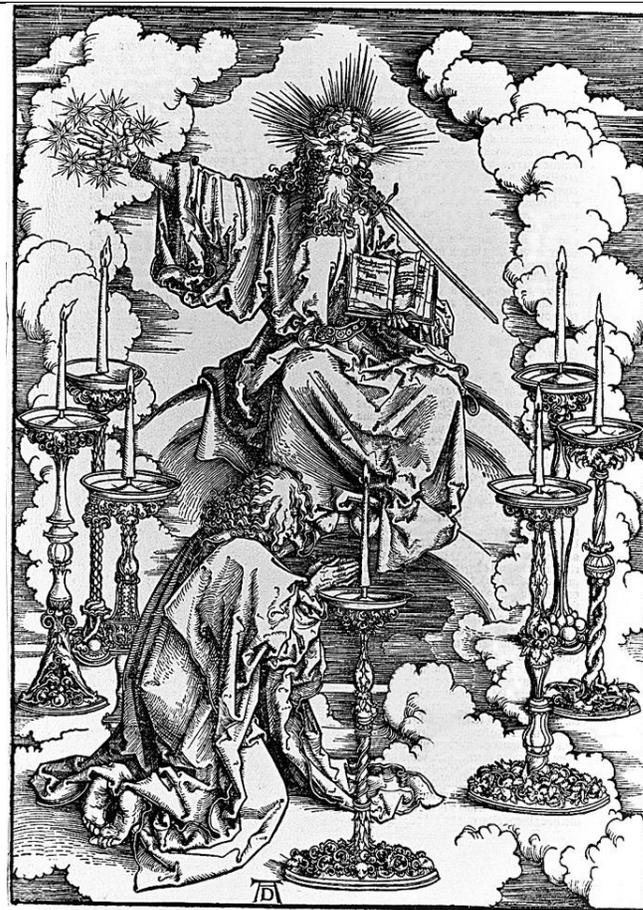




Deciphering the Messages of the Apocalypse

Understanding the Revelation to John

Session II



Ephesus

Major City of the Province of Asia

Population, C. 250,000

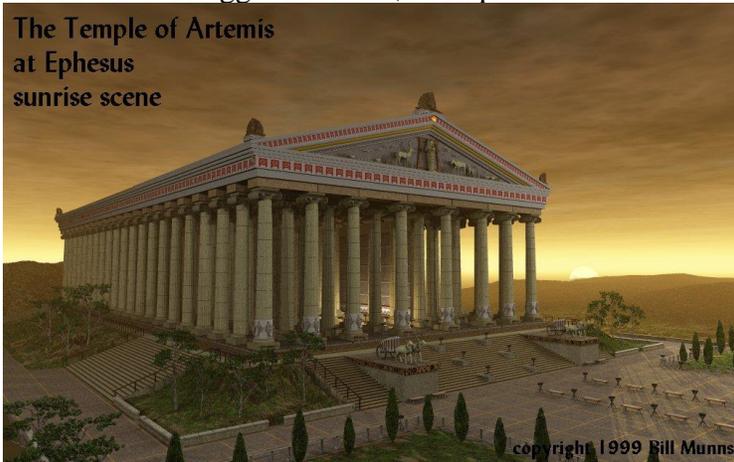
Home of the Temple of Diana/Artemis:

one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

Great Mother Goddess

Bigger than 100,000 sq.ft.

The Temple of Artemis
at Ephesus
sunrise scene



Huge tourist destination

Christianity founded by Paul

See Acts 18:19-20:31

Paul spent 3 yrs preaching here

He dramatically reduced the sale of idols outside the temple, and slowed
tourism, bringing hard times on Ephesus

Smyrna

Modern-day Izmir

Commercial center

Known for loyalty to Rome

Temple of Roma

Temple of the god Tiberius

Emperor worship



Birthplace of Homer

Annual drama festival

Olympic stadium

Annual games

Pergamum

Former capital of Province of Asia

Major Library, second only to Alexandria
Parchment, derived from town name
Most temples in single city
Including altar to Zeus at top of city
Animal sacrifices burned 24/7 by team of priests
Including temple of Asclepius, god of healing
Sick were laid in snake-pits in the hopes that the sacred serpents
would touch them and heal them (caduceus)



Thyatira

Artisan center/guilds
Guilds would hold banquets in temples where food was sacrificed and
dedicated to sponsoring God
One had to participate in the banquets in order to work or trade

Sardis

Former center of opulent living
Collapsed twice
Through lack of vigilance to Persians, in spite of impregnable position
Recently to earthquake
Tiberius rebuilt with grants and remission of taxes
Lost most of former glory, but known as place of luxury and licentiousness



Philadelphia

Smallest and youngest of the cities

Locus of earthquake that damaged Sardis: Philadelphia completely demolished

Slowly rebuilt, but population did not return

Laodicea

Richest of Cities

Able to rebuild themselves after earthquake

Evangelized by Paul through Eraphas (Col. 4:12-13, Acts 19:10)

evidence of epistle

Wool trade

Medical center

Eye salve exported throughout Roman World

