

# BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

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## *Archaeology and Ephesus*

See the **House Visual Study Bible** for more discussion of archaeology and the Bible, [hvsb.app](http://hvsb.app).



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## Importance of Ephesus

**Paul preached the Gospel and wrote a letter to the Church at Ephesus (Acts 19:1-20:1, Ephesians); see Introduction to Ephesians in HVSBS.**

**The Apostle John Lived There, and the Church Received a Letter from him (Rev. 2:1-7)**

**Luke uses the Greek word Asiarchs for leaders in Ephesus (Acts 19:31)**

**Mary, mother of Jesus lived there with John according to tradition, supported by John 19:25-27.**

**Timothy, worker with Paul, was Pastor at Ephesian Church**

**Third Ecumenical Council was held there in A.D. 431, in the Church of Mary**

## Importance of Ephesians

One of the most impressive ruins of ancient Ephesus is the theater. It had seats for 25,000 people and was built into a hill in the middle of the city called Mount Coressus, making it a convenient place for a large crowd to assemble. Although it was first constructed around 133 B.C. ,[1] it was greatly modified and expanded in the first century A.D. At that time, a second story was added to the stage and the seating was significantly increased.

[1] Jerome Murphy O-Connor, *St. Paul's Epistles, Texts and Archaeology*, 93.

## Revelation 2:1-7:

**1** “To the angel of the assembly in Ephesus write:

“He who holds the seven stars in his right hand, he who walks among the seven golden lamp stands says these things:

**2** “I know your works, and your toil and perseverance, and that you can’t tolerate evil men, and have tested those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and found them false. **3** You have perseverance and have endured for my name’s sake, and have not grown weary. **4** But I have this against you, that you left your first love. **5** Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I am coming to you swiftly, and will move your lamp stand out of its place, unless you repent. **6** But this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. **7** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of my God.

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# WESTERN ASIA MINOR AND EPHESUS

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## Roman Provinces in Asia Minor



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## Major Churches in Asia Minor



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## Western Asia Minor and the Aegean Sea



# Aerial Look at Ephesus











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# COUNTRYSIDE AT EPHESUS

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## Countryside of Ephesus



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## ENTRANCE INTO EPHEBUS

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## Entrance into Ephesus



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## Pillars of Hercules



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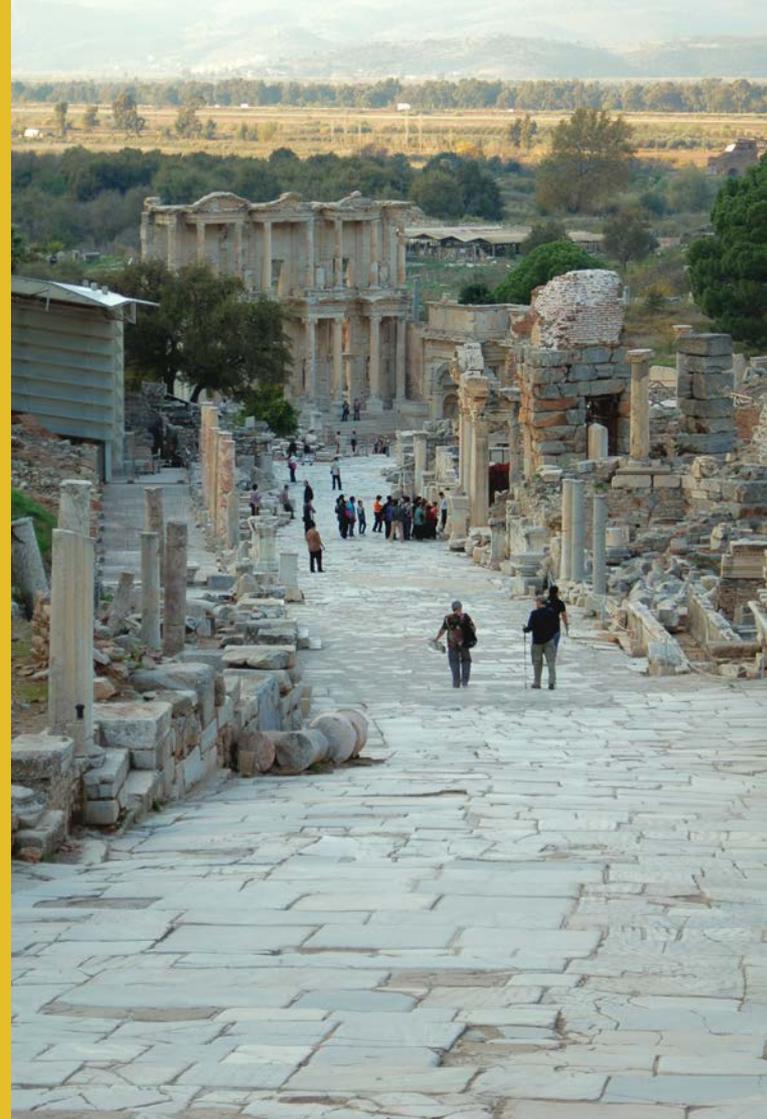
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## Entrance into Ephesus



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## Small Theater by the Entrance into Ephesus



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## Looking Back to the Entrance



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## LIBRARY OF CELSUS 2<sup>ND</sup> CENTURY, 12,000 SCROLLS

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## Library of Celsus



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## Mary, Mother of Jesus, at Ephesus

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## Traditional House of Mary, Mother of Jesus



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## Side of Mary's House



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## Inside the House of Mary



## Third Ecumenical Council (A.D. 431)

The Council, called by the emperor Theodosius II, resolved the heresy of Nestorian, which had concluded that Jesus had two persons, one divine and one human. The council affirmed that Jesus was one person who had both a divine and human nature. As well, it proclaimed that Mary was *theotokos* (θεοτοκος, from *theos*, θεος *God*, and *tikto*, τικτω *to bear*), and had given birth to the human person, who is also God.

Another heresy arose after this, called Eutychianism, which said that Jesus was only one nature, with God and humanity intermixed. This was condemned at the Council of Constantinople in AD. 451.

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## Church of St. Mary at Ephesus of A.D. 431



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# EARLIEST PAINTING OF ST. PAUL

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## Cave of St. Paul at Ephesus



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## Cave of St. Paul at Ephesus



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## Earliest Painting of St. Paul (6<sup>th</sup> century)



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## Jewish Presence at Ephesus



## The Worship of Asklepius

Many Greek cities had an Asklepion, where worship of Asklepius, god of healing occurred. Those seeking healing would often bring reproductions of their body parts that they wanted the god to heal, as an act of worship. Very near the city of Pergamum there is the major shrine to Asklepius. A depiction of the work of this god is two snakes around a scepter.

Not only did worship of Asklepion occur in the pagan Greek and Roman world, but even in Israel, where much Greek influence after the time of Alexander in the third century, this religion hung on even in the time of Jesus, where he healed a lame man lying near the Asklepion pool.

## The Religion of Asklepion in the Ancient World

Jerusalem Pool of Bethesda

Corinth Votive Body Parts

Major Asklepion Religious Site Near Pergamum

Ephesus Asklepion Temple

## Asklepion Worship at Pool of Bethesda



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## Asklepion Worship at Pool of Bethesda



## Asklepion Votive Worship at Corinth



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## Asklepion Symbol on Monument



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## Asklepion Temple at Ephesus



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# PUBLIC IMMORALITY

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Immorality**



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# STATUES

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## Statue of Nike



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## Statue of Medusa



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## Grave Marker for St. Luke-Cross and Bull



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## Statue of Artemis (Diana) of Ephesus



EFES ARTEMISI M.S. 125-175  
ARTEMIS EPHESIA 125-175 n.Chr.  
EPHESIAN ARTEMIS 125-175 A.D.  
Nr.718

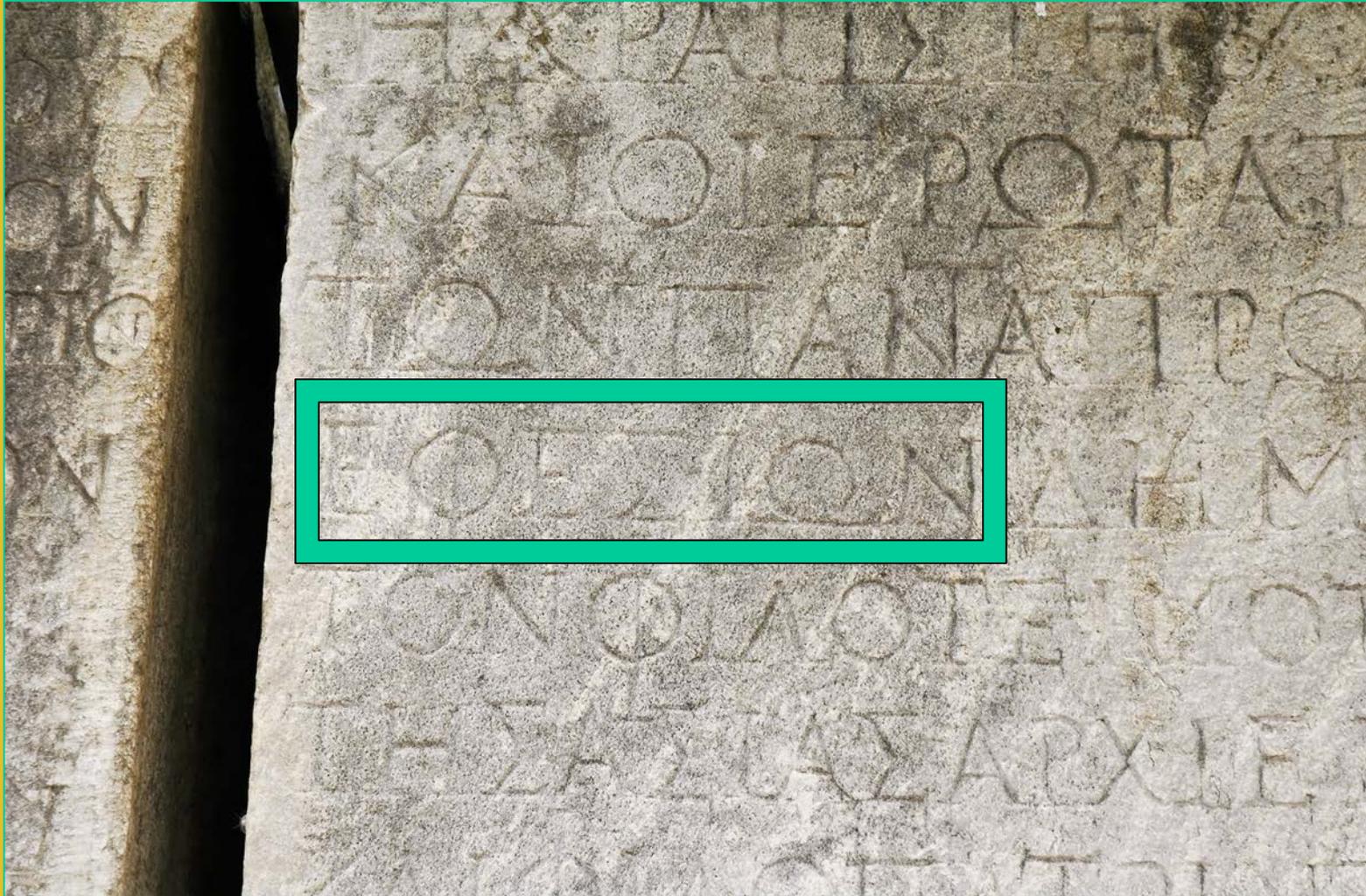
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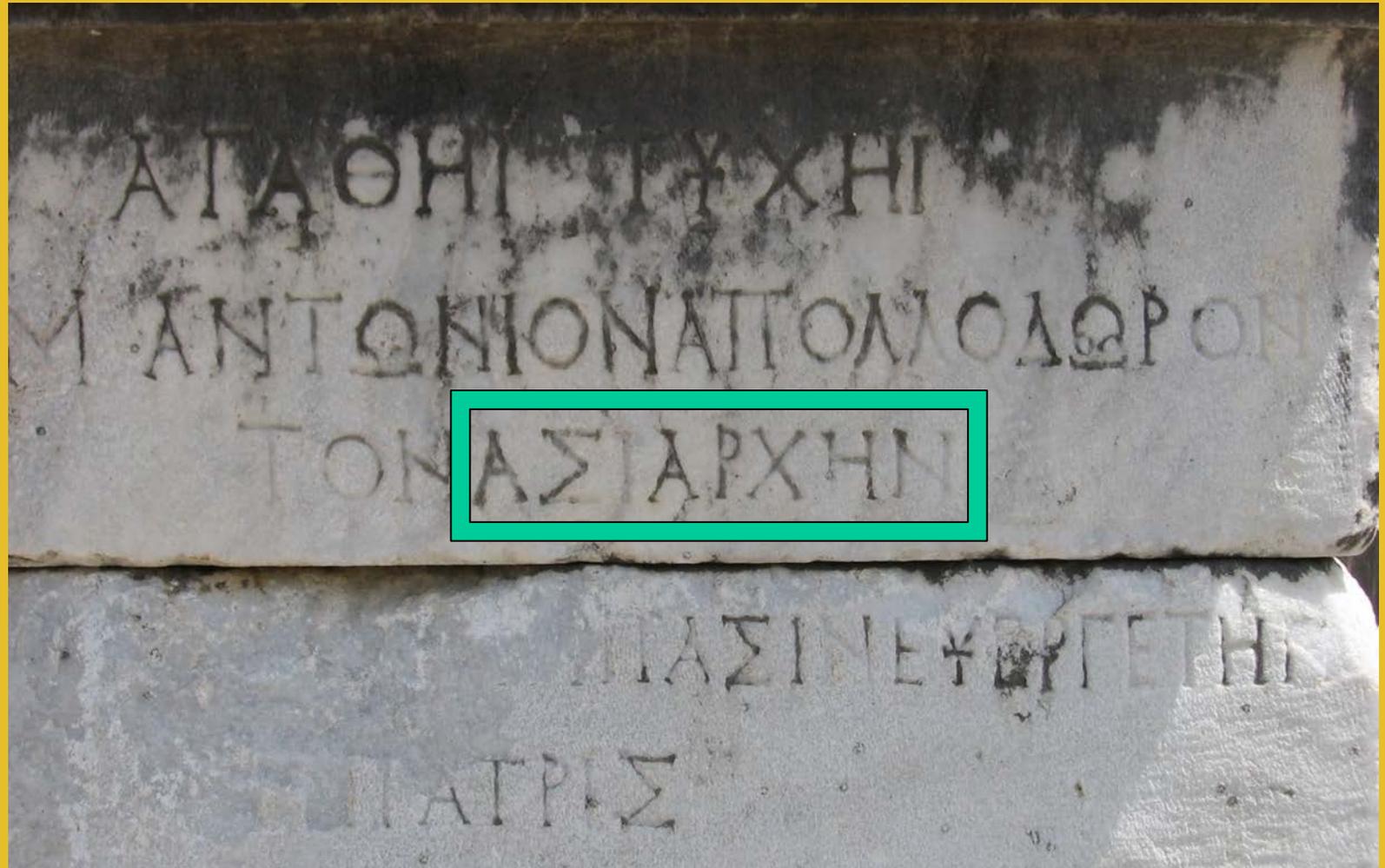
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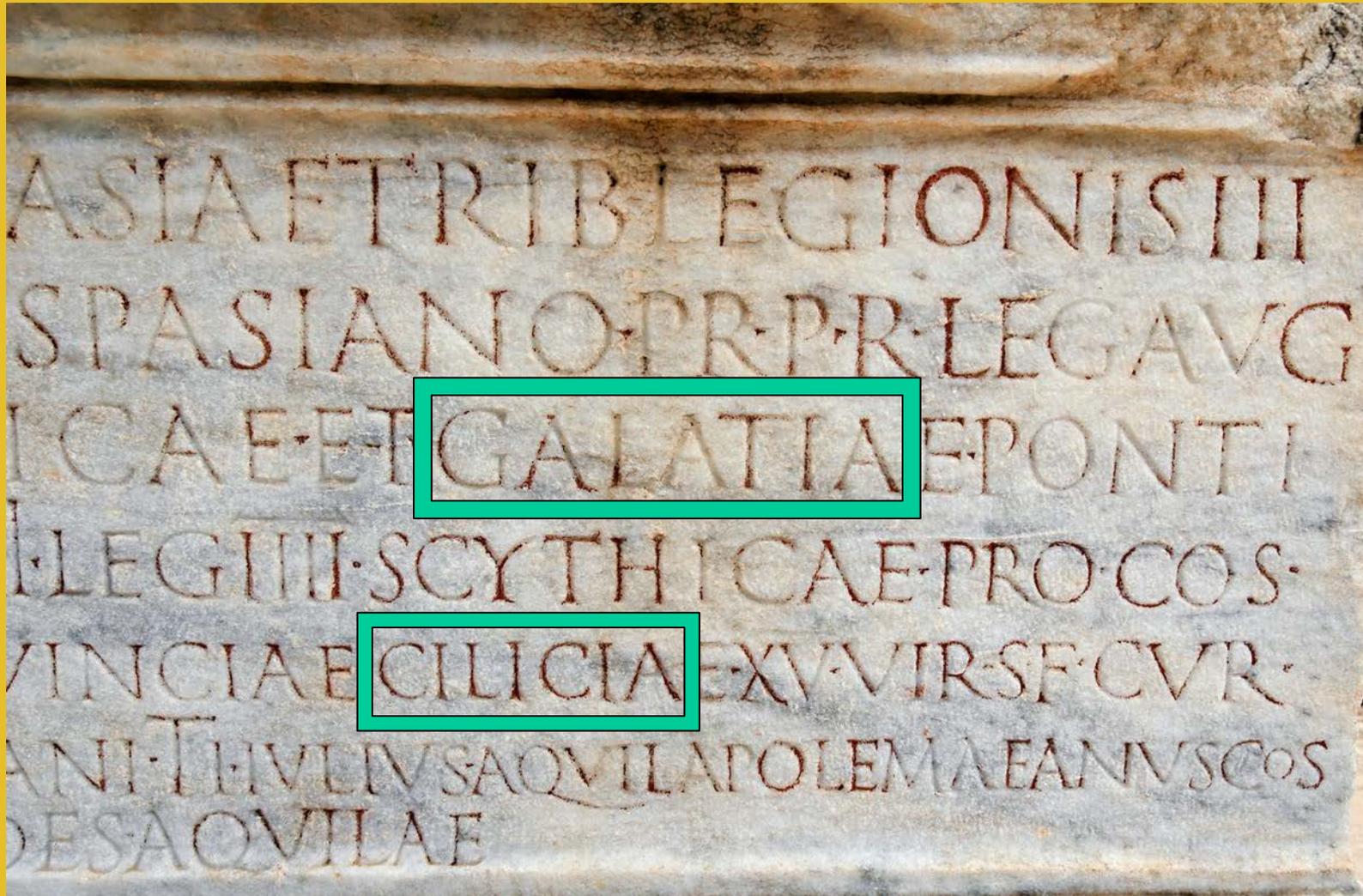
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## Names on Monument



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## Names on Coin



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# ROMAN EMPERORS

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Looking  
Back to  
the  
Entrance  
Augustus  
Caesar



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Looking  
Back to  
the  
Entrance  
Hadrian



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Looking  
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Diocletian



# RELAXATION AT EPHESUS

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## Bathhouse at Ephesus



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## Games at Ephesus



## Games at Ephesus



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# HOUSES AT EPHESUS

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## Houses at Ephesus



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## Houses at Ephesus



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## ENTRANCE INTO COMMERCIAL AGORA (MARKETPLACE)

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## Theater at Ephesus



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## Road to Harbor



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