

EPHESIANS

LIVING WITH SPIRITUAL POWER



SUPPLEMENTAL VERSES

Acts 28:16

Eph 1: 17-20

Acts 28:23

Eph 1: 1-14

Acts 28: 30-31

Luke 17: 11-19

Col 4:12-13

Acts 18:19-21

Acts 19: 1-20

Acts 19: 23-41

BACKGROUND OF EPHESIANS

Who wrote it? Paul

When did he write it? Approximately 62 AD. About 10 years after his ministry in Ephesus.

Under what circumstances is he writing? Paul is a prisoner in Rome.

He was imprisoned for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was first arrested in Jerusalem where he was imprisoned for 2 years. Because he was a Roman citizen, he appealed to Caesar and was transferred to Rome. He was on house arrest in Rome for another 2 years.

It was during this time that Paul wrote Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon.

PAUL'S PRISON MINISTRY

The Book of Acts describes some of Paul's imprisonment/ministry in Rome

Acts 28:16 When we got to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself with a soldier to guard him.

Acts 28:23 They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning til evening, he explained and declared to them the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Scriptures.

Acts 28:30-31 For two whole years Paul stayed there...Boldly and without hinderance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul had a significant ministry to both Romans & Jews while he was imprisoned.

And...when he wasn't just preaching and teaching...he was writing Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon.

Paul had an amazing ministry and impact while being imprisoned!

What does this teach us about how God sometimes works in people's lives?

SOME NOTABLE PEOPLE WHO WERE WITH PAUL

Tychius: It is believed that he was a pastor at one of the churches in Colosse. He might have even been the carrier of the letter to the Ephesians and the Colossians. (Eph 6:21 -22 Col 4: 7-8)

Onesimus: Was a slave to Philemon that became a believer while with Paul in Rome (Col 4:9) (Phil 1: 8-16)

Epaphras: Founder of the Colossian church and fellow prisoner (Phil 1:23 & Col 1:7 **Col 4:12-13**. “He is always wrestling in prayer for you! That you may stand firm in the will of God, mature and fully assured.”)

WHY EPHEBUS?

Why does Paul write a letter to Ephesus?

In the book of Acts, we learn about 3 missionary journeys that Paul took throughout the Roman Empire.

In the year 53 AD, Paul first ministered in Ephesus...but did not remain there. **Acts: 18:19-21.**

He went back 2 years later and stayed there for 3 years!!! This was the longest stay that he had in any city!!! He started out preaching and teaching in the Jewish synagogues which was his custom...but then began teaching & preaching in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

Pauls ministry to Ephesus is described in **Acts 19: 1-20**

His ministry had an impact...not only in Ephesus...but all over Asia due to the location and nature of Ephesus! Even the demons had heard of Paul at this point!

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EPHEBUS

It was a port city

It became the capital of Asia Minor because of its wealth and its location (would be in modern day Turkey)

It had an amphitheater that could seat 25k people.

The city was almost as significant as Rome in that day.

The people were very wealthy.

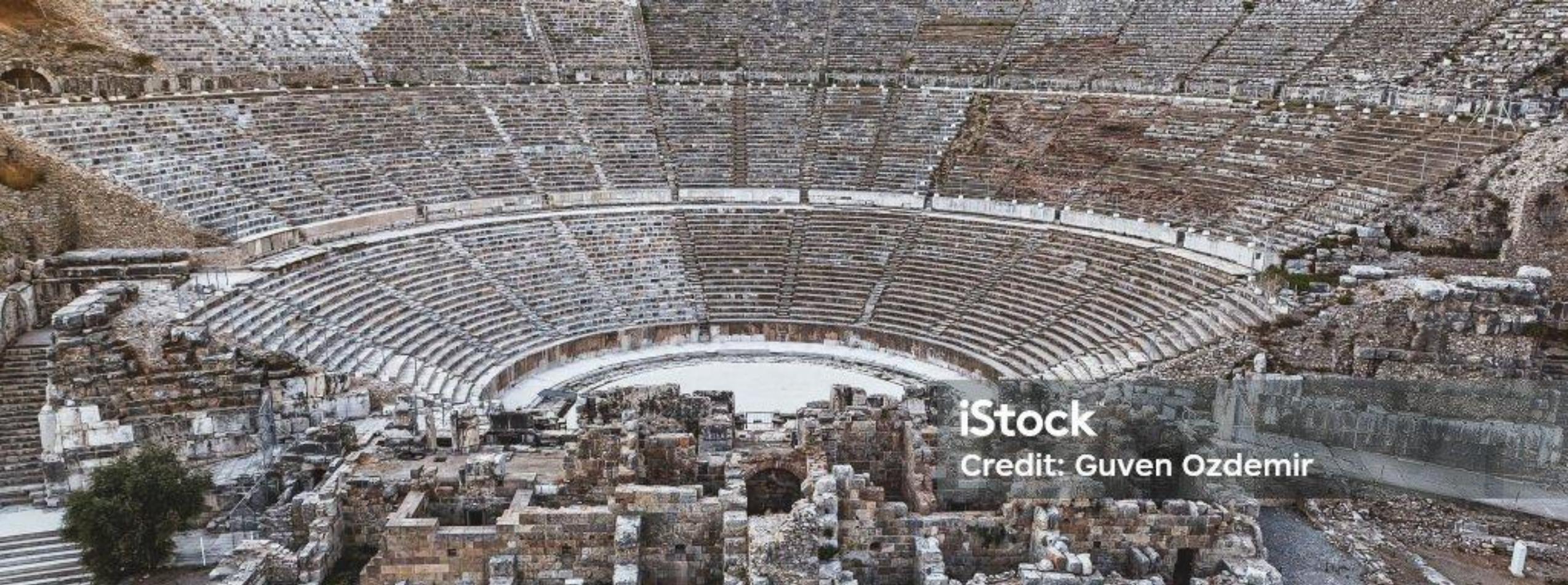
They built a temple to Artemis (Diana) which housed many great works of art.

They worshiped Artemis. **Act 19:23-41**



Ancient Port
of Ephesus

PORT CITY OF EPHEBUS



iStock

Credit: Guven Ozdemir

AMPHITHEATER IN EPHESUS



AMPHITHEATER IN EPHEBUS



LIBRARY |



562838187

LIBRARY IN EPHESUS



SCHOOL OF TYRANNUS



MODEL OF THE TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS

One of the seven wonders of the world

WORSHIP OF ARTEMIS

They saw the city of Ephesus as a guardian of the temple of Artemis.

Their worship included idols made of wood, silver, stone. These items were shipped all over the world from Ephesus so that people could worship Artemis.

There were sacrifices made at the temple as well as ceremonial prostitution.

Artemis was viewed to be the mother of all living things...kind of equivalent to “mother nature”

SIMILARITIES BETWEEN EPHESUS AND AMERICA

Both are very wealthy in worldly treasure.

Both had/have significant trade.

Both had/have influence all over the world.

Both all full of pagan & idol worship.

Freedom to preach the Gospel was/is here! (Paul was able to preach in the lecture hall of Tyrannus for two years)

God definitely was very strategic about sending Paul there! God is also very strategic about the Gospel & the Church thriving in America.

LIVING WITH SPIRITUAL POWER

The title of this class is “Living with Spiritual Power”.

Spiritual Power comes from: Knowing God’s word, experiencing His presence daily, prayer, meaningful connection with other believers, and living on spiritual mission.

In **Ephesians 1:17 -20** Paul is praying that God would give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation...so that they may know him better, that their hearts would be enlightened so that they may know the hope to which they are called, the riches of his glorious inheritance with the saints, and ***his incomparable great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead!***

The word in Greek for Power that is used here is “dunamis”. It’s where we get our word dynamite.

This Dynamite Power that God used when He raised Jesus from the dead is available to us who believe!!!! Paul is praying that the Ephesians would understand these truths and experience them in their lives! That they would experience living with spiritual power!

Throughout this Book...Paul is going to tell them some deep, amazing spiritual truths, how to live for Christ...and He’s even going to talk about how to prevail in spiritual warfare!

EPHESIANS 1: 1-14

This is the longest sentence in all of Scripture!!!

In the Greek, it is one long, run on sentence.

This sentence is packed with theological truth that will take us several weeks to unpack.

Let's Read **Ephesians 1: 1-14**

PAUL THE APOSTLE

Vs 1: Paul, and apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God.

What does the word Apostle mean?

Apostle = One who is sent on a mission. Also means messenger.

Paul was “Living on Mission”!

What was Paul’s mission? To share the good news (Gospel) of God’s great love & forgiveness & the opportunity that we all now have to have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Paul’s mission was to share this message not only to the Jews...but to the Gentiles “non Jews”

Paul’s calling from God is recorded in Acts 22: 17- 21.

WHAT IS A SAINT?

Vs 2: To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus

What is a Saint?

The Greek word is “hagios”

Saint = “set apart” or “sacred” or “holy ones”

This word at that time was synonymous with the word “Christian”. It referred to all believers.

This word has been re-defined in modern times to refer to “Super Christians who are already dead” They have lived and done miraculous things which have caused them to be canonized. It’s kind of like being inducted into the Christian Hall of Fame to be called a Saint.

This is not the Biblical meaning or definition of this word.

YOU CAN BE A SAINT IN EPHEBUS!

Notice that He is writing to the Saints in Ephesus!!!

Remember, Ephesus was the capital of worship to Artemis. Wealth flowed easily from this city and the people were rich. Prostitution was normalized and seen as worship to the God Artemis. Because of this...lot's of sailors loved to frequent this city!

Notice...that you can be a saint in Ephesus!

One who is set apart for God..one who is Holy...one who is entrusted with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and one who is living on mission for Him! It may be difficult to be a saint living in a place like that.

That is what being a “light in the darkness” is all about!

Paul's ministry in Ephesus...not only changed Ephesus...but had an impact all over Asia minor and all over the world!

There are many similarities to what these Christians in Ephesus were facing in that day...to what we are dealing with now in our society.

YOU CAN BE A SAINT IN ANNAPOLIS!

Think about your situation for a minute. Do you think it is hard to be a saint in Annapolis...in America? There are so many evil influences going on all around us...in our culture, on the tv, on the radio, on the internet...and yet God has sovereignly put you and I here in this place...at this time...for his particular purposes!

He has set us apart...to live for him...To be lights in the darkness. He has entrusted us with the good news of His love, grace and mercy which are freely given through Jesus Christ. He has blessed us with all kinds of resources and means to not only live for him...but to live on “mission for him”.

God has a reason and a purpose for you being in this particular place at this particular time, and God has gifted you uniquely to serve him!

Are you living on mission for him? Do you have a personal spiritual mission statement?

Part of living with spiritual power is understanding how he has gifted you and living on mission for Him!

PAUL BEGINS HIS LONG SENTENCE BY PRAISING GOD!

Verse 3: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In other versions KJV, NAS, & Amplified the word is translated “Blessed be God”.

The word in Greek is “Eulogia”.

Eulogia = Eulogize, laud, speak well of, praise

This word is reminiscent of so many Scriptures where the writers praised God and Blessed God.

PRAISES TO GOD IN SCRIPTURES

There are numerous examples of Praises to God in Scriptures. Here are a few:

Ezra 7:27 Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers which has put such a thing as this in the King's heart to beautify the house of the Lord in Jerusalem.

Neh 8:6 And Ezra blessed the Lord, the Great God. And all of the people said Amen Amen with lifting up their hands and they worshipped God with their faces to the ground.

Psalms 28:6 Blessed is the Lord because he hath heard my supplication

Psalms 31:21 Blessed be the Lord for he has showed me his marvelous kindness.

Psalms 66:20 Blessed be God which has not turned away from my prayer nor his mercy from me.

PRAISES TO GOD IN SCRIPTURES

Psalm 68:19 Blessed be the Lord who daily loads us with benefits even the God our our salvation.

Psalm 72:18 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel who only does wondrous things!

Psalm 106:48 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting and let the people say Amen! Praise ye the Lord!

Luke 19:37-40 Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the Highest! The Pharisees said "Teacher rebuke your disciples". Jesus replied "if they keep silent...the rocks would cry out"

HOW ARE YOU DOING WITH PRAISING GOD?

Are you quick to Praise God and see Him at work in your life?

Or...do you struggle to find things to Praise God for?

As a father...when I do things for my children...or grandchildren...how do I feel when they don't take a minute to say "Thank you"

Are they ungrateful, feeling entitled, have I given them too much...it just isn't recognized anymore? Why should I continue to bless them?

Do you think God feels similar when we don't thank him and praise him for his Blessings in our lives...even the little ones?

Luke 17: 11-19 Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?

In what circumstances is Paul praising God? He is in prison, and potentially could lose His life!!! But here he is praising God!

Don' let the rocks cry out in your place!!!

WHAT IS PAUL PRAISING GOD FOR?

Paul is praising God for the Spiritual Blessings that we have in Christ!

The Ephesians were rich in material wealth...Paul wants them to know that they are rich Spiritually in Christ. Paul uses the word “rich” several times in this letter.

1:7 rich in God’s grace

2:7 rich in God’s grace expressed in kindness to us in Christ

1:18 riches of His glorious inheritance

3:8 unsearchable riches of Christ

Paul wants to point their attention away from their worldly riches to their spiritual riches in Christ!

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS THAT PAUL MENTIONS

He says in verse 3: “that God the Father has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing.”

Then he is going to name a few:

1. We are chosen
2. We are adopted
3. We are accepted
4. We have redemption
5. We have forgiveness
6. He has given us wisdom and understanding
7. He has given us an inheritance
8. He has sealed us.

SPIRITUAL POWER BEGINS WHEN WE UNDERSTAND WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST!

The next few weeks we are going to unpack each of these “spiritual blessings” that we have in Christ.

Part of living with spiritual power...is also understanding who we are in Christ...and the amazing spiritual blessings that we have!