

Joyful Life Bible Studies

WELCOME TO THE JOYFUL LIFE BIBLE STUDY

Calvary Chapel Women's Ministry

September 23, 1988 - June 2, 1989

The year of 1988-89 will be an exciting time for us to grow through God's Word and fellowship with one another.

From September to February we will be studying the book of Ephesians. It has been called the "Grand Canyon of Scripture", so great and wide are the truths in this extraordinary epistle. You will learn how to sit at the Lord's feet, walk with Him, and finally stand victoriously before the enemy.

You will be blessed as you participate in this year's Bible study. Remember - participation takes preparation and preparation takes time! As with anything important and valuable, there must be commitment - to God, His Word and to one another. You will receive out of this Bible Study as much as you put in. Studying God's Word on a daily basis results in a deeper knowledge of Him. As we grow in knowledge of Him, we grow in love for Him and a desire to please Him.

This book of Ephesians is also a very practical book. It deals with daily problems. Through this book we learn how to react and grow through them.

The Lord bless you, keep you,
and cause His face to shine upon
you and be gracious unto you.

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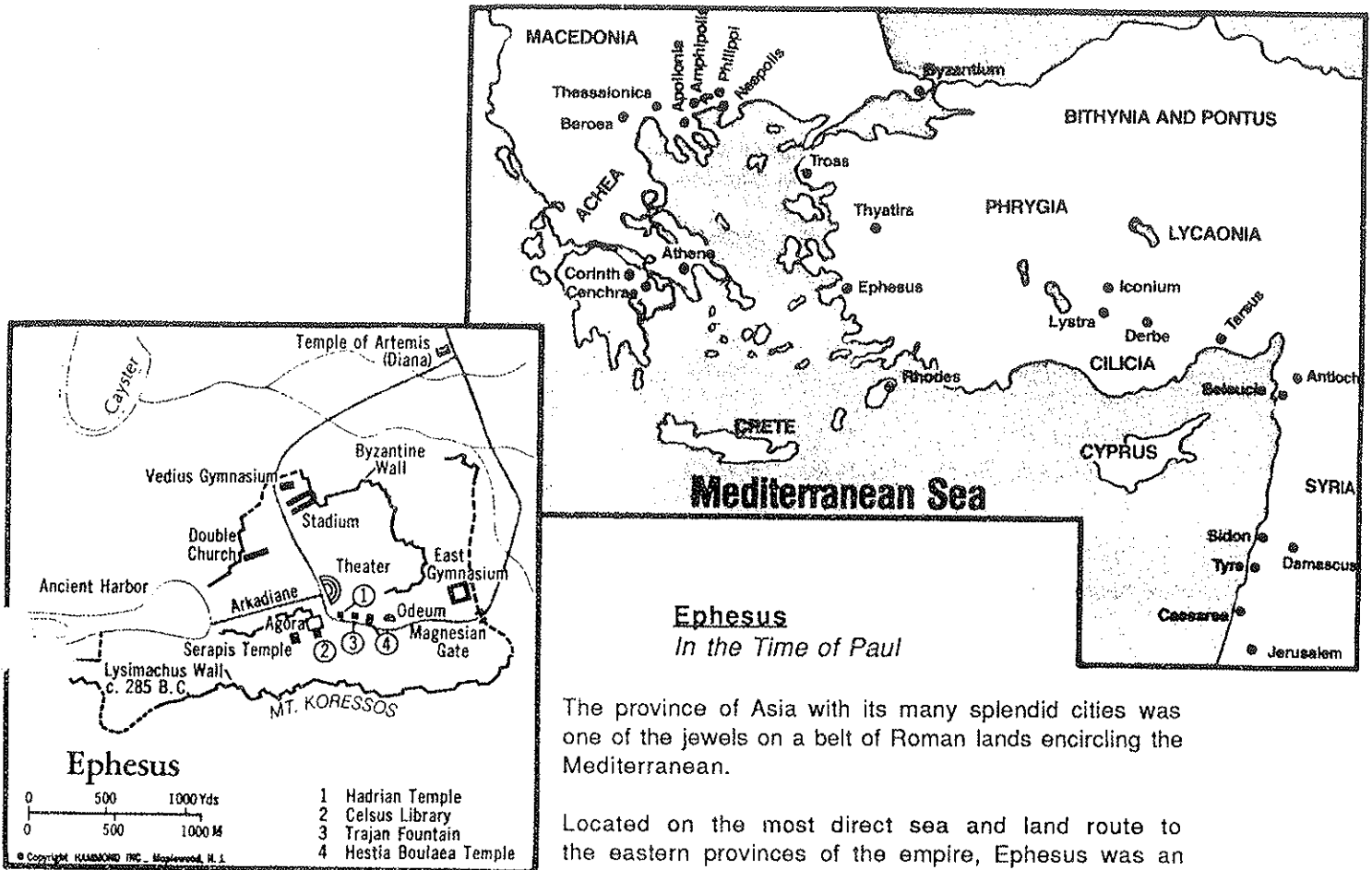
BACKGROUND ON THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Paul was a prisoner in Rome when he wrote the Epistle to the Ephesians in A.D. 60. He was writing to people he knew and loved. He had spent over two years teaching the Ephesian people (Acts 19:8,10). Since there are no personal greetings at the beginning of the letter, it is possible that this was intended to function as a circular letter for several churches in Asia Minor.

The book of Ephesians is written to Christians who don't understand the riches they have in Christ. As a Christian, are you aware of how rich you are? There was a lady by the name of Hetty Green, who was known in American history as "America's Greatest Miser." When she died in 1916, she left an estate valued at \$100 million. That was a lot of money in 1916! It is said that Hetty Green was so miserly that she ate cold oatmeal because it was too expensive to heat the water to warm it. Her son had a severe leg injury, but because she delayed so long in trying to find a free clinic, his leg had to be amputated. In fact, she had an attack of apoplexy, which hastened her own death, while arguing over the merits of skim milk because it was cheaper than whole milk! That's a strange lady - one who obviously didn't understand her resources and how to use them.

Do you know the full extent of the spiritual power offered to you to help you live a full Christian life? Paul's letter to the Ephesians addresses this, too. This epistle has been an inspiration to new Christians as well as veterans in the faith. As you prepare to study the book of Ephesians, open your heart to God and let him teach you new and wonderful things that were written just for you.

Your study in the Book of Ephesians must begin with a good understanding of the city of Ephesus, its people and its church.



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OVERVIEW OF EPHESIANS

Lesson 1

INTRODUCTION - Background of Church at Ephesus

1. For a better understanding of the book of Ephesians we need to look at the background of the church in Ephesus. Read the following passages and briefly describe what occurred.
 - a. Acts 18:18-21 (Paul's first visit - approx. A.D. 52)
 - b. Acts 18:24-26
 - c. Acts 19 (A.D. 52-56 - Paul's second visit)
 - d. Acts 20:17-27
 - e. Acts 20:28-38 (A.D. 55-56)
 - f. I Timothy 1:3 (A.D. 64)
2. What is your general impression of the city of Ephesus and the people?
3. What testimony does Acts 20:21 record Paul gave?
4. What one event in the above passages impressed you most?
5. What person or persons stands out strongest? Why?
6. What verse especially spoke to your heart?

7. Read Revelation 2:1-7. Although the church in Ephesus by A.D. 96 had many outstanding works, what did Jesus say He had against them? verse 4.
 - a. What does that mean?
 - b. What did He tell them they needed to do?

Personal: Think about your life. Is your love for Christ as fervent as when you first believed on Him for salvation? Selah.

DAY ONE

Beginning today, you will be studying the book of Ephesians as a whole. Your task will be to look at the book and to see its overall message. Chapter by chapter study will begin next week. We recommend that you read the entire book of Ephesians through at least once this week just as you would read a letter when you received it.

Read Chapter 1 of the book of Ephesians today.

1. Write a title for this chapter.
2. What phrases capture your attention?
3. Write 2 or 3 central themes of this chapter.
4. Write one sentence from this chapter about each of these.
 - a. God
 - b. Jesus
 - c. Holy Spirit
 - d. Prayer
5. What did you find in this chapter to apply to your life today?

DAY TWO

Read Chapter 2 of the book of Ephesians today.

1. Write a title for this chapter.

2. What phrases capture your attention?
3. Write 2 or 3 central themes of this chapter.
4. Write one sentence from this chapter about each of these.
 - a. God
 - b. Jesus
 - c. Holy Spirit
 - d. Grace
 - e. Peace
 - f. Citizenship
5. What did you find in this chapter to apply to your life today?

DAY THREE

Read Chapter 3 of the book of Ephesians today.

1. Write a title for this chapter.
2. What phrases capture your attention?
3. Write 2 or 3 central themes of this chapter.
4. Write one sentence from this chapter about each of these.
 - a. God
 - b. Jesus
 - c. Holy Spirit

- d. Paul
- e. Love
- f. Power

5. What did you find in this chapter to apply to your life today?

DAY FOUR

Read Chapter 4 of the book of Ephesians today.

1. Write a title for this chapter.
2. What phrases capture your attention?
3. Write 2 or 3 central themes of this chapter.
4. Write one sentence from this chapter about each of these.
 - a. God
 - b. Jesus
 - c. Holy Spirit
 - d. Growth
 - e. Christian Conduct
 - f. Forgiveness
5. What did you find in this chapter to apply to your life today?

DAY FIVE

Read Chapter 5 of the book of Ephesians today.

1. Write a title for this chapter.
2. What phrases capture your attention?
3. Write 2 or 3 central themes of this chapter.
4. Write one sentence from this chapter about each of these.
 - a. God
 - b. Jesus
 - c. Holy Spirit
 - d. Consequences of Sin
 - e. Light
 - f. Marriage
5. What did you find in this chapter to apply to your life today?

DAY SIX

Read Chapter 6 of the book of Ephesians today.

1. Write a title for this chapter.
2. What phrases capture your attention?
3. Write 2 or 3 central themes of this chapter.
4. Write one sentence from this chapter about each of these.
 - a. God
 - b. Jesus

