

EPHESIANS

INTRODUCTION

1. One of the largest cities in the Mediterranean world
(*population ¼-1/2 million*)

The chief city of the Roman province of Asia

The great temple of Artemis (said to house her image, which was
Said to have fallen from heaven) *Acts 19:23 - 20:1*

The city's open-air theater could seat 25 thousand people

2. First came into contact with the Apostle Paul on his Second Missionary
Journey *Acts 18:19-21*

3. After Paul left the city, Apollos preached there

4. Paul spent 3 years in the city while on his Third Missionary Journey
Acts 19:1-12; 20:31 (*Longest ministry recorded of Paul*)

5. Timothy ministered there after Paul

6. Toward the end of the first century, the Apostle John made Ephesus
his base of operation.

AUTHOR OF THE EPISTLE - PAUL

RECIPIENTS - THE EPHESIANS

1. Contains no reference to any of Paul's experiences in Ephesus

2. No greetings sent to anyone by name

3. Eph 1:15 and 3:2 don't make it sound like Paul had ministered to them
for such a significant amount of time

4. A number of copies of the letter have been found which do not contain
the phrase "who are at Ephesus" - Origin states that the copy of the letter
in his possession made no reference to Ephesus

5. It has been proposed that this epistle may be the "letter to the
Laodiceans" *Col 4:16*

6. Some, in an effort to harmonize the above, have suggested that it was an
Encyclical Letter to a number of Churches, geographically near Ephesus.

It must be noted that no manuscript has ever been found that contains another church's name.

CIRCUMSTANCES AND DATE OF THE EPISTLE

1. Written while Paul was under house arrest in Rome, awaiting the outcome of his appeal to Caesar - AD 59 and 61
2. Colossians, Philemon, and Ephesians were delivered by Tychicus on the same journey *Eph 6:21-22; Col 4:7*

NOTE: Tychicus was a friend and fellow worker with Paul

- a. More than a hundred people are mentioned in the NT as
Either a friend or co-worker of the Apostle Paul
- b. 2 Tim 4:9-22
 - Demas - Col 4:14; Philemon 24 ...abandoned me because...
 - Alexander - laid the information against me" He must have testified against Paul before the Imperial court.
- c. Tychicus - vs 12; Acts 20:4
 - On one occasion he was sent to Crete to relieve Titus Titus 3:12 - who was in Crete.
 - Paul's last letter finds him sending Tychicus to Ephesus

3. It appears to be near the time when Paul expected release from his house arrest *Philem 22 - AD 61*
Acts 25:1-12; 26:27-32; 28:16,30-31

There are a very large number of thoughts that are found in both Ephesians and Colossians (see attached listing, taken from "New Testament Commentary" by William Hendrikson.

This fact makes each Epistle an excellent commentary on the other!