



# WORKSHEET

## Ancient: Episode 8

Ruins and Romans

### Quote

“The level of our success is limited only by our imagination and no act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted.”  
(Aesop)

### Summary

In this episode, we venture through the fertile Lycus Valley in the heart of Asia Minor with a mission to visit three cities that thrived during the 1st century: Hierapolis, Laodicea, and Colossae. We explore the grounds surrounding the Temple of Apollo, where people once believed the gateway to the underworld existed. We observe ancient architectural feats of this region and how they contributed to modern-day design. We analyze the Apostle John’s severe warning to early Christians who walked the lavish streets of Laodicea. We end among the unexcavated ruins of Colossae, where the Apostle Paul wrote in his famed letter to the Colossians during his arrest in Rome.

### Discussion Questions

1. The Romans built many impressive structures without steel or modern tools to assist them. What were some of their building techniques?

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2. It is strange to think there was a time when columns didn't exist. What are some famous examples of columns in the United States today?

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3. During the Roman Empire, what were amphitheaters and how were they used?

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4. How do earthquakes provide clues for historians regarding certain New Testament letters?

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5. Describe the message embodied in Paul's letter to the Colossians.

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6. Why was Paul's message of equality, as detailed in his letter to the Colossians, groundbreaking and counter-cultural?

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### **Suggested Reading**

Strabo on Plutonium

### **Side Road**

Turkey was the birthplace of some of the most notable people in ancient history. Greek writers, including Aristotle, suggest that Aesop -- a Greek story teller credited with numerous fables -- was born in Thrace on the coast of the Black Sea. Homer, the author of two of ancient Greece's most famous epics, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, was probably born in Asia Minor, though his personal life is cloaked in mystery. Galen, a revered physician, surgeon, and philosopher from the Roman Empire -- arguably the most successful medical researcher of antiquity -- was born in Pergamum. Herodotus, a Greek historian who paved the way for modern methods of recording history and became known as "The Father of History," was born in Halicarnassus (modern-day, Bodrum). Finally, when it comes to well-known figures from Biblical history, there is Saul of Tarsus, who became known as Paul the Apostle, probably the most notable evangelist of all time.