

Responding to the Chaos of the World

Part 1: The Riot at Ephesus

The City of Ephesus

- The fourth largest city in the Roman Empire
- Was a famous seaport and important commercial hub
- Was a free city with its own assembly, a variety of cultural influences, and a large Jewish population
- Home to the Temple of Artemis (the goddess of fertility)
- In the center of the temple was an image of the goddess Artemis, which was likely a meteorite that people believed was a sacred stone that had fallen to earth from heaven



Images of Artemis

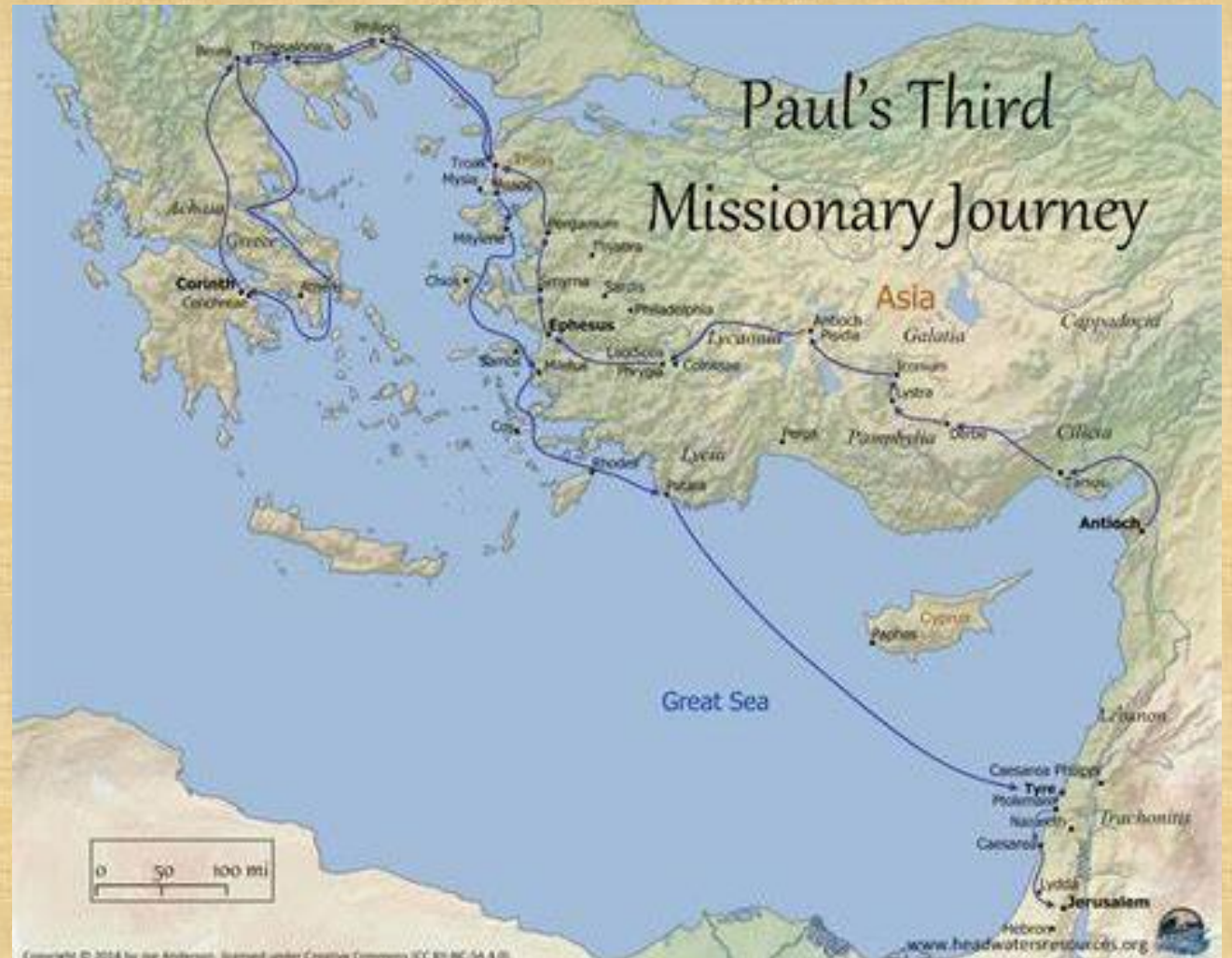


The Temple of Artemis



Paul's Time in Ephesus

- Stayed in Ephesus for about 2 ½ years
- Spoke daily in the hall of Tyrannus so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord
- God did extraordinary miracles by Paul, even through handkerchiefs and napkins taken from Paul to heal the sick
- The power of the name of Jesus became known by all the residents of Ephesus
- Sorcerers brought their scrolls and burned them publicly
- “The word of the Lord grew and prevailed mightily.” (Acts 19:20)



Acts 19:23-41

About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. 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. 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."

When they heard this, they were enraged and were crying out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" 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. But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him. And even some of the Asiarchs, who were friends of his, sent to him and were urging him not to venture into the theater. 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. 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. 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!"

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? Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. For you have brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our goddess. 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. But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly. 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." And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

Acts 19:21-27

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.

Demetrius and the Riot at Ephesus

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Acts 19:35 – 20:1

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Paul in Macedonia and Greece

20 After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia.

Acts 19:35 – 20:1

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After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia.

19:21
Go to
Macedo
nia

20:1
Departs
for
Macedon
ia

Acts 19:23-41

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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. 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!"

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19:23-27
Incites the
crowd

19:21
Go to
Macedo
nia

19:35-41
Quiets
the
crowd

20:1
Departs
for
Macedon
ia

Acts 19:23-41

²⁸ When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" [Crowd cries out]

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19:21
Go to
Macedo
nia

19:23-27
Incites the
crowd

19:28
Crowd
cries out

19:33-34
All cry
out

19:35-41
Quiets
the
crowd

20:1
Departs
for
Macedon
ia

Acts 19:23-41

^{29a} So the city was filled with the **confusion**,

^{29b} 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.

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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.

19:21
Go to
Macedo
nia

19:23-27
Incites the
crowd

19:28
Crowd
cries out

19:29a
City
confused

19:32
Assembly
confused

19:33-34
All cry
out

19:35-41
Quiets
the
crowd

20:1
Departs
for
Macedon
ia

Acts 19:23-41

^{29b} 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.**

19:21
Go to
Macedo
nia

19:23-27
Incites the
crowd

19:28
Crowd
cries out

19:29a
City
confused

19:29b
Friends
in
theater

19:31
Friends,
“don’t go
theater”

19:32
Assembly
confused

19:33-34
All cry
out

19:35-41
Quiets
the
crowd

20:1
Departs
for
Macedon
ia

Acts 19:23-41

³⁰ But when **Paul wished to go in** among the crowd, the **disciples would not let him**.

19:21
Go to
Mace-
donia

19:23-27
Incites
crowd

19:28
Crowd
cries out

19:29a
City
confused

19:29b
Friends
in
theater

19:30
Paul
stopped

19:31
Friends,
“don’t go
theater”

19:32
Assembly
confused

19:33-34
All cry
out

19:35-41
Quiets
crowd

20:1
Departs
Mace-
donia

Chiasm of Acts 19:21 – 20:1

A (19:21-22): God tells Paul to pass through Macedonia

B (19:23-27): Demetrius incites the crowd

C (19:28): The crowd cries out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

D (19:29a): The city is filled with confusion

E (19:29b): Friends of Paul are dragged into the theater

F (19:30): But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him.

E' (19:31): Friends beg Paul not to come into the theater

D' (19:32): The assembly is in confusion

C' (19:33-34): The crowd cries out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

B' (35-41): The town clerk quiets the crowd

A' (20:1): Paul departs for Macedonia

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