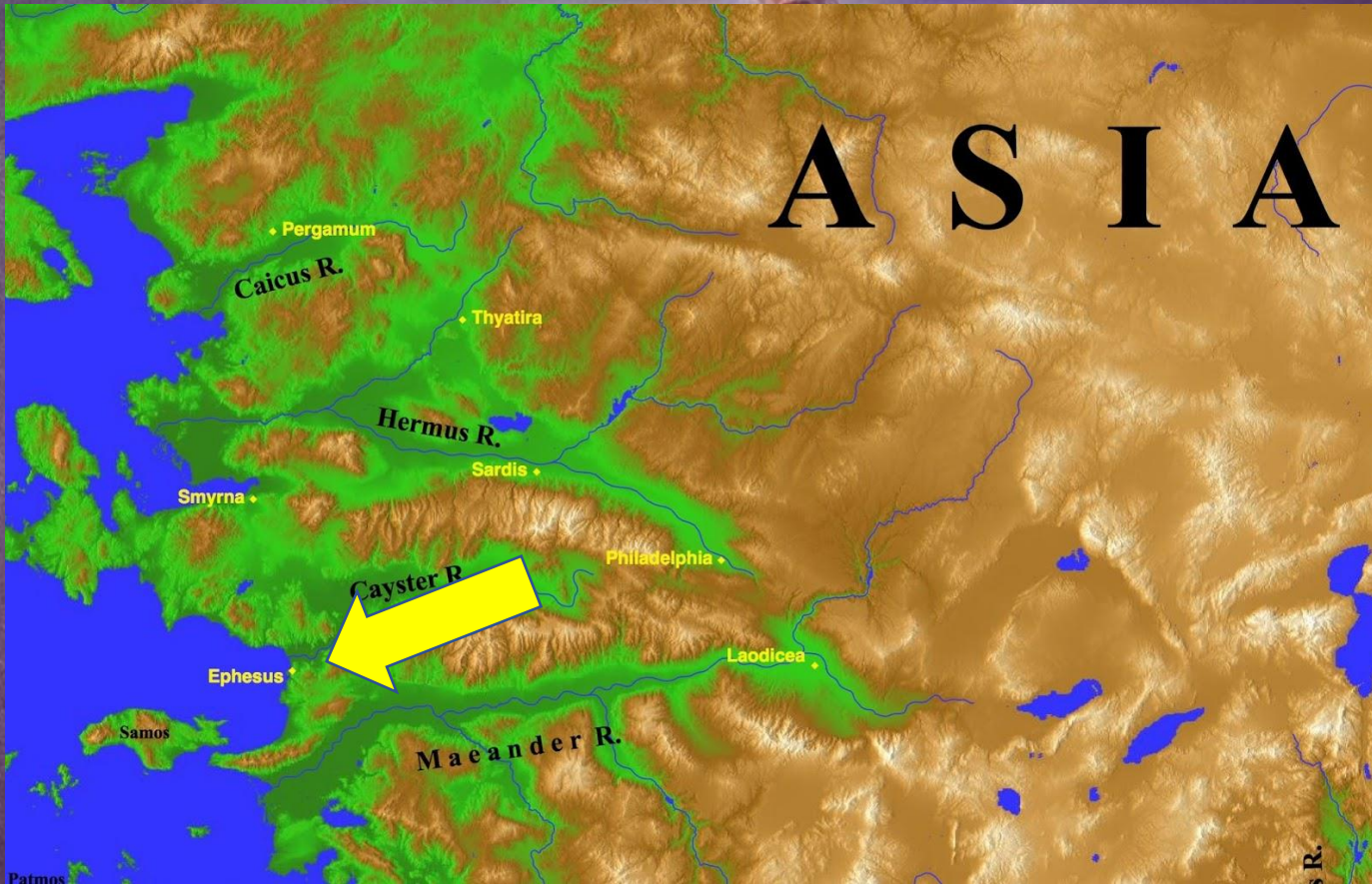


A Tale of Seven Churches: Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7



Seven Churches Map



The city of Ephesus was located in what is now Turkey. It was the most important city in the area, while Pergamum was the actual capital of the Roman Province of Asia, Ephesus was its greatest city. It was called The Gateway to Asia because it was the home of the largest harbor in Asia.

Temple of Artemis



It was 425 feet long by 220 feet wide, that would be what 2 acres? It was made up of 127 columns that were each 60 feet high. It was truly a spectacular building.

Ruins of Artemis



This is what remains of the temple today.

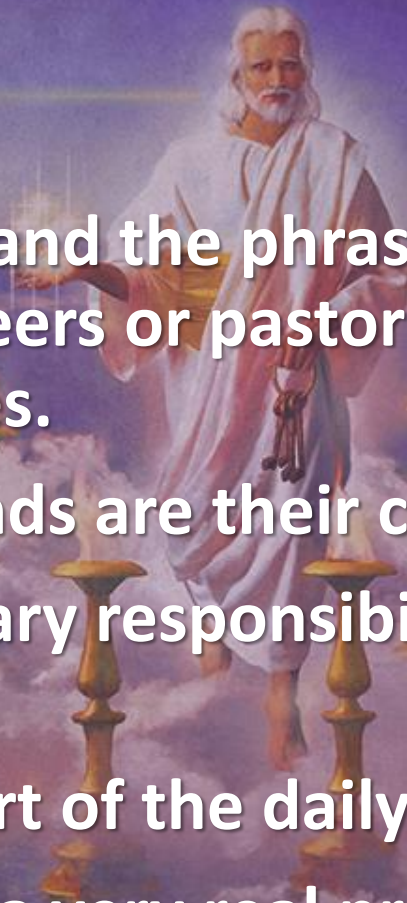
Amphitheatre



The Amphitheatre in Ephesus would have sat twenty-five thousand people.

Pastors

- The term “angel” and the phrase “the seven stars” refer to the overseers or pastors of these particular churches.
- The gold lampstands are their churches.
- The pastor’s primary responsibility is to please God.
- Jesus is to be a part of the daily life of the church.
- Jesus needs to be a very real presence in the lives of the believers who make up our church.



Church Period



- This letters not only refers to a specific church in a specific time and place but also represents a specific period in church history.
- The Ephesian church period represents the early church, which existed from Pentecost until around 90AD.
- This letter applies to who we are and where we are as believers in 2020.
- When Jesus was speaking to an individual church He was also speaking to the congregation of that church.
- When Jesus returns, the local church will be judged on the spiritual temperature of the majority of the people in the church.

Commendation



- Jesus begins the letter by commending the church for several things.
- The scary part of these letters is the first four words, “*I know your deeds.*”
- If we really wanted to allow the Holy Spirit to control our lives, our lives could and would be different.
- The Ephesian church didn’t lack in good deeds and moral integrity.
- One of the rules of Biblical exegesis is that after the “But” comes the “Truth!”

Love Lost



- Sometimes love fades and disappears.
- Jesus is insinuating that the joy and enthusiasm of the Ephesian Church for God had disappeared.
- Our relationship with Christ is like a marriage, in that it is not self-sustaining.
- Our Christian walk is not evidence of perpetual motion; we have to keep going back to the source of our power, and that is Jesus.
- There did not seem to be a whole lot of love or compassion in their fellowship.
- A church is a church because of its relationship with Christ and with Christians.

Conclusion

- Remember, Repent, Return.
- When we discover as a church or as an individual that we are not as close to God as we once were, understand this: God has not moved.
- It is up to us to move back to Him.
- If you have lost your first love, you can get it back.

