

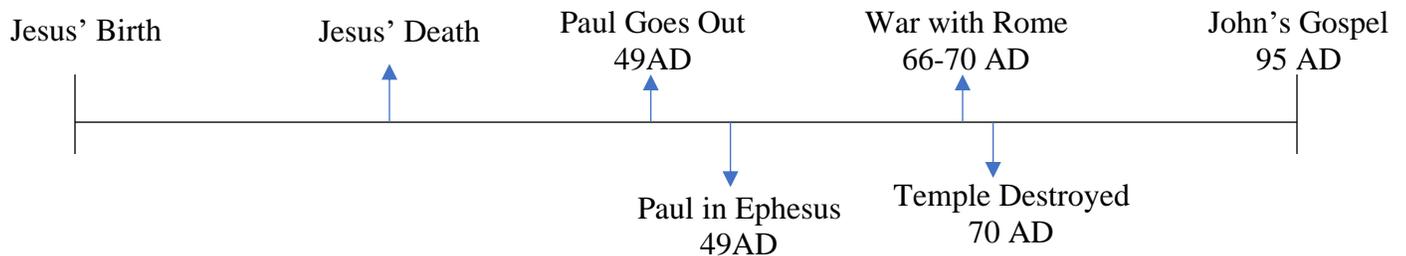
1. John in Ephesus:

- The Gospel of John is written in Greek, and scholars generally agree that it was penned to John’s community near the ancient city of Ephesus.
- John’s Gospel is a very Jewish document with the Jewish message of Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah and King of Israel.
- John, very creatively, also communicates a powerful message about Jesus relative to their first-century Asia Minor religious context.

2. Library of Celsus:¹

- Rome commissioned the building of this library in 110 AD and completed its construction around 117 AD.
- Scholars suggest that the library may have been built over the site of a place Paul would have known, called the lecture hall of Tyrannus (Acts 19:9).

3. First Century Timeline:



4. See our Series on the **Seven Churches of Revelation:**²

5. John’s community is located within the Seven Cities mentioned in the book of Revelation:

which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.”

Revelation 1:11

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_of_Celsus

² <https://www.figtreeteaching.com/seven-churches-of-revelation1.html>

6. Gods of Asia Minor:

- Gods are *everywhere* in Asia Minor, and everyone, to some degree, is religious.
- The gods of this region were non-relational and capricious. They “required” proper appeasement but not loyalty.
- The God of Israel is relational (covenantal), stable, merciful, forgiving, and demands covenant loyalty.

7. “I AM” Statements and the gods of Asia Minor:

“I AM the Bread”	John 6:35	Demeter
“I AM the Light”	John 8:12	Apollo
“I AM the Resurrection”	John 11:25	Dionysus
“I AM the Truth”	John 14:6	Athena
“I AM the True Vine”	John 15:1	Dionysus

8. Jesus stories and the gods of Asia Minor:

Water to Wine	John 2	Dionysus
Lame Man at Bethesda	John 5	Aesculapius
Raise the Dead	John 11	Aesculapius
“Flesh” & “Blood”	John 6:55	Dionysus

9. Disciple Philip

- The Gospel of John mentions the disciple Philip twelve times. The stories of Philip abound within John’s Gospel. Why?
- The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) mention Philip only once as part of a list of all of the disciples.
- **Question:** Why would John include so many stories about Philip in his letter to the community surrounding Ephesus?
- **Proposed answer:** Philip relocated from Israel to the city of Hierapolis, which is within John’s community. Those in the Asia Minor region would have known Philip since he had also walked with Jesus.