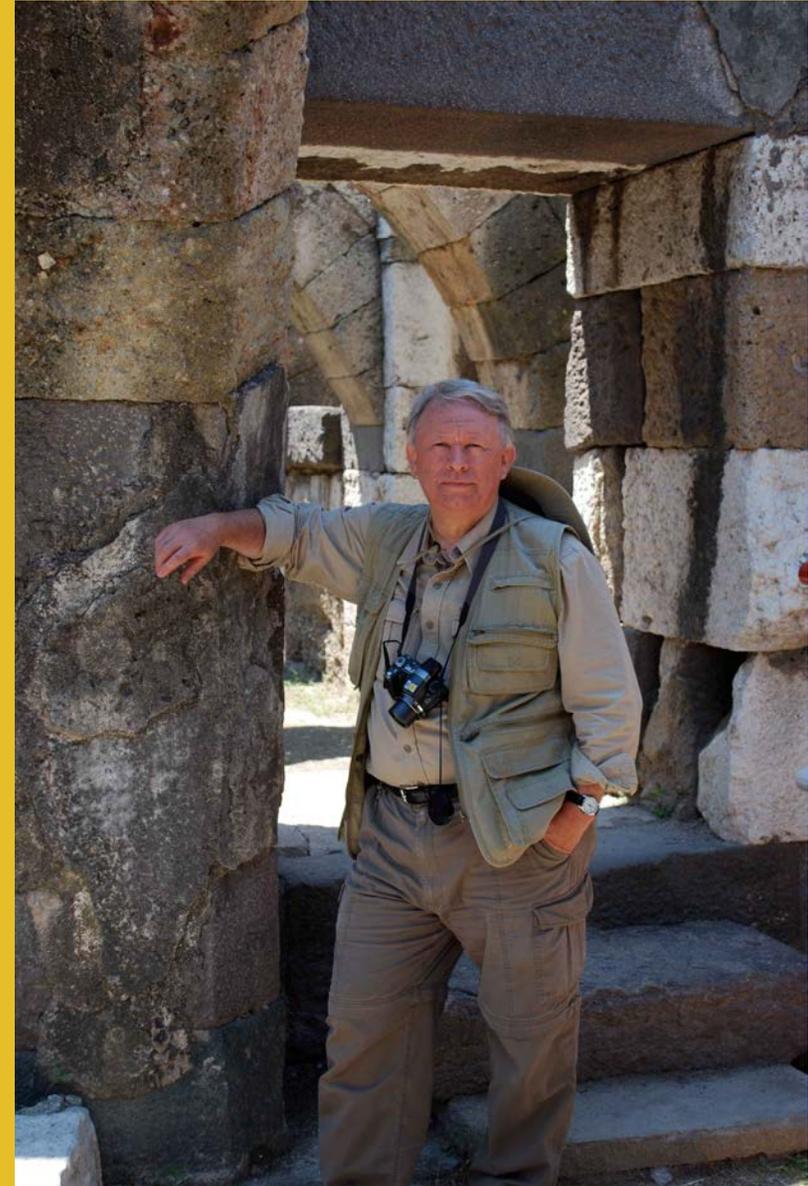


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Archaeology and Unfamiliar Biblical Sites in Turkey

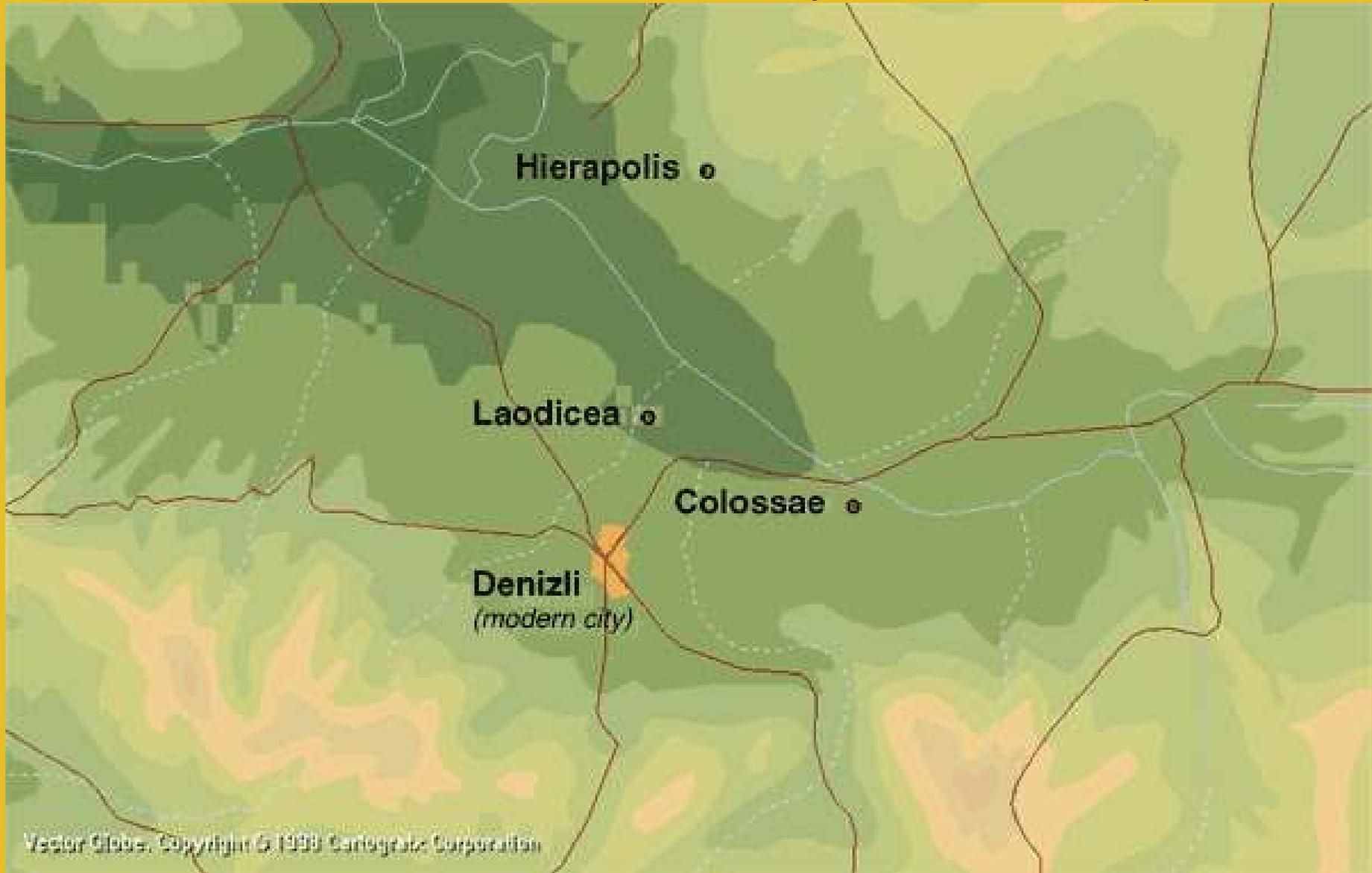
See the **House Visual Study Bible** for more discussion of archaeology and the Bible, hvsb.app.



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COLOSSAE

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Colossae in Lycus Valley



St. Paul to Church at Colossae

- Colossians 1:2 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 to the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Colossae in Lycus Valley



Information on the Biblical Site

Colossae was just under 12 miles from Laodicea, in the Lycus Valley, just south of the Lycus River. Throughout its history, Colossae was known for its “colossinus” wool fabric, which was a distinctive red. The material trade apparently attracted Jews to the city as well.

The church in Colossae was founded by Epaphras, who was from the city, and Timothy (Col 1:7,8), but may have been visited by Paul at some point. It was also the home of Philemon, the recipient of a letter from Paul, and his runaway slave Onesimus. Christianity thrived in the successive centuries. A church dedicated to St. Michael was built near the city as early as 450, and a bishop from the city attended the Council of Chalcedon in A.D. 451

Information on the Biblical Site

Due to raids from foreigners in the 700's, the city was abandoned when its residents moved to nearby Chonai, which was easier to defend.

Colossae has not yet been excavated, but surveys of the area have identified the remains of a defensive wall, a necropolis and a theater. Excavation should begin in 2024.

Colossae is near Laodicea and Hierapolis, though the latter is on the other side of the Lycus Valley and Laodicea on the same side and much nearer to Colossae). The back area of Colossae has cold running waters in the streams, which also overflow on the ground near the city of Colossae. The rusted pipes of Laodicea demonstrate the hot pipes of the city and illustrate the statement that John uses statement that Laodicea has neither the refreshing cold waters of Colossae nor the warm healing waters of the hot springs at Hierapolis.

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Colossae from the South



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Tel-Colossae



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Water Flowing Outside of Colossae



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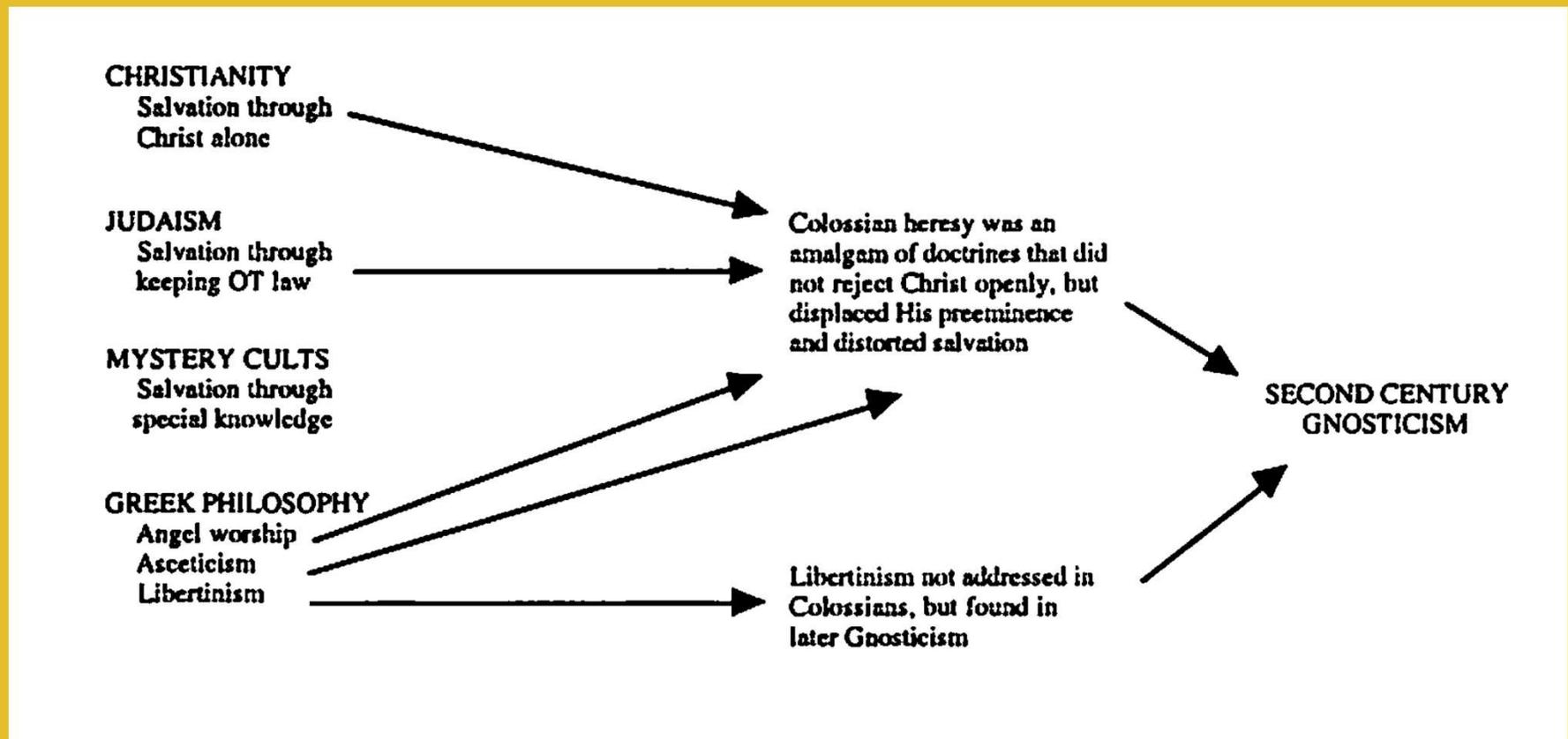
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Creeks Near Colossae



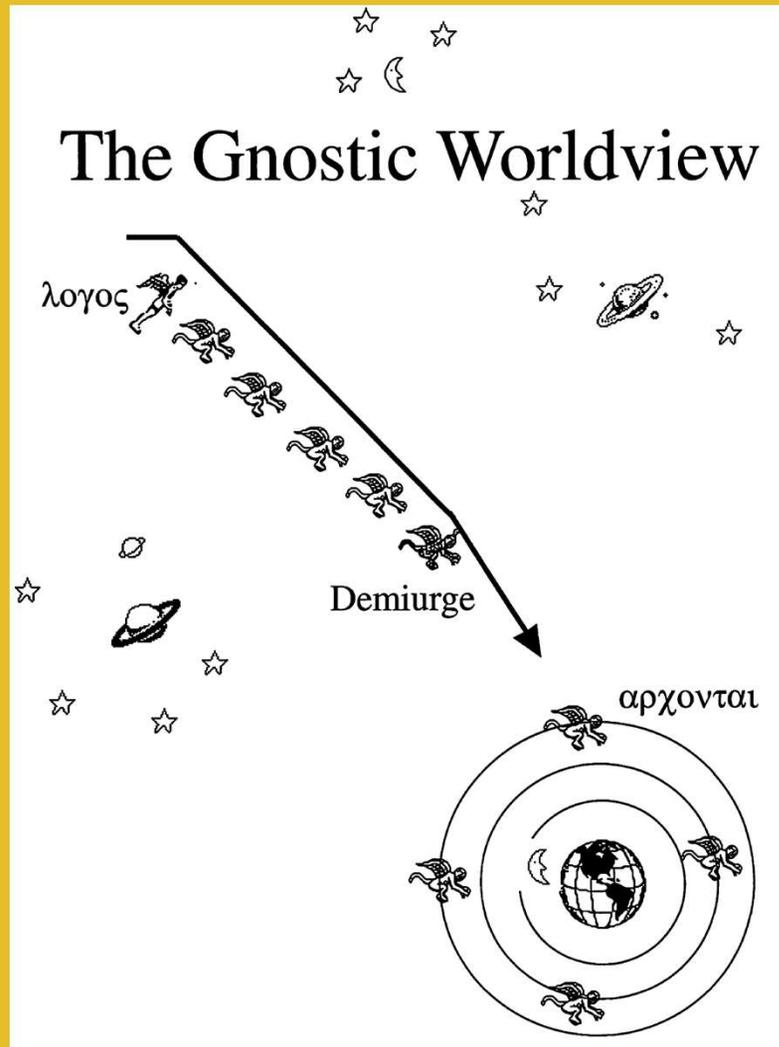
Heresy at Colossae

Various groups dominated the theological landscape of Colossae: Orthodox Christianity, Judaism, Incipient Gnosticism, Mystery Cults, Greek Philosophy



Incipient Gnosticism at Colossae

An incipient Gnosticism (Mature Gnosticism around A.D. 130 in Egypt) was at Colossae



Paul's Teaching to the Colossian Christians

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created in the heavens and on the earth, visible things and invisible things, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things are held together. 18 He is the head of the body, the assembly, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19 For all the fullness was pleased to dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile all things to himself by him, whether things on the earth or things in the heavens, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

Corrective by Paul in Colossians

Christ in Creation

v 15 ~~He is~~ the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn over all creation

vv 17, 18a And He is before all things, and in Him
all things consist.

And He is the head of the body, the church,

v 16 For by Him all things were created
that are in heaven and that are on earth,
visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions
or principalities or power.
All things were created through Him and
for Him.

Christ in Redemption

v 18b ~~who is~~ the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead
that in all things He may have the preeminence
v 19 For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fulness
should dwell,

v 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him,
whether things on earth or things in heaven,
having made peace through the blood of His cross.

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HIERAPOLIS

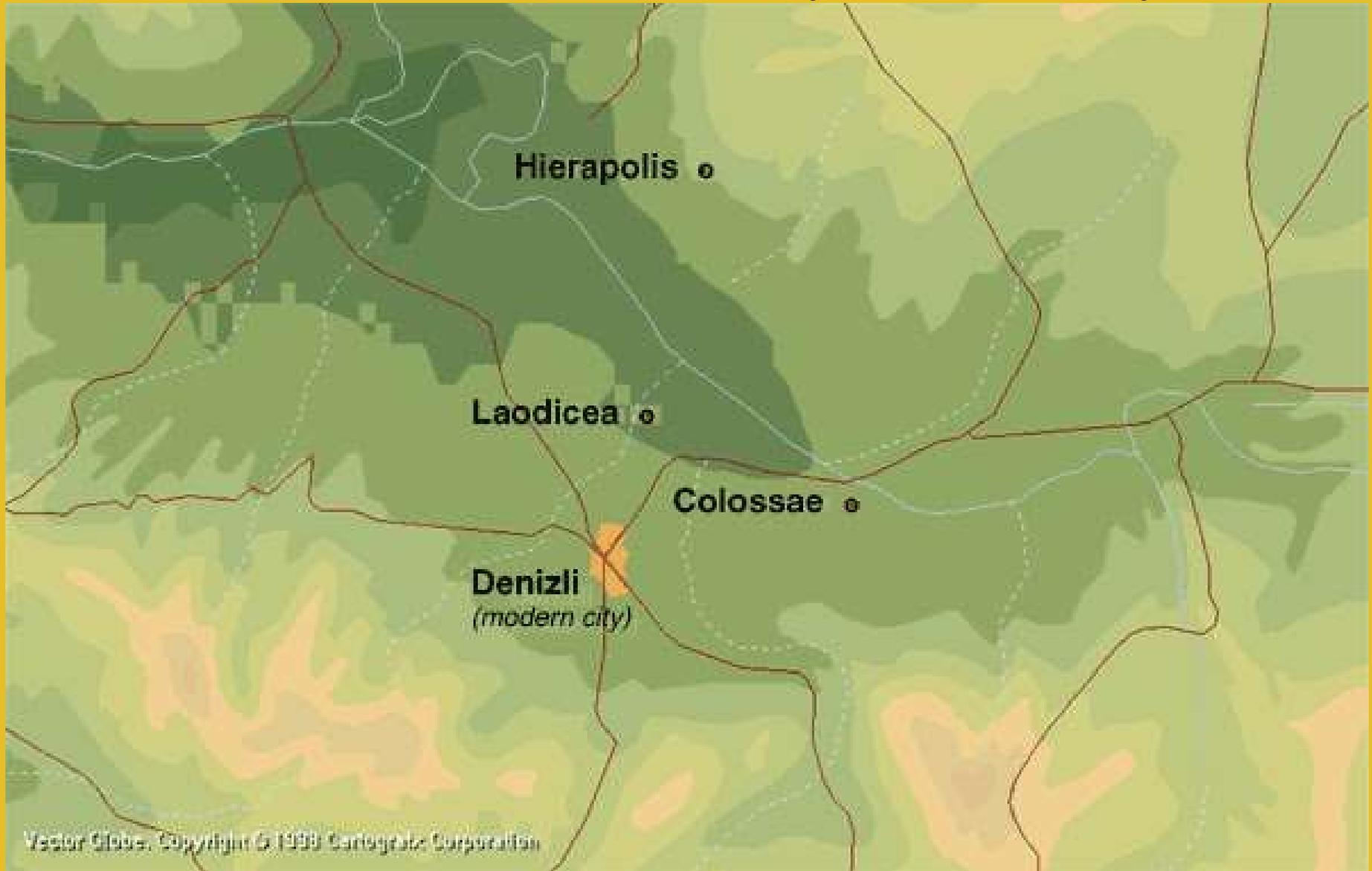
Colossians 1:13 –Mention of Laodicea and Hierapolis

13 For I testify about him that he has great zeal for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for those in Hierapolis.

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Information on Hierapolis and Colossae

Hierapolis, Laodicea, and Colossae are biblical cities spoken of by the apostle Paul.

Hierapolis (modern Pamukkale) did not have an apostle's letter written to it, but in the second century, it became an important city. The apostle Philip was martyred there, and a disciple of the apostle John, Papias, lived there.

One of the apostle Paul's letters was addressed to the church at Colossae due to the influence of some incipient gnostic beliefs, and the man Philemon appears to have been a member of that church. The apostle John addressed one of his letters in the Revelation to the church at Laodicea, speaking of their lukewarm condition.

The Gates of Hades at Caesarea Philippi and Hierapolis

Hierapolis (Pamukkale) and Caesarea Philippi (Panias, Banias) in Israel both have what was considered an entrance to Hades, though the entrance in Turkey boasted the fumes of Hades. Hierapolis was where the apostle (not evangelist) Philip was martyred and where Papias was bishop in the second century. The poison emitting from the site in Hierapolis would kill someone going into it and the priests would demonstrate this by putting in animal sacrifices, yet they did enter very briefly, and held their breath, I would presume.

Hierapolis is important to Christianity because the apostle Philip (not the evangelist Philip) was martyred here, along with his daughters, and that Papias (A.D. ca, 60 – ca. 130) was a disciple of Polycarp and heard the apostle John, who lived in Ephesus.

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ENTRANCE TO HIERAPOLIS



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VIEW OF THEATER AT HIERAPOLIS



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VIEW OF TOMB OF THE APOSTLE PHILIP



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VIEW OF HIERAPOLIS FROM LAODICEA



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VIEW OF HIERAPOLIS FROM LAODICEA



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MOUNTAIN OF SALT AT HIERAPOLIS



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HOT SPRINGS AT HIERAPOLIS



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HOT SPRINGS AT HIERAPOLIS



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HOT SPRINGS OF HIERAPOLIS



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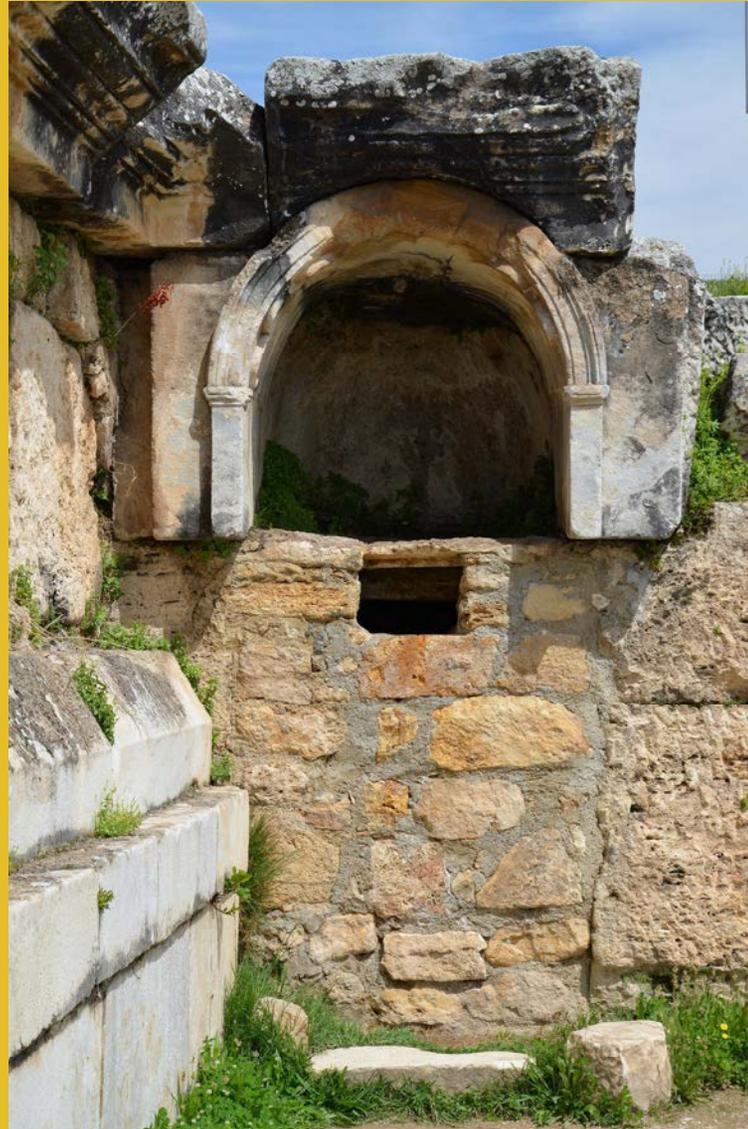
HOT SPRINGS OF HIERAPOLIS



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ENTRANCE TO HADES



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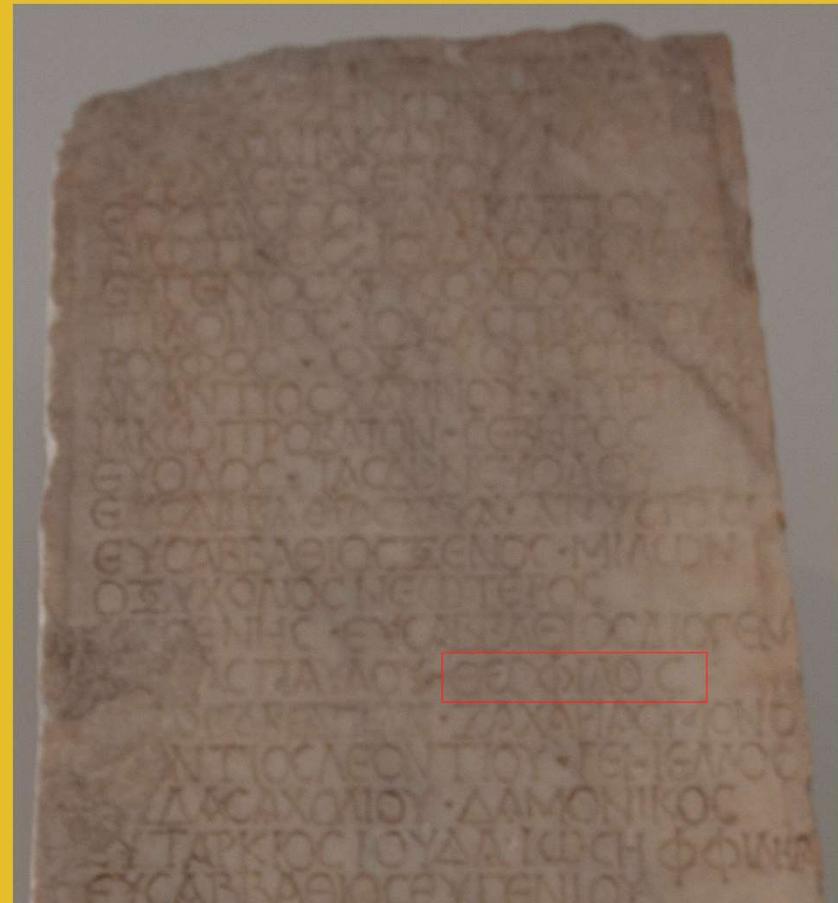
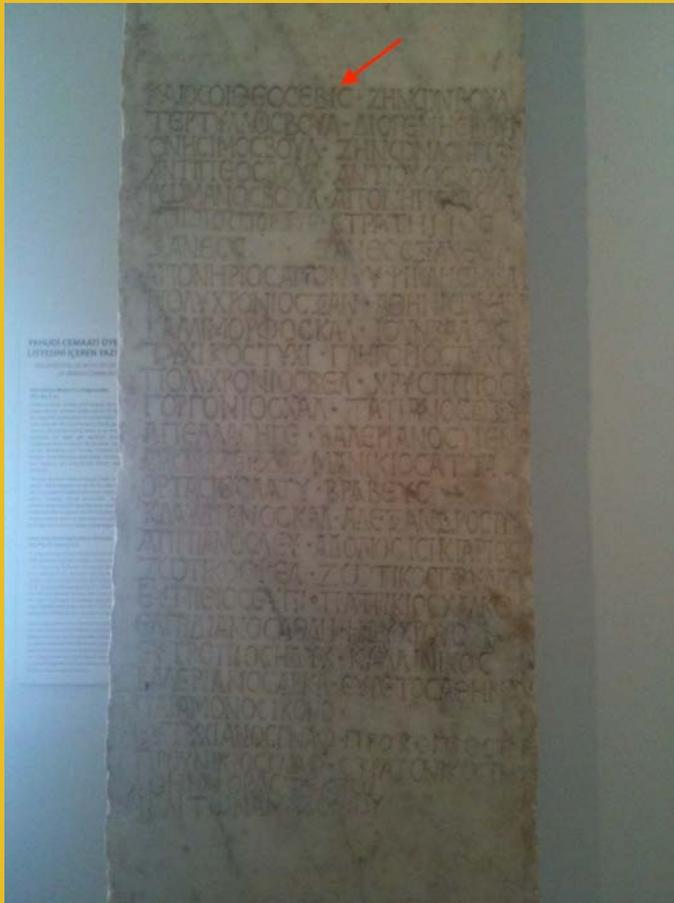
APHRODASIAS

Information on the Site

No biblical reference to this city, but archaeology important to first century
Christianity is found here, a column there has the word *theosebis* ΘΕΟCEBIC (God
fearer) from third or fourth century A.D. and the name Theophilus ΘΕΟΦΙΛΟC
(name of person to whom Luke wrote his Gospel and the Acts)

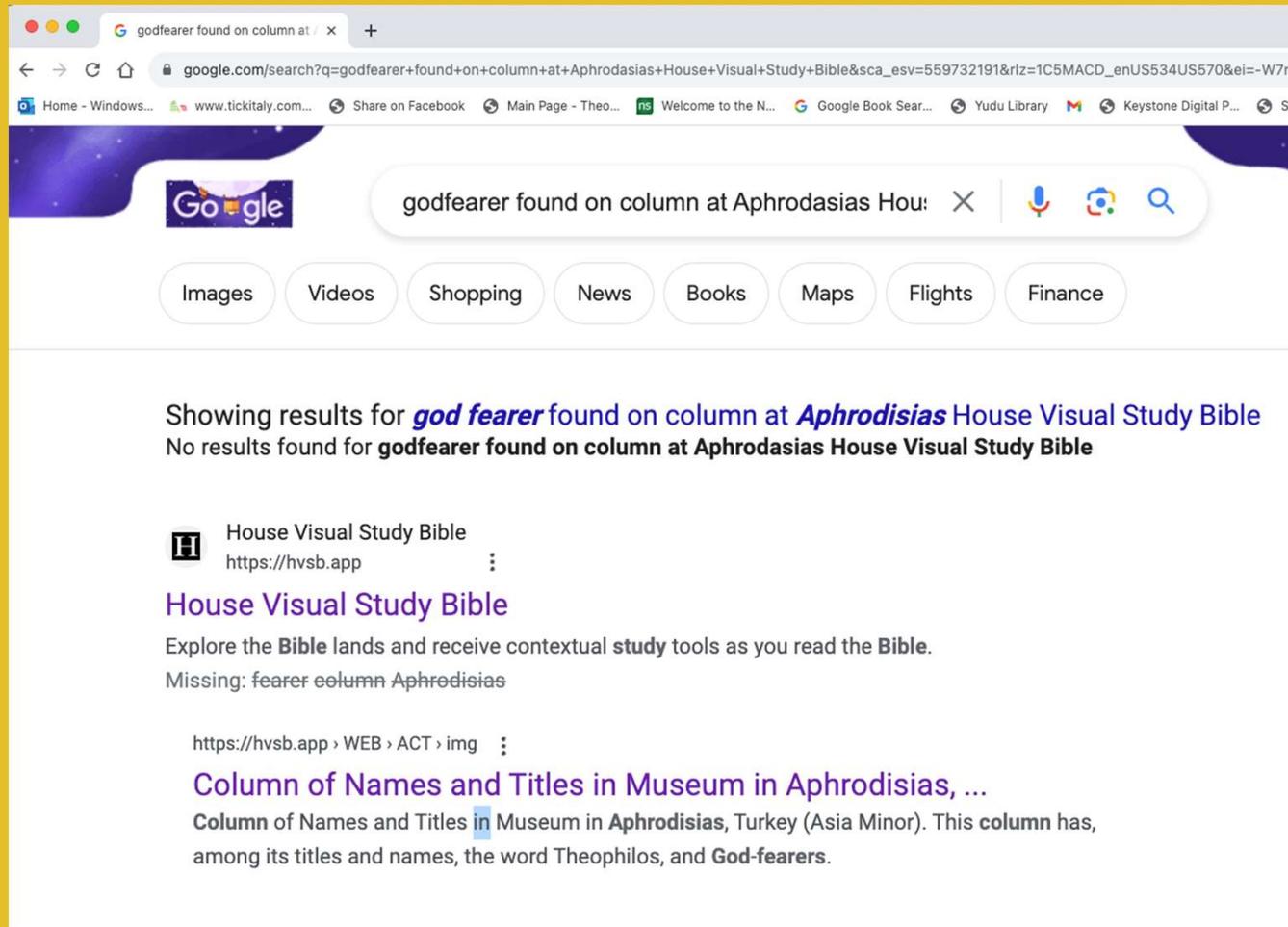
Information on the Inscription

A column found at Aphrodisias contains the name Theophilus (theophios) and the word Godfearer (theosibis)



Information on the Inscription

A column found at Aphrodisias contains the word Godfearer and the name Theophilus (hvsb.app at Acts 1:1 found on Google search)



Funerary Monuments and Sarcophagi at Aphrodisias

The Older Women in the Church

The apostle Paul wrote a letter to his co-worker, Titus, who was laboring on the island of Crete that instructed him to “set in order the things that are lacking [in the churches on Crete] and appoint elders in every city” (Titus 1:5, all Scripture quotes are from the New King James Bible). He also told Titus to instruct the people in the churches about “things which are proper for sound doctrine” (2:1).

Of the older women in the churches, the Apostle Paul says they should be “reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things – that they admonish the younger women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God may not be blasphemed” (2:3-5). I would like to look at two phrases in this admonition: “to be lovers of (their) husbands, lovers of (their) children (*philandrous einai philoteknous*).”

Funerary Monuments and Sarcophagi at Aphrodisias

Funerary Inscriptions

The epitaphs on tombstones reveal much about an individual and how people viewed their life. In the graveyard of Trinity Church Wall Street in New York City is the tombstone of Alexander Hamilton (1755-1804). Among other things, he was an army officer in the American Revolution, the first Secretary of the Treasury (1789-1795) and lost his life in a duel with Aaron Burr the vice president of the United States. His epitaph reads: “In testimony of their respect for the Patriot of incorruptible integrity, the Soldier of approved valour, the Statesman of consummate wisdom; whose talents and virtues will be admired by grateful posterity long after this marble shall have mouldered into dust.” The one thing we admire about Hamilton today is that we can carry him around in our wallet because he is on the front of the ten dollar bill! I can also report that after 204 years, his marble gravestone is still there. It has survived the air pollution in New York City, as well as the September 11th attack.

Funerary Monuments and Sarcophagi at Aphrodisias, Mentioned by Titus

A Sarcophagus from Aphrodisias

The ancient city of Aphrodisias is located in the Caria region of southwestern Asia Minor in Turkey today. It was named after its patron goddess Aphrodites, the goddess of love and beauty, and had an impressive sanctuary built in her honor. The city was situated next to a marble quarry and was famous throughout the Greek and Roman world for the marble statues that were sculptured there.



Funerary Monuments and Sarcophagi at Aphrodisias

A Sarcophagus from Aphrodisias cont'd

“It is translated: “The City Council and the People honored Tatia, daughter of Diogenes, son of Diogenes, grandson of Demrtrios Phileman, a woman who was modest, **who loved her husband and children** and throughout her life was endowed with dignity and virtue, and who was wife of Pereitas Kallimedes, son of Diogenes, grandson of Apollonios a man who acted piously and munificently in his public offices, embassies and public duties and in his capacity as temple overseer” [emphasis mine]. She was known for her modesty, dignity, virtue, and she loved her husband and children. The same Greek words for “loved her husband and children” are used on this epitaph that is mentioned in Titus 2:4. There are hundreds of tombstones and sarcophagi in the Greek and Roman world that has these two phrases on them describing the deceased women, several were even found on the island of Crete.”

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MILETUS

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Public Bath at Miletus



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Theater at Miletus



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Inscription Reads: Place of the Jews and
Godfearers, Mentioned by Luke



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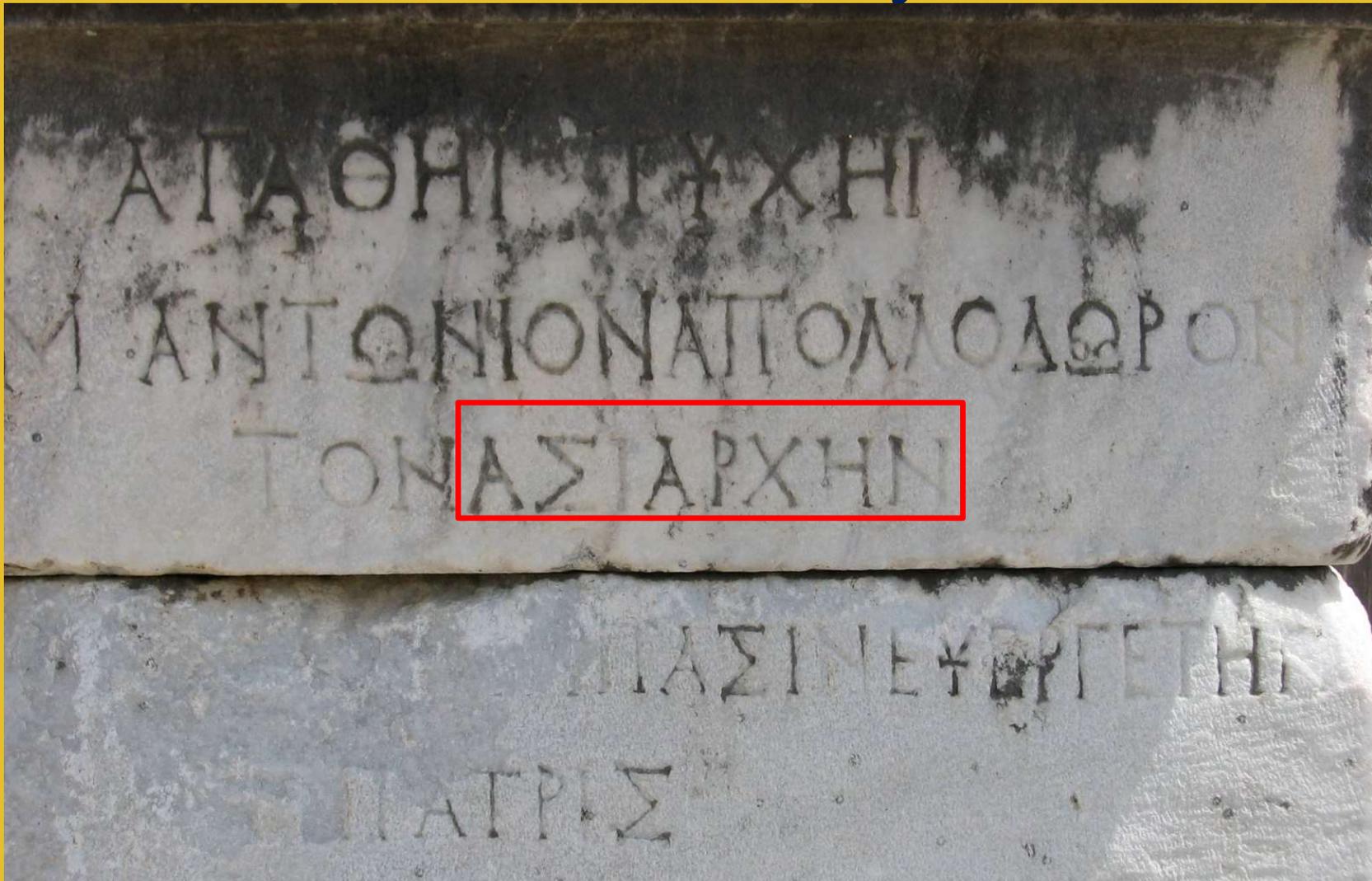
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Asiarch Mentioned by Luke



Archangels Protecting Miletus

In the northwest corner of the theater, atop the left staircase, is a most interesting inscription that dates to A.D. 4-5. It is carved into a block whose right side is partially missing. The first row features symbols situated above 5½ ovals; these symbols seemingly refer to particular archangels. Between them are 34 repeating Greek vowels plus 2 Ns — I E O Y A H Ω I A Ω A I E O Y A H Ω I Ω A E H O Y I A Ω I H E O Y E N O N. Such formulas were used in magical papyri and meant to be pronounced for greater efficacy. Inside each oval was a sequence of these seven vowels begun by each of the vowels in alphabetical order. Then follows the prayer: “Holy One, protect the city of the Milesians and all of its inhabitants!” The last line declares, “Archangels, the city of the Milesians and all its inhabitants are protected!” While the names of the seven archangels are unnamed, they are known from the London Papyrus—Michael, Raphael, Gabriel, Souriel, Zaziel, Badakiel, and Suliel. Seven angels are mentioned in Tobit 12:15 and repeatedly in Revelation (8:6 ff). Michael is named as an archangel in Jude 1:9 and Revelation 12:7; the angels Gabriel in Luke 1:19, 26 and Raphael in Tobit 5:4. The other four are only mentioned in the pseudepigraphical book of Tobit.

Archangels Protecting Miletus

Because of its biblical connections, the inscription was thought to be Jewish or Christian. However, the lack of symbols related to either of these religions suggests that it is pagan. Civic officials apparently erected it to invoke protection from the archangels for their city from disease and plague that perhaps came from the Aegean Sea and Meander River. Written by Mark Wilson, Rev 12:7, Angels Protecting Miletus, *House Visual Study Bible*.



Archangels Protecting Miletus

The screenshot shows a Google search interface with the query "angels at miletus house visual study bible". Below the search bar are tabs for Images, Videos, Shopping, News, Books, Maps, Flights, and Finance. The search results are as follows:

- House Visual Study Bible**
https://hvsb.app
House Visual Study Bible
An Adventure in **Bible Study**. See the sites, artifacts, and cultures of the biblical world as you read each chapter of the **Bible**. Begin Reading. (Matthew 1) ...
Missing: angels miletus
- https://hvsb.app › WEB › REV › doc
House Visual Study Bible
Michael and his **angels** made war on the dragon. The dragon and his **angels** made war. 8They didn't prevail. No place was found for them any more in heaven.
- Dean Bible Ministries**
https://deanbibleministries.org › news › item › 1252-h...
House Visual Study Bible
Dean's **Bible studies** on your computer for quick access plus the ability to search for key words, doctrines, verses, topics, etc. This updated file includes the ...
Missing: angels miletus
- Images for angels at miletus house visual study bible**
A carousel of images showing the cover of the "House Visual Study Bible" and a reconstruction of the city of Miletus.