

THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE

# *Philippians*

THE CITY AND THE PEOPLE





# THE CITY AND THE PEOPLE

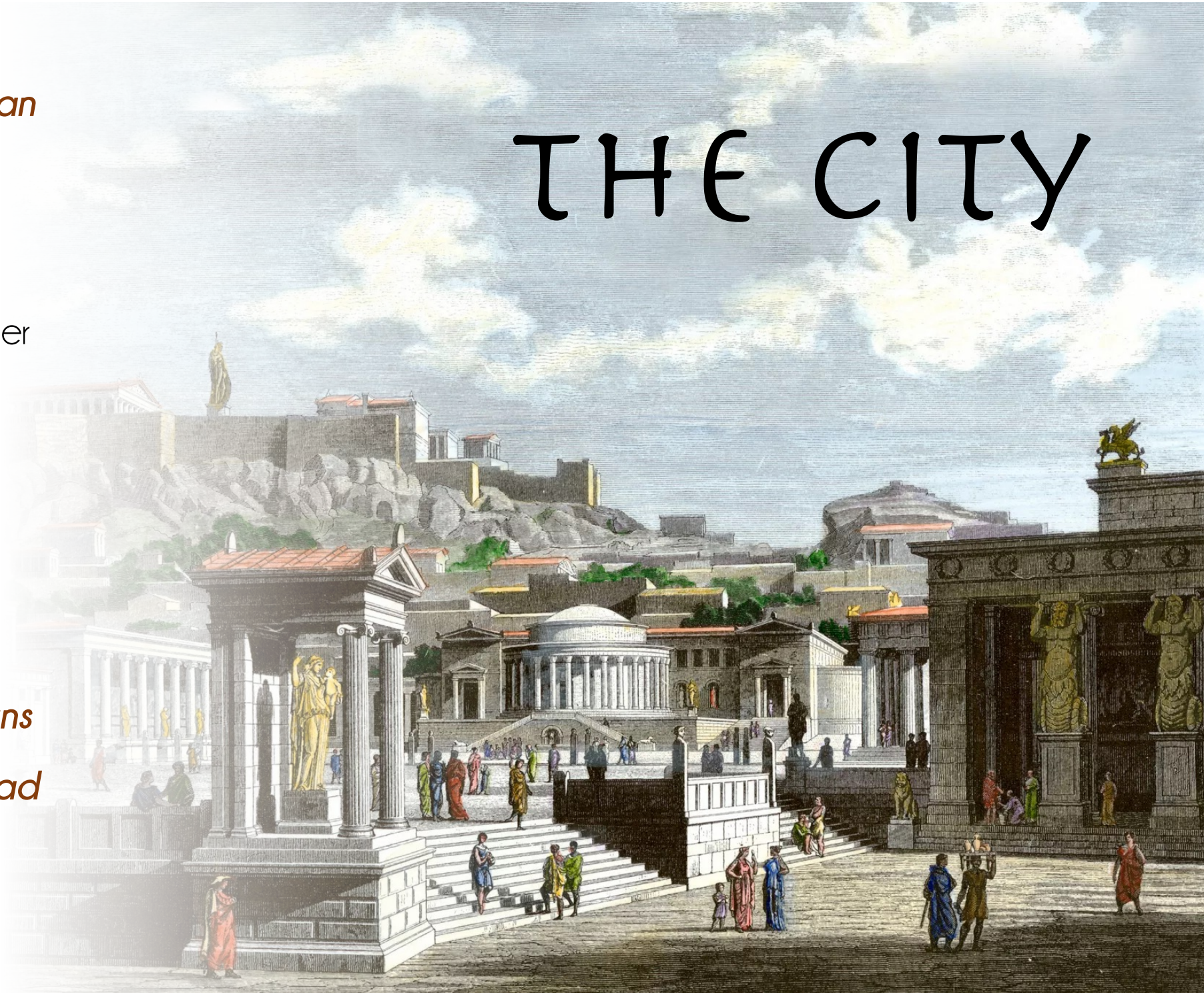


# THE CITY

➤ *Strategic Location along an important Roman Road and between two rivers*

- ✓ Easy and safe access to other parts of the Roman empire
- ✓ Popular route for trade; therefore, many people types travelling through

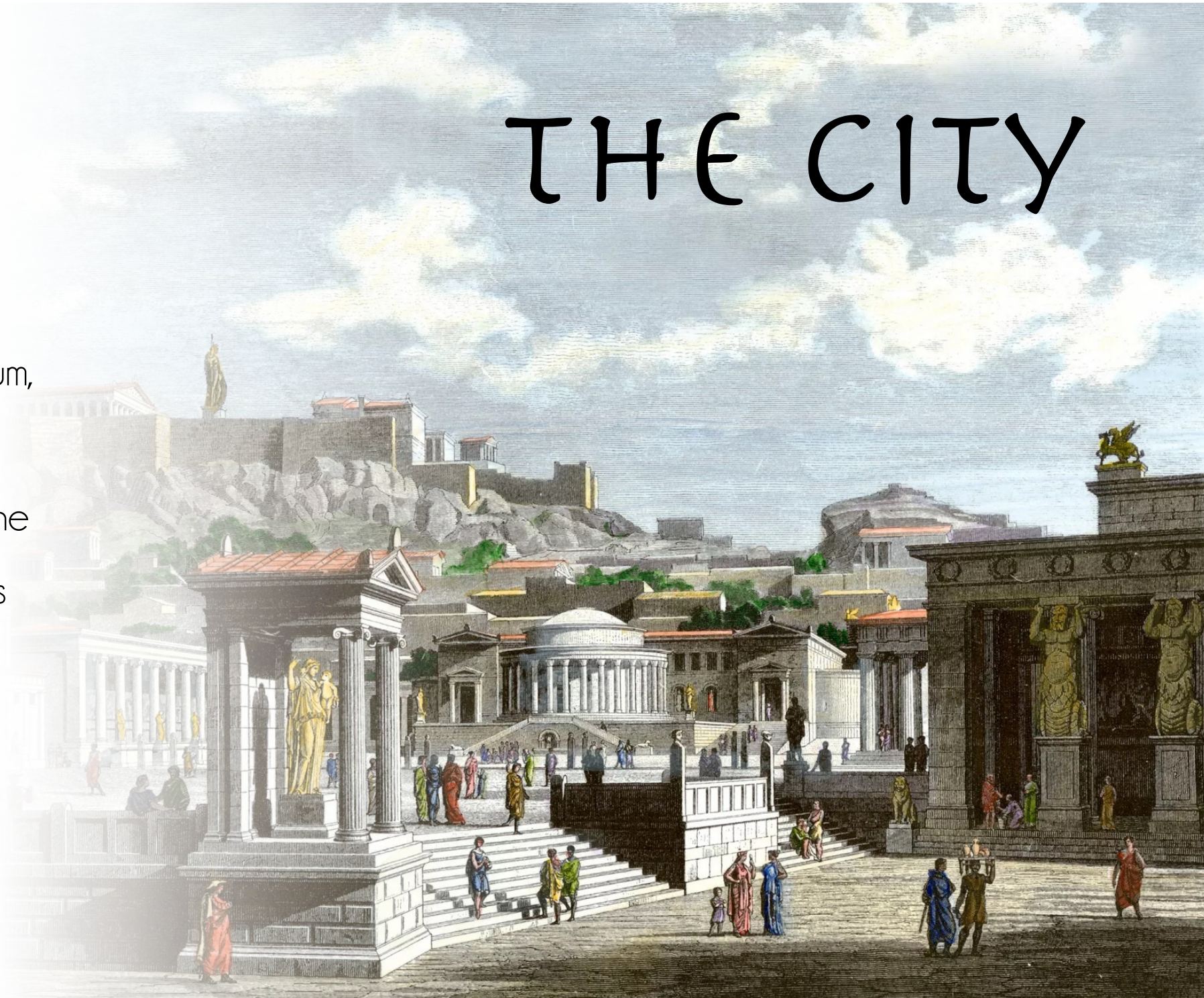
➤ *What is strategic for Romans will be strategic for the spread of the Gospel.*



➤ *Conquered by Rome  
and re-established as a  
Roman Colony*

- ✓ Roman forum, baths, gymnasium, marketplace, acropolis, monuments to cults, temple to the emperor, statues of the Caesars
- ✓ settled with former Roman soldiers
- ✓ Promised Roman citizenship

# THE CITY



## ➤ Roman Citizenship

The right to vote

The right to hold office

The right to make contracts

The right to own property

The right to have a lawful marriage

The right to have children of any such marriage become Roman citizens automatically

The right to have the legal rights of the paterfamilias of the family

The right not to pay some taxes, especially local taxes

The right to sue in court and be sued

The right to defend oneself in court

The right to have a legal trial with a judge; the right to appeal a decision

No Roman citizen could be tortured, whipped, or receive the death penalty (unless found guilty of treason)

# THE PEOPLE



➤ *Paul's custom entering a new city was to go first to the synagogue to preach the Gospel*

- ✓ “When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews” – Acts 13:5
- ✓ “Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed.” – Acts 14:1
- ✓ “The brothers<sup>[a]</sup> immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue.” – Acts 17:10

# THE PEOPLE



➤ *Paul's intent was to preach to the Jew first and then to the Greek.*

✓ <sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, **to the Jew first** and also to the Greek. – Romans 1:16

# THE PEOPLE



➤ *The Jewish Presence in  
Philippi*

- ✓ There was no synagogue in 1<sup>st</sup> century Philippi
- ✓ The Mishnah recommended that Jews live where the Torah was studied and at least 10 households were established
- ✓ Population of Jews in Philippi may have been too small to support an actual synagogue

# THE PEOPLE





➤ *Where there was no synagogue the most logical place to find worshippers of God in assembly was next to flowing waters (because of purity laws)*

✓ “And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.” – Acts 16:13

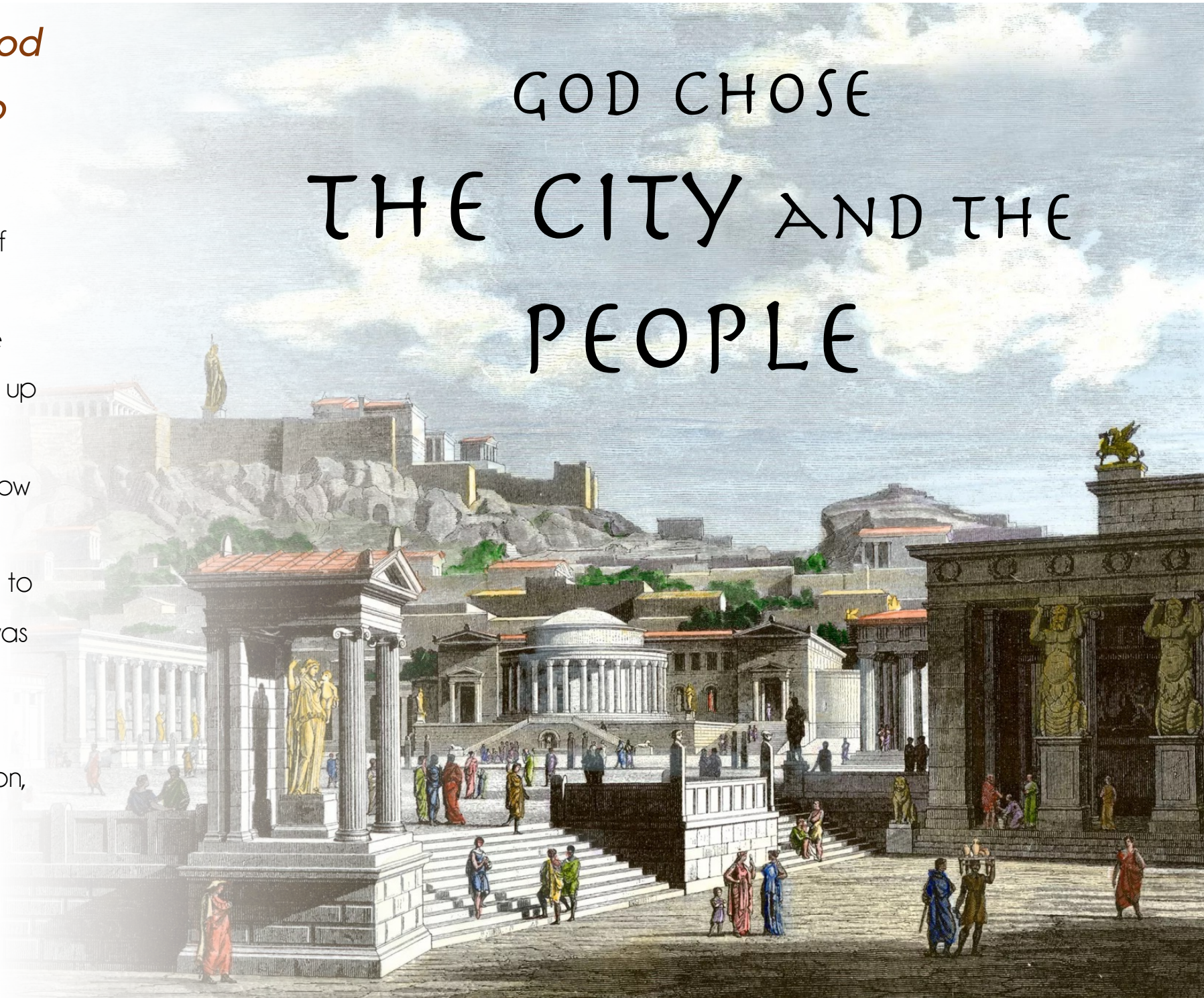
# THE PEOPLE



➤ *Paul was re-directed by God from his original course to go instead to Philippi*

✓ “<sup>6</sup>And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. <sup>7</sup>And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. <sup>8</sup>So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup>And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup>And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

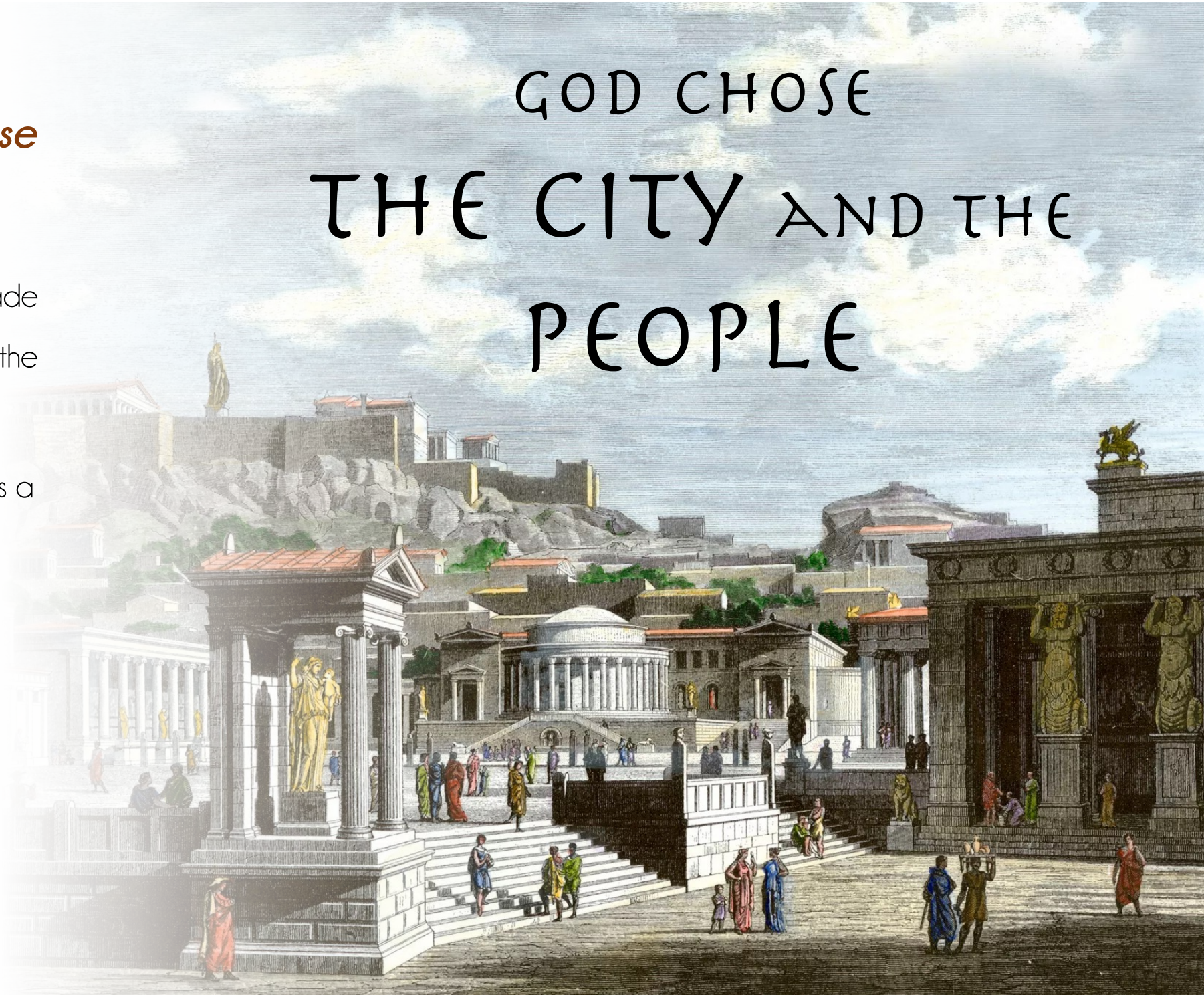
# GOD CHOSE THE CITY AND THE PEOPLE



➤ *Paul was re-directed by God from his original course to go instead to Philippi*

- ✓ *“11 So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis,*
- ✓ *12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the [14](#) district of Macedonia and a Roman colony.*
- ✓ *remained in this city some days.”*

GOD CHOSE  
THE CITY AND THE  
PEOPLE



➤ *Paul will use metaphors derived from the Roman Colony of Philippi to encourage the church he leaves there*

✓ He will write of his fellow laborers as *soldiers of Christ* and

✓ He will speak of his *citizenship as being in Heaven.*

