prophetic Insight into the Church Age

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Areas of Meaning:

- The Name of the Church
- The Title Christ Chooses for Himself
- Commendation
- Concern
- Instruction
- Promise to the Overcomer

History of Ephesus:

- Founded around 1400 BC (Tacitus)
- Patron Deity: Hittite Mother Goddess (Diana)
- Conquered in 1000 BC By Colonists from Athens
- 541BC Became Part of the Ionian Confederation
  - Against Persian Expansion into Europe
- Conquered by Alexander the Great 334 BC
- Left to the Roman Republic by King Attalus in 129 BC
- Roman Empire (Augustus) Made Capitol of Asia (Circa 27 BC)

Geography, Trade, and Influence:

- Wealthy City Considered 2<sup>nd</sup> Only to Rome by 100 AD.
- Temple of Artemis One of the 7 Wonders Ancient World
  - Income Based on Prostitution
  - Threatened by the Founding of the Church (Paul)
- Coast City/Center of Trade from Europe to Far East
  - Harbor Eventually Eroded Becoming Unusable
  - Today the Ruins are 20 mi. Inland

Apostolic Period:

- Most Populus City in the Empire
- Harbor Traffic Eventually Diverted to Smyrna
- Cultural Center for Study (Mysticism)

Paul's Influence:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Encounter to the Synagogue
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Visit Preached to Gentiles at School of Tyrannus
- Acts 19:24-41; 20:1
  - Priscilla, Aquila, and Apollos
  - 1 Corinthians Penned During 2<sup>nd</sup> Visit
  - Paul Writes to Ephesus from Rome
- False Apostles followed (7 Sons of Siva: Acts 19)
- Eventually Became a Missions Hub to Europe

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Paul's Farewell and Warning (Acts 20:26-31)

The Church and Christ (V.1):

**Ἐφεσος** (Origin Lost) "Permitted" or "Darling"

"Holds the Seven Stars"

- Command and Authority Over
- Making Secure (John 10:28)

"Walking Among":

- Christ is Present (Mat. 18:20)
- Walking in Judgement (Pro. 8:20-21; Rev. 1:15)

Commendation (V. 2-3)

- Works (Ministry)
- Labor (or Toil: a beating of the breast with grief, sorrow)
- Endurance
- No Tolerance for Evil (Not Apathetic)
- Tested False Teachers
- Endured Persecution and Hardship
- Persevered

Concern (V. 4)

"You have abandoned the love (agape) you had..."

"...at first (**πρῶτος**): "First in time" or "First in rank"

- 3 Great Commandments Voiced by Christ
  - Love God with Everything You Are (Deut. 6:4-7)
  - Love Your Neighbor as Yourself (Lev. 19:17-18)
  - Love One Another (Jn. 13:34)
- Love God (Worship & Discipleship)
- Love Your Neighbor (Missions & Evangelism)
- Love Each Other (Discipleship & Fellowship)

"Love and Hope Become Casualties in the Hunt for Heresies."

Nicolaitans (V. 6)

- Followers of Nicolas of Antioch (Acts 6:5)
- Early Church Fathers Attributed Abuses Excused or Rationalized by False Claims to Apostolic Authority
  - 1 Peter 5:1-3
- Untranslated Word: Niaco = Conquer/Rule; Laos = People
  - John 13:15-16

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