

Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

Church – The Beginnings, Part 62

Ephesus – Missions Planning & Idolatrous Opposition

Acts 19:21-41



1. Review → Ephesus Missions/Gospel Ministry

- Paul planted the church back in Acts 18**
- Paul left Aquila and Priscilla in charge while he went on other Missionary Trips**
- Apollos got saved**
- 12 Disciples of John the Baptist got saved**
- For 3 more months the Synagogue of Ephesus was wide open for the Gospel until ... that Door Closed**
- Paul and the Disciples of Jesus Christ (i.e. The Church of Ephesus) moved to the school of Tyrannus for the next 2 years**
- Paul, Miracles, Demons, and Book Burning - Acts 19:11-20 (Last Week)**
<https://wp1.NLFJI.org/328>

Let's Read Today's Text Acts 19:21-41

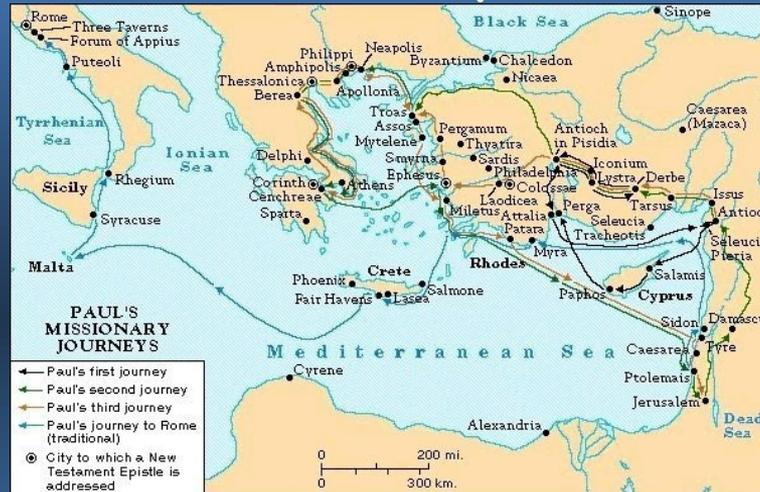
21 When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." 22 So he sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, but he himself stayed in Asia for a time.

23 And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way. 24 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. 25 He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. 26 Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. 27 So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship."

28 Now when they heard *this*, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, "Great *is* Diana of the Ephesians!" 29 So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions. 30 And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him. 31 Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater. 32 Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together. 33 And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand, and wanted to make his defense to the people. 34 But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, "Great *is* Diana of the Ephesians!"

2. Acts 19:21-22 → Missions Planning → Team Building and Church Encouragement

Paul wanted to work himself back to Jerusalem, along with his expanding team, that included those from Macedonia, Achaia, Asia (Ephesus), etc. So, Paul sent ahead of him, an advance team composed of Timothy and Erastus, but Paul stayed there in Ephesus. Since, the church in Ephesus was well established in Sound Doctrine, the next phase of Ministry is Missions and Partnership. Networking of churches and having their connection with Jerusalem. This seems to be the normal pattern from Acts 13, onward.



3. Acts 19:23-27 – Demetrius and Artemis (Diana) – The Financial Motivation for Persecution.

Diana / Artemis → Goddess – from Zeus (daughter of Zeus) – Meteorite that fell from the sky

Wonder Woman? Diana Prince – not quite ...

Mythology: Artemis was the daughter of Zeus and Leto, the Titan goddess of the unseen. Just minutes after her birth, Artemis had to help her mother as she gave birth to her twin brother, Apollo. Being associated with chastity, Artemis at an early age asked her father Zeus to grant her eternal virginity (does this sound familiar?) Artemis is most similar to Athena (of Athens' fame). Athena is always associated with Apollo.



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Artemis/Diana & Athena are always associated with Apollo.

FYI: The King of Demons that comes up out of the bottomless pit in Revelation 9:11 – is named (in Hebrew): Abaddon, and in Greek he is named Apollyon. Interesting, eh?

Apollo keeps his name in both Greek and Roman Latin – same pronunciation and spelling.

Her Symbols include the Crescent Moon with a Star over it.

Seen on Islamic Mosques, today.



3. Acts 19:23-27 – Demetrius and Artemis (Diana) – The Financial Motivation for Persecution.

Diana (Latin) / Artemis (Greek) → In other ancient cultures she is also known as →

Isis, Cybele, Ashtoreth, Asherah, Astarte, Oestre, Easter, Ishtar, Semiramis (wife of Nimrod), Aphrodite, Venus, Athena, Allat (the female version of Allah – the Black Stone – Ka'aba)

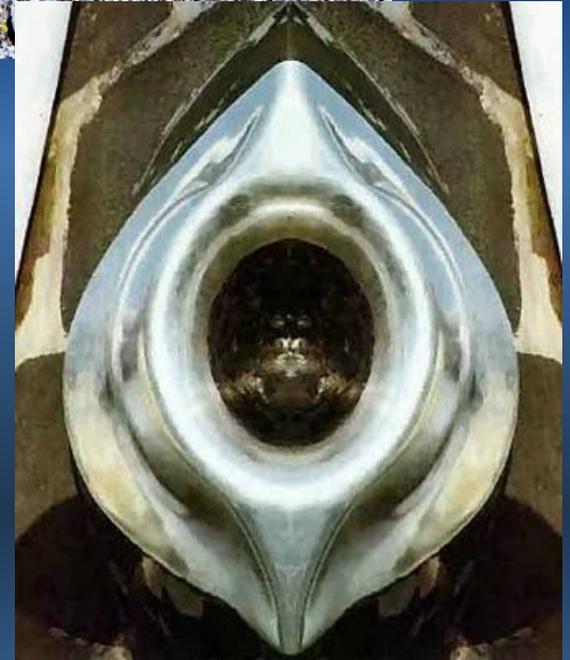
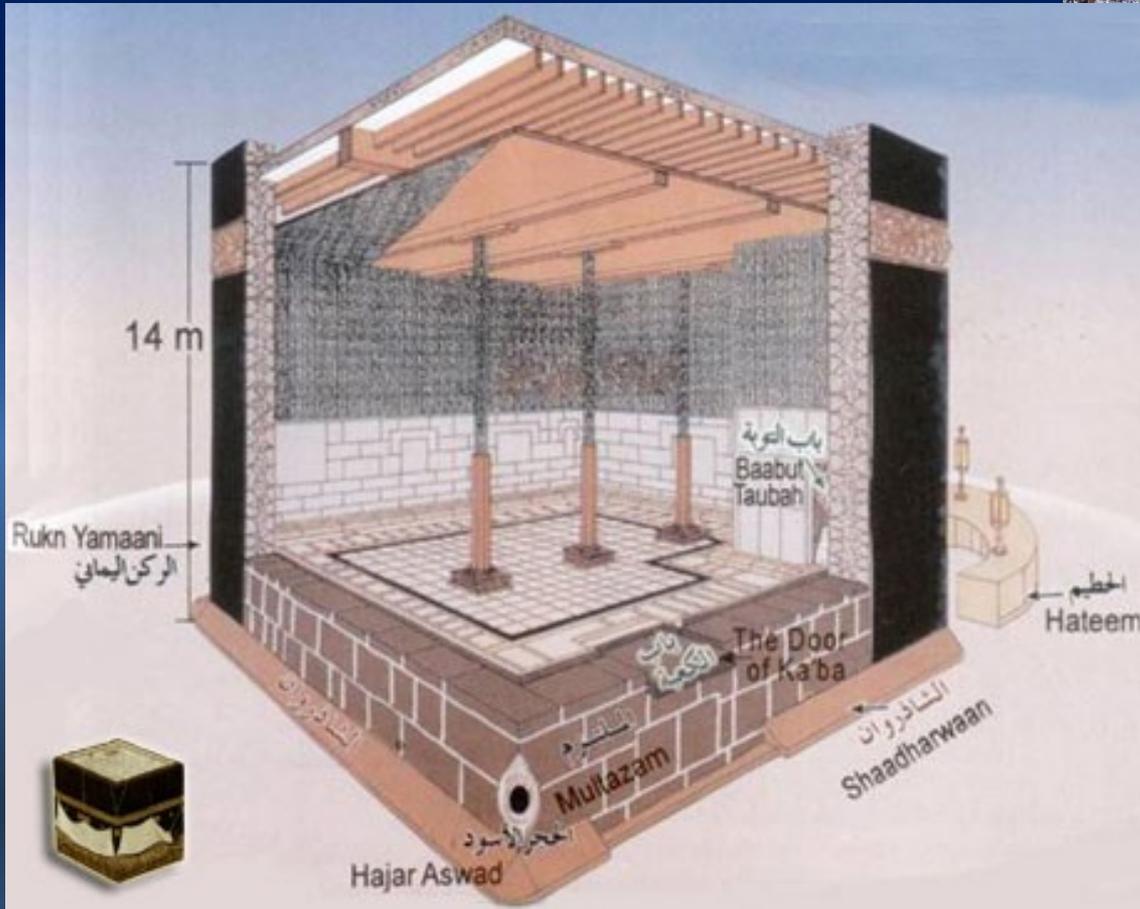
Islam's Connection: <https://mysteryoftheiniquity.com/2011/04/04/the-black-stone-at-mecca/>

Black Stone (Her Image) – Meteorite that Fell from the Sky

Same is with Islam – the Black Stone at the Ka'aba in Mecca ...

Associated with the goddess Allat (the daughters of Allah or Allah's wife)

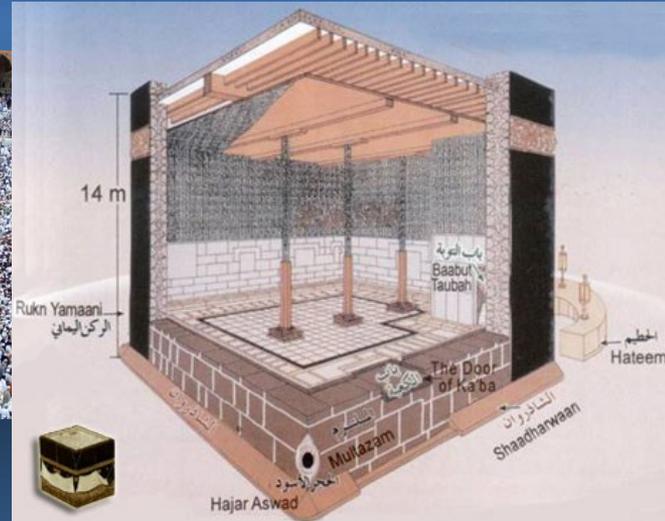
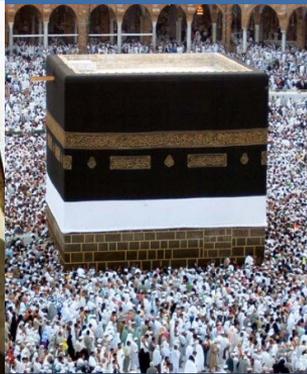
Queen of the Ka'aba and the Pantheon of gods / goddesses in ancient Arabia. The Black Stone represented Allat. She is the same as Ashtoreth, Isis, Astarte, Oestre, Easter, Isthara, Cybele, Ashera, Artemis, Athena.



3. Acts 19:23-27 – Demetrius and Artemis (Diana) – The Financial Motivation for Persecution.

Islam's Connection – Diana / Artemis – Repackaged – same demons

**Black Stone (Her Image) –Allat (the daughters of Allah or Allah's wife)
Queen of the Ka'aba and the Pantheon of gods / goddesses in ancient
Arabia. The Black Stone represented Allat. She is the same as Ashtoreth,
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3. Acts 19:23-27 – Demetrius and Artemis (Diana) – The Financial Motivation for Persecution.

She is the corruption of the Name or Title: El Shaddai (אֱלֹהֵי שָׁדַי)
God Almighty.

→ God All Nurturing, All Providing, Like a Parent does to his/her children.

Shad - in Hebrew has the base meaning of Breast –
Breastfeeding – Mother Nursing her young
Shadad – had a meaning of destroyer.

→ Mother Bear protecting her young –
is the best word picture of El Shaddai

Artemis / Diana (the statue of her with many breasts)
is a corruption of this aspect of the nature of God.



3. Acts 19:23-27 – Demetrius and Artemis (Diana) – The Financial Motivation for Persecution.

Financial Motivation: The Gospel is cutting into their Business Profits (craftmanship) of making Idols / statues of and little shrines for the goddess Artemis.

Mostly, the Motivation behind most of the Persecution of the Missionary Work of the Apostles, especially, of Paul the Apostle, was motivated by Religious Jealousy. Jews who heard the Gospel and then rejected it (loving the Old Wine and Old Wineskins of the Old Mosaic Covenant – they rejected the New Covenant of the Messiah). They were hardened and wanted to destroy The WAY. They used riots, intimidation, threats of violence, and violence to drive out the church and/or Paul. They were never successful in destroying the church in the places that they were planted.

3. Acts 19:23-27 – Demetrius and Artemis (Diana) – The Financial Motivation for Persecution.

Financial Motivation: The Gospel is cutting into their Business Profits

We have only one other instance of Financial Motivation: Philippi → Acts 16:16-24 → Paul casted the demon (the spirit of Python) out of the young girl who was using divination (this was like the Oracle of Delphi) – cast out in the Name of Jesus. Her owners were not pleased and started a riot and the magistrates through Paul and Silas into prison because of the after-effect of the Gospel's Power.

In all cases of Persecution – it happened AFTER the Gospel was preached and folks started to come to Christ, disciples were made, etc. So, if you want to avoid persecution: → hide out in your homes, be very quiet in your workplace, and never let anyone know about Jesus Christ, the Gospel, and the Word of God. Be very quiet, don't associate with people, and the devil will leave you alone - and then re-read Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15.

3. Acts 19:23-27 – Demetrius and Artemis (Diana) – The Financial Motivation for Persecution.

Financial Motivation: The Gospel is cutting into their Business Profits

In the case of Ephesus – the Guild of Silversmiths, listened to Demetrius, and conspired to cause a riot about what Paul had done. The Gospel was causing people to turn from the false gods and goddesses of mythology and turn to the Living and True God (see 1 Thess. 1:9-10). Part of Repentance is turning from the life of sin and lies, to the New LIFE of Truth in Christ. That would always result in folks abandoning the old beliefs and pagan practices (or should). That is what was happening (see Acts 19:18-20 – confessing their sins, burning magic books, etc.). If a person was a worshipper of Artemis (Diana), when that person came to Christ, he/she would NO longer worship Artemis (Diana) nor would he/she buy any more statues or paraphernalia of that goddess anymore in the future. Thus, it would hit the bottom-line of those Silversmiths that Demetrius was a part of, etc. They were going out of business.

3. Acts 19:23-27 – Demetrius and Artemis (Diana) – The Financial Motivation for Persecution.

Financial Motivation: The Gospel is cutting into their Business Profits

We've seen two motivations of Persecution in Acts → Religious Jealousy and Financial Loss.

In this case it is both, kind of. Primarily, it was Financial, but secondarily, it had a Religious connection as well → the worship of the goddess Artemis (Diana). It isn't really religious jealousy, but Religious Financial anger because of the loss of business of worship object that they make.

Someone is really behind all of this ...

3. Acts 19:23-27 – Demetrius and Artemis (Diana) – The Financial Motivation for Persecution.

Financial Motivation: The Gospel is cutting into their Business Profits

We've seen two motivations of Persecution in Acts → Religious Jealousy and Financial Loss.

Behind the scenes, Satan is fomenting these kinds of persecution, but he works through fallen, sinful humans. So, he has to fan the flames of some sort of already existing sinful passion or motivation. But, even, without Satan, folks will have a natural tendency to Oppose the Gospel.

Romans 8:5-8 & 1 Cor. 2:14 → Natural, Fallen, Humans are enemies of God, God's Word, God's Law, God's way of thinking – deep in their mind, in the way they think ... and they will not and cannot receive the “things of the Spirit” → God's Word which relates to Obeying God and Living for God as a Christian. They will Oppose God's Way – The Way – In Christ.

4. The Riot of Ephesus – keepers of the Temple of Artemis (Diana) – Acts 19:28-34

Demetrius' loud complaint against the Gospel (Paul, the Gospel, the church, etc.) and the Gospel connection to their business losses (you have to find out who's fault it is) ... it hit home and the Guild Members went wild → and they cried out *Allahu Akbar* -- oh I'm sorry

→ Great is Artemis (Diana) of the Ephesians.

(Allahu Akbar → Allah is the Greatest)

Then this fire caught other folks on fire and the whole city (of those not saved in Christ and of those who were not Jewish, etc.)

It turned out that Paul had friends in high places (Acts 19:31 – officials of Asia (Asiarchs)) → Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his [Paul's] friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater.

The Impact of the Paul's longevity there in Ephesus – bore some fruit – even in this situation.

Sometimes the impact of the Gospel might surprise us.

4. The Riot of Ephesus – keepers of the Temple of Artemis (Diana) – Acts 19:28-34

God is NOT the Author of Confusion – but Satan and our sinful nature are.

Acts 19:32 - Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together. → The Original Reason of this “Protest” got out of control – most didn’t even know why they were there – the “Herd Mentality” – like sheep without a shepherd.

Alexander (that doesn’t sound like a Jewish name ... Acts 19:33-34)

And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand, and wanted to make his defense to the people. ³⁴ But when they found out that he was a **Jew**, all with one voice cried out for about **two hours**, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians!”

(kind of sounds like “Allahu Akbar” in Muslim riots, today)

Why Alexander? The Jews – not Christians → the Synagogue’s perspective

5. Civic Resolution → Acts 19:35-41 → “Now Shame on You-All” or “Y’all” ... what in heavens name ... ? (That’s how we’d say it here in South Carolina)

The City Clerk – said the truth about Paul and His Gospel Missionary Team: When Paul and His Team were Preaching, Teaching, Spreading the Gospel – They were proclaiming the Truth of Jesus Christ from the Word of God. They were describing and proclaiming the True and Living God, the God of Israel. They were proclaiming and describing our sinfulness and our need for a Savior from the Wrath of the One, True, and Living Creator God because of our sinfulness. They were Proclaiming Jesus Christ (Yeshua the Messiah of Israel) as the Savior of all humans. They did **not come into town proclaiming and exposing the **Falsity and Stupidity of Worshipping Artemis / Diana – or how dangerous it was to be involved in the Demonic Magical Dark Arts (i.e.: book burning)** that was also deeply engrained in Ephesus. No –**

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They were Proclaiming Jesus Christ (Yeshua the Messiah of Israel) as the Savior of all humans. They did not come into town proclaiming and exposing the Falsity and Stupidity of Worshipping Artemis / Diana – or how dangerous it was to be involved in the Demonic Magical Dark Arts (i.e.: book burning) that was also deeply engrained in Ephesus. No – they just Proclaimed the Gospel Truth – from the Word of God. When folks responded in Repentance and Faith in Christ because of the Message of the Gospel, the normal pattern was that these folks would turn away from their old sinful life, practices and beliefs and follow Christ according the Bible, alone, per the Apostle’s teachings, etc. (i.e. 2 years, school of Tyrannus – more than 3 years in Ephesus, total time - teaching the whole counsel of God – Acts 20:17-30)

5. Civic Resolution → Acts 19:35-41 → “Now Shame on You-All” or “Y’all” ... what in heavens name ... ? (That’s how we’d say it here in South Carolina)

The Courts are Open – bring any charges – formally – in the correct manner. (Act 19:38-41)

Therefore, if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. ³⁹ But if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be determined in the lawful assembly. ⁴⁰ For we are in danger of being called in question for today’s uproar, there being no reason which we may give to account for this disorderly gathering.” ⁴¹ And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

In this case the City Clerk actually defended

5. Civic Resolution → Acts 19:35-41

The Courts are Open – In this case the City Clerk actually defended and justified Paul, his team, the church of Ephesus.

Proverbs 11:10

By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

(the mouth of the wicked → Demetrius | the Upright → the church / Paul)

Proverbs 29:8

Scoffers set a city aflame, but wise men turn away wrath.

(scoffers → Demetrius, the other Silversmiths, and the riotous crowd ...
wise men → a wise man → the City Clerk)

The impact of the Gospel can overcome even the greatest of opposition – and so it is with our lives – nothing should shut us down, quiet us down, cause us to go into hiding – regarding the Gospel. We must keep pressing forward with God and His Word ... AMEN?!!!