

Il Palio
Piazza de Campo, Siena















Why Do the Nations Rage?

Acts 19:21-41



Ephesus Theatre
Capacity 24,000

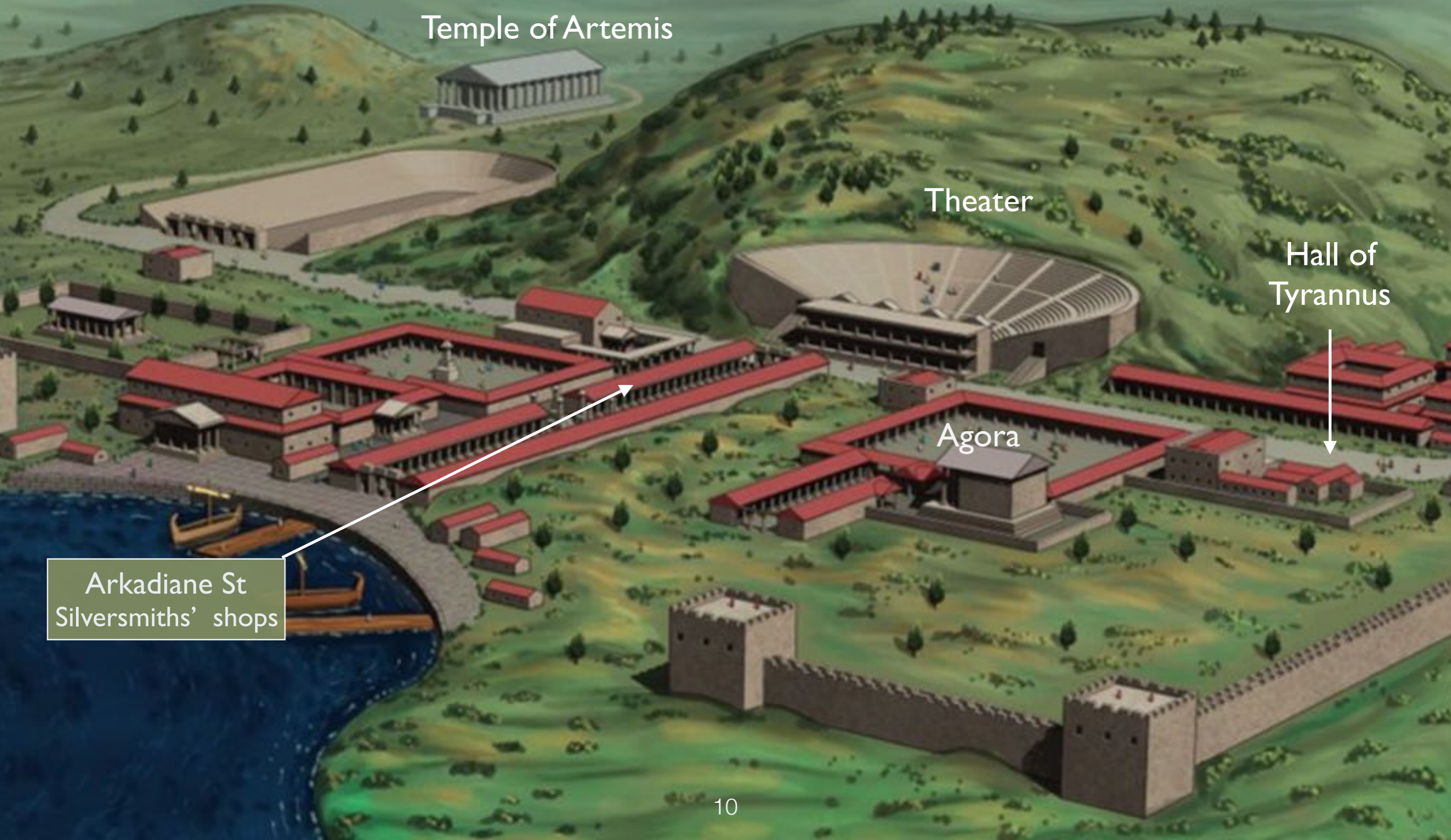
Visionary Planning in the Spirit

21 Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.” 22 And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

Acts 19:21-22 ESV



23 About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. 24 For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. 25 These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said...”



Temple of Artemis

Theater

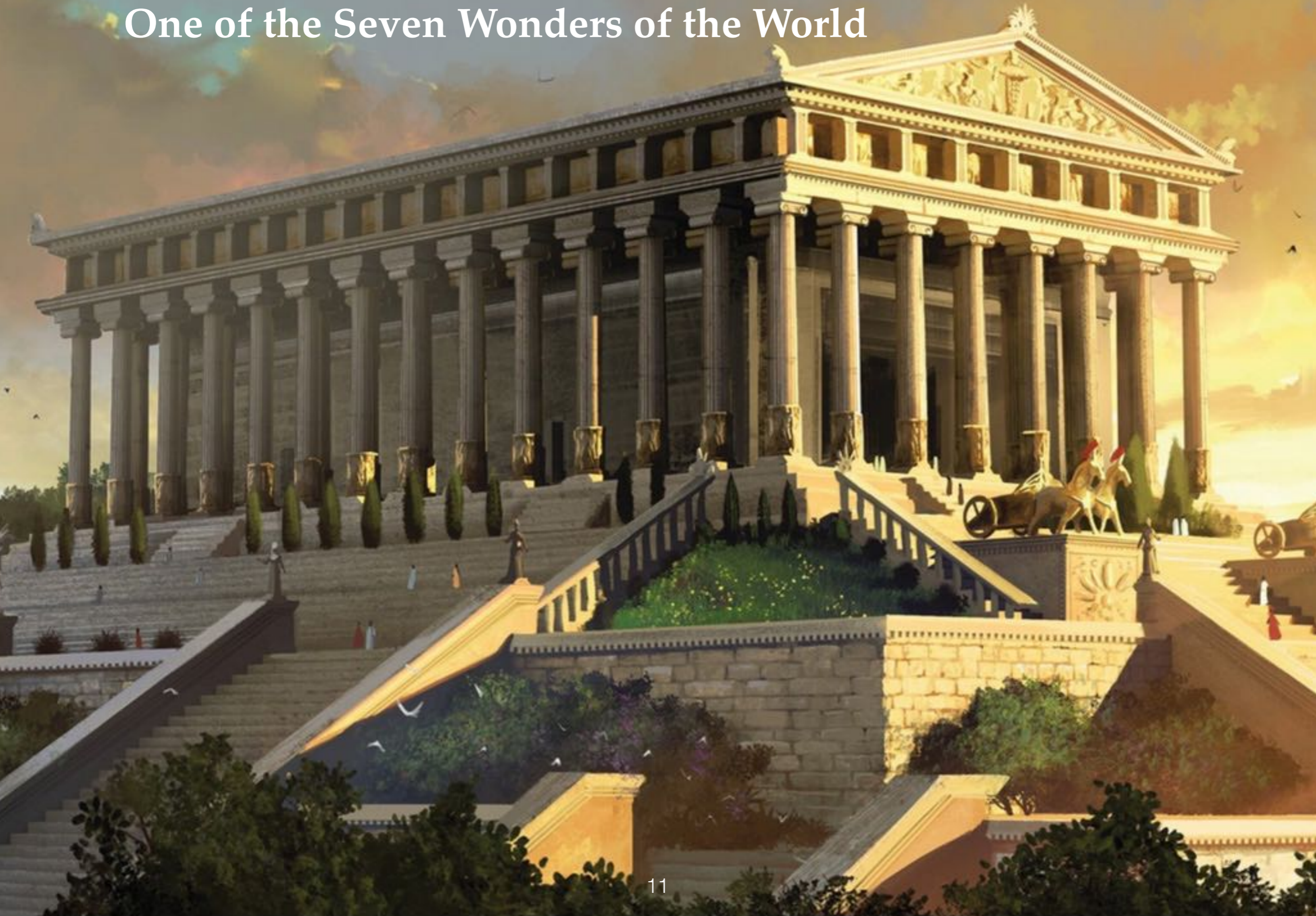
Hall of Tyrannus

Agora

Arkadiane St
Silversmiths' shops

The Temple of Artemis

One of the Seven Wonders of the World



Threats to “Honor”

25 “Men, you know that from this business we have **our wealth**. 26 And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. 27 And there is danger not only that **this trade** of ours may come into disrepute but also that **the temple** of the great goddess **Artemis** may be counted as nothing, and that she may even **be deposed** from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship.”

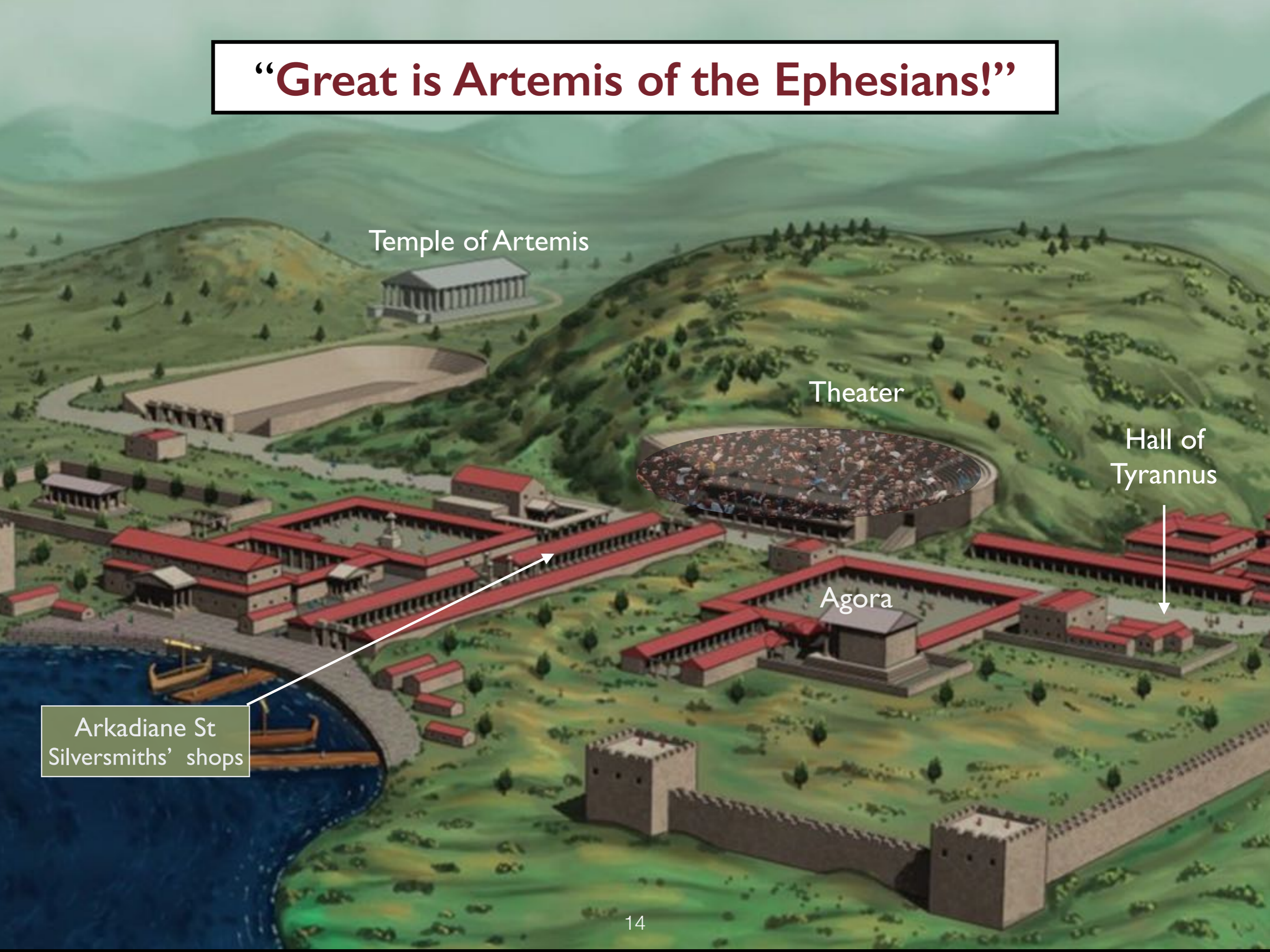
1. Our prosperity!
2. Our trade!!
3. Our temple!!!
4. Our goddess!!!!

A Riot!

28 When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, “**Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!**” 29 So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul’s companions in travel. 30 But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him. 31 And even some of the **Asiarchs**, who were friends of his, sent to him and were urging him not to venture into the theater.



“Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”



Temple of Artemis

Theater

Hall of Tyrannus

Agora

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Alexander Fails to Intervene

32 Now some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly was in **confusion**, and most of them did not know why they had come together.

33 Some of the crowd prompted Alexander, whom the Jews had put forward. And Alexander, motioning with his hand, wanted to make a defense to the crowd. **34** But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours they all cried out with **one voice**,

“Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”



A Sentence of Death

“I fought with wild beasts in Ephesus” (1 Cor 15:32)

For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. (2 Cor 1:8-9)

The Call to Prayer

Now do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:6)

The Town Clerk Calms the Storm

35 And when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, “Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis, and of the sacred stone that fell from the sky? **36** Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. **37** For you have brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our goddess.”

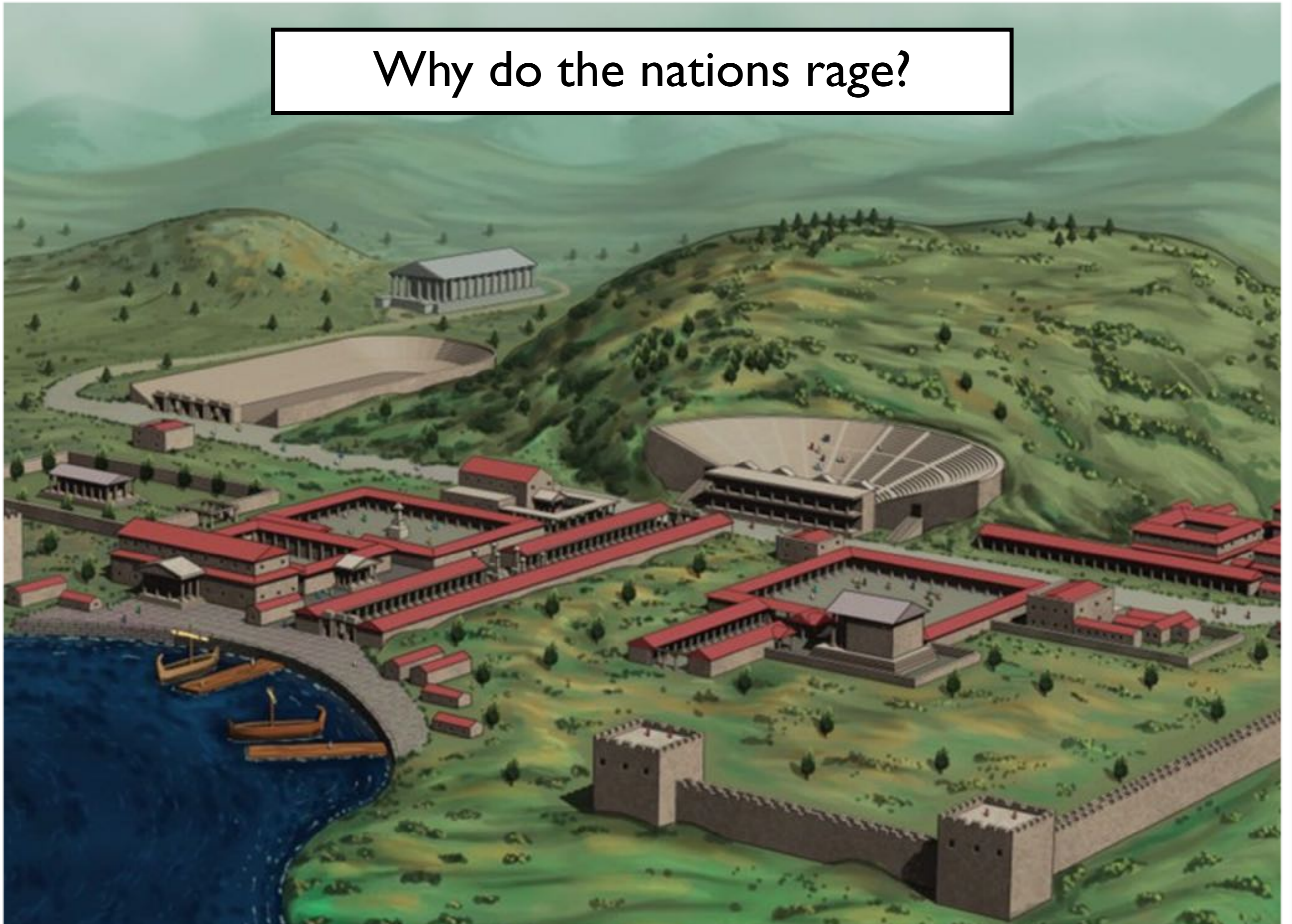
1. There is no threat to Artemis
2. These men are innocent

The Town Clerk Warns the Crowd

38 If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen with him have a complaint against anyone, the **courts are open**, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. **39** But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly. **40** For we really are in **danger** of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion.” **41** And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

1. There is no threat to Artemis
2. These men are innocent
3. All complaints should be solved legally
4. This crowd is a dangerous threat!

Why do the nations rage?



What protects us?

