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# Colossians

*Overview &  
Chapter 1:1-8*

# Where

## *Where is Colossae?*

Church at Colossae Despite being only a brief but stunning drive down Turkey's Lycus Valley from the breathtaking sites of Laodicea and Hierapolis, all that remains is a large hill with the odd block of masonry jutting out on one side. The city was destroyed by a devastating earthquake that struck the valley in around AD 60. Unlike its two illustrious neighbors, Colossae was never rebuilt.





# Hierapolis

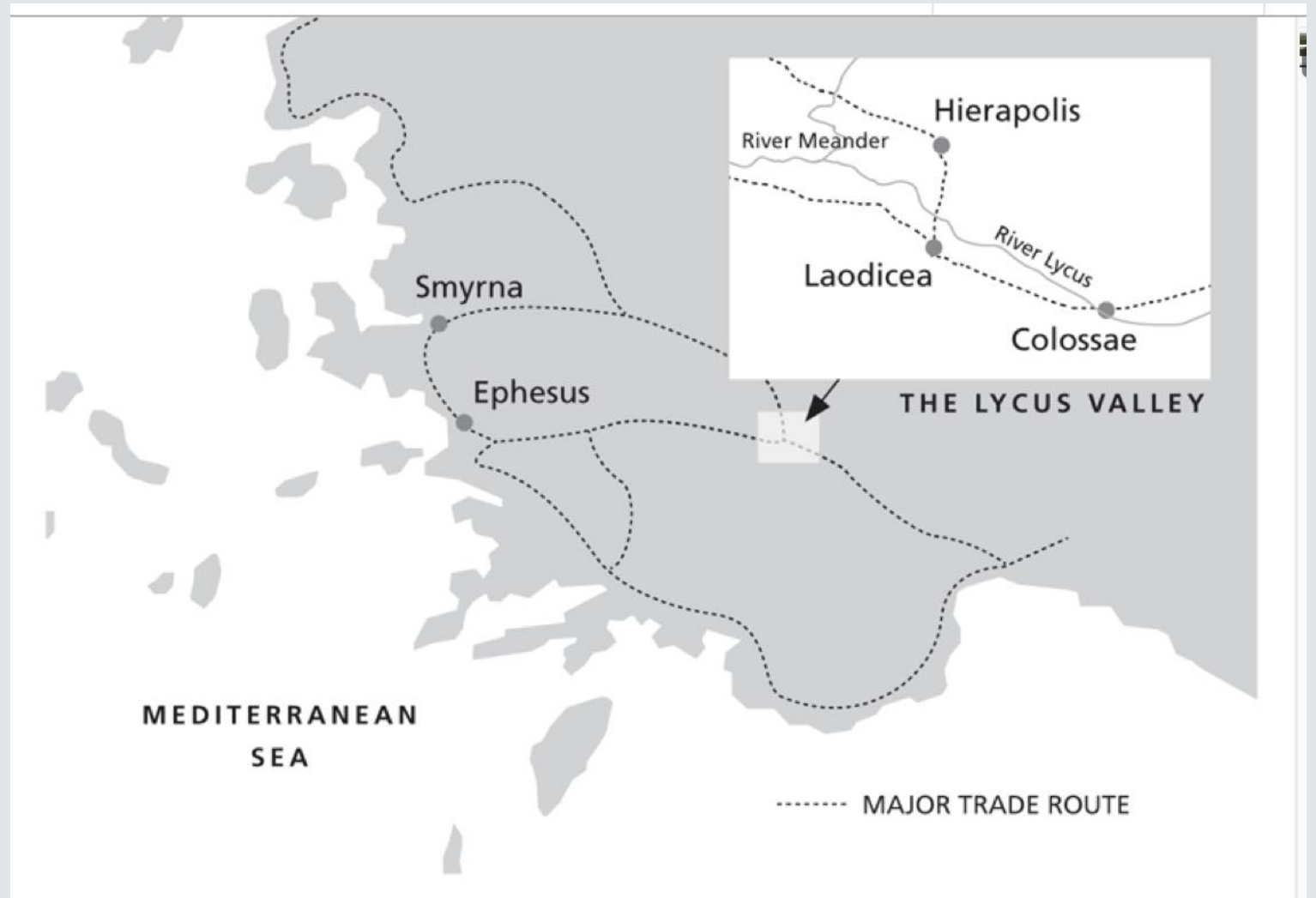




# Laodecia



# Colossae, Laodecia, Hierapolis





# Colossae in relationship to 7 Churches in Revelation



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# Who

*Who wrote the letter?*

Paul Colossians 1:1, 4:18

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

<sup>18</sup> I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

*To whom was it written?*

Church at Colossae

Church at Laodicea??? 4:16

<sup>16</sup> After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.



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# Down to Earth





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# Why was it written

## *Epaphras*

Colossians

just as you learned it  
from **Epaphras** our  
beloved fellow servant.  
He is a faithful minister  
of Christ on your behalf

Colossians 4:12

**Epaphras**, who is one of you, a  
servant of Christ Jesus, greets you,  
always struggling on your behalf in  
his prayers,

Philemon 1:23

### **Final Greetings**

**Epaphras**, my fellow prisoner in  
Christ Jesus, sends greetings to  
you,

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# What

## *What was the occasion for the Letter*

Several years after the Colossian church was founded, a dangerous heresy arose to threaten it—one not identified with any particular historical system. It contained elements of what later became known as Gnosticism

Colo 2:16-23 gives us a good description of some of the issues facing the church.

## *Heresy*

Matter is evil,

Superior knowledge,

Jewish legalism

Angels

Mystics



# What

how many gods are in |

how many gods are in **norse mythology**

how many gods are in **greek mythology**

how many gods are in **pantheism**

how many gods are in **egyptian mythology**

how many gods are in **the greek pantheon**

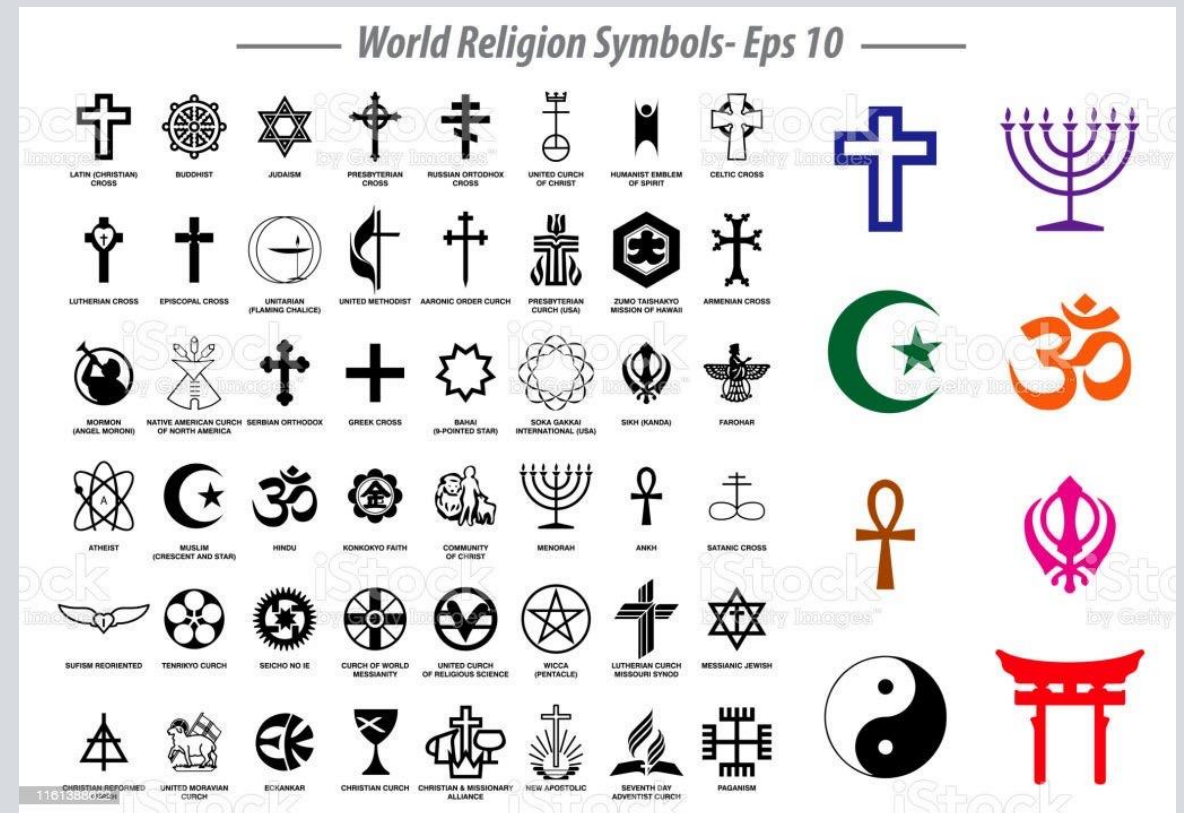
how many gods are in **confucianism**

how many gods are in **hinduism**

how many gods are in **ancient egypt**

how many gods are in **roman mythology**

how many gods are in **the norse pantheon**



# When was it written?

This letter was written from prison in Rome (Acts 28:16–31) sometime between A.D. 60–62 and is, therefore, referred to as a prison epistle (along with Ephesians, Philippians, and Philemon). It may have been composed almost contemporaneously with Ephesians and initially sent with that epistle and Philemon by Tychicus (Eph. 6:21, 22; Col. 4:7, 8).

Letter Key Verse	To	Where Written	When Written	Theme
<b>Galatians</b> 5:22, 23	Church at Galatia	Antioch in Syria	AD 49	Free in Christ Through Faith
<b>1 Thessalonians</b> 5:16-23	Church at Thessalonica	Corinth	AD 51	Letter to New Christians
<b>2 Thessalonians</b> 3:4-6	Church at Thessalonica	Corinth	AD 51	Persevere Until Christ Returns
<b>1 Corinthians</b> 13:4, 5	Church at Corinth	Ephesus	AD 56	Addresses Problems in the Church
<b>2 Corinthians</b> 12:9	Church at Corinth	Macedonia	AD 56	Paul's Authority Against False Teachers
<b>Romans</b> 12:1, 2a	Church at Rome	Corinth	AD 57	Salvation: Righteousness from God
<b>Ephesians</b> 2:8, 9	Church at Ephesus	Rome	AD 60/61	The Church and Body of Christ
<b>Colossians</b> 2:9, 10	Church at Colossae	Rome	AD 60/61	Christ Is Everything
<b>Philemon</b> 17-19	Philemon, a friend at Colossae	Rome	AD 60/61	Brothers in Christ
<b>Philippians</b> 2:14, 15	Church at Philippi	Rome	AD 62	Joy at All Times
<b>1 Timothy</b> 4:12, 13	Timothy, leader of Church at Ephesus	Macedonia	AD 62/63	Caring for the Church
<b>Titus</b> 3:4-7	Titus, leader of Church in Crete	Corinth	AD 63	Living in Faith
<b>2 Timothy</b> 3:15-17	Timothy, leader of Church at Ephesus	Rome	AD 67	Paul's Last Words



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# Colossians

*1:1,2*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ  
Jesus by the will of God,  
and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup>To the saints and faithful  
brothers in Christ at  
Colossae:

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# Colossians

1:3

<sup>3</sup>We always thank God, the Father of our  
Lord Jesus Christ,

when we pray for you,

<sup>4</sup>*since we heard*



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# Colossians

1:4-5a

*<sup>4</sup>since we heard*  
of your **faith** in Christ Jesus  
*and*  
of the **love** that you have for all the saints,  
*<sup>5</sup>because*  
of the **hope** laid up for you in heaven.

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# Colossians

*1:5b-6*

Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth,  
the gospel,

<sup>6</sup>which has come to you, as indeed in the whole  
world it is bearing fruit and increasing -- as it also does  
among you,

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# Colossians

1:6a-8

*since* the day you **heard** it *and* **understood** the grace of  
God in truth,

<sup>7</sup>*just* as you **learned** it from Epaphras our beloved fellow  
servant.

He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf

<sup>8</sup>*and*

has made known to us your love in the Spirit.



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# Colossians

*1:1,2*