

THE SEVEN LETTERS OF REVELATION

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Parisview Baptist Church

Summer 2024

PART 3 - THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF EPHEBUS - BACKGROUND

REVELATION 2:1-7

I. The City of Ephesus

- A. In New Testament times, Ephesus was the most important city in Asia - it was the center of both religious and commercial activity.
- B. Ephesus had an estimated population of around 200,000 - 250,000
- C. Its location was key to its wealth and importance - it was connected to water and roads, so it was an extremely important commercial center
- D. Because of its location and wealth and importance, Ephesus attracted people from all over the world - much like Corinth
- E. Ephesus had many fine buildings - you can still see some of the ruins today
 - i. Gymnasiums
 - ii. Theatres - one could seat over 20,000 people
 - iii. The most important building was the temple dedicated to the goddess Artemis
 - a. It was considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world
 - b. It was a central part of life in Ephesus
 - c. Acts 19:23-41

II. The Church in Ephesus

- A. The ministry of Paul - Part 1
 - i. The story goes back to Corinth, where Paul met a couple named Priscilla and Aquila - Acts 18:1-3
 - ii. After Paul left Corinth, he set sail for Syria, with Priscilla and Aquila by his side, and eventually came to Ephesus - Acts 18:18-19

- iii. Paul didn't stay too long at this point - he left Ephesus and for a while went from place to place checking on churches - Acts 18:20-23

B. The ministry of Apollos

- i. Where else have we heard this name recently? How would you characterize his preaching ministry?
- ii. Acts 18:24-28 tells the story of Apollos in Ephesus
- iii. How would you describe Apollos' ministry in Ephesus?
- iv. What can we say about the ministry of Priscilla and Aquila?

C. The ministry of Paul - Part 2

- i. While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul made his way back to Ephesus - Acts 19:1a
- ii. Paul watered where Apollos had planted - Acts 19:1-7
- iii. Paul worked in Corinth over two years - first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles - Acts 19:8-10
- iv. God used Paul to spread the gospel in extraordinary ways - Acts 19:11-20
- v. How would you describe Paul's ministry in Ephesus?

III. Food for thought as we read the letter to the church

Based on what we know about Ephesus - what can we infer about:

- The city of Corinth?
- The church in Corinth?





