

2020 THEME

TURNING THE WORLD
UPSIDE-DOWN

An aerial photograph of the Ephesus Amphitheater, showing the semi-circular stone seating area and the central stage. The theater is built into a hillside, and the surrounding landscape is hilly and green. The text "AN UPROAR IN Ephesus" is overlaid on the image in white. "AN UPROAR IN" is in a serif font, and "Ephesus" is in a large, bold, italicized serif font.

AN UPROAR IN
Ephesus



"I have set eyes upon the wall of lofty Babylon on which lies a chariot road, and the statue of Zeus by the Alpheus, and the hanging gardens, and the Colossus of the sun, and the huge labour of the high pyramids, and the vast tomb of Mausolus; but when I saw the temple of Artemis which rose to the clouds, these other marvels lost their brilliance, and I exclaimed, 'Lo, apart from Olympus, the sun has never looked upon aught so grand.'"

(Antipater of Sidon, around 140 BC)







A CITY FILLED WITH
Confusion



The largest of its kind in Anatolia, the Ephesian theater could hold 25,000 spectators for a broad range of events (plays, concerts, religious and philosophical events, and gladiatorial fights). It is possible that Paul's preaching and Demetrius' subsequent reaction caused such a stir that this was the only facility in the city large enough for the crowd to gather. It also had the benefit of commanding the main road from the harbor and amplifying the many chants and cries from the crowd.



