

COLOSSAE

SHORT LIFE, LONG CHALLENGES



THE CITY OF COLOSSAE

- In Roman province of Asia (Turkey), SW of Ephesus & near Laodicea
- Famous for wool production
- Important city in 4-2nd Cents. BC, but declined as nearby cities grew in importance
- Devastated by earthquake approx. AD 61; may be why not listed as one of the “7 Churches of Asia” in Rev.
- Never re-built, most residents left



COLOSSIANS – MOUND



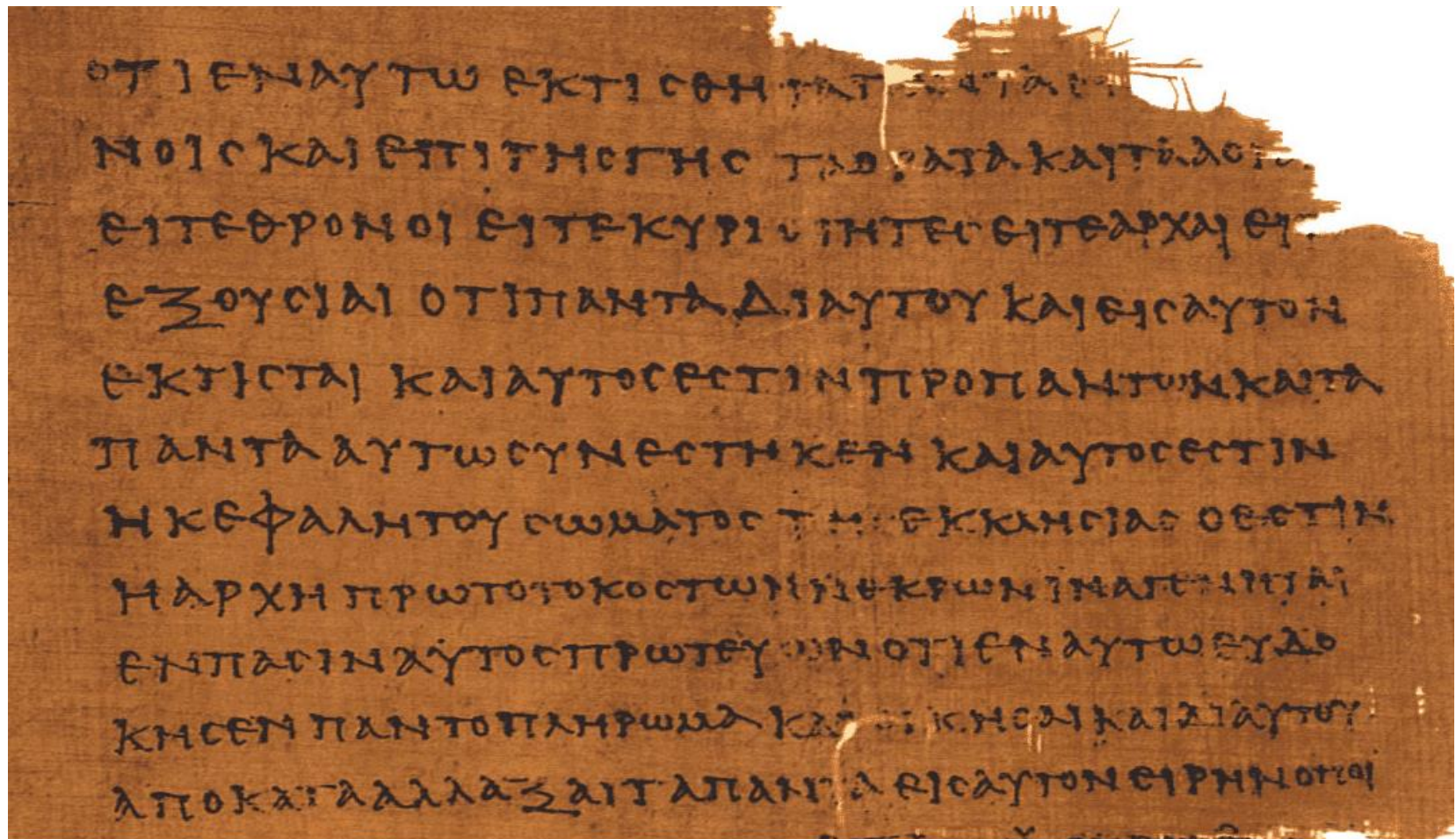
BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH

- No clear account of its beginning
- Some Jews from Asia present at Pentecost
- During Paul's 3-yr ministry in Ephesus, "all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord" (Acts 19:10). Approx. AD 55-57
- Colossians 1:7 mentions Epaphras, a co-worker with Paul; says the Cols learned the grace of God from him
- Paul indicates he had not been there

LATER DEVELOPMENTS

- During Paul's Roman imprisonment (60-61), wrote to Colossae
- Combats incursion of "Colossian heresy," a mixture of Jewish & proto-Gnostic elements
- Argues for supremacy & sufficiency of Christ & keeping Him as "the Head"

COL. 1:16-20 (Papyrus 46)



ΟΤΙ ΕΝ ΑΥΤΩ ΕΚΤΙ ΣΗΜΕΙΟΝ ΤΑΤΑ
ΝΟΙΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΠΙ ΤΗΣ ΓΗΣ ΤΑ ΟΡΑΤΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΑ ΔΕΙΤΑ
ΕΙΤΕ ΘΡΟΝΟΙ ΕΙΤΕ ΚΥΡΙΑΙΟΝΤΕΣ ΕΙΤΕ ΑΡΧΑΙ ΕΙ
ΕΞΟΥΣΙΑΙ ΟΤΙ ΠΑΝΤΑ ΔΙΑ ΑΥΤΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΕΙΣ ΑΥΤΟΝ
ΕΚΤΙΣΤΑΙ ΚΑΙ ΑΥΤΟΣ ΕΣΤΙΝ ΠΡΟ ΠΑΝΤΩΝ ΚΑΤΑ
ΠΑΝΤΑ ΑΥΤΩ ΣΥΝΕΣΤΗΚΕΝ ΚΑΙ ΑΥΤΟΣ ΕΣΤΙΝ
Η ΚΕΦΑΛΗ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΜΑΤΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ Ο ΕΣΤΙΝ
Η ΑΡΧΗ ΠΡΩΤΟΚΟΣΤΩΝ Η ΔΕ ΚΡΩΝΙΜΑΤΕΡΙΑ
ΕΝ ΠΑΣΙΝ ΑΥΤΟΣ ΠΡΩΤΕΥΩΝ ΟΤΙ ΕΝ ΑΥΤΩ ΕΥΔΟ
ΚΗΣΕΝ ΠΑΝΤΟ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑ ΚΑΙ ΟΙ ΚΗΣΑΙ ΚΑΙ ΑΥΤΟΥ
ΑΠΟΚΑΤΑΛΛΑΞΑΙΤΑ ΠΑΝΤΑ ΕΙΣ ΑΥΤΟΝ ΕΙΡΗΝΟΝ

LATER DEVELOPMENTS (2)

- Letter to Philemon sent about same time as Colossians
- Philemon a member of church at Colossae, & the church met in his house
- Letter addresses problem of Christian slaves & masters
- Church apparently dispersed following earthquake, shortly after Paul wrote

LESSONS FROM COLOSSAE

1. The origins of a church are not nearly as important as its faithfulness to Christ.
2. A church need not have a long history in order to have a great impact.
3. The conversion of people with differing world views can create problems – but they can be overcome by emphasizing the supremacy of Christ.