

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

LESSON 23: CHAPTER 19

6 November 2015

PAUL IN EPHEBUS

Vss. 1-7 In Ephesus, Paul encountered “certain disciples” who were not saved; they had not received the Holy Spirit. They knew about the coming Messiah and the need to repent, but they hadn’t heard the gospel.

After Paul informed and instructed these disciples, they believed and were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Paul laid hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost (in a new region and no New Testament the apostles established authority this way). They spoke in tongues (a sign for the Jews in the temple) and they prophesied. Prophecy is for believers (1 Cor. 1:22, 14:22).

Vss. 8-12 Paul spoke in the synagogue for three months until various unbelievers began openly speaking evil against “that way” (Christianity). So Paul separated from the synagogue and began lecturing in the school of Tyrannus for two years (see 1 Cor. 16:8-9). The result: **“all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.”** God wrought the signs of Mark 16:17-18 through Paul.

Vss. 13-20 Jewish travelling “miracle workers” (exorcists) attempted to use Jesus’ name in their miracle show. The evil spirits refused to cooperate with these seven men attempting to invoke Jesus’ name. The exorcists were attacked by the devil-possessed man. (Unusual strength accompanies devil possession. See Luke 8:29 for example).

News of this event spread throughout Ephesus, Jesus’ name was magnified, people confessed and showed their deeds—and brought all their occult books to be burned. Notice they didn’t sell them or simply put them away in a box. They destroyed (at great cost) everything that might tempt them to go back to their old sinful practices.

THE UPROAR OF THE DIANA WORSHIPPERS

Vss. 21-41 The business owners and craftsmen began to worry when they noticed many people turning away from worshipping Diana because of Paul’s ministry in the region. These men who profit from sales of idols and shrines and other paraphernalia pertaining to the worship of Diana

didn't want to lose their source of income, so they started a riot, grabbed some Christians and dragged them to the theater. There is no order, no speaker, nobody taking charge, only chaos and confusion (vs. 29). Many people didn't even know what it was about (vs. 32).

Paul had a reputation of spreading his teachings "almost throughout all Asia" (vs. 26) and turning away "much people" from idolatry. He's affecting the livelihood of people whose income depends upon false religion.

Notice the Jew's hatred of the gospel in verse 33. Instead of opposing idolatry (as every Jew ought to) they supported the idolaters by capturing Christians and delivering them to the idolaters for judgment. This prompted more rioting; they shouted an idolatrous chant for two hours!

Finally, the town clerk appeased the people (vs. 35), fearing what the Roman Government might say about this riot in the theater (vs. 40). He implored the people to do things lawfully using the court system (vs. 38). Then he dismissed the people (vs. 41).

CHAPTER 20

Vss. 1-3 Paul travelled to Macedonia and exhorted the churches in that region before stopping in Greece for three months. The Jews plotted to ambush him if he tried to sail to Syria, forcing Paul to return through Macedonia. He travelled with a great company of believers.

THE FELLOWSHIP MEETING IN TROAS

Vss. 4-12 On the first day of the week (Sunday) Paul and the disciples get together for fellowship and preaching. They start with a meal (see Acts 2:46), and then Paul preaches till midnight.

A man named Eutychus fell asleep in a third story window and fell to his death.

¹⁰ And Paul went down, and fell on him... (See 1 Kings 17:21 and 2 Kings 4:34).

Eutychus is raised from the dead, breaks bread (eats), and then they talk all night long.

Paul's journeys:

Some calculate he travelled 5,581 miles by land and 6,770 miles by sea. 12,000 miles total (19, 312 km)
