

Major Cities of Greece

Explanation

Paul's ministry took him to Asia Minor and then to Greece. By that time, this ancient land of city-states had been ruled by Rome for two centuries. The Romans had organized Greece into two provinces: Macedonia in the north, with Philippi as its provincial capital; and Achaëa in the south, with its capital of Corinth. Paul spent significant time in both of these important cities, especially Corinth, which had been largely rebuilt and colonized by Romans and Italians. Consequently, Latin was used as much as Greek by the populations of these cities in the first century. The other cities listed were entirely Greek in their population and language. As a Greek-speaking Roman citizen, Paul was comfortable in either setting. Sizeable numbers of Christians were converted in the Greek cities on the chart, with the possible exception of Athens, which had been the great city of Greece five hundred years earlier.

References

James S. Jeffers, *The Greco-Roman World of the New Testament* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1999), 259–91.

J. B. Ward-Perkins, *Cities of Ancient Greece and Italy* (London: Sidgwick & Jackson, 1974).



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in order of importance

CITY, PROVINCE	CORINTH, ACHAEA	PHILIPPI, MACEDONIA	ATHENS, ACHAEA	THESSALONICA, MACEDONIA	BEROEIA, MACEDONIA
LOCATION	On Isthmus of Corinth bridging Greece and the Peloponnesian Peninsula	10 miles inland from the north coast of the Aegean, on the Via Egnatia	5 miles inland from Saronic Gulf of Aegean Sea	On the Thermaic Gulf of the northwest Aegean Sea	On Mt. Bermion at south end of Macedonian plain, on the Via Egnatia
STATUS	Leading Greek city, Roman citizen colony, capital of Achaea	Capital of province of Macedonia	Most famous city of Greece	Major city of northern Aegean	Populous city of central Macedonia
POPULATION	100,000	50,000	50,000	75,000	50,000
ETHNICITY	Roman, Greek, small groups from many provinces	Roman with some remnant of earlier Greek inhabitants	Greek	Greek	Greek
FOUNDATION	Became Greek c. 2200 B.C. until destruction in 146 B.C., refounded as a Roman city by Julius Caesar in 44 B.C.	c. 550 B.C. by Thasian Greeks, renamed by Philip II in 356 B.C.	1800 B.C. by Mycenaean Greeks	316 B.C.	c. 400 B.C.
GOVERNMENT	Roman proconsular governor of Achaea, town <i>duoviri</i> , <i>aediles</i> , and <i>decuria</i>	Roman proconsular governor of Macedonia, town <i>duoviri</i> , <i>aediles</i> , and <i>decuria</i>	Town Council Administration (<i>boule</i> and <i>archontes</i>)	"Free city" with elected politarches and assembly	Elected politarches and assembly
ECONOMIC	With harbors on both sides of the isthmus, a major trade center, light industry, and agriculture	Gold mining, agriculture	Cultural and educational center	Major port for Macedonia, trade and agriculture	Agriculture
CHRISTIAN PRESENCE	Paul's residence for almost two years, recipient of two extant and two non-extant epistles from Paul, large Christian congregation (Acts 18)	The first European Christian community, established by Paul, and visited on each journey to Greece, large and faithful Christian congregation, home of Lydia, recipient of Epistle to Philippians (Acts 16)	Paul preaches on Mars Hill, no later Christian presence of significance (Acts 17)	Paul establishes church at Thessalonica, recipient of two Pauline epistles (Acts 17)	Paul, Timothy, and Silas found church, which later prospers to become an important Christian center (Acts 17)

