



WORKSHEET

Ancient: Episode 9

The Advancement of Knowledge

Quote

“Great deeds are usually wrought at great risks”
(Herodotus)

Summary

We meander through the Roman ruins of what was arguably the largest and most crucial city of Asia Minor during the New Testament era, Ephesus. We walk the halls of ancient libraries to learn how they revolutionized the ancient world’s access to knowledge and ultimately opened the doorway to modern thought and literature. We take a rapid tour of the “Seven Wonders of the Ancient World,” and observe how the Temple of Artemis permeated the local culture and economy of Ephesus. We finish by tracing the footsteps of the Apostle Paul, as he narrowly escapes a lynching and boldly establishes a church amidst the moral depravity of the city.

Discussion Questions

1. How have libraries shaped our world?

2. Where was Ephesus located and why was this important to its economic power?

3. Which library was established in honor of Tiberius Julius Celsus Polemaeanus?

4. Who was Herodotus? Why was he a significant historical figure? Bonus if you remember his two opposing nicknames.

5. Name the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

6. What was the Roman name for the Greek goddess “Artemis”?

Suggested Reading

Excerpt from Herodotus’ Histories

Side Road

In the years preceding 41 BC, Mark Antony found himself staggering on the verge of civil war with Octavian, his fellow ruler of the Roman Republic. In preparation for the imminent conflict, Antony beckoned Cleopatra, the monarch of Egypt, to the city of Tarsus, in an attempt to obtain her allegiance as a political and military ally. Historic accounts suggest that Cleopatra took full advantage of the opportunity and traveled to Tarsus. She allegedly sailed up the Cydnus River on a barge plated with gold, equipped with purple sails and silver oars, brimming with flowers, and soaked in exotic perfumes. She adorned herself as Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love. Mark Antony was enraptured by her, and they soon became infamous allies--and lovers. Today, an ancient arch known as “Cleopatra’s Gate” stands at the entrance of Tarsus, facing south towards the Mediterranean coast. The arch has been restored over the centuries, but most scholars view the location as the actual entry point that Cleopatra used that fateful day. It’s an awesome site in Tarsus today -- a reminder of the influence Antony and Cleopatra had on the trajectory of history.