

**Historical Context for the book of Ephesians**

The church at Ephesus was founded by Paul during his 2nd missionary journey around 52 AD (Acts 18:19). After a brief trip to Antioch and visiting a few other churches, Paul returns to Ephesus about two years later and stays for an extended period (2-3 years) teaching the followers of Jesus and combating false doctrines. You can read about that period in Acts 19, it's quite interesting!

The city of Ephesus was one of the largest and most important cities in the ancient Mediterranean world, lying on the western coast of Asia Minor (in modern day Turkey). The city itself developed around an ancient shrine of the earth goddess Artemis (Roman Diana) and the temple of Artemis in Ephesus was one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world.

Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians near the end of his life in a Roman jail around 62 AD. Unlike every other letter written by Paul, Ephesians gives no sense of Paul writing to address a specific challenge in the life of the church. Rather, Ephesians is written from Paul's desire to simply edify and encourage the church at Ephesus.

