

# Ephesians Series

Lesson #003

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Dean Bible Ministries

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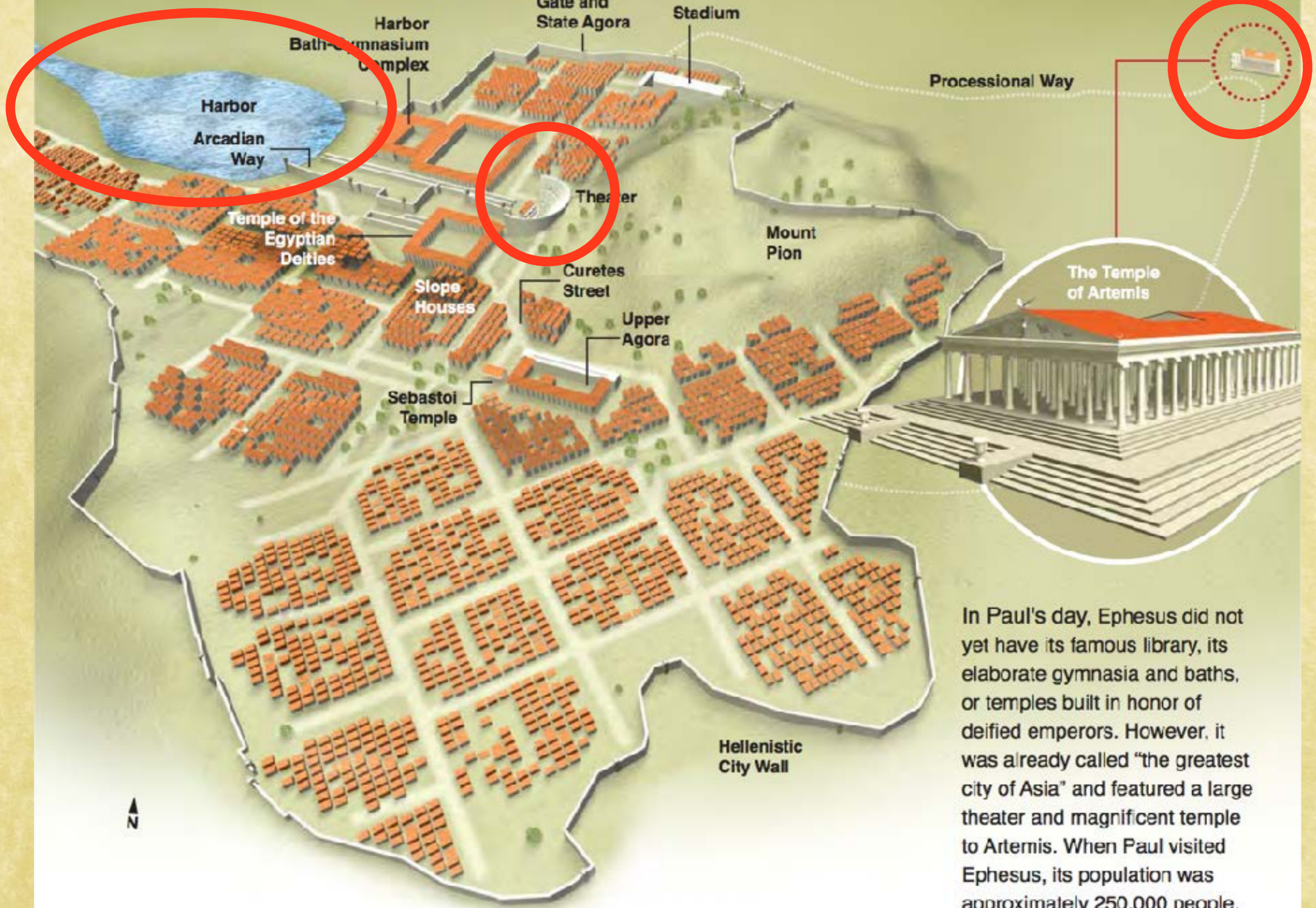
# EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH & WALK  
OF THE BELIEVER

**Ephesus: Christ Confronts Culture**  
**Acts 19:21–41**







In Paul's day, Ephesus did not yet have its famous library, its elaborate gymnasia and baths, or temples built in honor of deified emperors. However, it was already called "the greatest city of Asia" and featured a large theater and magnificent temple to Artemis. When Paul visited Ephesus, its population was approximately 250,000 people.

# Ephesus in Paul's Day



# The Basis of Knowledge

	<b>SYSTEM</b>	<b>STARTING POINT</b>	<b>METHOD</b>
<b>Autonomous Systems of Perception</b>	<b>RATIONALISM</b>	Innate ideas; Faith in human ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	<b>EMPIRICISM</b>	Sense perceptions; External experience; Scientific method; Faith in human ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	<b>MYSTICISM</b>	Inner, private experience; Intuition; Faith in human ability	Independent, Nonlogical, Nonrational, Nonverifiable
<b>Divine Viewpoint</b>	<b>REVELATION</b>	Objective revelation of God	Dependent use of logic and reason

## **Opposition from**

- 1. Intellectual rationalists or empiricists who reject a Creator God.**
- 2. Mystics and the demonic.**
- 3. Polytheism, the worship of idols.**

**Eph. 1:20, “which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,**

**Eph. 1:21, “far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.**

**Eph. 1:22, “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,**

**Eph. 1:23, “which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”**



**Psa. 115:1, “Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but to Your name give glory, because of Your mercy, because of Your truth.**

**Psa. 115:2, “Why should the Gentiles say, ‘So where is their God?’**

**Psa. 115:3, “But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.”**

**Psa. 115:4, “Their idols are silver and gold,  
The work of men’s hands.**

**Psa. 115:5, “They have mouths, but they do  
not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not  
see;**

**Psa. 115:6, “They have ears, but they do not  
hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell;**

**Psa. 115:7, “They have hands, but they do  
not handle; Feet they have, but they do not  
walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat.**

**Psa. 115:8, “Those who make them are like  
them; So is everyone who trusts in them.”**

**Rom. 1:18, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,**

**Rom. 1:19, “because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.**

**Rom. 1:20, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,”**

**Rom. 1:21, “because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.**

**Rom. 1:22, “Professing to be wise, they became fools,**

**Rom. 1:23, “and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.”**

**Acts 19:20, “So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.”**

**Acts 19:24, “For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen.”**

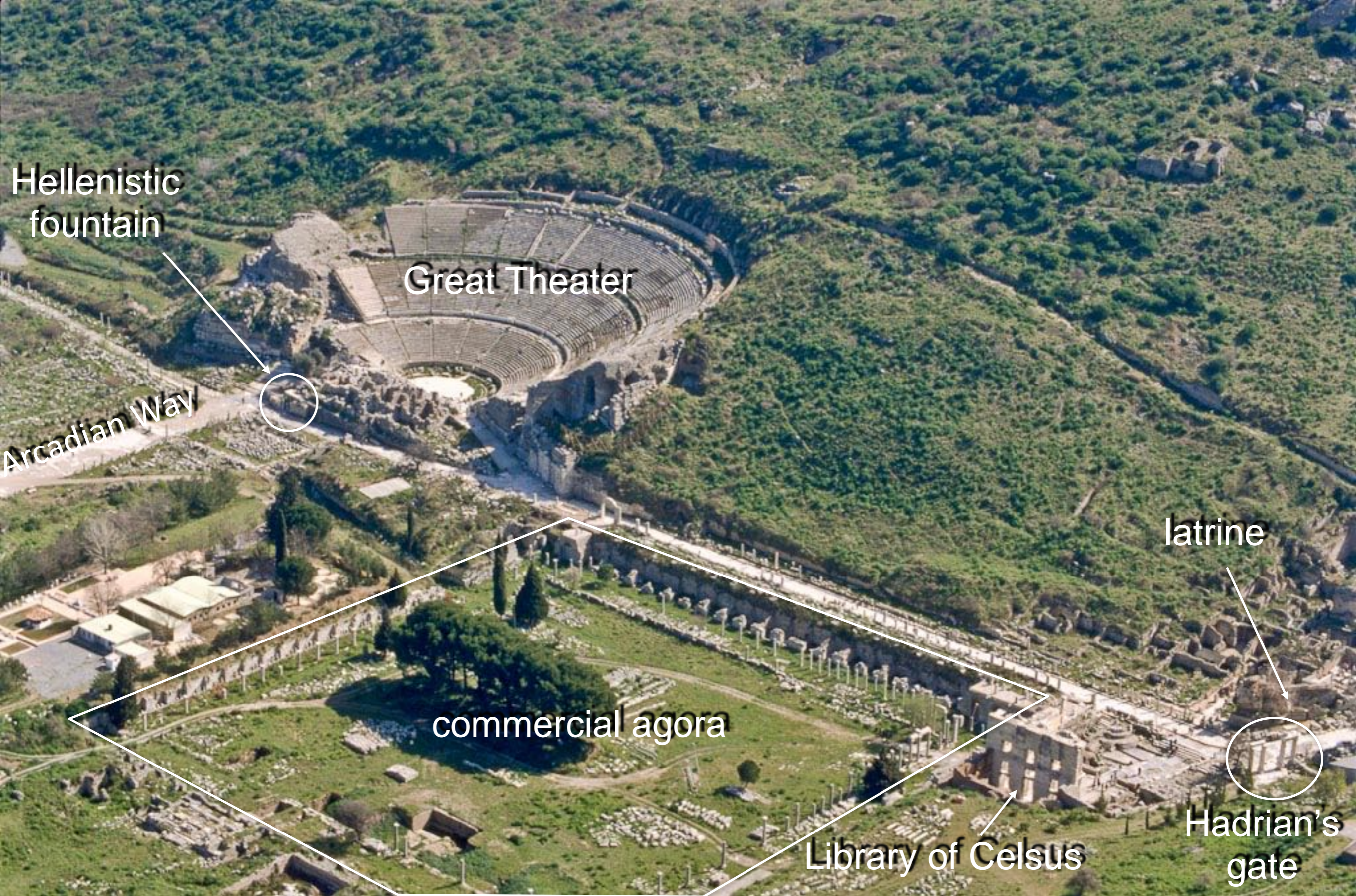


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Ephesus Temple of Artemis ruins

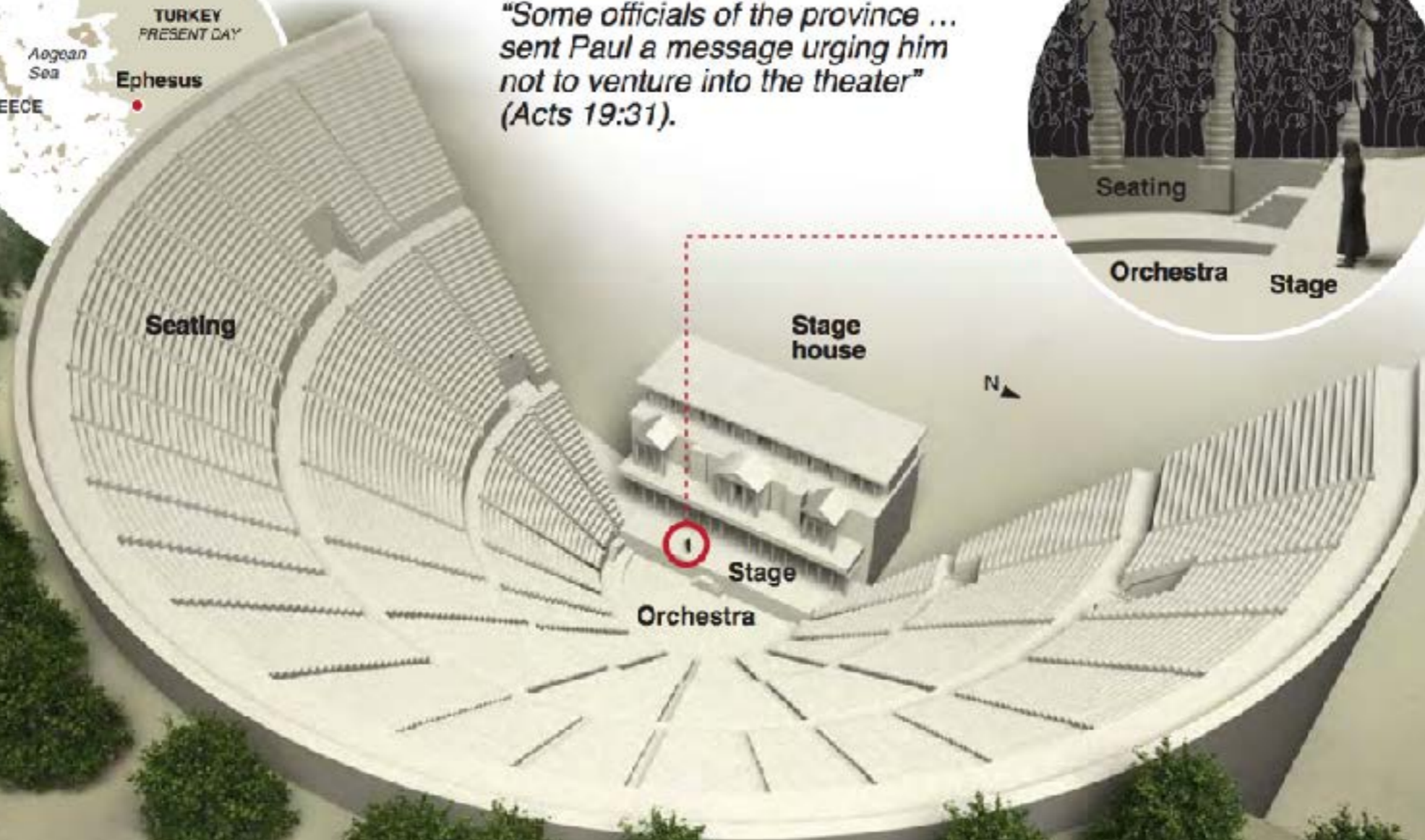
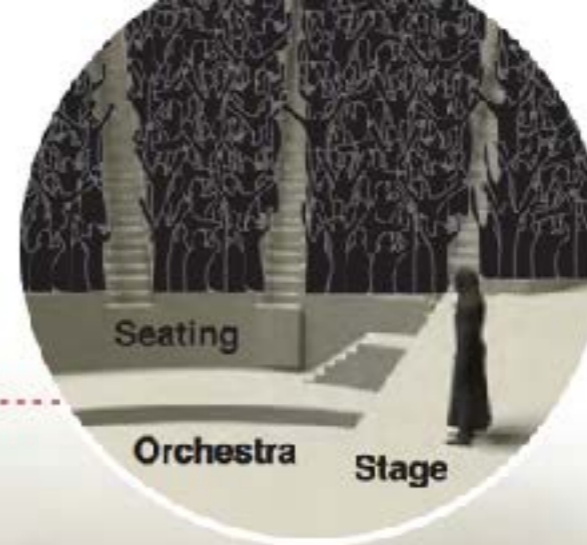




Ephesus Great Theater and commercial agora aerial



*"Some officials of the province ... sent Paul a message urging him not to venture into the theater" (Acts 19:31).*



Hillside

# The Theater in Ephesus

This was the primary theater in Ephesus during the lifetime of the Apostle Paul. It held about 25,000 people and was used for theatrical productions as well as civic and religious meetings.

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Size comparison (approximate):



Date of construction: ca. 200 BC  
Cavea width: 466 ft. (142 m.)  
Orchestra width: 85 ft. (25.8 m.)  
Stage width: 83 ft. (25.4 m.)  
Stage depth: 18 ft. (5.55 m.)  
Seating: 67 Rows  
Seating capacity: 17,000–25,000

Seating capacity: 41,160  
Distances from plate:  
Left field: 355 ft. (108.2 m.)  
Center field: 400 ft. (121.9 m.)  
Right field: 353 ft. (107.6 m.)



**Acts 19:31, “Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater.**

**Acts 19:32, “Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together.”**