

LIFE IN PHILADELPHIA

A STRATEGIC CITY • A CULTURAL BRIDGE • A FAITHFUL REMNANT

"A city set on a hill cannot be hid."

Matthew 5:14

Temples and public buildings earned the name "Little Athens."

Towering cliffs and a volcanic setting

Philadelphia occupied a terrace 650 feet above sea level in ancient Lydia, positioned on the Cogamus River, about 105 miles from Smyrna.

Cogamus River



LOCATION

- On a terrace 650 feet above sea level in ancient Lydia
- Positioned on the Cogamus River
- About 105 miles from Smyrna



A CULTURAL BRIDGE

- Founded by Attalus II (159–138 BC) as a missionary city
- Promoted Greek language, customs, and loyalty throughout the region
- By AD 19, the native Lydian language had disappeared, replaced by Greek



FERTILE LAND

- Surrounded by exceptionally fertile land
- Renowned for its high-quality wine, praised by the Roman poet Virgil



FREQUENT EARTHQUAKES

- Regular tremors due to volcanic setting
- Many lived in huts outside the city rather than risk building collapse
- A major earthquake in AD 17 destroyed the city
- Rebuilt by Emperor Tiberius, who temporarily named it Neocaesarea



A DIVERSE POPULATION

- Greco-Roman and indigenous Anatolian religions blended
- Deities included Artemis, Zeus, Dionysus, Hecate, Apollo, Asclepius, Cybele, and Nike
- A Jewish community also lived in the city
- A center of trade, culture, and religious diversity



Philadelphia – Where Cultures Met, Faith Endured, and Opportunity Flourished.