

Ephesians: Background Story

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Ephesians 6:12; 1:4-5; Acts 19:5-11, 13-20,
Act 19:26-27; Romans 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, 10:9

Ephesians: Answers to the 5 Universal Questions –

Where do I come from?

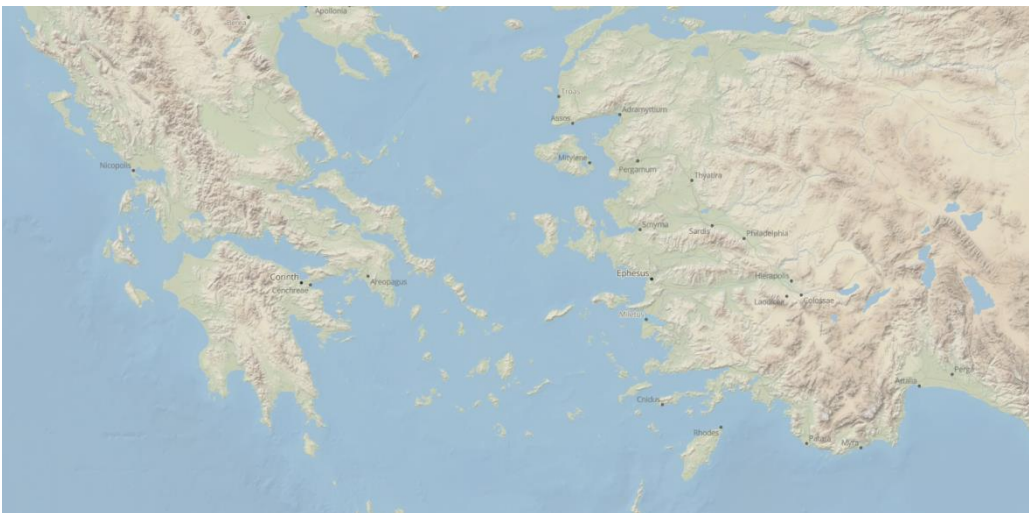
What is wrong with this world?

What can be done about it?

What are the values I should live by?

What happens when we die?

The purpose of the Church is to make disciples who make disciples.



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. Ephesians 6:12

⁵ As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all. Acts 19:5–7

⁸ Then Paul went to the synagogue and preached boldly for the next three months, arguing persuasively about the Kingdom of God. Acts 19:8

⁹ But some became stubborn, rejecting his message and publicly speaking against the Way. So Paul left the synagogue and took the believers with him. Then he held daily discussions at the lecture hall of Tyrannus. Acts 19:9

¹⁰ This went on for the next two years, so that people throughout the province of Asia—both Jews and Greeks—heard the word of the Lord. ¹¹ God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles. Acts 19:10-11

The miraculous always accompanies speaking the word of the Lord. The purpose of the miraculous is for people to become followers of Jesus.

¹³ A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, “I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!” Acts 19:13

¹⁴ Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. ¹⁵ But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, “I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?” Acts 19:14–15

¹⁶ Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered. Acts 19:16

¹⁷ The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews and Greeks alike. A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored.

Acts 19:17

¹⁸ Many who became believers confessed their sinful practices. ¹⁹ A number of them who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars. Acts 19:18-19

They are replacing the power of magic with the power of Jesus. Magic you can control. God you must trust and give up control.

This is what putting honor into action looks like: Your life under the authority of Jesus. This is the key to how you greatly honor Him.

Jesus is getting promoted to Lord from consultant. Jesus is the only God who has ever placed himself under human authority. He did it so you would know you can trust His authority.

²⁰ So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect. Acts 19:20

²⁶ 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! Acts 19:26

²⁷ 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!" Acts 19:27

⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. Ephesians 1:4

⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. Ephesians 1:5

He's not the god you wanted. He is the God who wants you.

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23

⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

⁹ That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9