



WORKSHEET

Ancient: Episode 10

Heart of Stone

Quote

“Hope has two beautiful daughters. Their names are anger and courage; anger at the way things are, and courage to see that they do not remain the way they are.”
(Augustine of Hippo)

Summary

In this episode, we venture deep into the heart of Turkey, approximately 300 miles from the city of Ephesus, to the remote region of Cappadocia. We explore ancient caves and dwellings carved into stone to uncover how this region stood as the first gateway from the civilized eastern hemisphere to the unexplored western hemisphere. observe how the waxing and waning of the infamous Ottoman Empire reverberates into modern-day conflict, unravel the Biblical timeline of the Hittites and the disparate eras of freedom and oppression of local Christians, and ultimately, find yourself in a deadly game of hide-and-seek in the underground tunnels that snake beneath the city.

Discussion Questions

1. What ancient region stood to the east of Turkey? Hint: it's often called the "cradle of civilization." What is its present-day name?

2. Which civilization first carved and inhabited the caves of Cappadocia?

3. What geological event formed the "fairy chimneys" of Cappadocia?

4. What metal did the Hittites use to develop their weapons? Why is this significant to their military clout?

5. When did the Ottoman Empire start? When was it most powerful?

6. Which military victory by the Ottoman Empire nearly decimated the Byzantine Empire?

7. List factors that weakened the Ottoman Empire and eventually led to its decay.

8. Which Roman Emperor seized Cappadocia as an official city of the Roman Empire?

9. How many times is Cappadocia mentioned in the Bible?

Suggested Reading

Hittite Peace Treaty

Side Road

According to legend, the Phrygians were without a king. An oracle (fortune-teller) foretold that the next man to enter the city of Phrygia on an ox-cart was destined to become their ruler. Unaware of the prophecy, a peasant farmer named Gordias wandered into the village on his ox-cart. He was swiftly declared king, and in gratitude, his son Midas dedicated his father's ox-cart to the Phrygian god Sabazios (Zeus to the Greeks). The ox-cart was tethered to a post with an intricate knot that came to be known as the "Gordian Knot." Another oracle claimed that any man who could untie the knot would become the supreme ruler of all Asia. According to one version of the legend, Alexander the Great brought his army into Phrygia in 333 BC, where he happened upon the knot. He struggled and failed to untie it, but eventually reasoned that it was inconsequential *how* the knot was unraveled. Therefore, he drew his sword, and sliced the knot in half with a single blow. True to the oracle's prediction, Alexander the Great went on to conquer the far reaches of ancient Asia.