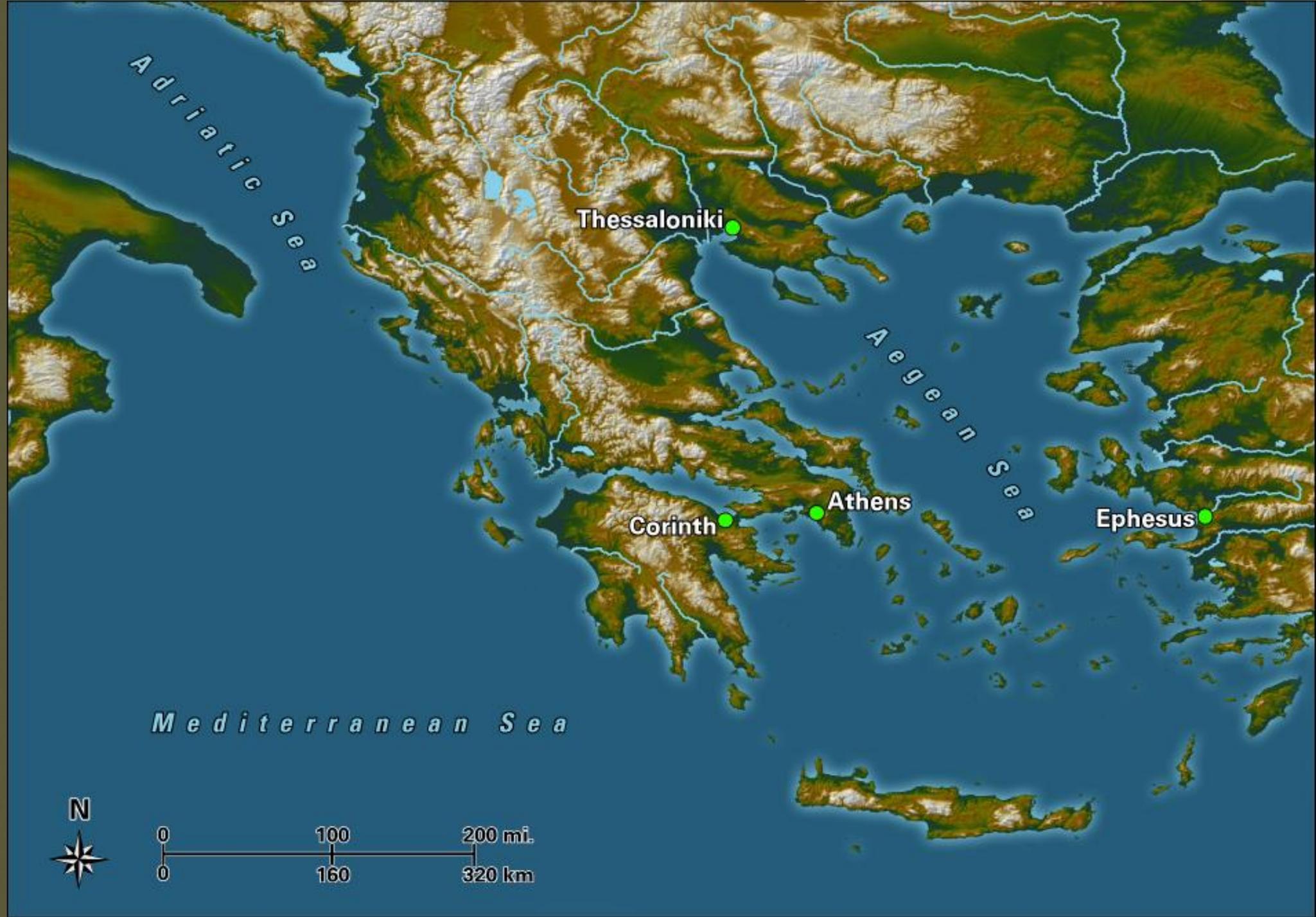


“The War Intensifies”

Acts 19:21-41



Adriatic Sea

Thessaloniki

Aegean Sea

Corinth

Athens

Ephesus

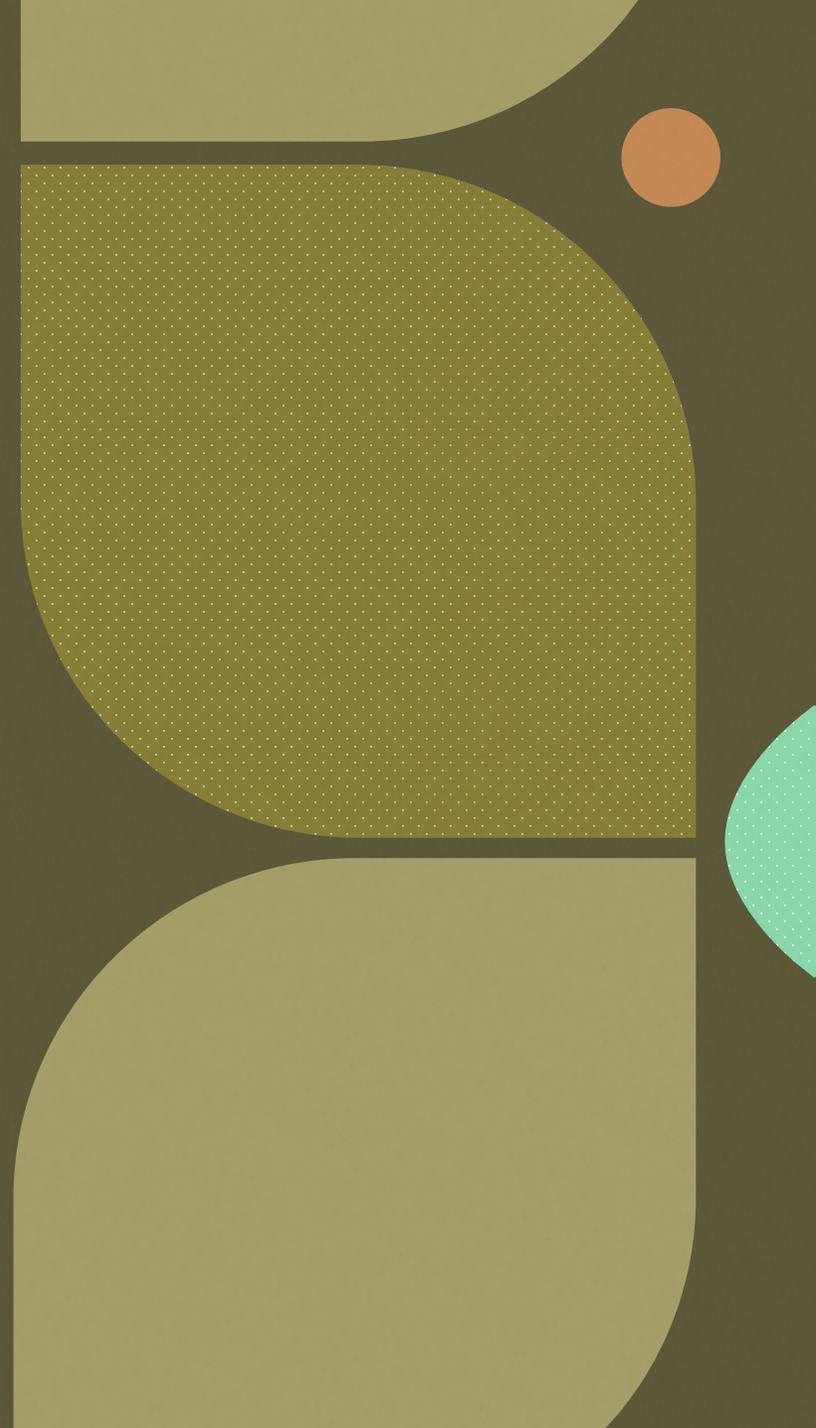
Mediterranean Sea



0 100 200 mi.
0 160 320 km

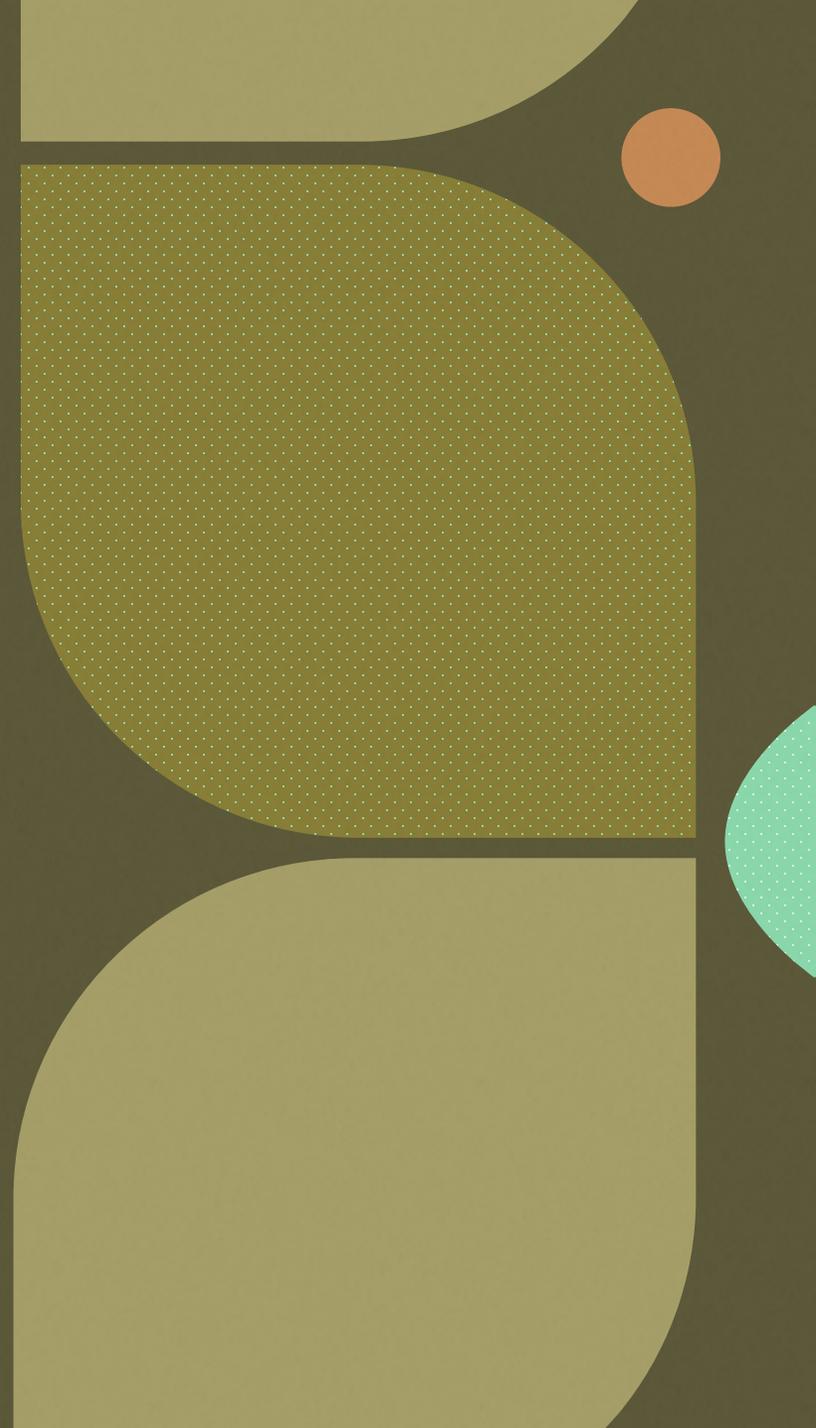
“The War Intensifies” - Acts 19:21-41

I. The Charge – v.24-28



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1. The Temple of Artemis

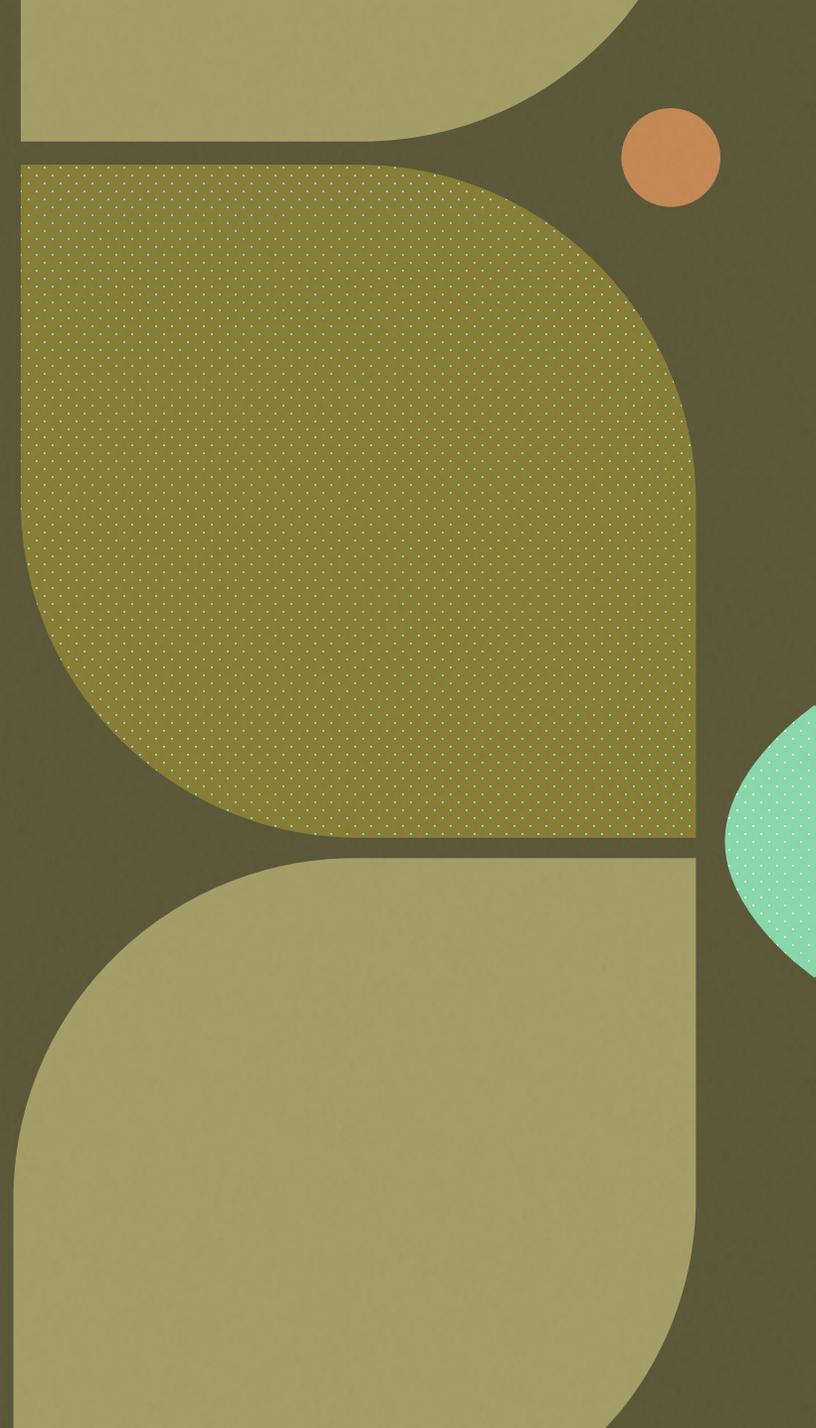




I. The Charge – v.24-28

1. The Temple of Artemis

2. Demetrius

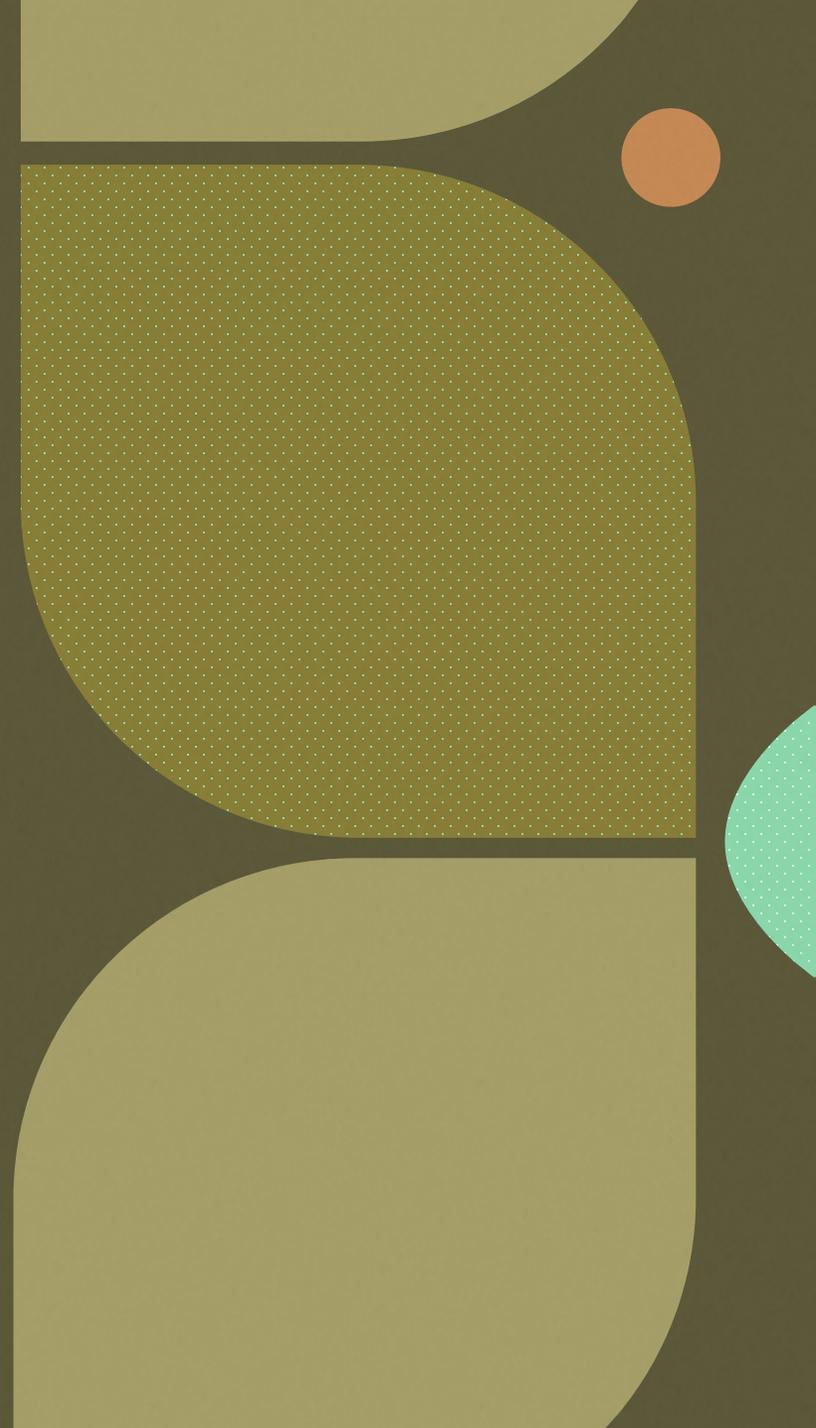


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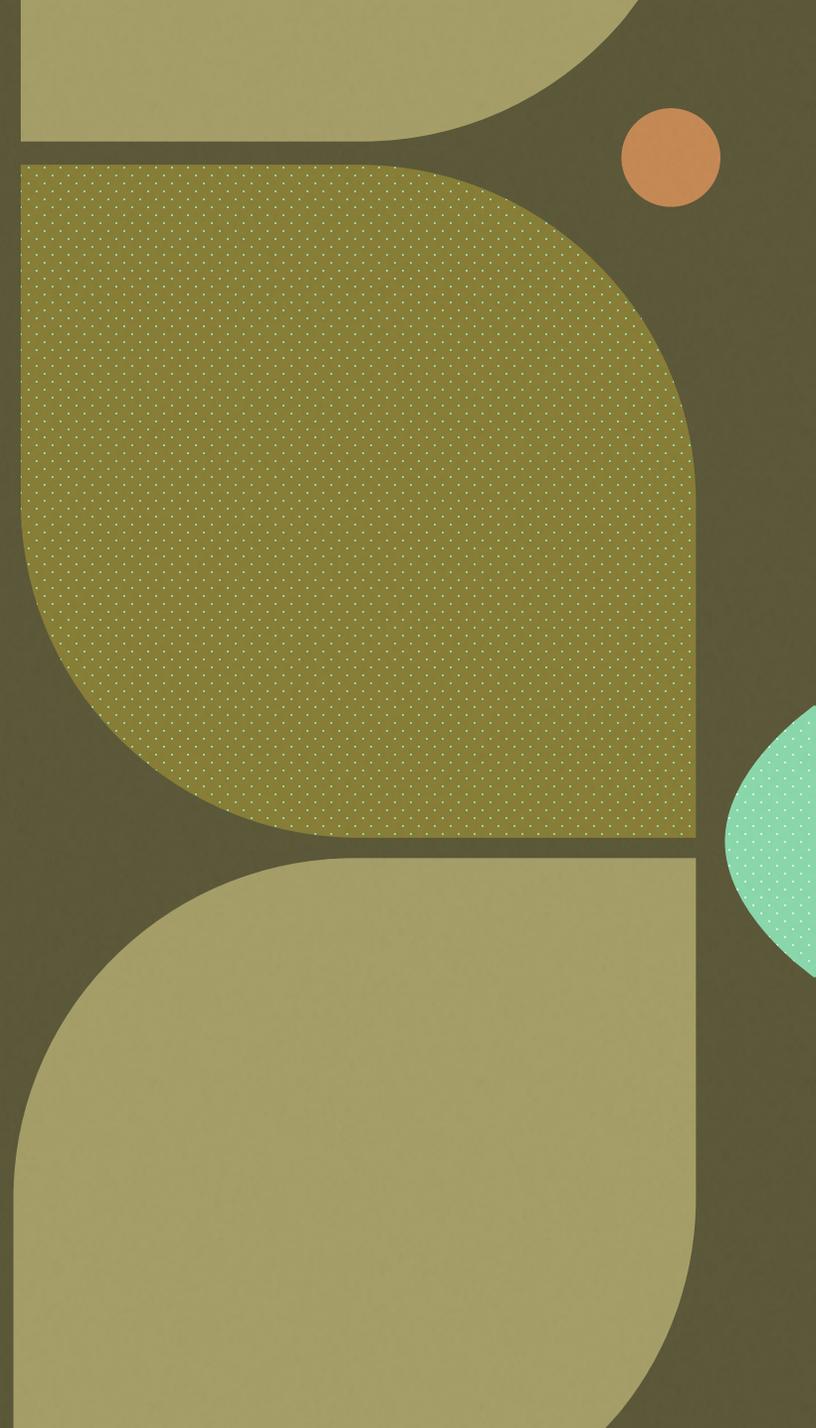
3. The charge is accurate



I. The Charge – v.24-28

1. The Temple of Artemis
2. Demetrius
3. The charge is accurate

II. The Coliseum – v.29-34



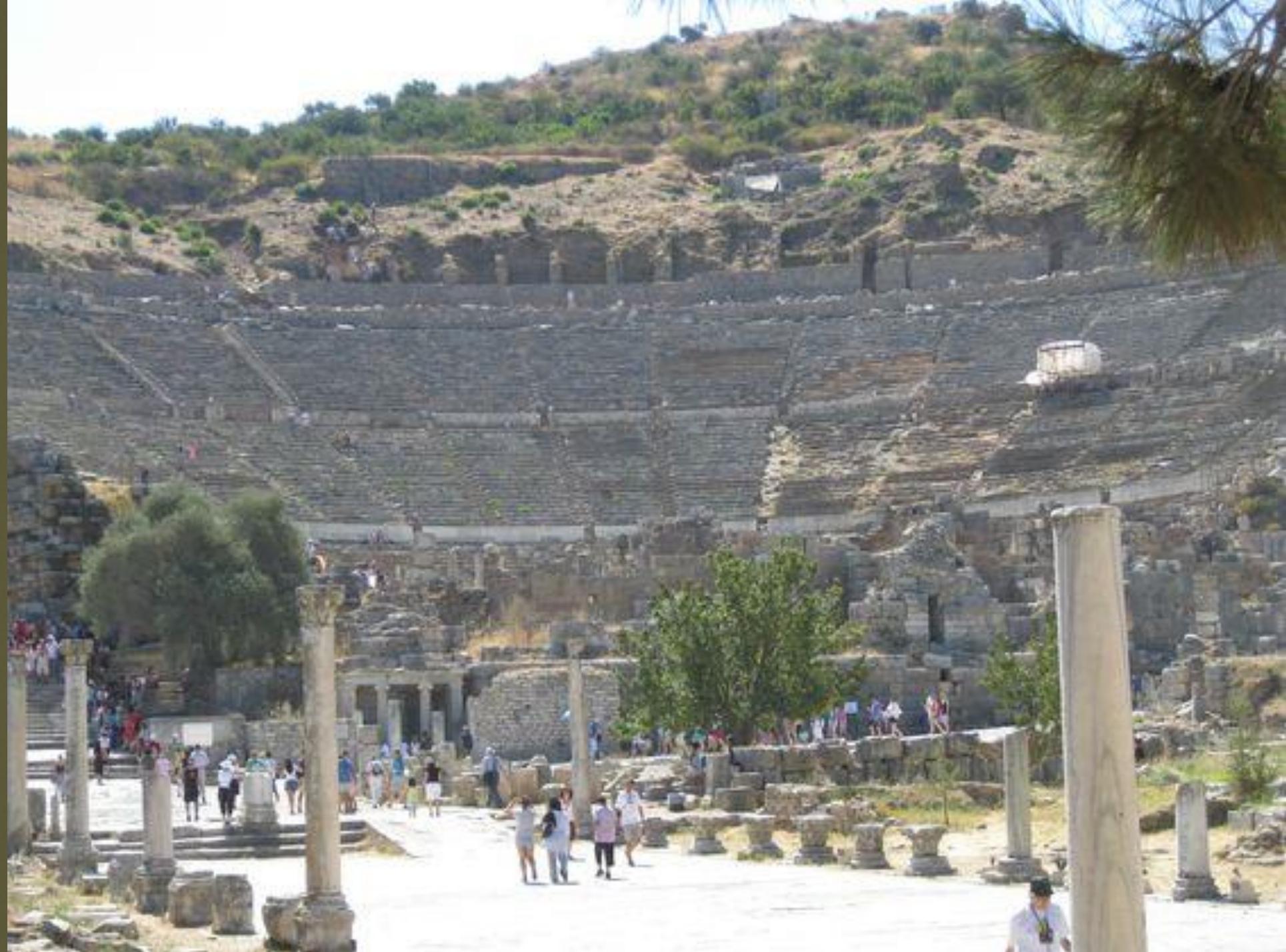
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1. The Temple of Artemis
2. Demetrius
3. The charge is accurate

II. The Coliseum – v.29-34

1. Arcadian Way



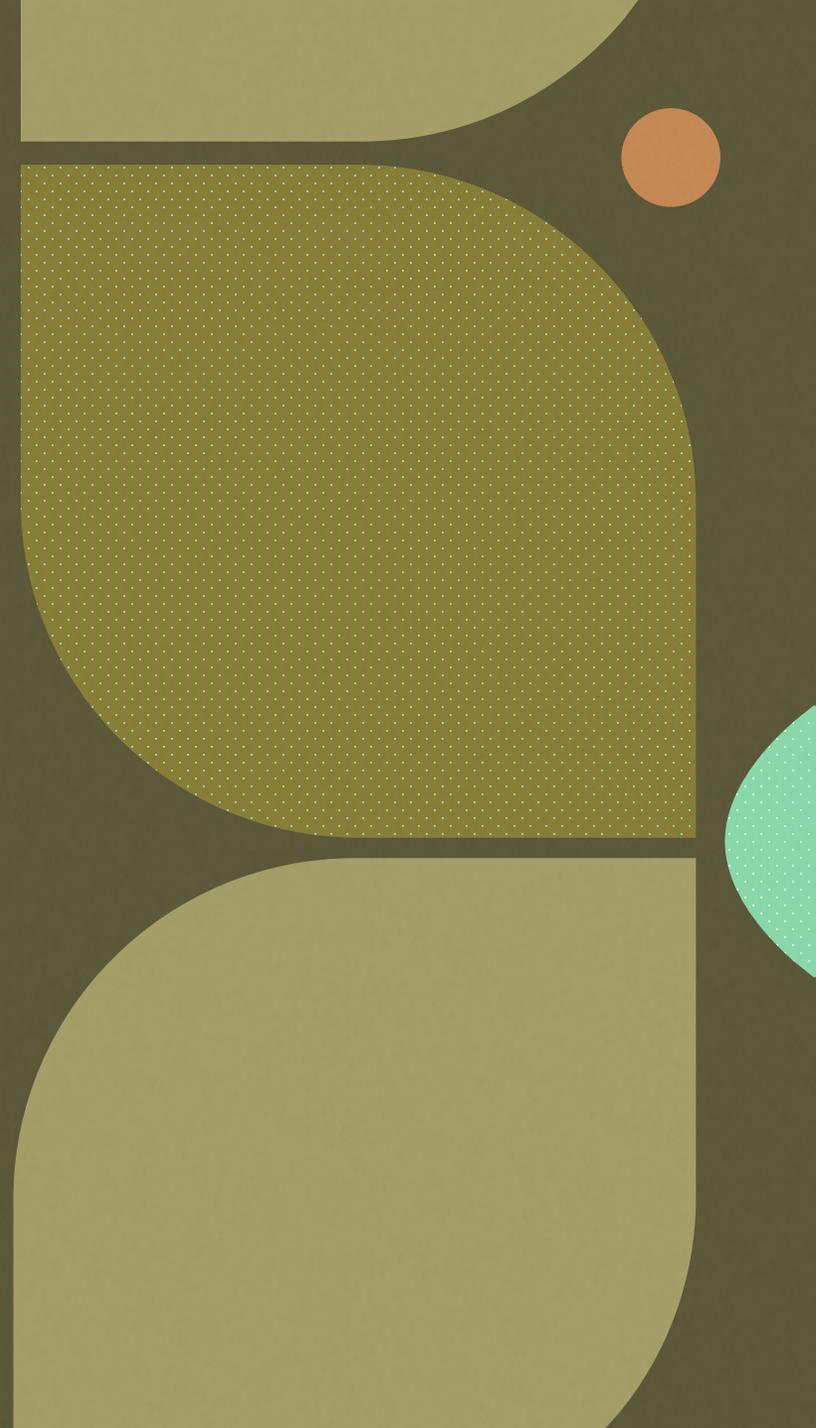


I. The Charge – v.24-28

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2. Demetrius
3. The charge is accurate

II. The Coliseum – v.29-34

1. Arcadian Way
2. Paul’s desire

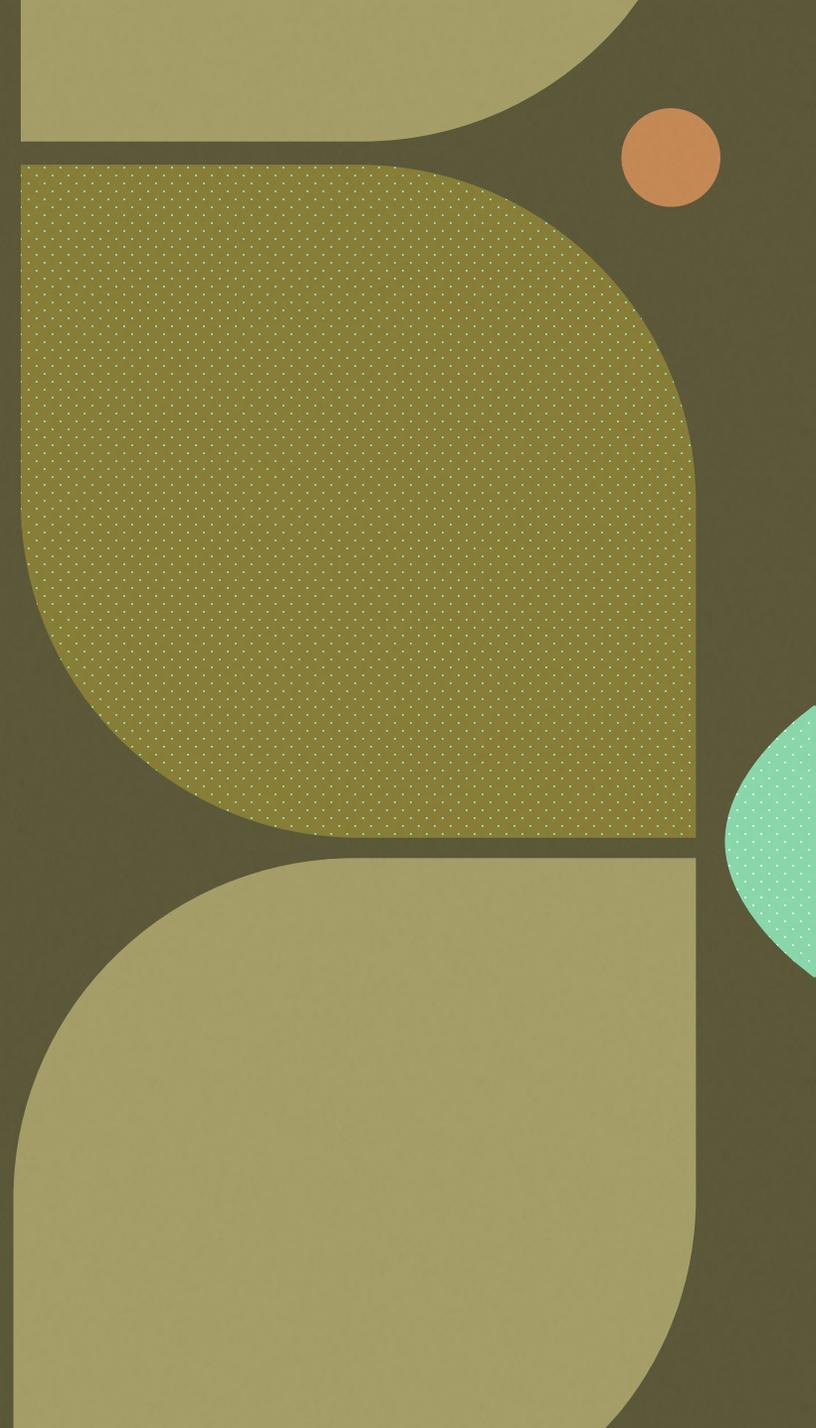


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3. Alexander’s attempt



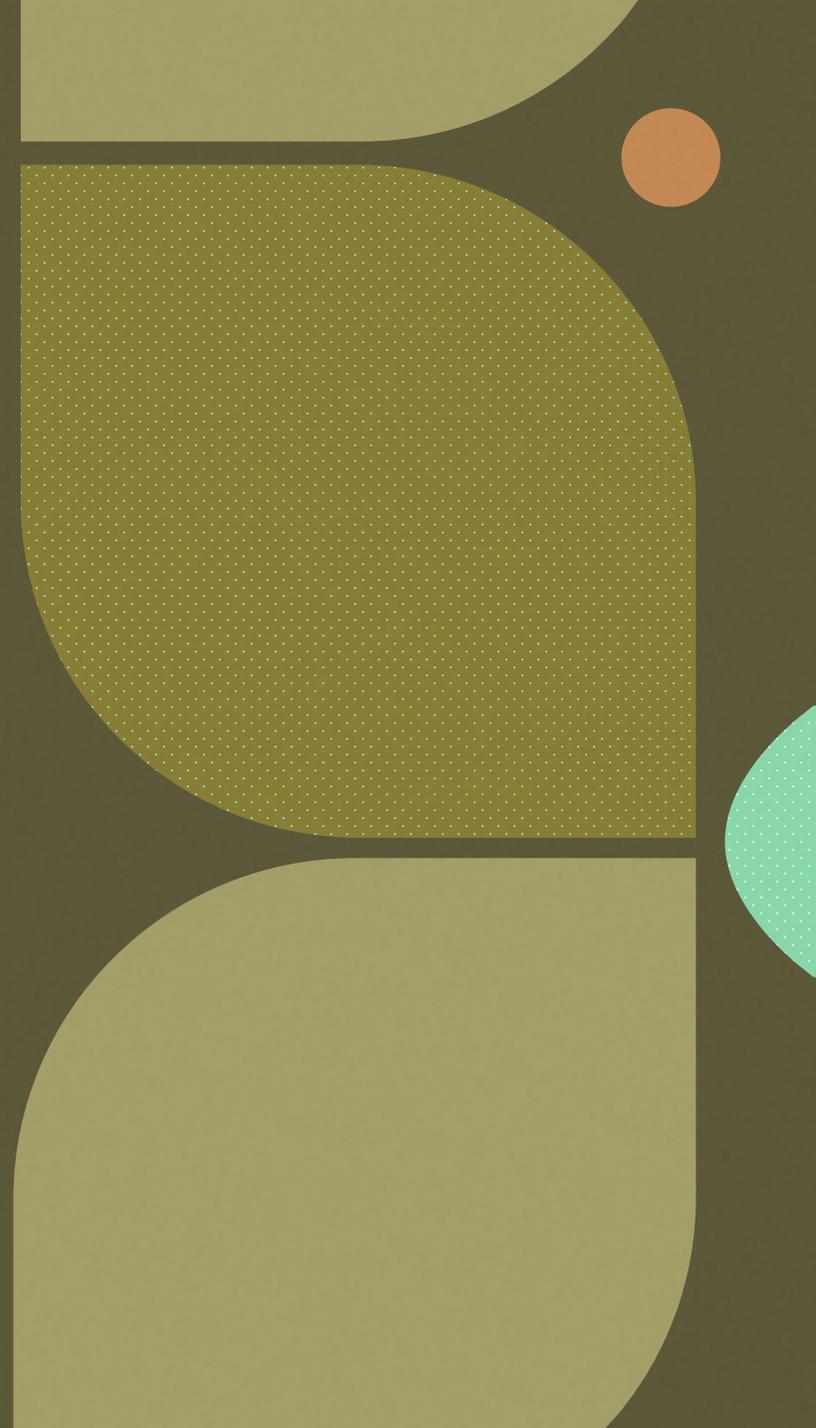
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3. Alexander’s attempt

III. The Clerk – v.38-41



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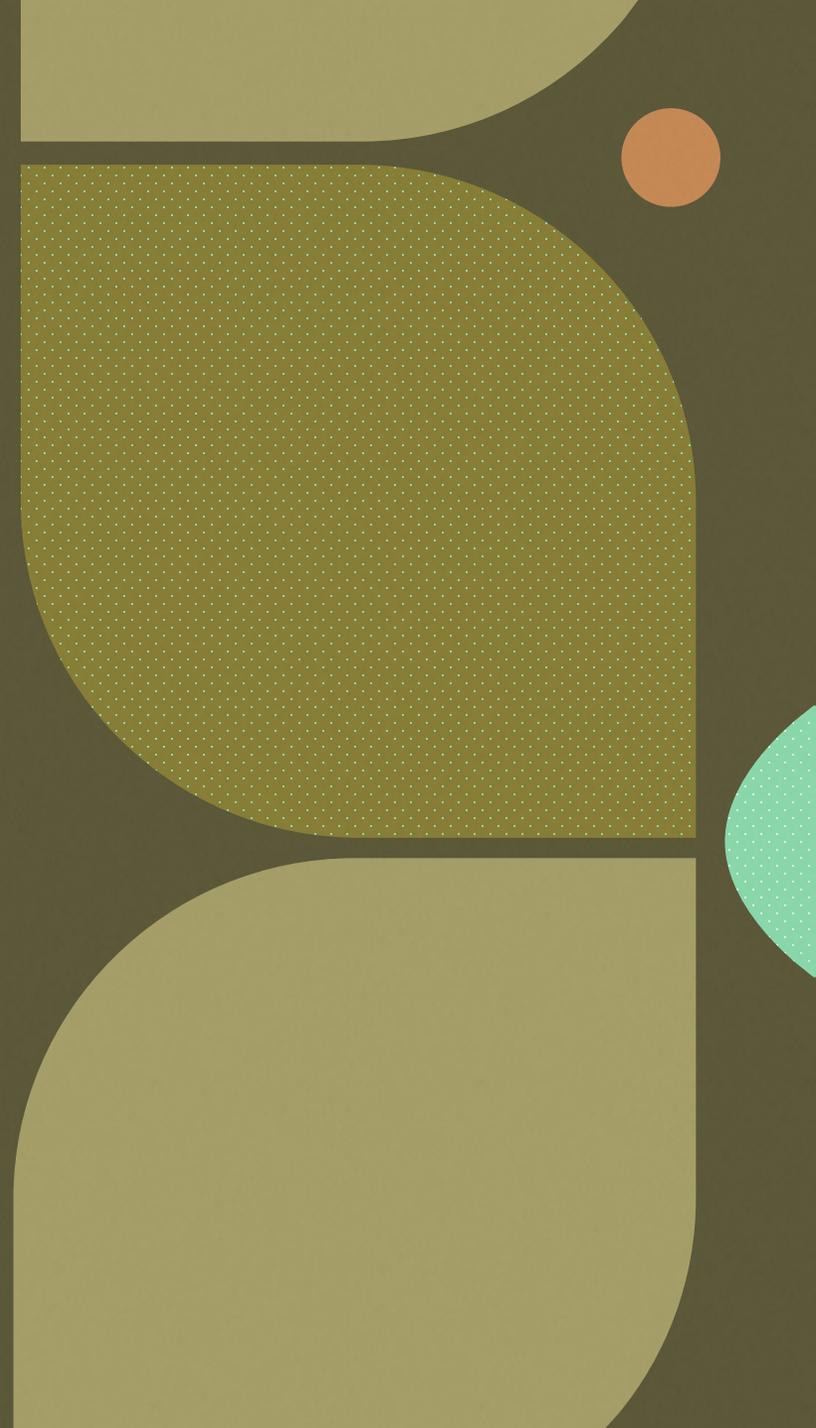
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1. Arcadian Way
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3. Alexander’s attempt

III. The Clerk – v.38-41

1. His position



I. The Charge – v.24-28

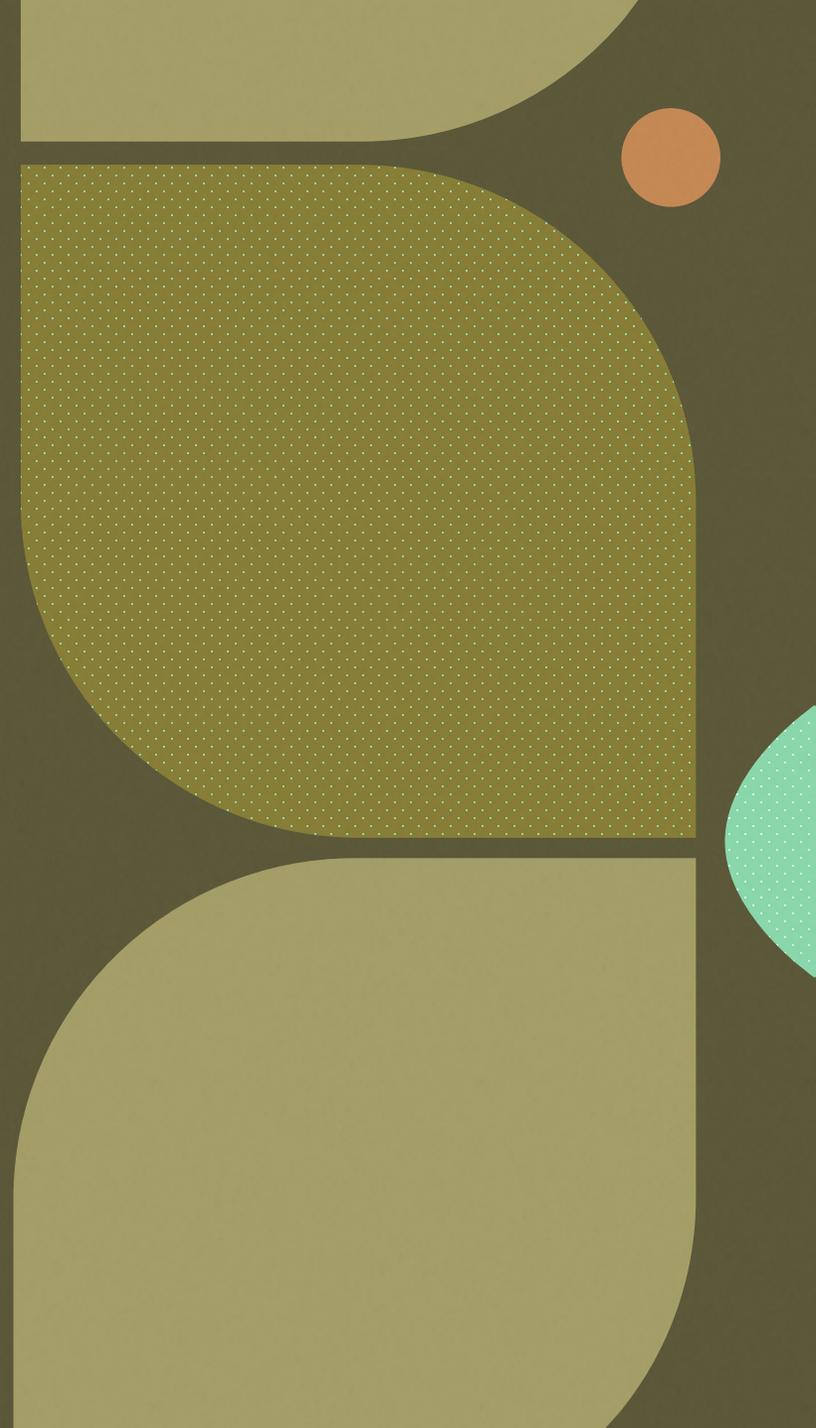
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3. Alexander’s attempt

III. The Clerk – v.38-41

1. His position
2. His action



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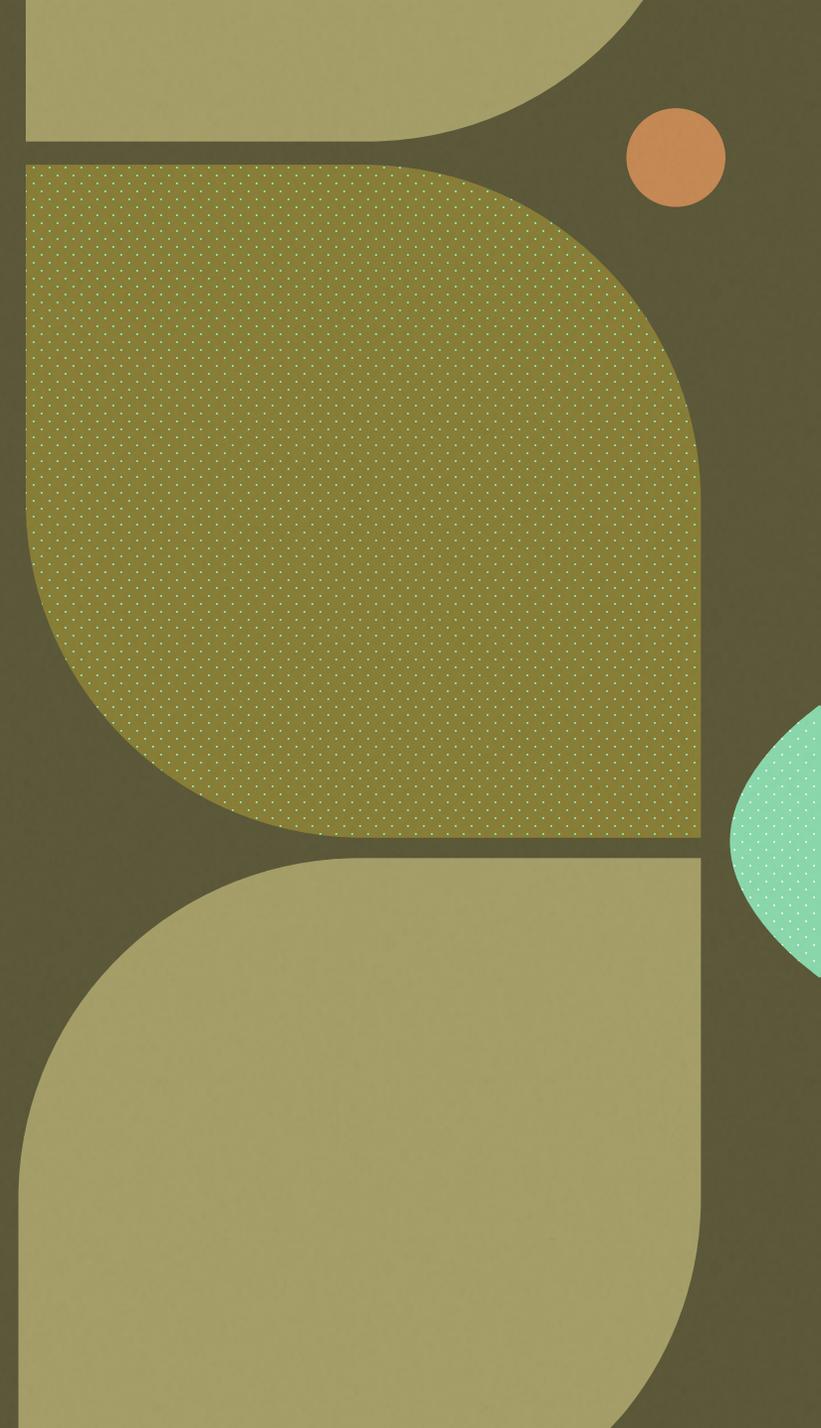
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II. The Coliseum – v.29-34

1. Arcadian Way
2. Paul’s desire
3. Alexander’s attempt

III. The Clerk – v.38-41

1. His position
2. His action
3. His counsel



The War Intensifies

Acts 19:21-41, Sunday AM, October 16, 2022

Prelude – Scripture: Acts 19:21-41 Now after these things were finished, Paul purposed in the Spirit to go to Jerusalem after he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.”²² And having sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.²³ About that time there occurred no small disturbance concerning the Way.²⁴ For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing no little business to the craftsmen;²⁵ these he gathered together with the workmen of similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that our prosperity depends upon this business.”²⁶ “You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods at all.”²⁷ “Not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be regarded as worthless and that she whom all of Asia and the world worship will even be dethrown from her magnificence.”²⁸ When they heard this and were filled with rage, they began crying out, saying, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”²⁹ The city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia.³⁰ And when Paul wanted to go into the assembly, the disciples would not let him.³¹ Also some of the Asiarchs who were friends of his sent to him and repeatedly urged him not to venture into the theater.³² So then, some were shouting one thing and some another, for the assembly was in confusion and the majority did not know for what reason they had come together.³³ Some of the crowd concluded it was Alexander, since the Jews had put him forward; and having motioned with his hand, Alexander was intending to make a defense to the assembly.³⁴ But when they recognized that he was a Jew, a single outcry arose from them all as they shouted for about two hours, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”³⁵ After quieting the crowd, the town clerk said, “Men of Ephesus, what man is there after all who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of the image which fell down from heaven?”³⁶ “So, since these are undeniable facts, you ought to keep calm and to do nothing rash.”³⁷ “For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess.”³⁸ “So then, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a complaint against any man, the courts are in session and proconsuls are available; let them bring charges against one another.”³⁹ “But if you want anything beyond this, it shall be settled in the lawful assembly.”⁴⁰ “For indeed we are in danger of being accused of a riot in connection with today’s events, since there is no real cause for it, and in this connection we will be unable to account for this disorderly gathering.”⁴¹ After saying this he dismissed the assembly.

Paul continues in Ephesus on what is known as his 3rd missionary journey. What is he doing? Preaching the gospel, specifically—Jesus is the One who brings us to God. Look to Jesus. Accept God’s offer of reconciliation or be left not merely following your own path, but at war with God because all other paths are an affront to His place as Creator, Sovereign Sustainer, and Final Judge. Last week, we saw it wasn’t merely “accepting Jesus,” it was coming to Him in line with God’s holy character, NOT merely for personal gain or glory. Hence, the right response to the incident with the seven sons of Sceva is not merely a detached snicker or a gratified “serves them right,” but an appropriate fear of God.¹⁷ This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified. This fear led to action—no more “bartering with God” or “take me as I am,” but instead, repentance that brought lives in line with the honor of God’s name.¹⁸ Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices.¹⁹ And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.²⁰ So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing. And that word is a GOOD word. The results of that change were praiseworthy as ALL God does is good and right. Church, look at your life, but then look wider and see the praiseworthy deeds of God! O Praise Him! Hallelujah!

*Hymn #64: All Creatures of Our God and King

This praise is to be constant because fellowship with God always includes more than just what we experience as we see the eternal works of God. That praise is to spread, and it spreads by submitting all our dreams and desires to His kingdom goals. For Paul, he was called to spread the gospel from city to city and he did it “to the Jew first,” but then remarkably for a Jew, also to the Gentiles as He had been commissioned to do by God Himself. This was in accord with God’s intent for the Jews all along, to be a light to the Gentiles. So Paul had his eyes on the church in Jerusalem, caring for their needs. He also wanted to build up and care for the disciples in Macedonia and Achaia. But then, there was also the need for the gospel being presented in Rome itself! These were not just personal Mt. Everest goals, but kingdom goals. Does your life show that God’s kingdom goals supersede all else—that you LIVE to proclaim Christ and be conformed to His image? Sing this growing single-minded focus of the Christian.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): For the Cause *Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: Preach the Word Scripture: James 1:1-18** James, a bond-

servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings. ² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵ But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, ⁸ being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. ⁹ But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position; ¹⁰ and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away. ¹² Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. ¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷ Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. ¹⁸ In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

Offering: *Doxology:

Preach the Word, preach the cross, preach REDEMPTION to a lost and dying world. It sounds good—but to what effect? Does God have the final Word in your life? This means we think and live inside His words, with the result that these words lived spill and spread to the lives around us. You MUST have this firmly fixed or you won’t faithfully continue inside that word. Once again, our passage is filled with trouble. The sermon is entitled, “The War Intensifies.” We’ve so come to expect this with Paul that we fail to recognize that we too are called to live and proclaim that word not only through what COMES to our lives, but in the places and with the people God calls us to go. Professing Christian, when troubles come that seem to speak louder than God’s words, don’t look inside yourself to be faithful. Look to the One who’s word and character are not only trustworthy, but are personally sufficient. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷ Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. ¹⁸ In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures. Sing the testimony of the one whose eyes are fixed on God’s word and equipping provision.

*Hymn #56: Day by Day

Nice song, but still not there? What do you have when the war is soooo great—sleep, body, relationships—all shaking. Romans 8:32 (NASB95) He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? You have Jesus. Learn this song with me.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Jesus is Mine

Message: The War Intensifies Acts 19:21-41

***Hymn #478: Soldiers of Christ, Arise! Prayer**