

1. Week 1 Review:

- Ephesus known for sorcery (**Acts 19:17-20**):
 William Shakespeare, *The Comedy of Errors* Act 1, scene 2, lines 97-102
- Known for the Slave market/slave trading capital of the world:
 - Dominant themes of Paul’s letter to Ephesus

1 – 3 New Status in God’s Household	4 – 5 Live out your new status
- adoption	- Humility, gentleness, ‘new self’
- inheritance	- forgiveness
- citizenship	- love
A Spiritual Battle Underlies Everything	

- **Ezekiel 16** – Paul has Bible text to speak into the context of that culture.
 - The overall message of Ezekiel 16 is *redemption*.

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God *transform* you into a new person by changing how you think.” Romans 12:2, *NLT*

2. Revelation 2:1-7:

- “seven stars” – Who holds the keys to the cosmos?
- “forsaken your first love” – Jeremiah 2 – God (husband) and Israel (bride) on their honeymoon in the desert.
- “remove your lampstand from its place” – the city had been moved three times.
- One time was by Lysimachus who went so far as to clog the sewer system to get the people to move.
- The city was constantly threatened by the harbor silting over and causing prosperity to cease.

3. Artemis Temple:

- Tree shrine/a tree of life – scholars are not sure what kind of tree – oak, pine, etc.
- Temenos - a sacred enclosure that surrounds a temple
 - The temple mount in Jerusalem is considered a temenos around God’s temple.

Greek	Persian
Temenos	Paradise
Sacred enclosure	Walled garden

- “a tree of life existed inside the paradise of Artemis.”
- Rev. 2:7 -

4. Temenos of Artemis:

- Served as a place of asylum for accused criminals
- Mark Antony extended the temenos and included portions of the city
 - Those parts of the town became centers of crime
 - Mark Antony essentially made Ephesus a sanctuary city.
- Caesar Augustus had to reduce the size of the temenos because the city had become so corrupted.
- Domitian then reversed and increased the temenos during his reign (81-96AD).
- The ‘asylum’ temenos made Ephesus a corrupt city!
- Who can reside in the paradise/temenos?

Paradis of Artemis	Paradis of God
Criminals receive salvation	Repentant receive salvation
Criminals have the right to live/eat	Repentants have the right to live/eat

“Besides being a centre of religion the Temple of Artemis was also a centre of crime and immorality. The Temple area possessed the right of asylum; any criminal was safe if he could reach it. The temple possessed hundreds of priestesses who were sacred prostitutes. All this combined to make Ephesus a notoriously evil place.”

William Barclay, *The Revelation of John: vol. 1* (pg. 60)

- The Good News of God’s reign through his son Jesus blossomed in the *midst* of darkness!!

5. **Tree of Life:**

- *Dendron* – fruit tree, live tree, living tree
- *Ksulon* - dead tree, instrument of death, stockade.
- New Testament – regular tree

Verse	Greek
Luke 3:9: ‘The ax is at the root of the tree.’	<i>dendron</i>
Matt. 21:8 the cut branches off the ‘tree’	<i>dendron</i>

- New Testament – dead tree, instrument of death

Verse	Greek
Matt. 26:47 – ‘with swords and clubs’	<i>ksulon</i>
Acts 5:30 – by hanging him on a tree (cross)	<i>ksulon</i>
Galatians 3:13 “cursed in everyone who hangs on a tree.”	<i>ksulon</i>

- Revelation “Tree of Life”

Verse	Greek
Rev. 2:7: ‘I give the right to eat from the tree of life.’	<i>ksulon</i>
Rev. 22:2 the tree next to the river of life that gives fruit	<i>ksulon</i>
Rev. 22:14 -	<i>ksulon</i>

For John – if you want life, go to the cross!

If you want fruit, go to the cross!

When we get to heaven, the tree in the paradise of God is going to be the cross!