

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Revelation 2:3 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance ... **You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. (Ephesus)**

Ephesus – Where Pastor John _____ for nearly 20 years

1. Ephesus was _____ crossroad for Trade and Travel routes in the ancient world.
2. Ephesus became the cultural and economic Mecca of the _____ Empire in Asia.
3. Emperor Domitian ruled over the Roman Empire and spent a lot of time in Ephesus.
4. Domitian took the Roman Empire to its highest levels of _____ worship.

Obstacles in Ephesus to the common believer:

1. _____ visitors were required to take a ritual bath upon entering the Magnesian Gate to be **clean** before the Greek and Roman gods (Artemis, Diana, etc.)
2. As you entered the Agora (100 square meter market) you would be required to burn incense _____ Caesar as god, **acknowledging before men** that Caesar was god.
3. After bathing and burning incense, you would receive an **ink stain marking you as** _____ to buy, sell, and travel freely in Ephesus.
 - a. The Jews by tradition called anyone who demanded self-worship a “Beast”
 - b. The ink stain would have been called the “Mark of the Beast”
4. The Roman Emperor Domitian was absolutely one of Satan’s _____ antichrists.

God’s message to Believers living in Ephesus:

Revelation 4-5

1. Domitian claimed to be a god. But God _____ it by revealing his Heavenly and Eternal throne room to John.
2. Domitian had a 24 member worship team singing his praises. But God had 24 _____ wearing crowns, sitting on thrones worshipping Him, not to mention _____ living creatures, thunder and lightning, an _____ choir, and a worldwide group of backup singers who all worship Him with enthusiasm and without coercion.

3. Domitian was the only one worthy to open his own scrolls and break his royal seal. But _____ was worthy to open God Almighty's scroll and open its Divine seals.
4. Domitian claimed to control the future. God actually does control the future, and _____ the future to John as each of the seven seals are broken.
5. Domitian needed a 27 foot statue so that he would be remembered by after his death. But God needs no such monument to be remembered after his death because Jesus rose from the dead and is _____, and the Holy Spirit lives within every believer.
6. Domitian was worshipped out of fear of torture and death if they did not. Christians worship God as a free will _____ that He allows them to make on a daily basis.
7. Domitian killed those who opposed him, God – through Jesus Christ – died himself so that those oppose Him, also have a _____ to be reconciled and saved.
8. Domitian, who could not kill John, tried to silence him with exile. But God used John, while in Domitian's exile, to write a book of prophesy and a call to salvation that has _____ been silenced or disregarded.

Big Idea for the Ephesians:

Domitian is a _____ playing in a sandbox when compared to the GOD who rules the universe, and with Jesus who came to this Earth, and died so that our sins could be forgiven. In otherwards, one of the greatest humans of all time, was a joke when compared to God.

The result of this message was the spiritual overthrow of False God's in Ephesus.

Application

1. God have the readers of this passage **HOPE** and **Fortitude** in what they saw coming. We should look to the _____ future, and come to the _____ resolve.
2. Whatever, or whoever, stands against you because of your faith, is _____ and pathetic in comparison to the awesome power, holiness, and sovereignty of God.
3. God is the only _____ who will still be on His throne when this Earth ceases to exist.
4. Our job right now is to _____ an eternal perspective of what has for us in eternity, and _____ like we belong to that kingdom.