

# NOON BIBLE STUDY: ACTS 19

THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY — C. 52-57 AD (ACTS 18:23-21:17)



ACTS 19:1-7 - PAUL TRAVELS BACK TO EPHESUS

- THERE IS SOME INDICATION THAT THESE WERE "DISCIPLES" OF EITHER JOHN THE BAPTIST OR SOME THAT WERE MADE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF APOLLOS (CP. 18:24-25) BASED ON THEIR UNDERSTANDING UP TO THIS POINT.

ACTS 19:8-10 - PAUL STAYS IN EPHESUS FOR 3 MORE MONTHS IN SYNAGOGUE, 2 YEARS IN SCHOOL OF TYRANNUS.

- "ALL WHO LIVED IN ASIA HEARD THE WORD OF THE LORD"

ACTS 19:11-20 - EXTRAORDINARY MIRACLES, REPENTANCE IN EPHESUS

V. 13-17 - SEVEN SONS OF SCEVA

"THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST" IS NOT A MAGIC PHRASE, NOR IS IT A "TAG" THAT WE THROW ON THE END OF A PRAYER. IT IS A PHRASE OF AUTHORITY BASED ON RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST. IN THIS CASE, THE DEMONS OVERPOWER THE SONS OF SCEVA BECAUSE THEY WERE USING THE NAME OF JESUS WITHOUT THE AUTHORITY THAT COMES THROUGH THE OBEDIENT RELATIONSHIP. THERE ARE SOMETIMES WHEN GOD HONORS THE USE OF THE NAME OF JESUS, EVEN BY IMPERFECT PEOPLE, FOR THE SAKE OF JESUS' REPUTATION AND THEN THERE ARE SOMETIMES WHEN HE DOES NOT.

V.17-19 - FEAR OF THE LORD, CONVERSION, REPENTANCE

V. 19 - "50,000 PIECES OF SILVER" - "PIECES OF SILVER" PROBABLY REFERS TO THE GREEK DRACHMA, WHICH REPRESENTED A LABORER'S AVERAGE DAILY WAGE. AT \$15 (U.S.) PER HOUR, OR \$120 PER DAY, 50,000 DRACHMAS WOULD EQUAL APPROXIMATELY \$6 MILLION IN TODAY'S CURRENCY (ESV STUDY BIBLE).

ACTS 19:21-22 - PROPOSED ITINERARY

- PAUL DETERMINES THAT HIS NEXT COURSE OF ACTION WILL BE TO GO TO JERUSALEM, AFTER FIRST TRAVELING TO MACEDONIA (PHILIPPI, THESSALONICA, BEREA LOCATED THERE) AND ACHAIA (ATHENS, CORINTH). AFTER HE GOES TO JERUSALEM HE WILL GO TO ROME. HE FIRST SENDS TIMOTHY AND ERASTUS TO MACEDONIA, WHILE HE REMAINS IN ASIA (IN EPHEBUS).

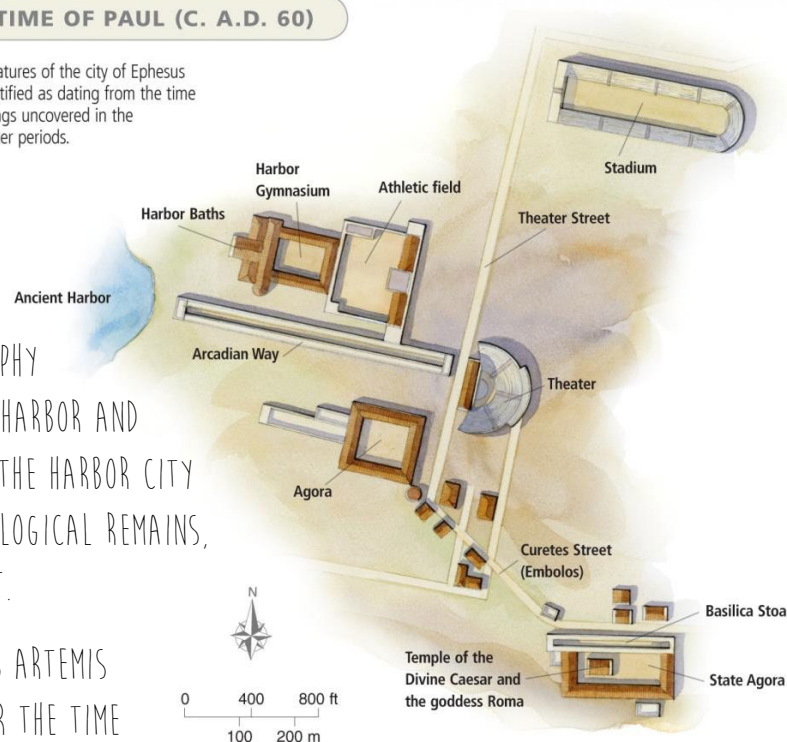
## ANCIENT EPHEBUS

"AN IMPORTANT PORT CITY ON THE WEST COAST OF ASIA, EPHEBUS BOASTED THE TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS (ONE OF THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD). JUST A FEW DECADES BEFORE PAUL, STRABO CALLED EPHEBUS THE GREATEST EMPORIUM IN THE PROVINCE OF ASIA MINOR (GEOGRAPHY 12.8.15; CF. 14.1.20—26). HOWEVER, THE SILTING UP OF THE HARBOR AND THE RAVAGES OF EARTHQUAKES CAUSED THE ABANDONMENT OF THE HARBOR CITY SEVERAL CENTURIES LATER. TODAY, AMONG THE VAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS, SOME KEY STRUCTURES DATE FROM THE ACTUAL TIME OF THE NT.

THE GRANDIOSE THEATER, WHERE CITIZENS CHANTED "GREAT IS ARTEMIS OF THE EPHESIANS" HAD BEEN ENLARGED UNDER CLAUDIUS NEAR THE TIME WHEN PAUL WAS IN THE CITY. IT HELD AN ESTIMATED 20,000 OR MORE SPECTATORS. THE THEATER LOOKED WEST TOWARD THE PORT. FROM THE THEATER A PROCESSIONAL WAY LED NORTH TOWARD THE TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS... A EUNUCH PRIEST SERVED THE GODDESS ARTEMIS, ASSISTED BY VIRGIN WOMEN. TODAY VERY LITTLE REMAINS OF THAT ONCE GREAT TEMPLE BEYOND ITS FOUNDATIONS AND A SIZABLE ALTAR, ALTHOUGH THE NEARBY MUSEUM DISPLAYS TWO LARGE STATUES OF ARTEMIS DISCOVERED ELSEWHERE IN EPHEBUS." (ESV STUDY BIBLE, INTRO TO EPHESIANS)

### EPHEBUS IN THE TIME OF PAUL (C. A.D. 60)

The city plan below shows those features of the city of Ephesus that archaeologists have so far identified as dating from the time of Paul. Many of the notable buildings uncovered in the excavation at Ephesus date from later periods.



"WHEN AUGUSTUS BECAME EMPEROR IN 27 BC, HE MADE EPHEBUS THE CAPITAL OF PROCONSULAR ASIA (WHICH COVERED WESTERN ASIA MINOR) INSTEAD OF PERGAMUM. EPHEBUS THEN ENTERED AN ERA OF PROSPERITY, BECOMING BOTH THE SEAT OF THE GOVERNOR AND A MAJOR CENTER OF COMMERCE. ACCORDING TO STRABO, IT WAS SECOND IN IMPORTANCE AND SIZE ONLY TO ROME (STRABO . GEOGRAPHY (VOLUME 1—7) 14.1.24. CAMBRIDGE: LOEB CLASSICAL LIBRARY, HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS).

## EPHESIAN TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS

ANTIPATER OF SIDON, WHO COMPILED THE LIST OF THE SEVEN WONDERS, DESCRIBES THE FINISHED TEMPLE:

*I HAVE SET EYES ON THE WALL OF LOFTY BABYLON ON WHICH IS A ROAD FOR CHARIOTS, AND THE STATUE OF ZEUS BY THE ALPHEUS, AND THE HANGING GARDENS, AND THE COLOSSUS OF THE SUN, AND THE HUGE LABOUR OF THE HIGH PYRAMIDS, AND THE VAST TOMB OF MAUSOLUS; BUT WHEN I SAW THE HOUSE OF ARTEMIS THAT MOUNTED TO THE CLOUDS, THOSE OTHER MARVELS LOST THEIR BRILLIANCY, AND I SAID, "LO, APART FROM OLYMPUS, THE SUN NEVER LOOKED ON AUGHT SO GRAND"(ANTIPATER, GREEK ANTHOLOGY IX.58).*



"MOST OF THE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE ORIGINAL TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS COMES FROM THE ROMAN HISTORIAN PLINY THE ELDER (23 — 79 AD). HE DESCRIBED THE TEMPLE AS A "WONDERFUL MONUMENT OF GRECIAN MAGNIFICENCE, AND ONE THAT MERITS OUR GENUINE ADMIRATION." PLINY DOCUMENTED ITS EXACT PROPORTIONS, HOW LONG THE TEMPLES TOOK TO BUILD AND THE MATERIAL USED DURING CONSTRUCTION. THE FOUNDATION OF THE TEMPLE WAS RECTANGULAR IN FORM AND MEASURED 150



FEET IN WIDTH AND 300 FEET IN LENGTH. IT WAS BUILT ON A PODIUM WITH 13 STEPS LEADING UP TO THE HIGH TERRACE. THERE WERE 127 COLUMNS TOTAL, EACH 65.6 FT HIGH, WITH IONIC CAPITALS AND CARVED CIRCULAR SIDES. UNLIKE OTHER SANCTUARIES, THE BUILDING WAS MADE ENTIRELY OF MARBLE." (BRYAN HILL, ANCIENT-ORIGINS.NET)

## ACTS 19:23-34 - RIOT IN EPHESUS

V. 24-27 - DEMETRIUS STIRS UP THE TRADESMEN AGAINST PAUL, FEARING HIS BUSINESS WILL BE AFFECTED

V. 24 - "SILVER SHRINES" WERE SMALLER MODELS OF THE TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS, WHICH PEOPLE BROUGHT HOME TO WORSHIP.

V. 30-31 - PAUL WANTED TO GO INTO THE ASSEMBLY, BUT THE OTHER BELIEVERS URGED HIM NOT TO. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT HE EVER WENT THERE. GAIUS AND ARISTARCHUS ARE BROUGHT THERE HOWEVER BY THE MOB. THE REMAINDER OF THE RECORD IS NOT A TRIAL OR DEFENSE OF PAUL, BUT THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES DEALING WITH THOSE WHO ARE PROTESTING.

V. 33-34 - ALEXANDER. ALEXANDER'S ROLE IS NOT CLEAR. IT IS POSSIBLE THE JEWS HAD BEEN ATTEMPTING TO DISASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH PAUL AND THE CHRISTIANS.



## ACTS 19:35-41 - TOWN CLERK DISMISSES THE RIOTING ASSEMBLY

V. 35 - THE TOWN CLERK WAS THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE CITY, THE LIAISON BETWEEN THE TOWN ASSEMBLY AND THE ROMAN OFFICIALS. HE ASSURED THE CROWD THAT THEIR CITY'S REPUTATION WAS SECURE (ESV STUDY BIBLE)

V.35-36 — "ARTEMIS DEFENDS US, WE DO NOT NEED TO BE WORRIED."

V. 38-39 - IF DEMETRIUS & THE CRAFTSMEN HAVE A PROBLEM, THEY CAN BRING IT TO COURT THE LAWFUL & LEGAL WAY.

V. 40 - IF A CITY WAS ACCUSED OF RIOTING, THE ROMAN AUTHORITIES WOULD GET INVOLVED AND POSSIBLY SEND IN ROMAN SOLDIER TO "KEEP THE PEACE".