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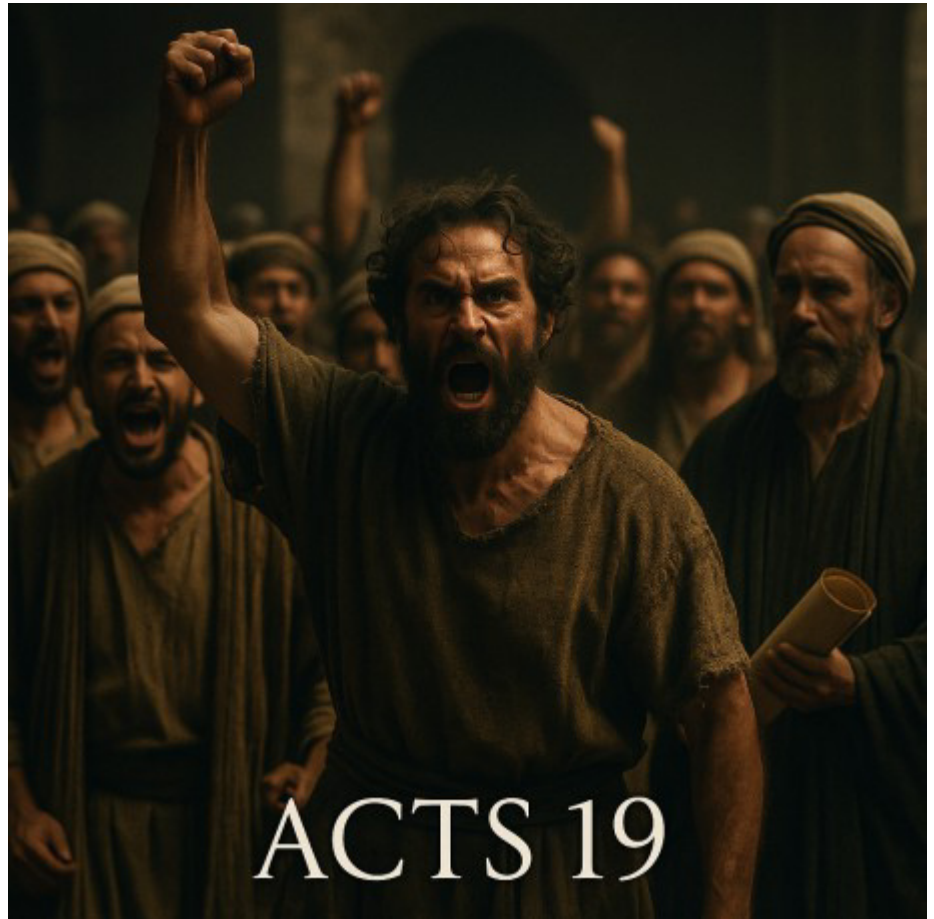
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Acts 19 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

Acts 19

Acts 19:1-2

Now it happened that while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul went through the upper districts and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "On the contrary, we have not even heard if there is a Holy Spirit."

† Paul discovered believers who only knew part of the truth. Their understanding was limited to John's baptism, not the

fullness of the Spirit in Christ.

Acts 19:3-5

And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

† Paul clarified that John's baptism prepared for Christ, but baptism into Christ brought union with Him and covenant entrance.

Acts 19:6-7

And when Paul had laid hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. There were about twelve men in all.

† The Spirit's outpouring confirmed their inclusion in the body of Christ, paralleling Pentecost and Cornelius' household.

Acts 19:8-10

And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, having discussions and persuading them about the kingdom of God. But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took the disciples away, and held daily discussions in the school of Tyrannus. This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

† Paul's long ministry in Ephesus spread the gospel throughout Asia Minor. The school of Tyrannus became a training center for discipleship.

† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 5.18) mentions how teaching centers multiplied the spread of Christianity.

Acts 19:11-12

God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.

† Miracles authenticated Paul's message, showing Christ's authority over sickness and demons.

Acts 19:13-16

But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to use the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I order you in the name of Jesus whom Paul preaches!" Now there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, doing this. But the evil spirit responded and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know of Paul, but who are you?" And the man in whom was the evil spirit, pouncing on them and subduing all of them, overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

† The name of Jesus is not a magic formula. True authority comes through relationship with Christ. The failure of the sons of Sceva revealed the reality of demonic power and Christ's supremacy.

† Josephus (Wars 7.6.3) describes Jewish exorcists using incantations, showing this was a known practice.

Acts 19:17-20

This became known to all who lived in Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks; and fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified. Also many of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they added up the prices of the books and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord was growing and prevailing mightily.

† The power of Christ led many to renounce sorcery. The book-burning was public repentance, costing them greatly in wealth.
† The magical papyri from Ephesus confirm the city's deep involvement in occult practices.

Acts 19:21-22

Now after these things were finished, Paul resolved in the Spirit to go to Jerusalem, after he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." And after he sent two of those who assisted him, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

† Paul sensed his mission turning toward Jerusalem and Rome, the heart of the empire. His course was Spirit-directed.

Acts 19:23-27

About that time a major disturbance occurred in regard to the Way. For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing significant business to the craftsmen; he gathered these men together with the workmen of similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that our prosperity depends upon this business. You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and perverted a considerable number of people, by saying that gods made by hands are not gods at all. Not only is there danger that this trade of ours will fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be regarded as worthless, and that she whom all of Asia and the world worship will even be dethroned from her magnificence."

† The gospel threatened idolatry and commerce. Demetrius' speech revealed how economic interests were tied to pagan worship.

† Strabo (Geography 14.1.22) describes the Temple of Artemis in Ephesus as one of the wonders of the world, confirming its

centrality.

Acts 19:28-29

When they heard this and were filled with rage, they began shouting, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" The city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia.

† The riot in the theater demonstrated the hostility of pagan society toward the gospel. The theater at Ephesus, still visible today, held 24,000 people.

Acts 19:30-32

And when Paul wanted to go into the assembly, the disciples would not let him. Also some of the Asiarchs who were friends of his sent word to him and repeatedly urged him not to venture into the theater. So then, some were shouting one thing and some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and the majority did not know for what reason they had come together.

† Paul was willing to face the mob, but the disciples and local officials restrained him. The chaos reflected blind rage, not reason.

Acts 19:33-34

Some of the crowd concluded it was Alexander, since the Jews had pushed him forward; and having motioned with his hand, Alexander was intending to make a defense to the assembly. But when they recognized that he was a Jew, a single outcry arose from them all as they shouted for about two hours, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

† The crowd's irrational chanting revealed the spiritual blindness of idolatry.

Acts 19:35-37

After quieting the crowd, the town clerk said, "Men of Ephesus, what person is there after all who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of the image which fell down from the sky? So, since these are undeniable facts, you ought to keep calm and to do nothing rash. For you have brought these men here who are neither temple robbers nor blasphemers of our goddess."

† The town clerk appealed to civic pride and legal order. He acknowledged Paul and his companions had not desecrated the temple.

Acts 19:38-41

"So then, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are in session and proconsuls are available; have them bring charges against one another. But if you want anything beyond this, it shall be settled in the lawful assembly. For indeed, we are in danger of being accused of a riot in connection with today's events, since there is no real reason for it, and in this case we will be unable to account for this disorderly gathering." After saying this he dismissed the assembly.

† Roman authorities prized order. The clerk defused the riot by reminding them of Rome's legal system. Disorder could bring harsh Roman response.

How it applies to us today

† Salvation is not partial; it is fullness in Christ, sealed by the Spirit.

† The gospel exposes false religion and undermines idolatry, even when tied to economics.

† Believers must expect hostility when Christ's kingdom collides with worldly systems.

† God uses even civic leaders and legal systems to preserve

His mission when necessary.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 5.18 – Christian teaching centers spreading faith

† Josephus, Wars 7.6.3 – Jewish exorcists and incantations

† Magical papyri – Evidence of occult practices in Ephesus

† Strabo, Geography 14.1.22 – Temple of Artemis described as a wonder

† Archaeological remains of the Ephesian theater – Capacity of 24,000 people

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