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Baths. Photo. 15 Jan. 2007. <<http://www.webshots.com/search?query=ephesus&new=1&source=chromeheader>>.

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Mellon Arena. Photo. 15 Jan. 2007. <<http://www.aviewoncities.com/gallery/showpicture.htm?key=kveus1256&dir=pittsburgh&tpe=city>>.

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Designed and compiled by
Lisa Over

The New York City of Asia Minor

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Great
Theater



Baths



Celsus
Library

A Strategic Location

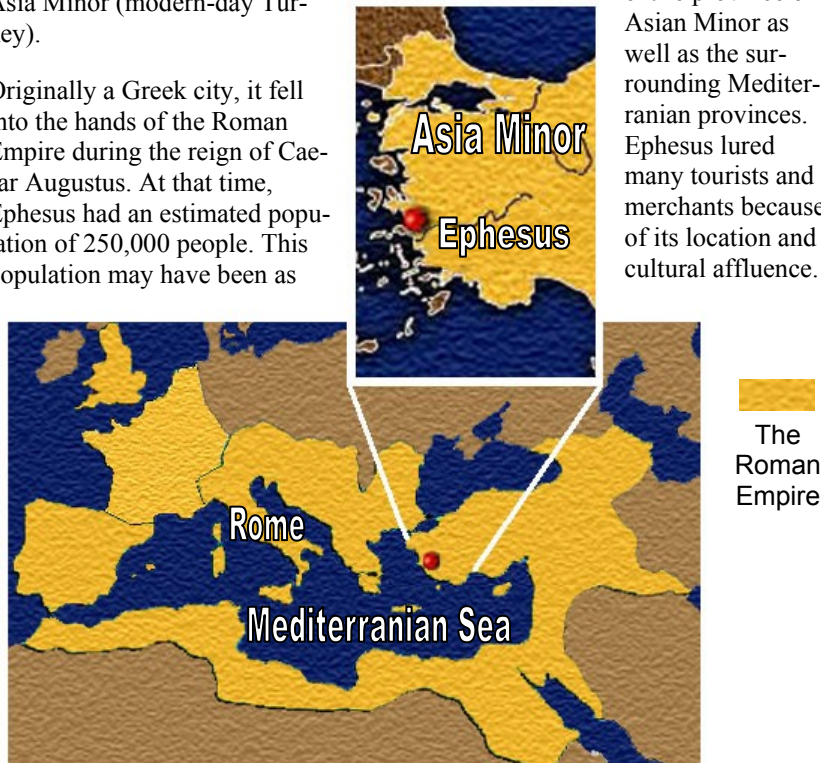
Ancient Ephesus can easily be compared to our New York City, one of the largest and most influential cities in the United States. New York City originates cultural, political, and economic trends and ideas that spread across our nation. Likewise, Ephesus influenced Asia Minor in its own time. Doubtless, the most critical factor in the success of these two cities was their location. We can attribute New York City's growth and subsequent fame and influence to its harbor on the Hudson River and Atlantic Ocean. To Ephesus, its harbor on the Cayster River and Aegean Sea was its lifeline. Ephesus was a major port on the west coast of Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey).

Originally a Greek city, it fell into the hands of the Roman Empire during the reign of Caesar Augustus. At that time, Ephesus had an estimated population of 250,000 people. This population may have been as

much as 500,000 by the end of the Roman Empire. Compared to the population of New York City, with approximately 8 million people, Ephesus seems quite small. But we are talking about ancient Ephesus and, during the Roman period, it was one of the largest metropolitan areas. Historians rank Ephesus with Rome, Alexandria, and Syrian Antioch as one of the greatest cities of the Roman Empire.

As the capital city of the richest region of the Roman Empire, Ephesus was the administrative and commercial center of Asia Minor. Whatever happened in Ephesus politically, economically, culturally, or religiously influenced the

entire province of Asian Minor as well as the surrounding Mediterranean provinces. Ephesus lured many tourists and merchants because of its location and cultural affluence.



The Center of Christian Missions

The strategic location and cultural affluence of Ephesus were integral to its impact on the culture, cultic religions, and political and economic systems throughout Asia Minor. These advantages also served to make the city a hub for taking Christianity to the outermost boundaries of the Roman Empire and into the world.

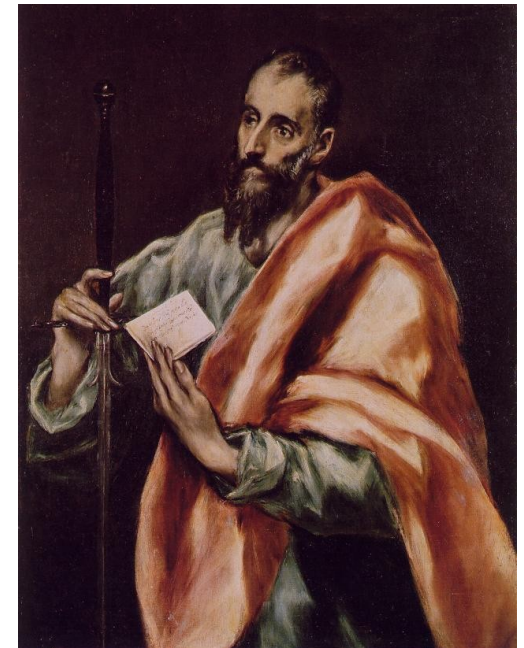
Although scholars believe Priscilla, Aquila, and Apollos started the church in Ephesus, its most significant growth came while Paul ministered there. On his third missionary journey, Paul stayed and preached in Ephesus for three years.

During his first three months, Paul preached at the local synagogue where the Jewish residents in Ephesus were allowed to practice their own religious traditions.

When this Jewish community became hostile toward Paul and his teaching, he left the synagogue with a few Jewish and Gentile believers. Paul preached to this group daily at the School of Tyrannus, a lecture hall in the city. This move proved critical to the spread of the church. Many people who frequented the city now had the opportunity to hear the gospel.

Of course, sales of cultic paraphernalia decreased as Paul's preaching turned more and more people to God. Conflict was inevitable. Within two years, the silversmiths who made images of Artemis became enraged and started the riot that brought thousands of people into the Great Theater.

Paul decided to leave Ephesus, but God's plan was not thwarted. In spite of the conflict and persecution at the Great Theater, Paul's missionary activity in Asia led to churches in Loadicea, Colossae, Hierapolis and, eventually, all over the world.



St. Paul by El Greco

Cults and Idol Worship

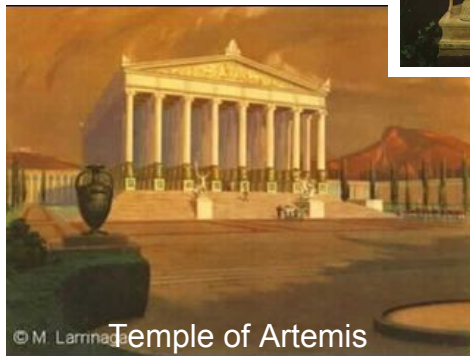
Along with the rich culture and administrative power, Ephesus also supported many cults and idol worship. These cults usually focused their worship on one Greek or Roman god. In Ephesus, many residents centered their worship

around the Greek Olympian goddess, Artemis Ephesia. This cult viewed the goddess' relationship to the city as a divinely directed covenant relationship. The Romans worshiped Artemis as Diana.

Both Artemis and Diana were associated with hunting and fertility.

Historical evidence shows that the Artemis cult celebrated mystery rites, which involved the practice of magic during major occasions such as the celebration of Artemis' birth. There were six magical papyrus scrolls of spells known as "Ephesian Letters," which were inscribed on the cultic image of Artemis. These magic books gave

Marble statue of Artemis



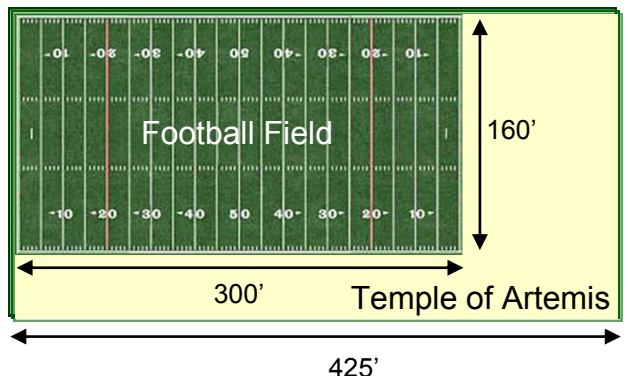
Temple of Artemis

Ephesus the reputation of being a center of magical practices.

One of the most influ-

ential aspects of this cult was their place of worship. The Temple of Artemis, an Ionic structure built in c. 550 B.C., was the largest building in the Greek world. Its status as one of the seven wonders of the world made Artemis famous throughout the Roman Empire and brought many tourists and worshippers to Ephesus. The temple was made entirely of marble and measured 220 x 425 feet. Some of its columns reached as high as 60 feet.

The figure to the left compares the width and length of the temple to a football field.



An Influential Way of Life

You don't have to travel far to see the Roman and Greek influence on our society. Numerous schools, stadiums, theaters, libraries, and spas testify to the significant connection we have with Roman and Greek history. Entertainment, leisure, athletics, and intellectual pursuits shaped the way of life in ancient Ephesus, too.

The city map on the next page shows many of the buildings that were present during the Roman period. Some of the most notable ones are listed below.

The Great Theater

The Great Theater was open to the sky and situated on a hill facing Arcadian Avenue, a beautiful colonnaded street leading to the harbor. With a capacity to seat 24,000

people, this theater can be compared to Pittsburgh's Mellon Arena, which seats 17,100 people around the ice rink.

The Agora

The Agora was the commercial market where most of the buying and selling of goods and produce took place. It was located in the center of the city. The State Agora, another market, held municipal activities such as meetings and law courts. It was located at the southeast part of the city.

Celsus Library

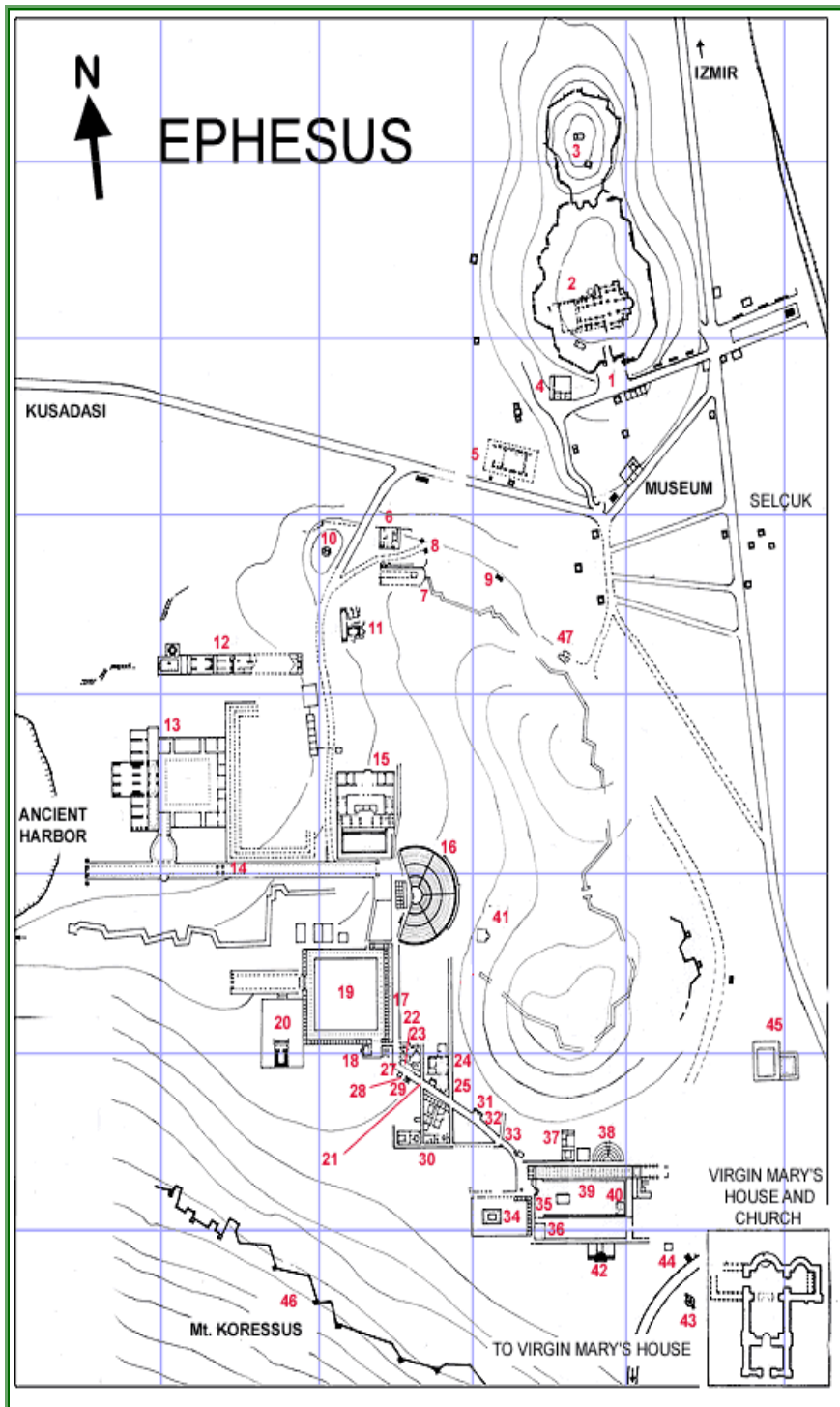
The Library at Ephesus once held between 12,000 and 15,000 scrolls.

continued on the next page



The Great Theater





- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. The Gates of Persecution | 28. Fountain |
| 2. St John's Basilica | 29. Octagon |
| 3. The Byzantine Citadel | 30. Hill houses |
| 4. Isa Bey Mosque | 31. Trajan Fountain and round tower |
| 5. Temple of Artemis | 32. Triumphal Arch |
| 6. Gymnasium of Vedius | 33. Monument of Mainmius and Hydreion |
| 7. The Stadium | 34. Temple of Domitianus |
| 8. Koressos Gate | 35. Fountain of Pollio |
| 9. Sanctuary of Mother Goddess Cybele | 36. Water Palace |
| 10. Acropolis and small temple | 37. Prytaneion |
| 11. Byzantine baths | 38. Odeion |
| 12. Double churches | 39. Basilica |
| 13. Harbor gymnasium and baths | 40. The State Agora |
| 14. Arcadian Avenue | 41. The Various Baths |
| 15. Gymnasium of the Theater | 42. The Nymphaeum |
| 16. The Great Theater | 43. The tomb of St Luke |
| 17. Marble road | 44. Magnesia Gate |
| 18. Celsus Library | 45. The East Gymnasium |
| 19. The Agora | 46. Walls of Bulbul Dag |
| 20. Temple of Serapis | 47. The cave of seven Sleepers |
| 21. Curates Street | |
| 22. Brothel | |
| 23. Public Toilets | |
| 24. Baths of Skolastikia | |
| 25. Temple of Hadrian | |
| 26. Auditorium* | |
| 27. Gate | |
- * We were unable to determine the location of the auditorium to add it to the map.
- Note:** The synagogue and School of Tyrannus are not listed on the map because their ruins have not been uncovered enough to determine their location.

The building faces east to supply the reading rooms with morning light.

Baths and Gymnasiums

Ephesus supported a number of baths and gymnasiums. The largest structure was located near the harbor and housed two athletic training areas, a gymnasium, and a bath.

Prytaneion

The Prytaneion was the Town Hall where the Ephesians accomplished much of the city's political business and held various ceremonies, banquets, and receptions for offi-

cial guests of the city. It also served as a place of worship for the goddess Hestia Boulaia as well as some of the other pagan deities.

Celsus Library

