

Church History: “The Apostolic Era” 30 – 100 A.D.

Acts 20: 28-32; Revelation 2:1-7

“On his second missionary journey, Paul visited Ephesus and left Aquila and Priscilla there (Acts 18:19-21) He returned to Ephesus two years later and ministered for three years, reaching the whole province of Asia with the gospel (Acts 19)”
“With the Word” Warren W. Wiersbe p.772

On his third missionary journey, on his way to Jerusalem, he met with the Ephesian elders. (55 -56 A.D.)

What does Paul encourage the elders to do? Why? Acts 20:28

What warning are they given? vv.29,30

What is absolutely necessary? v.31

Who does he entrust them to? v.32

“During this period the difficulties experienced by Christians were caused by unbelieving Jews. Roman officials, some of whom are mentioned by name in the New Testament, were usually tolerant of Christianity and unwilling to try to suppress it. . . .So during the period of time covered by the Epistles of the New Testament the Roman Emperors left Christianity untouched. But during the reign of the emperor Nero (54-68 A.D.) the situation began to change for the worse.”

“Sketches from Church History” S.M. Houghton p.9

“Virtually all reliable sources in early church history attest to the fact that John became the pastor of the church the apostle Paul had founded at Ephesus. From there, during a great persecution of the church under the Roman Emperor Domitian (brother and successor of Titus, who destroyed Jerusalem), John was banished to a prison community on Patmos, one of the small Dodecanese Islands in the Aegean Sea off the west coast of modern Turkey. He lived in a cave there. It was while there that he received and recorded the apocalyptic visions described in the book of Revelation. I have been to the cave in which he is thought to have lived and in which he is

believed to have written the Apocalypse. It was a harsh environment for an aged man. He was cut off from those whom he loved, treated with cruelty and reproach, and made to sleep on a stone slab with a rock for a pillow as the years passed slowly.”
“Twelve Ordinary Men” John MacArthur p.114

How does Jesus reveal Himself to the church at Ephesus? v.1

What does He know? v.2,3

What does He discern? v.4

What does the church at Ephesus need to do? v. 5

What do they hate? v.6

What are overcomers promised? v.7

What characterizes the Apostolic Era?

What was accomplished in the Apostolic Era?

“After Jesus’ death and resurrection the Gospel exploded out of little Palestine and swept the known world like a quickly spreading flame. The book of Acts relates the beginnings of the church, describing a short period of consolation in the Jewish homeland, a gradual spread to nearby lands, and a sudden explosion of missionary activity spearheaded by the Apostle Paul. In a few brief decades, **between A.D. 30 and 60, churches were established in most of the major population centers of the Roman Empire, including Rome itself. It was during this period that most of the books of the New Testament were written.** And here the New Testament historical account in Acts ends. But secular histories and the writings of church fathers enable us to pick up the story.”

“The Bible Reader’s Companion” Lawrence O. Richards p.699