

# Understanding Ephesus



# **Grace Value: Bring Your Own Bible**

We will dive deep into Scripture and avoid shallow answers. We pursue biblical theology, we value lifelong discipleship, and we equip our people to explore God's Word on their own.

# This Evening's Class

The fall of Constantinople

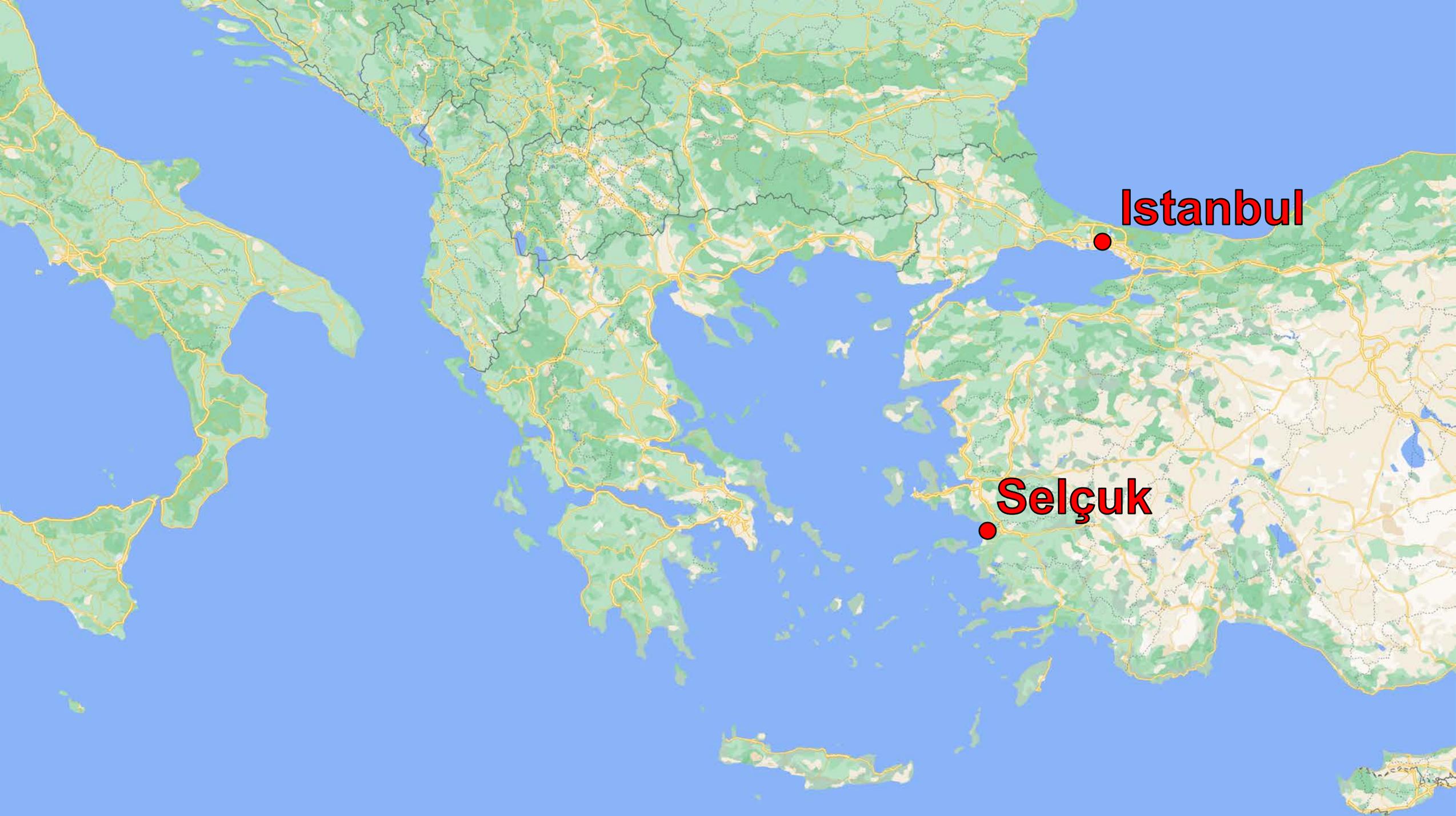
The Basilica of St. John

Ancient Ephesus

The Temple of Artemis

New Insights Into the New Testament

**Istanbul**  
**(a.k.a. Constantinople)**



**Istanbul**

**Selçuk**

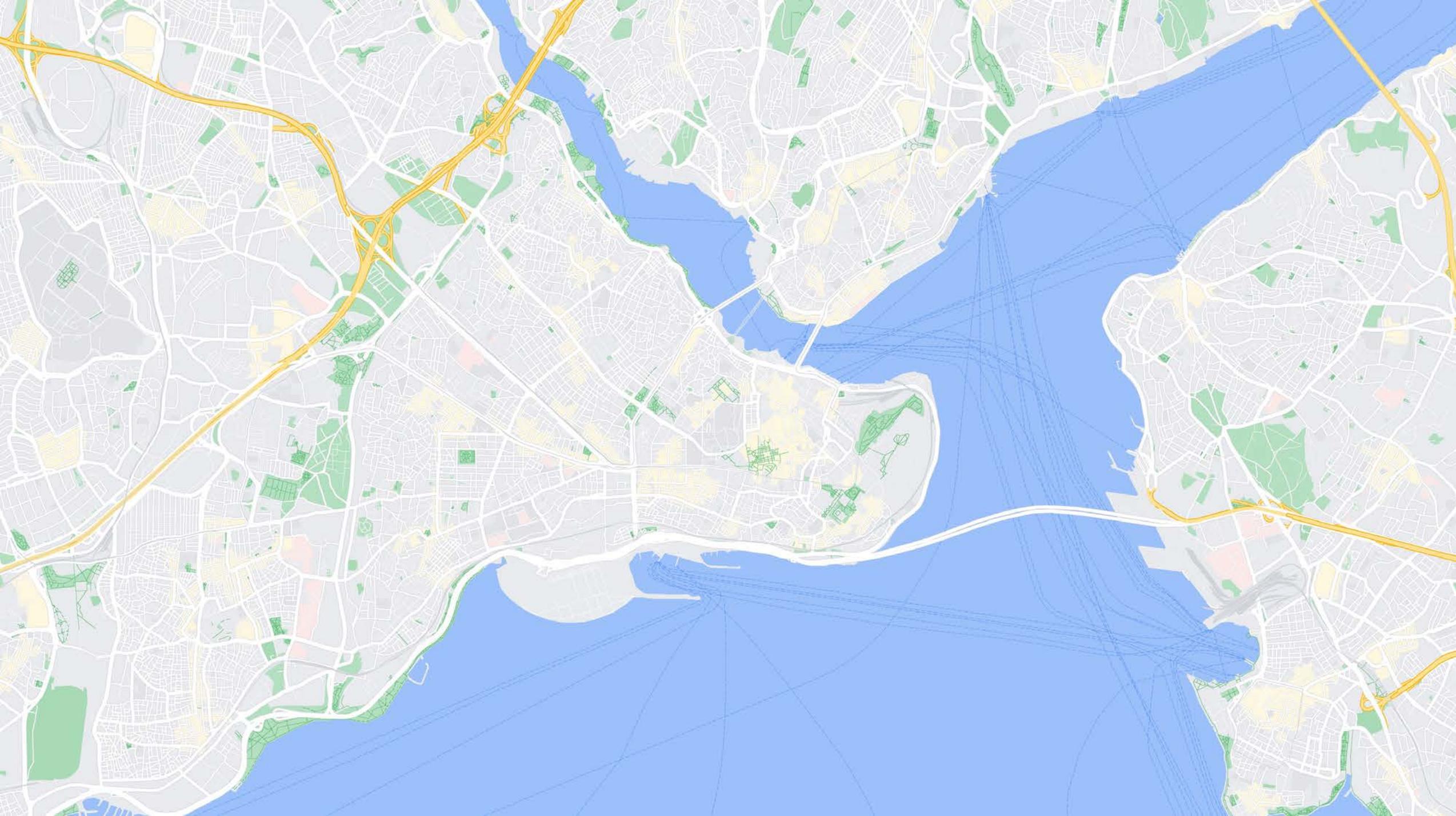
# Constantinople

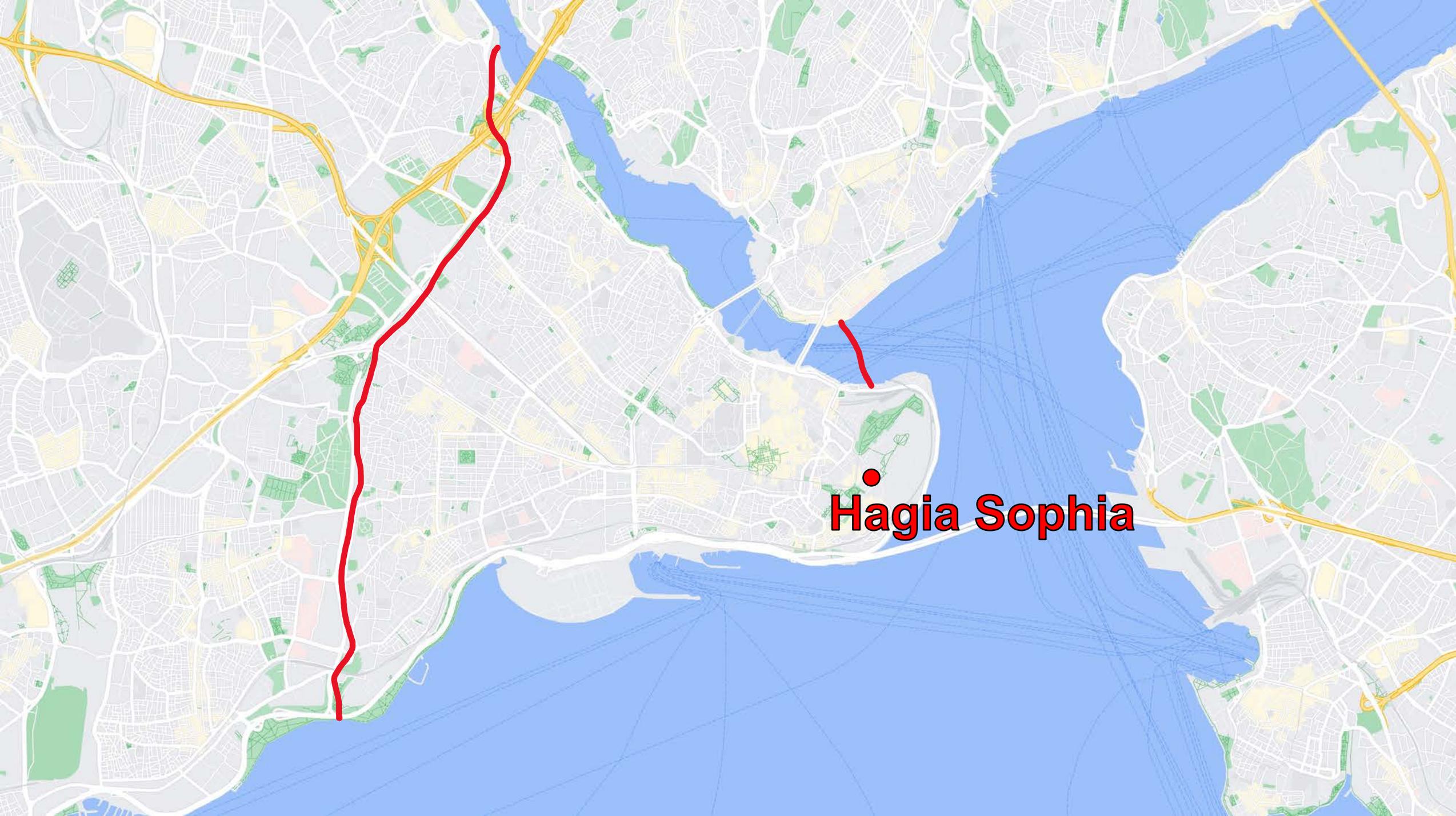
**324** Byzantium re-founded as the “New Rome” by Constantine, re-named “Constantinople”

**527-565** Rule of Emperor Justinian, Hagia Sophia rebuilt

**1204** Fourth Crusade sacks the city

**1453** City falls to Ottoman Empire, renamed Istanbul





**Hagia Sophia**











DEVELI

İHSAN BABA

DEVELI

İHSAN BABA

DEVELI

İHSAN BABA

LEMON SALT  
LIMON TUZU  
300 TL

HIMALAYA SALT  
HIMALAYA  
TUZU  
300 TL

FRANK INCENSE  
DOLUN  
500 TL

DEVELI

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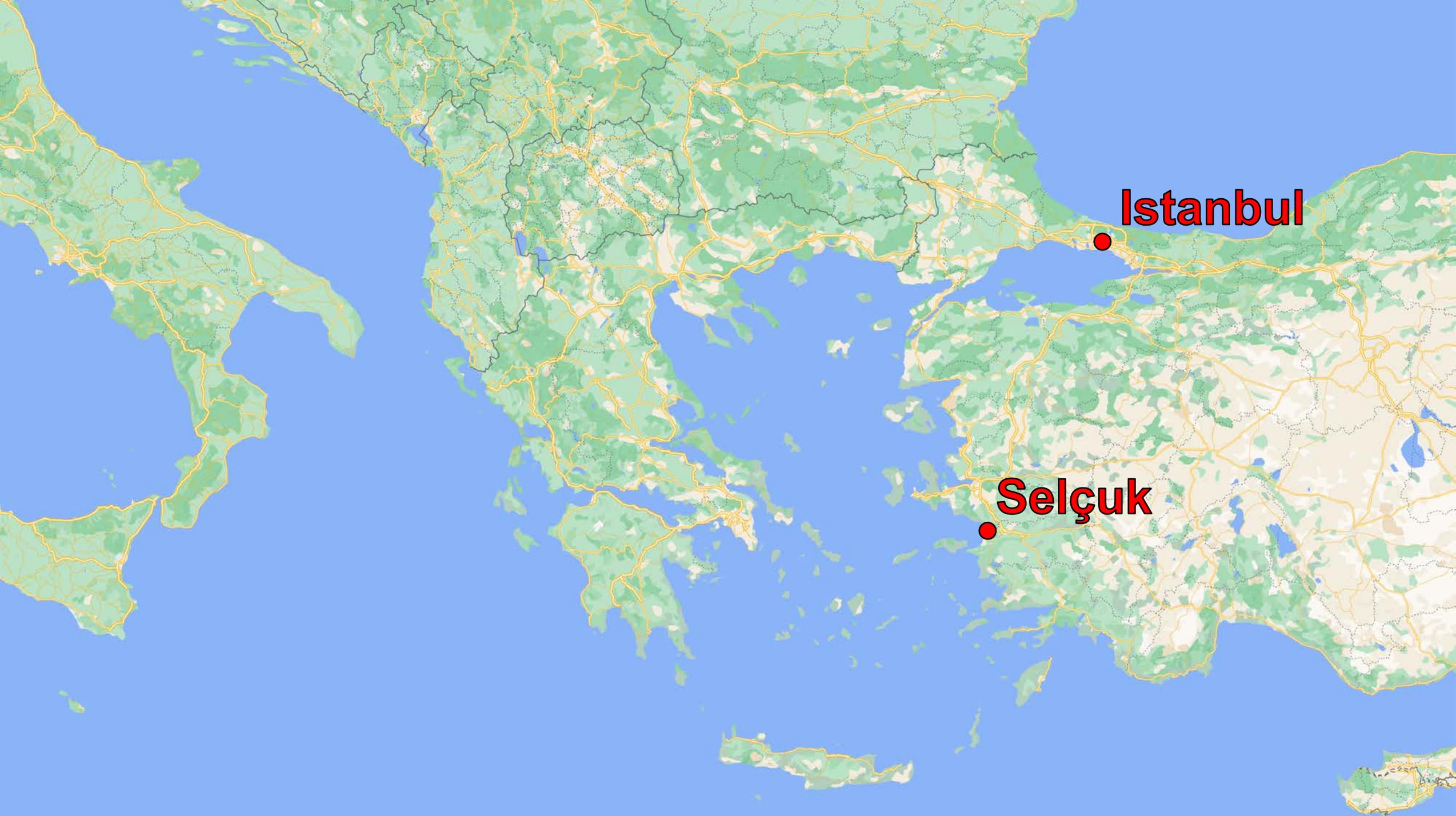








**Selçuk / Ephesus**



**Istanbul**

**Selçuk**

# **Basilica of St. John**





# Basilica of St. John the Apostle



First building on site a mausoleum

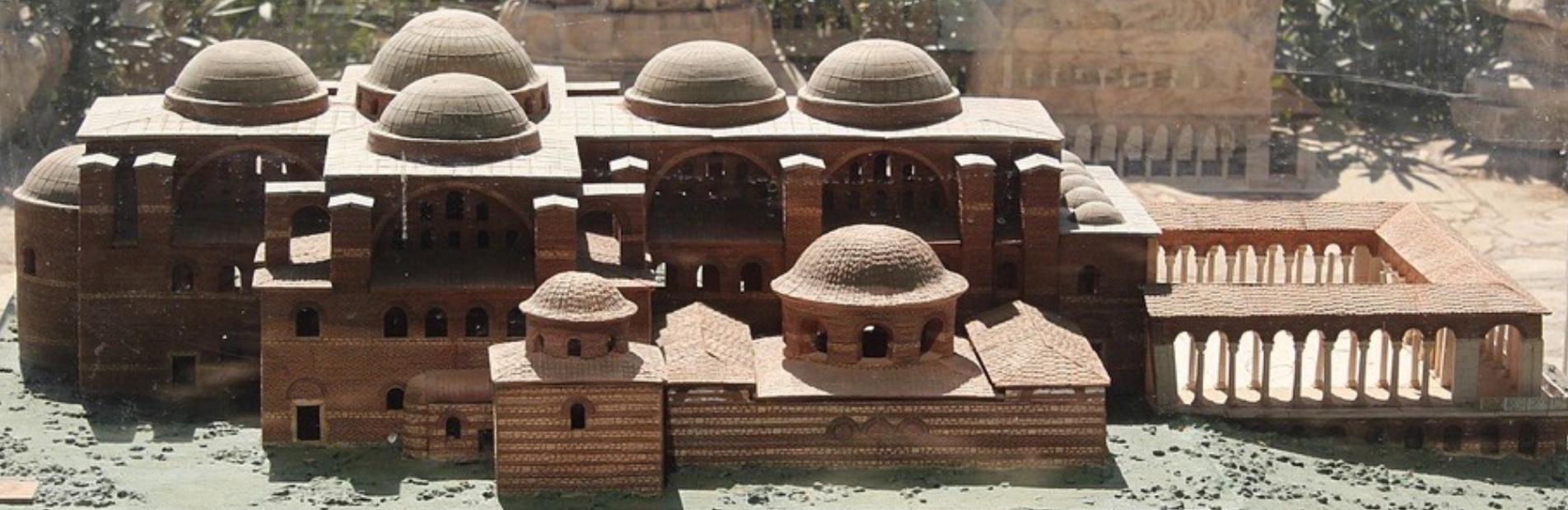
Small basilica built by Emperor  
Thodosius in 4<sup>th</sup> century

Domed basilica constructed by  
Justinian 548-565



ST. JEAN IN MEZARI  
THE TOMB OF  
ST. JOHN





St.JEAN KİLİSESİ MAKETİ  
(m.s.6.Y.Y)  
MODEL OF St.JOHN CHURCH  
(6 th Cent AD)





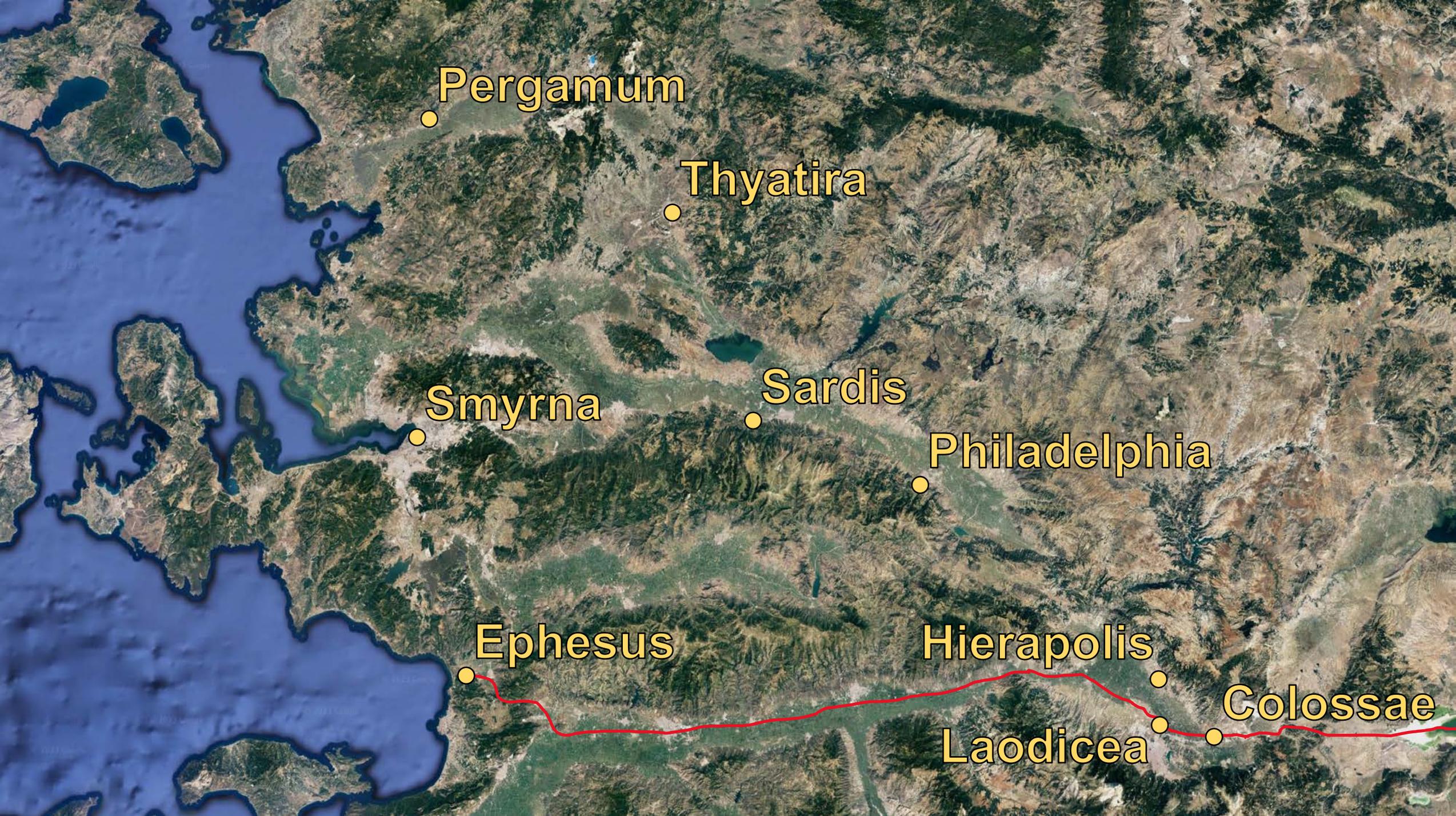








# Ancient Ephesus



Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

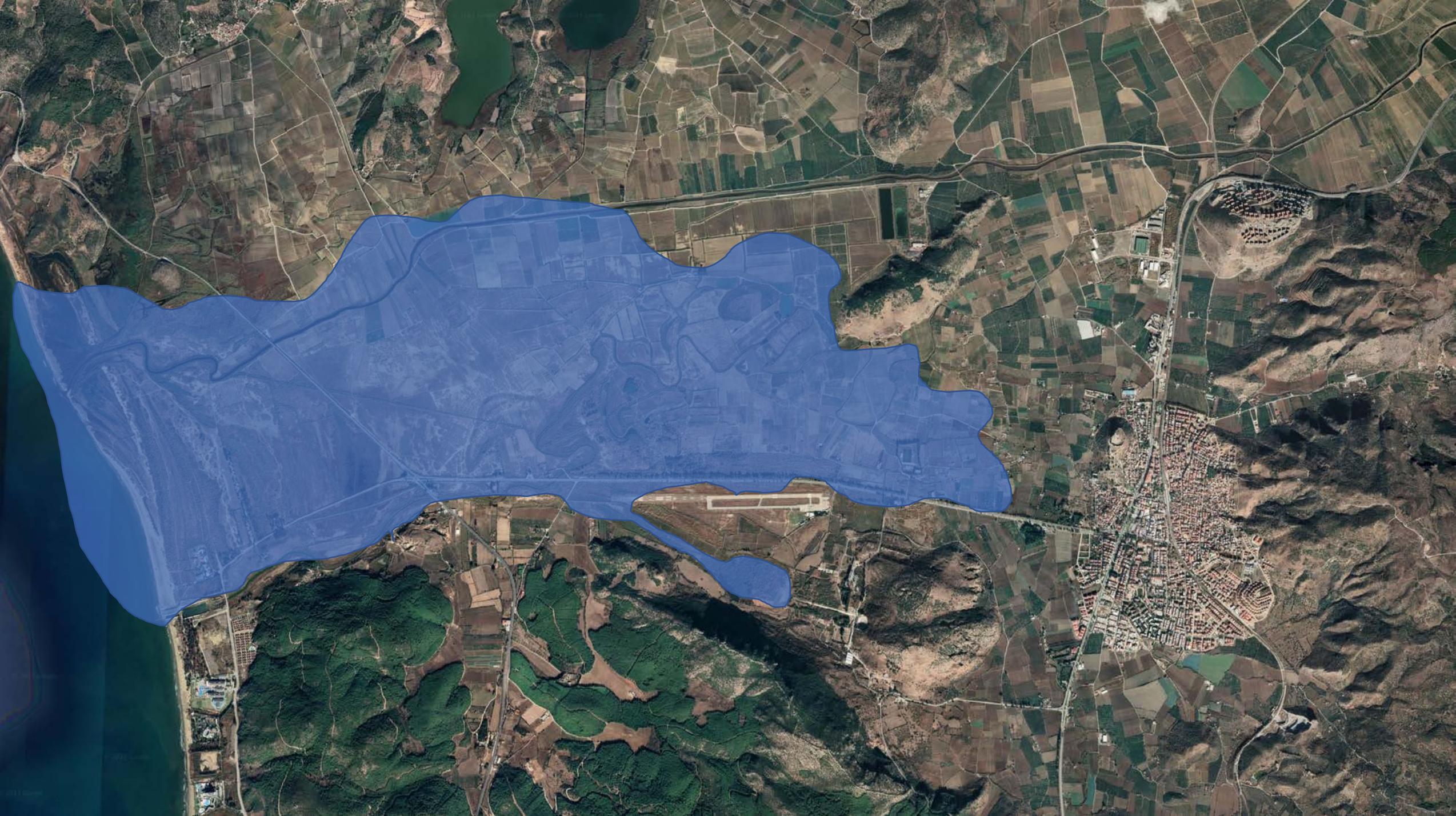
Ephesus

Hierapolis

Laodicea

Colossae















ARCHAEOLOGY

STRATA

# Notable Figures Who Visited Ephesus

Paul, John, Timothy, Apollos, Priscilla & Aquila

Mary the mother of Jesus (?)

Mark Antony & Cleopatra

Alexander the Great

Herod the Great

Pompey the Great

Cicero

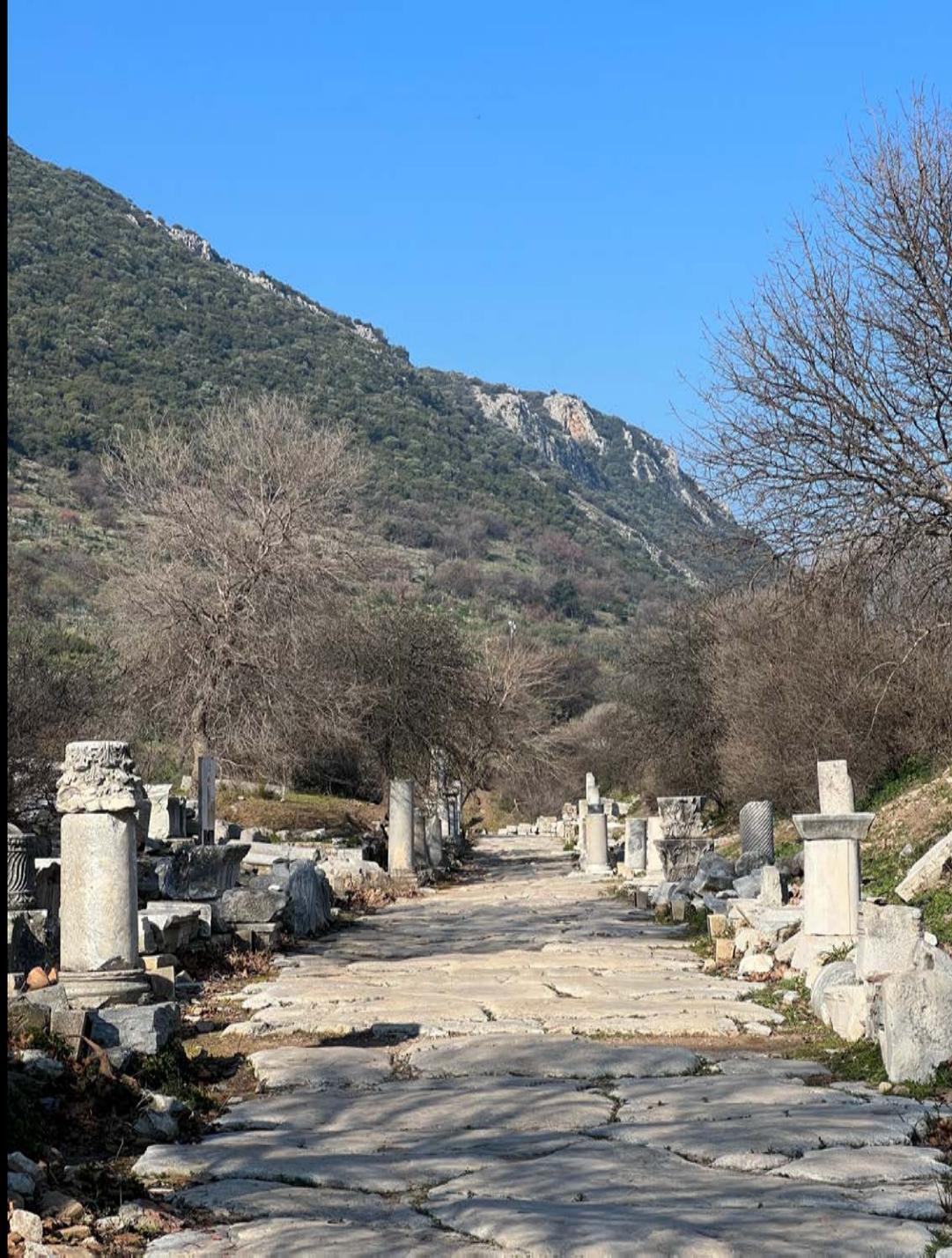
Hannibal of Carthage (?)

Scipio Africanus (?)

Julius Caesar (?)











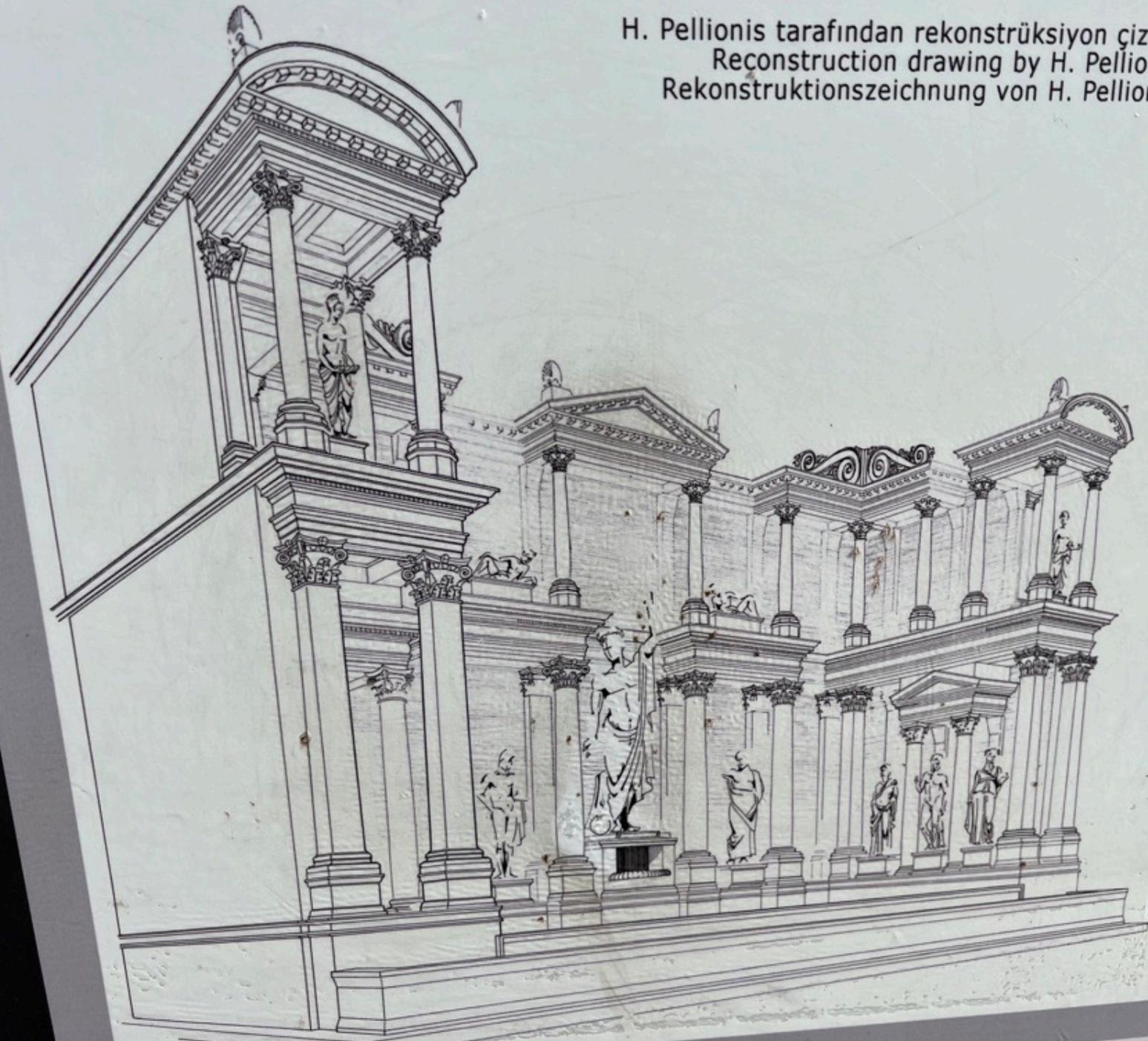
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 ΤΗΝ ΥΠΕΡ ΤΟΥ ΜΕ







3  
H. Pellionis tarafından rekonstrüksiyon çizimi (1963)  
Reconstruction drawing by H. Pellionis (1963)  
Rekonstruktionszeichnung von H. Pellionis (1963)









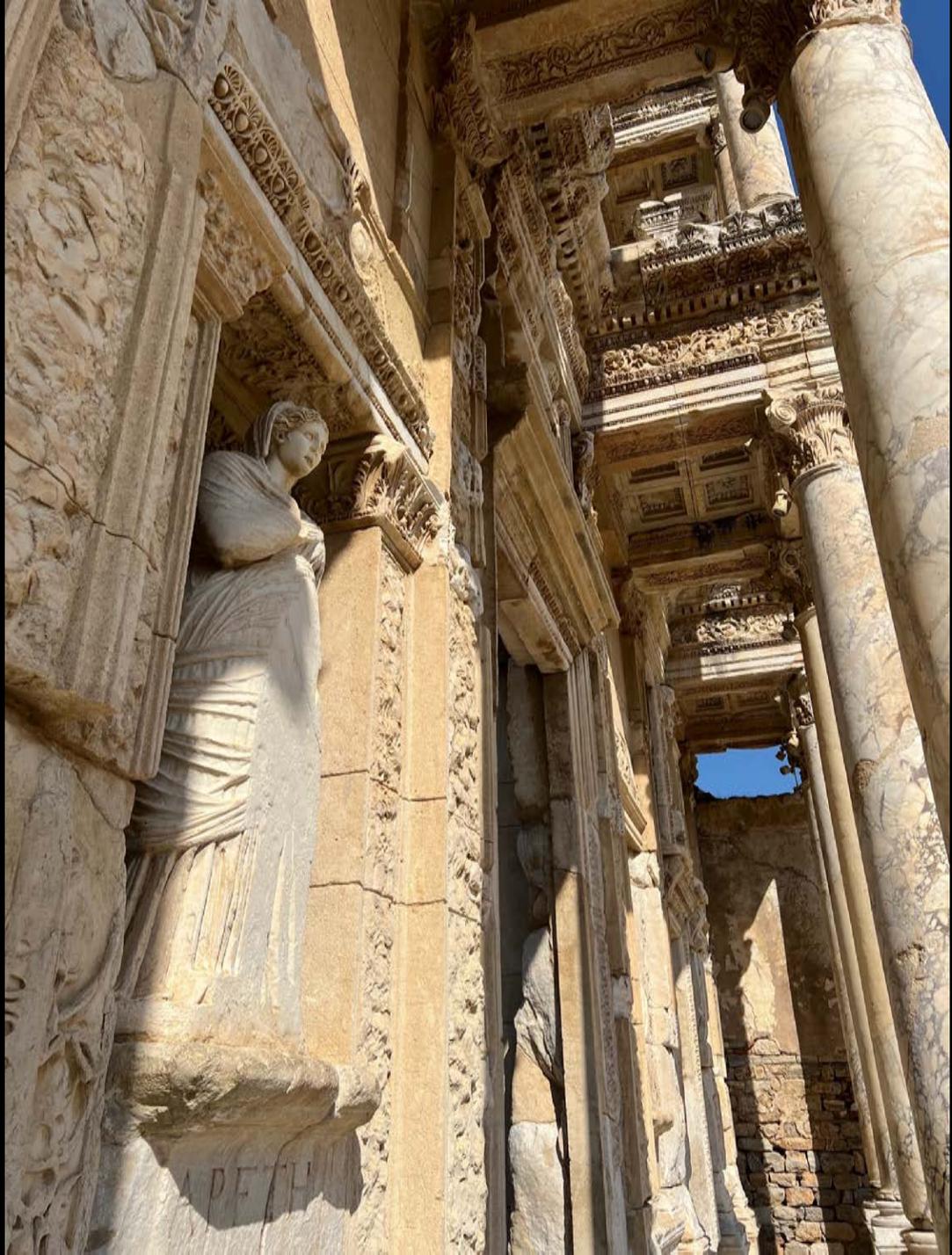




















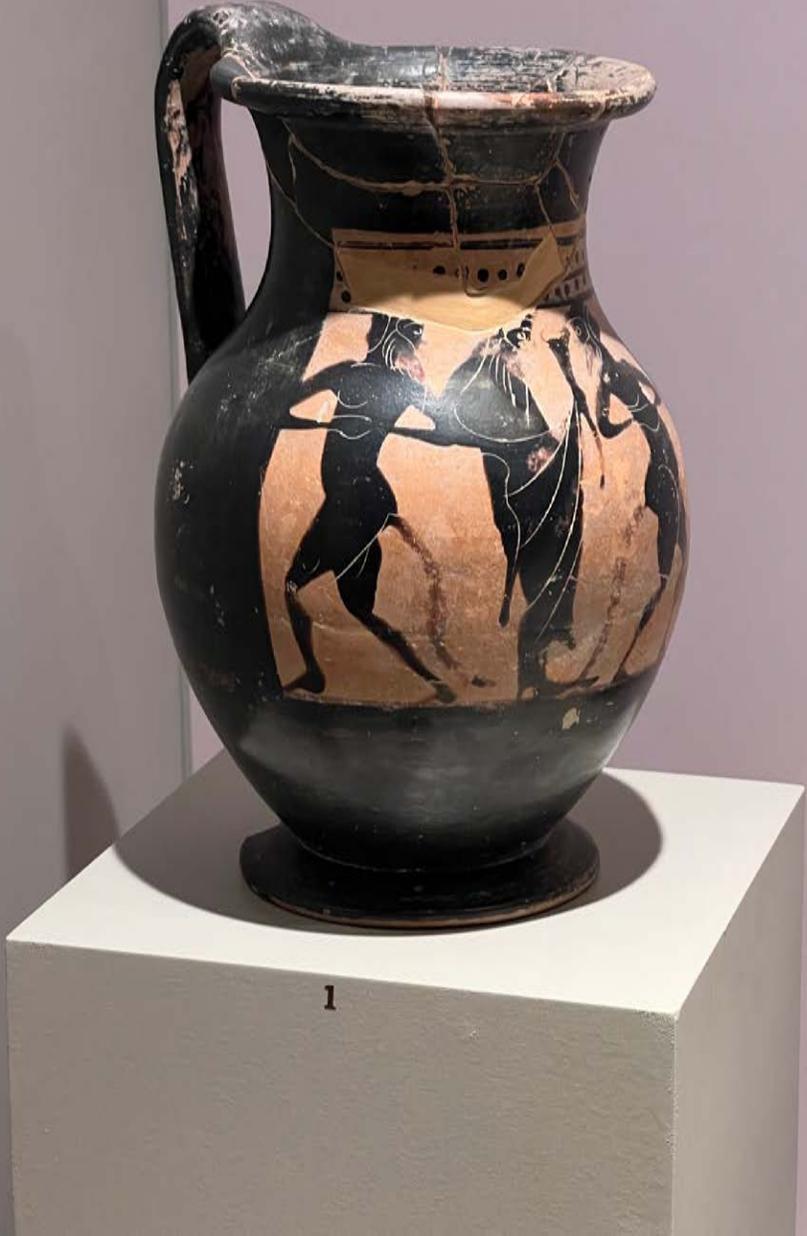


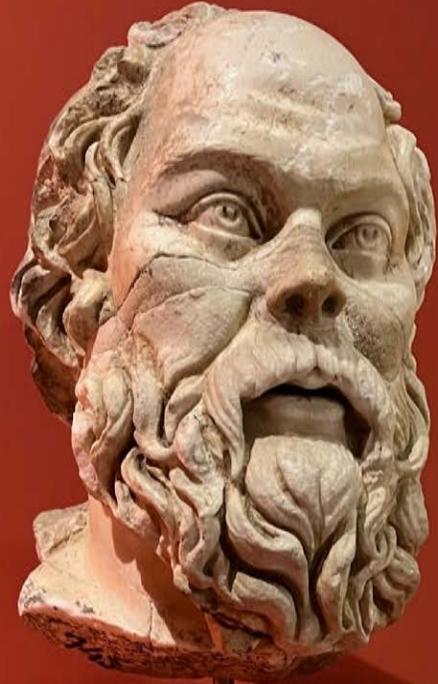












SOKRATES  
SOCRATES  
MS 4. yüzyıl  
4th century AD



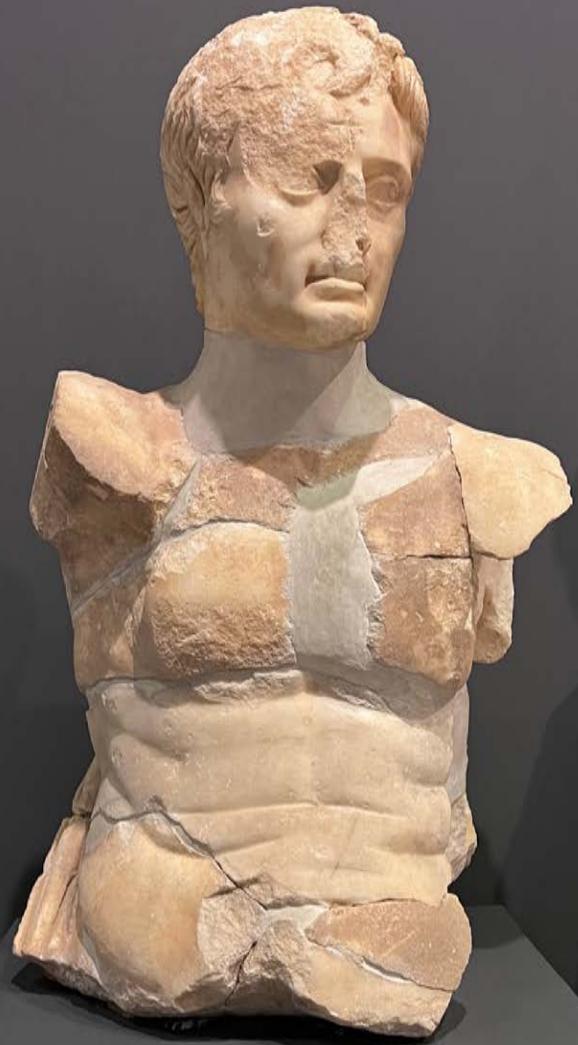
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5



6



IMPARATOR AUGUSTUS  
STATUE OF EMPEROR AUGUSTUS  
MO 27-MS 14  
37 BC - 14 AD



BRONZ YILAN  
BRONZE SNAKE  
MS I. yüzyıl  
1st century AD





# Emperor Worship

# Roman Imperial Cult

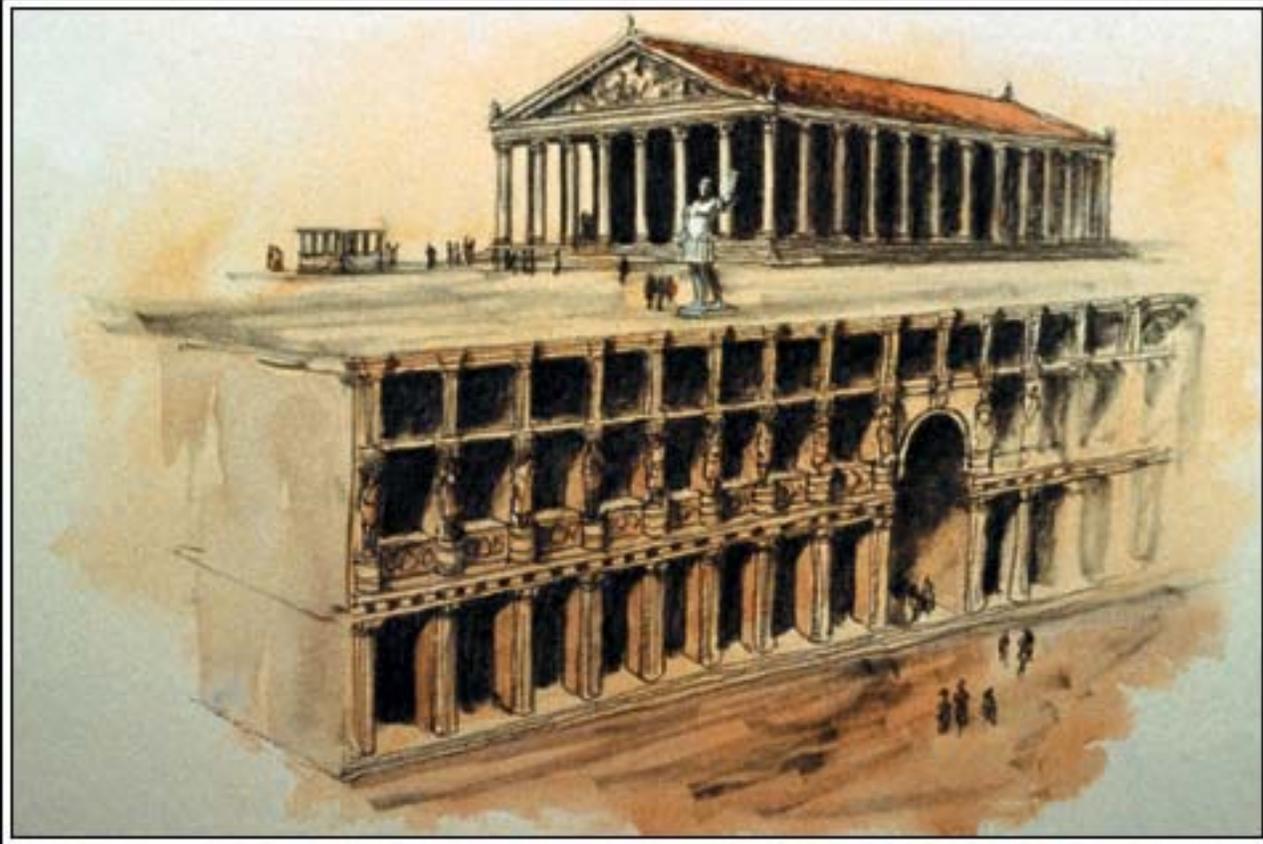
Emperors worshipped as gods

Julius Caesar – *divus Julius* (originally poetic, but ratified by Senate after assassination)

”July” named after him, just as June was named for Juno (Greek: Hera)

Augustus – *divi filius*





# Temple of Domitian

Domitian – emperor 81-96 AD

Temple dedicated in Ephesus in  
89/90 AD during reign of  
Domitian



# The Temple of Artemis

# Artemis

(a.k.a. Diana)

**Greek:** god of hunting, wilderness, wild animals, nature, vegetation, childbirth, care of children, and chastity.

**Ionian:** mother goddess

Two identities fused in  
Roman Ephesus



# Temple of Artemis



Wonder of the ancient world

Ephesus given the title *neokōros tēs Artemidos* (temple warden of Artemis) in 50-60AD.

Served as “central bank of Asia”

Refuge for asylum seekers

# Pixodarus the Shepherd

Local shepherd

8 mile run

New name: Evangelus

Annual ceremony & sacrifice  
(1<sup>st</sup> century)



# Processions



Statue of Artemis wheeled through Ephesus, stops along the way for prayer and offerings

Dressed and decorated by women of high position called “adorners of the goddess”

Common meal in temple banqueting hall







This miniature temple is a reproduction of the Temple of Mars Ultor in the Forum of Augustus, Rome. It was made in 1970 by the artist and architect Giancarlo Piretti.





# Acts 19:23-28

About that time, serious trouble developed in Ephesus concerning the Way. It began with Demetrius, a silversmith who had a large business manufacturing silver shrines of the Greek goddess Artemis. He kept many craftsmen busy.

He called them together, along with others employed in similar trades, and addressed them as follows: “Gentlemen, you know that our wealth comes from this business. But as you have seen and heard, this man Paul has persuaded many people that handmade gods aren’t really gods at all. And he’s done this not only here in Ephesus but throughout the entire province! Of course, I’m not just talking about the loss of public respect for our business. I’m also concerned that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will lose its influence and that Artemis—this magnificent goddess worshiped throughout the province of Asia and all around the world—will be robbed of her great prestige!”

At this their anger boiled, and they began shouting, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”



## Acts 19:29-34

Soon the whole city was filled with confusion. Everyone rushed to the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, who were Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia. Paul wanted to go in, too, but the believers wouldn't let him. Some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, also sent a message to him, begging him not to risk his life by entering the amphitheater.

Inside, the people were all shouting, some one thing and some another. Everything was in confusion. In fact, most of them didn't even know why they were there. The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander forward and told him to explain the situation. He motioned for silence and tried to speak. But when the crowd realized he was a Jew, they started shouting again and kept it up for about two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians! Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"



## Acts 19:35-41

At last the mayor was able to quiet them down enough to speak. “Citizens of Ephesus,” he said. “Everyone knows that Ephesus is the official guardian of the temple of the great Artemis, whose image fell down to us from heaven. Since this is an undeniable fact, you should stay calm and not do anything rash. You have brought these men here, but they have stolen nothing from the temple and have not spoken against our goddess.

“If Demetrius and the craftsmen have a case against them, the courts are in session and the officials can hear the case at once. Let them make formal charges. And if there are complaints about other matters, they can be settled in a legal assembly. I am afraid we are in danger of being charged with rioting by the Roman government, since there is no cause for all this commotion. And if Rome demands an explanation, we won’t know what to say.” Then he dismissed them, and they dispersed.









**Paul, John, and the  
“Powers of this World”**

# Powers Clashing in Ephesus

Paul performing "unusual miracles"  
(Acts 19:11-12)

Jewish exorcists beaten down  
(Acts 19:13-16)

Sorcerers burn incantation books  
(Acts 19:17-20)

Riot in Ephesus  
(Acts 19:23-41)



## Acts 19:26

“As you have seen and heard, this man Paul has persuaded many people that handmade gods aren’t really gods at all. And he’s done this not only here in Ephesus but throughout the entire province!”



# 1 Corinthians 8:4-6

So, what about eating meat that has been offered to idols? Well, we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God. There may be so-called gods both in heaven and on earth, and some people actually worship many gods and many lords. But for us,

There is one God, the Father,  
by whom all things were created,  
and for whom we live.

And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
through whom all things were created,  
and through whom we live.



## Jeremiah 10:8

People who worship idols are stupid and foolish. The things they worship are made of wood!

## Isaiah 40:18-20

To whom can you compare God?

What image can you find to resemble him?

Can he be compared to an idol formed in a mold,  
overlaid with gold, and decorated with silver chains?

Or if people are too poor for that,  
they might at least choose wood that won't decay  
and a skilled craftsman

to carve an image that won't fall down!



## Isaiah 44:16-20

[The wood-carver] burns part of the tree to roast his meat and to keep himself warm. He says, “Ah, that fire feels good.”

Then he takes what’s left and makes his god: a carved idol! He falls down in front of it, worshiping and praying to it. “Rescue me!” he says. “You are my god!”

Such stupidity and ignorance! Their eyes are closed, and they cannot see. Their minds are shut, and they cannot think.

The person who made the idol never stops to reflect, “Why, it’s just a block of wood! I burned half of it for heat and used it to bake my bread and roast my meat. How can the rest of it be a god? Should I bow down to worship a piece of wood?”

The poor, deluded fool feeds on ashes. He trusts something that can’t help him at all.



## Ephesians 6:12

For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.



## Colossians 1:15-17

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.  
He existed before anything was created and is supreme  
over all creation,  
for through him God created everything  
in the heavenly realms and on earth.  
He made the things we can see  
and the things we can't see—  
such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the  
unseen world.  
Everything was created through him and for him.  
He existed before anything else,  
and he holds all creation together.



## Colossians 1:18-20

Christ is also the head of the church,  
which is his body.

He is the beginning,  
supreme over all who rise from the dead.  
So he is first in everything.

For God in all his fullness  
was pleased to live in Christ,  
and through him God reconciled  
everything to himself.

He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth  
by means of Christ's blood on the cross.



## John 1:1-5, 14

In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

He existed in the beginning with God.

God created everything through him,  
and nothing was created except through him.

The Word gave life to everything that was created,  
and his life brought light to everyone.

The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never extinguish it...

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.



## 1 John 2:15

Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.



## Revelation 13:1-4

Then I saw a beast rising up out of the sea. It had seven heads and ten horns, with ten crowns on its horns. And written on each head were names that blasphemed God. This beast looked like a leopard, but it had the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion! And the dragon gave the beast his own power and throne and great authority.

I saw that one of the heads of the beast seemed wounded beyond recovery—but the fatal wound was healed! The whole world marveled at this miracle and gave allegiance to the beast. They worshiped the dragon for giving the beast such power, and they also worshiped the beast. “Who is as great as the beast?” they exclaimed. “Who is able to fight against him?”



## Revelation 13:11, 16-18

Then I saw another beast come up out of the earth. He had two horns like those of a lamb, but he spoke with the voice of a dragon...

He required everyone—small and great, rich and poor, free and slave—to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead. And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark, which was either the name of the beast or the number representing his name. Wisdom is needed here. Let the one with understanding solve the meaning of the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is 666.



## Revelation 17:3-4

So the angel took me in the Spirit into the wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that had seven heads and ten horns, and blasphemies against God were written all over it. The woman wore purple and scarlet clothing and beautiful jewelry made of gold and precious gems and pearls. In her hand she held a gold goblet full of obscenities and the impurities of her immorality.



## Revelation 18:9, 11-13

And the kings of the world who committed adultery with her and enjoyed her great luxury will mourn for her as they see the smoke rising from her charred remains...

The merchants of the world will weep and mourn for her, for there is no one left to buy their goods. She bought great quantities of gold, silver, jewels, and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet cloth; things made of fragrant thiyne wood, ivory goods, and objects made of expensive wood; and bronze, iron, and marble. She also bought cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, horses, wagons, and bodies—that is, human slaves.



## Revelation 12:10-11

Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens,  
“It has come at last—  
    salvation and power  
and the Kingdom of our God,  
    and the authority of his Christ.  
For the accuser of our brothers and sisters  
    has been thrown down to earth—  
the one who accuses them  
    before our God day and night.  
And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb  
    and by their testimony.





## A Quick Note About Women

I do not let women teach men or have authority over them. Let them listen quietly.

**1 Timothy 2:12**

## A Quick Note About Women

**Junia** – Paul calls her “highly respected among the apostles”

**Phoebe** – Paul entrusted his letter to the Romans for her to teach

**Priscilla** – One of Paul’s trusted co-workers whose teaching of a man founded the church in Ephesus



## A Quick Note About Women

Meanwhile, a Jew named Apollos, an eloquent speaker who knew the Scriptures well, had arrived in Ephesus from Alexandria in Egypt... When Priscilla and Aquila heard him preaching boldly in the synagogue, they took him aside and explained the way of God even more accurately.

**Acts 18:24-26**





## A Quick Note About Women

Virgins as priestesses in Artemis Cult  
("the servants of Artemis")

Paul rejected by Synagogue  
(mostly Gentile believers)

Women not educated in ancient world

# A Quick Note About Women

For God made Adam first, and afterward he made Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived by Satan. The woman was deceived, and sin was the result. But women will be saved through childbearing, assuming they continue to live in faith, love, holiness, and modesty.

**1 Timothy 2:13-15**



# Paul's Imprisonment

Paul in Ephesus 53-56 AD

~53 Paul writes 1 Corinthians

53/54 Short, painful visit to Corinth (see 2 Cor. 2:1)

~55-56 Paul imprisoned in Ephesus(?)

Possible location of his writing of Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, and Ephesians (circular)



**Philippi**

**Corinth**

**Ephesus**

**Colossae**

In the meantime, I will be staying here at Ephesus until the Festival of Pentecost. There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me.

**1 Corinthians 16:8-9**

And why should we ourselves risk our lives hour by hour?  
For I swear, dear brothers and sisters, that I face death daily.  
This is as certain as my pride in what Christ Jesus our Lord  
has done in you. And what value was there in fighting wild  
beasts—those people of Ephesus—if there will be no  
resurrection from the dead?

**1 Corinthians 15:30-32**

For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear.

**Philippians 1:13-14**

HERE IS MY GREETING IN MY OWN HANDWRITING—  
PAUL. Remember my chains. May God's grace be with you.

**Colossians 4:18**

I appeal to you to show kindness to my child, Onesimus. I became his father in the faith while here in prison...

I wanted to keep him here with me while I am in these chains for preaching the Good News, and he would have helped me on your behalf...

One more thing—please prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that God will answer your prayers and let me return to you soon...

**Philemon 10, 13, 22**

We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us.

**2 Corinthians 1:8-10**

As you know, everyone from the province of Asia has deserted me—even Phygelus and Hermogenes. May the Lord show special kindness to Onesiphorus and all his family because he often visited and encouraged me. He was never ashamed of me because I was in chains. When he came to Rome, he searched everywhere until he found me. May the Lord show him special kindness on the day of Christ's return. And you know very well how helpful he was in Ephesus.

**2 Timothy 1:15-18**

Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not.

**2 Corinthians 11:23-26**

I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak without my feeling that weakness? Who is led astray, and I do not burn with anger? If I must boast, I would rather boast about the things that show how weak I am.

**2 Corinthians 11:27-30**

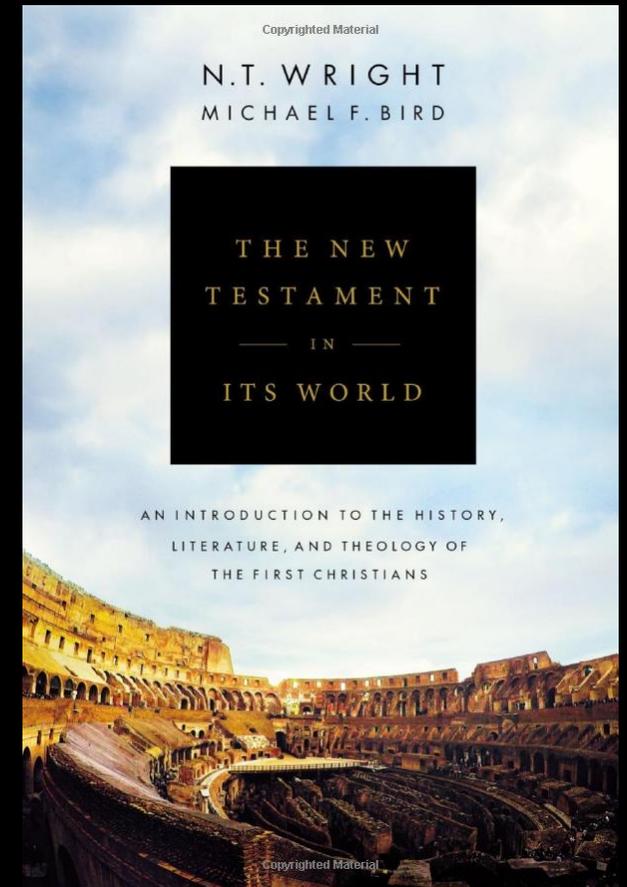
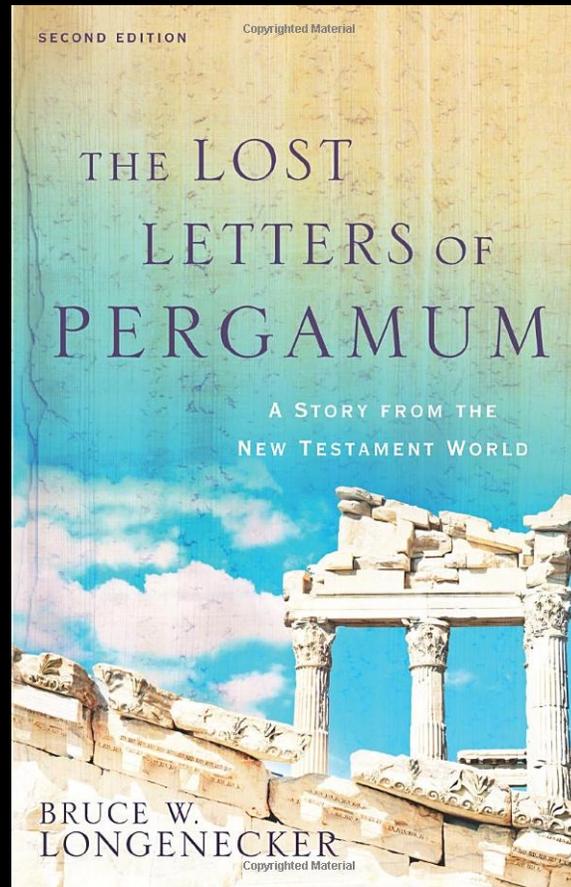
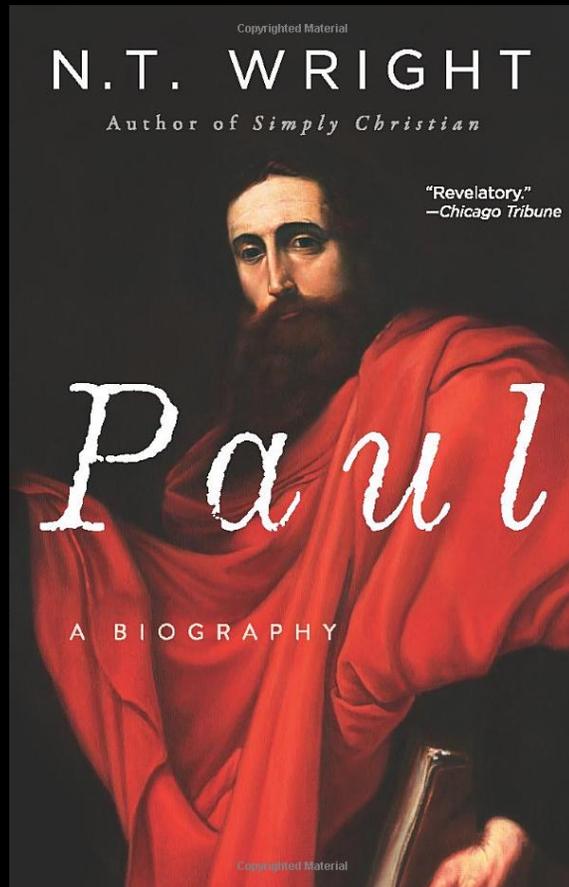
So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

# **Final Thoughts**

**(the part where Barry preaches a little bit)**

# Suggested Reading



**Thank You!**

