

ACTS 19:23-20:5 PAUL AND THE IMAGE-MAKERS: TROUBLE AT EPHESUS

Luke devotes the last paragraph of Acts 19 (vs. 23-41) to the event that closed-out Paul's ministry in Ephesus: the silversmith-idol-maker uproar.

19:23-27 Demetrius Stirs-up the Idol-makers' Guild

- v. 23 **THE REAL ISSUE:** "THE _____:" a descriptive term for the essence of the Gospel and Christianity. Luke's intro: "**no small stir,**" called an "uproar" in 20:1, a big disturbance.
1. **THE** Way: not a way, not one of many. Taken from Christ's words in John 14:6.
 2. **THE** Way: means "other ways" are false or spurious. Compare v. 26 where Demetrius so concludes.
 3. **THE** Way: becomes for unbelievers a source of frustration and controversy: see 18:26; 19:9; 24:14, 22.

v. 24-27 **DEMETRIUS' ARGUMENT** to the Idol-makers' Guild

Luke's intro: "_____ " for Diana (Artemis) = "**no small gain,**" i.e., a large gain.

v. 25 "By the merchandise of idols we make big money."

v. 26 "Paul keeps persuading people here that The Way rejects idols."

v. 27 "Our means of livelihood is at stake" (self-preservation).

"The very temple of Artemis (Diana) is threatened" (civic pride).

"The Goddess Artemis herself is threatened" (religious pride).

NOTE HOW DEMETRIUS (UNBELIEVER) AFFIRMS PAUL'S MESSAGE.

In Context: Luke's emphasis is the mighty growth and spread of the Word of God despite opposition (see 19:20), a common theme in the Book of Acts. Illustrative of this mighty growth was the renunciation of magical practices at Ephesus (19:18, 19) and the testimony of the unbelieving Demetrius. Demetrius' fear was justifiable, for indeed, the mighty growth of God's Word and the effect of The Way (true Christianity) would put all idolators and associated idol-makers out of business!

19:28-34 The Effect of Demetrius' Protest

v. 28 **On the Idol-makers' Guild** (who excite the disturbance)

1. "_____ " ag. Paul and believers. θυμος/thomos = rage
2. Affirmations of _____ to Artemis (Diana), Goddess of Ephesians.

v. 29 **On the Citizens** (who join the disturbance)

1. "_____ "
2. _____ and _____ are dragged into the amphitheatre. Why?
What plan of action? None, they only knew of a religious threat.

Archeological Note: the outline remains of this outdoor theatre still exist; it could seat at least 25,000 people who could clearly see the Temple of Artemis across the way.

v. 30, 31 **On Paul:** who is restrained by believers from entering.

v. 31 Protected by a certain _____ ("of the chiefs of Asia"). Why?

v. 32 **On the Assembly-mob:** (of confused Ephesians)

– Mass confusion; mob mentality; herd instinct

v. 33 **On Alexander, A Jew:** (possibly a Believer)

– who sought to make a defense, but could not
Remember, both Jews and Christians rejected idolatry.

(OVER)

- v. 34 lit. *“And perceiving that he was a Jew, one voice from all was for about two hours crying, ‘Great is Artemis (Diana) of the Ephesians.’ ”*

Senseless repetition; mass-thoughtless action; psyched-up religious fervor: ALL IN THE GUISE OF RELIGION.

19:3-41 The Town-Clerk* Quells the Uproar

*Town-clerk = the legal recorder, an executive officer of great status

v. 35 **He reminds them of two facts:**

1. Ephesians were the temple _____ (KJV, “worshippers”) of the great Artemis.
2. Ephesians were the guardians of Artemis’ image which fell from the planet _____ .

v. 36 **His Mollifying Conclusion**

“You ought (from δεῖ/dei) to be quiet and do nothing rash because of these two facts which will persist.”

v. 37 **His Clarification:** “these men have done no wrong”

1. “they are not ‘ _____ - _____ ’” (not “churches” as per KJV).
2. “they did not _____ your goddess.”

Apparently Paul had not blasphemed.

v.38 **His Advice to the Idol-makers:** “Follow legal procedure.”

“...there are deputies,” lit. _____ : officials appointed by the Roman Senate that acted like governors for this very thing.

v. 39, 40 **His Advice to the Ephesian Assembly**

“You are a mob, not a _____ assembly; it takes lawful assembly to determine legal matters. THE PROCONSUL MAY CALL US INTO ACCOUNT.” Why? BECAUSE IT WAS A CAPITAL OFFENCE TO TAKE PART IN A RIOTOUS PROCEEDING.

v. 41 **His Dismissal of the Assembly-mob**