

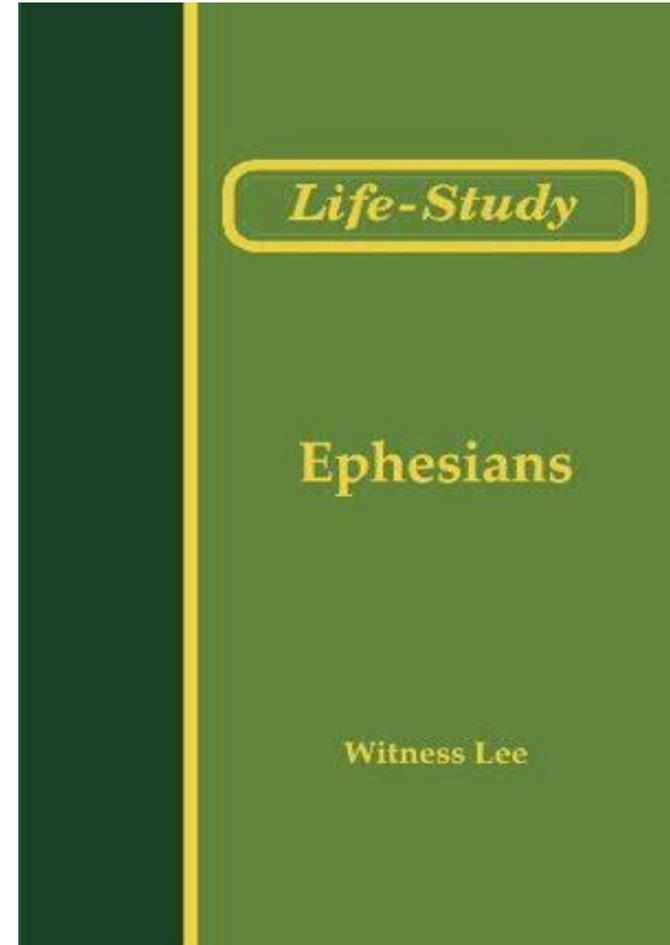
A photograph of the Arch of Titus in Rome, Italy, featuring a semi-transparent text overlay. The arch is a large, ancient stone structure with a central archway and a pediment containing Latin inscriptions. The scene is set against a clear blue sky, with green foliage and a stone wall in the foreground. The text is centered over the arch.

Rome, Italy

Why the Lord needs a strong testimony

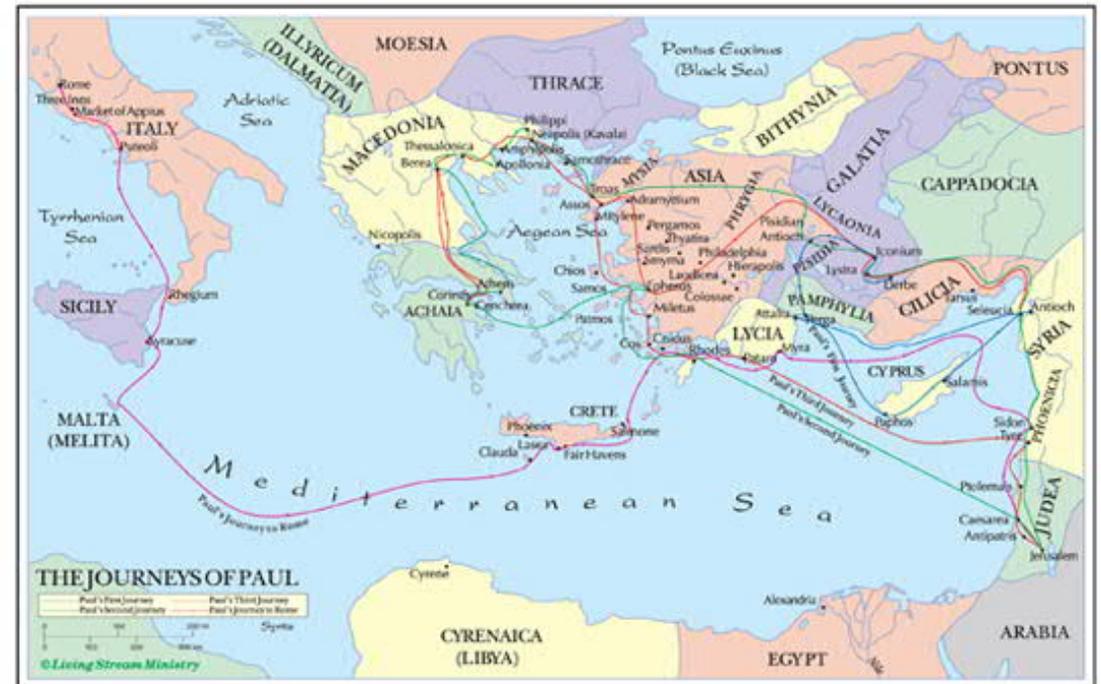
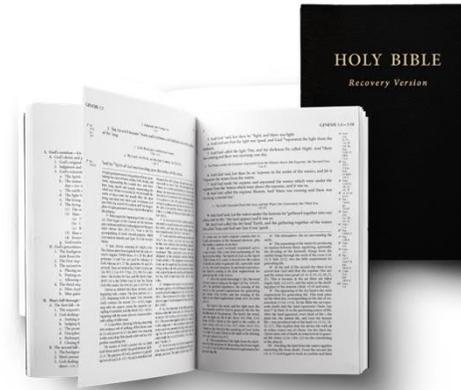
Burden from the ministry

- In Life-Study of Ephesians, Message 79, Brother Lee shared about the church going back to Jerusalem before the Lord's return and the need for many churches in Europe including "a strong church in Rome." You can view this portion on the church website, churchinrome.org, under the "brief history" section.
- After visiting Europe in 1977, Brother Lee shared regarding the Lord's need for churches in the major cities in Europe, that "The time is short. The Lord is coming soon... If there could be a church in Rome with a hundred fifty people who are shining, filled with Christ, and immersed in Christ, the Lord would be able to boast to Satan." (The Kernel of the Bible, chapter 18)



In the Scriptures

- In New Testament times, Rome was the center of the political and economic world and Paul expressed that he must go to Rome.
- Romans 15:28-29: “When therefore I have finished this and have sealed to them this fruit, I will go on by way of you to Spain. And I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.”
- Also, at the end of the Bible in Revelation, we see Rome as the place where the destruction of Babylon takes place. Surely the Lord needs a strong anti-testimony in this strategic city.



The Lord is burdened for all of Italy, but there needs to be a place where the Lord can build up a local church as a model for all of Italy, just as Moscow and St Petersburg were when the Lord first moved to Russia.





The ministry points out that we need to emigrate to the leading cities that have colleges or universities for us to work on. Rome is the capital city of Italy and has several universities including La Sapienza, with one of the largest student populations in Europe.

History of the church in Rome

- Present day

- The saints came in the summer of 2011 with one working family, a couple serving full-time, and a single brother who was on the campus. That first semester they gained two Italian brothers.
- In June of 2012 the saints established the Lord's table and began to meet as the church in Rome. Over the next year three more students were gained. They eventually moved from Rome for further study at other universities in Europe.
- One of the original Italian brothers gained in Rome has continued his studies at one of the local universities and has been very instrumental in the translation of the ministry into Italian.

A meeting hall for the church in Rome

- In 2015 a piece of property was purchased in the center of Rome to be remodeled as the church's meeting hall.
- This meeting hall is within walking distance of La Sapienza University where there are over 110,000 students enrolled.
- It is strategically located 200 meters from a metro stop and is very close to the largest teaching hospital in Rome.
- The church began using the meeting hall at the time of the 2017 European blending trips.
- It has been used for many blending trips, including the yearly Full-time Training gospel trips.



A home close to the university

- According to the ministry there is the need to secure a home close to the university large enough to keep two or three guests. It should also be a place for emigrating saints to stay until they can be properly situated. Newly-contacted people can be brought to this home for fellowship.
- At the end of 2015 a brother purchased an apartment that is a five minute walk from the university as well as from the meeting hall. Renovations were completed within 6 months.
- Three groups of saints have emigrated to Rome and stayed with the family in this home until they could be properly situated.
- The home is used for Bible studies and coordination meetings as well as small group meetings.



While Rome is a very old city, the country of Italy only became a nation in 1861. The country is very regional and most Italians speak a local dialect as well and have strong ties to their regional differences. This is true of Rome as well.



Statistics

The population in Rome is approximately 2.3 million with 4.3 million in the surrounding urban area.



Rome is the capital of Italy and therefore has many government workers and buildings. There are also a good number of embassies for other countries.



Transportation

The transportation system is functional for getting around; however, there are frequent strikes that can make our gathering together difficult at times.



Rome universities

- There are a number of public universities with a population of over 225,000 students, as well as academies, colleges and private universities.
- Most of the public universities are very economical and therefore have a large number of students who attend.
- We are laboring on a number of students of good character who have graduated from these institutions. May the Lord gain them for His move.

