

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF EPHESUS



DAVID A. DESILVA

ENDORSEMENTS



A Week in the Life of Ephesus

A Week in the Life Series

Available June 9, 2020 | \$17, 176 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-2485-4

David A. deSilva (PhD, Emory University) is Trustees' Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Greek at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio. He is the author of over twenty-five books, including *An Introduction to the New Testament* and *Day of Atonement: A Novel of the Maccabean Revolt*. He is also an ordained elder in the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The Conclusion to A Week in the Life Series

"David deSilva's novel about a week in the life of Christians in Ephesus, living under the shadow of the Roman Empire, is a thrilling story as well as an educational journey through the ancient world. Set against the backdrop of the book of Revelation, this is not a novel that will leave you worried about being 'left behind,' but it will make a deep impression on how to be a faithful Christian against the backdrop of malevolent imperial power. . . . Could not put it down!"

—Michael F. Bird, academic dean and lecturer in theology at Ridley College, Melbourne, Australia

"*A Week in the Life of Ephesus* brings alive the ancient Roman world of religious ritual, daily business, and family loyalties. The Christian's perennial challenge to follow after God and not money or fame takes shape under deSilva's skillful hand as first-century Ephesians live out their faith (or not) in the thoroughly pagan city. The author weaves together characters, plot, and historical context, drawing the reader into the story. This is a must-read for those who want a deeper understanding of the ordinary reality of early Christians' lives."

—Lynn H. Cohick, provost and dean, professor of New Testament, Denver Seminary

"Ephesus was one of the leading centers of Christianity in the ancient world, and David deSilva invites us to picture it through this imaginative recreation of first-century life. He is well known for his scholarship on Revelation, which addressed churches in Ephesus and other cities in the region. By weaving ancient source materials into his narrative and offering commentary along the way, he links the fictional story to the social world and archaeological remains of Ephesus. This is a resource for those who want a glimpse into the dilemmas faced by Jesus' followers in a complex urban environment."

—Craig Koester, Nasby Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota

"Prepare to be transported to the ancient city of Ephesus! David deSilva writes with a deft hand, proving that he is a gifted storyteller and cultural historian. Spend this week in Ephesus and you will read the New Testament with fresh eyes."

—Joel B. Green, professor of New Testament interpretation at Fuller Theological Seminary

"Students and scholars have already enjoyed the meticulous historiography, sensitive literary analysis, imaginative flair, and theological depth of David deSilva's previous writings, which range in genre from novel to New Testament introduction. In this volume, *A Week in the Life of Ephesus*, he conjoins these manifest strengths, taking the reader on an intriguing expedition to that ancient city in a crucial week of September in 89 CE. Through the eyes of ancient Christians in



Karin DeHaven, academic publicist
800.843.4587 ext. 4096 or kdehaven@ivpress.com



ivpress.com/media

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF EPHESUS



DAVID A. DESILVA

ENDORSEMENTS



A Week in the Life of Ephesus

A Week in the Life Series

Available June 9, 2020 | \$17, 176 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-2485-4

David A. deSilva (PhD, Emory University) is Trustees' Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Greek at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio. He is the author of over twenty-five books, including *An Introduction to the New Testament* and *Day of Atonement: A Novel of the Maccabean Revolt*. He is also an ordained elder in the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Ephesus, portrayed vividly in all their psychological and relational complexity, we come face-to-face with the perennial temptation to accommodate idolatry, with its attending commercial and political implications. The author's compelling and suspenseful narrative of persons, families, and various strata of society is enhanced by helpful historical and cultural information offered in sidebars."

—Edith M. Humphrey, William F. Orr Professor of New Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

"Using historical time travel brilliantly, deSilva incarnates the Christian community in Ephesus in the late first-century AD. The challenges faced by believers—Christ versus Caesar, economic participation or marginalization, eating idol meat or abstaining—are effectively portrayed by characters known from texts and inscriptions. The reader feels the struggles of brothers and sisters trying to obey God as a fledgling minority while living in this political, commercial, and religious metropolis."

—Mark Wilson, founder and director of the Asia Minor Research Center in Antalya, Turkey, author of *Biblical Turkey: A Guide to the Jewish and Christian Sites of Asia Minor*

"What a great book! What was it like to be a Christian in the city of Ephesus in AD 89? How did Christians respond to the challenges posed by life in this large Greco-Roman city with its gods and temples, markets and gymnasia? In this fictional narrative, David deSilva helps us to enter into the world of believers in Jesus and to see their struggles and joys, their challenges and hopes. We see how various Christian groups responded differently to the pressures they faced, and in the process we come to understand the book of Revelation more deeply. You'll not want to put this book down!"

—Paul Trebilco, professor of New Testament studies, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

"I often tell my students that one of our goals in New Testament courses is to develop our historical imaginations. Those accustomed to viewing faith and religion as a private sphere often struggle to imagine their way into the first-century world, where religion was deeply entwined with governmental structures and the corporate well-being of both city and empire. The author's story narrates compellingly the very real pressure that early followers of Jesus would have experienced as many of their contemporaries viewed them as threats to the social order; if they refused to honor the gods, including the deified emperors, their reputations, finances, and even lives were at stake. Again and again in this story I asked myself, *What would I have done?*"

—Holly Beers, associate professor of religious studies at Westmont College, author of *A Week in the Life of a Greco-Roman Woman*



Karin DeHaven, academic publicist
800.843.4587 ext. 4096 or kdehaven@ivpress.com



ivpress.com/media

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF EPHESUS



DAVID A. DESILVA

ENDORSEMENTS



A Week in the Life of Ephesus

A Week in the Life Series

Available June 9, 2020 | \$17, 176 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-2485-4

David A. deSilva (PhD, Emory University) is Trustees' Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Greek at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio. He is the author of over twenty-five books, including *An Introduction to the New Testament* and *Day of Atonement: A Novel of the Maccabean Revolt*. He is also an ordained elder in the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

"Drawing on his vast knowledge of the urban centers of Rome's empire and the all-powerful Roman religiopolitical machine, David deSilva vividly brings the world of Roman Ephesus to life. Readers are quickly and easily drawn into the material world of Ephesus, including its markets, harbor, neighborhoods, and grand temples, but they are also immersed in Ephesian religious fervor and piety. And it is in this world of religious fervor and piety the readers come not only to understand but also feel the immense pressure on Ephesian Christians to compromise their worship of the one creator God. The author creatively casts this crisis of Christian faith as the setting for the book of Revelation. This superb piece of historical fiction will serve as a valuable asset for introducing students and laity to the urban world of first-century Christians and more specifically the world of the seven churches of John's Apocalypse."

—Adam Winn, associate professor of Christian studies at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and author of *Killing a Messiah: A Novel*



Karin DeHaven, academic publicist
800.843.4587 ext. 4096 or kdehaven@ivpress.com



ivpress.com/media

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF EPHESUS



DAVID A. DESILVA

A Week in the Life of Ephesus

A Week in the Life Series

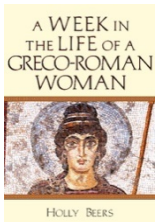
Available June 9, 2020 | \$17, 176 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-2485-4

In this historical novel, David deSilva paints a vivid portrait of Ephesus and brings to life the compelling struggles faced by early Christians. Supplemented by historical images and explanatory sidebars, this imaginative novel digs into the early Christians' conflict with the religious cults of the day as well as the Roman Empire.

A Week in the Life Series from IVP

Ever wanted a first-century view of the world of the Gospels? The volumes in A Week in the Life Series capture a view of Jesus' world from the outer framework looking in. Splashed with informative sidebars and images, it is entertaining historical fiction.

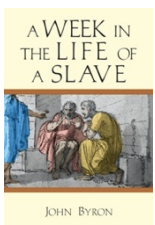
In these imaginative and absorbing narratives, New Testament scholars lead us behind the veil of centuries to see and experience the historical and social realities of this important era. Allowing the light of what we know to conjure possible events, these books are a fun and informative journey into the wrinkles and folds of lost stories. In addition to the newest title, *A Week in the Life of Ephesus*, the series includes the following books.



A Week in the Life of a Greco-Roman Woman by Holly Beers

December 3, 2019, 176 pages, \$17, 978-0-8308-2484-7

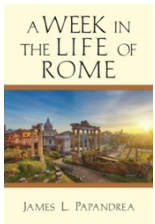
In this gripping novel, Holly Beers introduces us to the first-century setting where the apostle Paul first proclaimed the gospel. Illuminated by historical images and explanatory sidebars, this lively story not only shows us the rich tapestry of life in a thriving Greco-Roman city it also foregrounds the interior life of one courageous woman—and the radical new freedom the gospel promised her.



A Week in the Life of a Slave by John Byron

July 2, 2019, 168 pages, \$16, 978-0-8308-2483-0

The narrative follows the slave Onesimus from his arrival in Ephesus, where the apostle Paul is imprisoned and fleshes out the lived context of that time and place, supplemented by numerous sidebars and historical images.



A Week in the Life of Rome by James L. Papandrea

February 19, 2019, 223 pages, \$16, 978-0-8308-2482-3

We are invited into the daily struggles of the church at Rome just a few years before Paul wrote his famous epistle to them.



Karin DeHaven, academic publicist
800.843.4587 ext. 4096 or kdehaven@ivpress.com

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF EPHESUS



DAVID A. DESILVA

DETAILS

ivp
Academic

A Week in the Life of Ephesus

A Week in the Life Series

Available June 9, 2020 | \$17, 176 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-2485-4

In this historical novel, David deSilva paints a vivid portrait of Ephesus and brings to life the compelling struggles faced by early Christians. Supplemented by historical images and explanatory sidebars, this imaginative novel digs into the early Christians' conflict with the religious cults of the day as well as the Roman Empire.

A WEEK IN
THE FALL OF
JERUSALEM



BEN WITHERINGTON III

A Week in the Fall of Jerusalem by Ben Witherington III

August 22, 2017, 160 pages, \$17, 978-0-8308-5173-7

It's AD 70 and Jerusalem is falling to the Romans, its temple being destroyed. As Jews and Christians try to escape the city, we travel with some of them through an imagined week of flight and faith. In this imaginative and entertaining narrative, Ben Witherington leads us behind the veil of centuries to experience the historical and social realities of this epochal event.

A WEEK IN
THE LIFE OF A
ROMAN
CENTURION



GARY M. BURGE

A Week in the Life of a Roman Centurion by Gary M. Burge

April 6, 2015, 192 pages, \$20, 978-0-8308-2462-5

In this fast-paced, fictional account, we follow Appius, a Roman centurion, and Tullus, his Jewish slave, from battles to the gladiator arena and finally to the village of Capernaum where they encounter a Jewish prophet from Nazareth.

A WEEK IN
THE LIFE OF
CORINTH



BEN WITHERINGTON III

A Week in the Life of Corinth by Ben Witherington III

March 30, 2012, 159 pages, \$18, 978-0-8308-3962-9

In this work of historical fiction, Ben Witherington III provides a one-of-a-kind window into the social and cultural context of Paul's ministry.



Karin DeHaven, academic publicist
800.843.4587 ext. 4096 or kdehaven@ivpress.com

ivp

ivpress.com/media