



Acts Book Study Chapters 19-20
Sunday August 04, 2024

ACTS CHAPTER NINETEEN (53-57 AD)

Start of Paul's Third Missionary Journey AD 53-57 (Acts 18:23)

Acts 18:22-23

22 And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch.

23 After he had spent some time there, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.

We read about the start of Paul's third missionary journey toward the end of Chapter 18. Paul spent some time in Jerusalem, then in Antioch and left from there taking the land route.

Third Missionary Journey of Paul (53-57 AD)

Paul's third missionary journey lasted for over 4 years travelling approximately 2,500 miles. On the first two journeys, Paul reached into new areas where he preached the Gospel and planted churches. On the third journey, Paul did not go into new areas, but went to strengthen believers in cities where he had already been.



Third missionary journey of Paul (53-57 AD)
Adapted from BibleStudy.org



The Churches in Cilicia, Galatia, Pisidia, Phrygia (Acts 18:23)

Acts 18:22-23

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23 After he had spent some time there, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.

After a brief time in Antioch in Syria, Paul started out alone and departed and went over the region of Cilicia (Tarsus), Galatia (Derbe, Lystra, Iconium), Pisidia (Antioch of Pisidia), and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples (Act 18:23). This was his third visit to the cities of Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch in Pisidia. Although the cities of Colossae, Laodicea, and Hierapolis were in this area (a tri-city area) all about 10-12 miles from each other, it is likely that Paul did not stop to preach there (Colossians 2:1).

Ephesus – The City of the goddess Diana

He then came to the city of Ephesus, where he spent about 3 years, most of his time on this third missionary journey.

The city of Ephesus was an important city in Asia Minor, one of the first and greatest metropolises in Asia, with an estimated population of about 225,000.

The city of Ephesus, located in today's Izmir region of Turkey, was one of the most important ports in the ancient world. The city, which was the center of trade for the Mediterranean Sea, has a very old history that changed hands under the rule of many kingdoms and empires many times. Dating back to the 10th century BCE, its founding story varies from one linked to the Greek, Androklos, another to a tribe of Amazons who named the new city after their Queen, Ephesia. This history of a city coming under the rule of so many diverse groups, from Lydians, Persians, Greeks, Romans and more, only shows the strategic importance of Ephesus and its location in antiquity. In the time of the Romans, especially during the age of Caesar Augustus to be exact, the city truly reached its pinnacle. Many of the most iconic structures visible today, such as the Library of Celsus, were built around this period.



Ephesus, Library of Celsus

Source: <https://www.througheternity.com/en/blog/things-to-do/The-History-and-Legends-of-the-Temple-of-Artemis-of-Ephesus-One-of-the-Seven-Wonders-of-the-Ancient-World.html>

Ephesus is linked to apostle Paul, living here and preaching among the early Christian community. Later from Rome we see his “Letter from Paul to the Ephesians”. The apostle John is also said to have lived in Ephesus and possibly wrote the Gospel of John, there. According to tradition Ephesus is where Mary was brought by apostle John and she is said to have lived out her last years here.

The Temple of Artemis of Ephesus



The site of the Temple of Artemis (Temple of Diana) in Ephesus

Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_Artemis#/media/File:Templo-Artemisa-Efeso-2017.jpg

The temple of Diana in Ephesus was the largest building in existence at that time and was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The temple was constructed of pure marble, with marble-paved streets leading up to it. Its construction took about 220 years. The temple housed the statue of the multi-breasted goddess, Diana, who the Ephesians believed fell from the sky (Acts 19:35).

The Greeks worshipped Artemis, and the Romans worshipped Diana, a goddess of similar attributes including hunting animals and chastity. Artemis/Diana is the older twin of the god Apollo, and daughter of Zeus and Leto (or Latona). The Artemis of Ephesus embodied all these attributes but had a much stronger emphasis on childbirth, and fertility. This “mother goddess” version of Artemis was the patron divinity of the city. **This could be one reason why Paul specifically stated about women being saved during**



childbirth when writing to Timothy who was pastoring the church at Ephesus, in 1 Timothy 2.

Have You Received The Holy Spirit After You Believed (Acts 19:1-7)

Paul met some disciples (12 men and could have included women and others) who followed Jesus. However, they only knew till the baptism of John who had pointed to Jesus. Paul asks them an interesting question: "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" (19:2). We know through the Scriptures and through Paul's writings that we are born of the Spirit and have the Spirit indwelling us when we are born again (1 Corinthians 3:16; Romans 8:9; Titus 3:5). So obviously Paul is referring to the receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This once again indicates to us, as we have seen earlier in the book of Acts, that the Early Church recognized and practiced praying for people to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Paul taught these disciples. Led them into baptism in water in the name of Jesus. Then laid hands and prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit. *"And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied."* (Acts 19:6). We need to continue practicing and ministering similarly.

In the School of Tyrannus (Acts 19:8-9)

Paul preached in the synagogue for three months (Acts 19:8), withdrew from there, and then reasoned daily in the school of Tyrannus (Acts 19:9) for about two years and the Word spread across all Asia (Acts 19:10).

All Who Dwell in Asia (Acts 19:10)

Remember during his second missionary journey (Acts 16:6-10) Paul wanted to go into Asia but the Holy Spirit did not permit him at that time. But now during his third missionary journey, spending about 3 years in Ephesus, "all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus both Jews and Greeks" (Acts 19:10).

The "seven churches of Asia" in Revelation Chapters 2 and 3 (Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea) were all in this region and may have been established during this time. While Paul taught at the lecture hall of Tyrannus, his coworkers and others would have evangelized and established work in other cities.



Unusual Miracles (Acts 19:11)

Unusual miracles took place through Paul at Ephesus (Acts 19:11-12). God works unusual miracles even today. Let's be open and available to the Lord to work through us by His Spirit, as He chooses.

Jewish Exorcists and Sceva's Sons (Acts 19:12-20)

There was a great turning to the Lord when news of the failed exorcism attempt by the seven sons of Sceva spread. People repented and turned away from witchcraft and black magic (Acts 19:17-20). A strong work was established in Ephesus.

Timothy and Erastus To Macedonia (Acts 19:21-22)

Paul sent Timothy and Erastus ahead into Macedonia to organize the collection from the saints in these churches that would be taken to Jerusalem (Acts 19:22; Acts 24:17).

After having established the work at Ephesus, Paul planned to go through Macedonia, Achaia, on to Jerusalem, and then to Rome (Acts 19:21). Paul's purpose in heading to Jerusalem was primarily to deliver money he had collected to help the believers in Jerusalem (1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9,15; Romans 15:25-32). Thereafter, Paul wanted to head to Rome, and he intended to go beyond into Western Europe, to Spain (Romans 15:23-24).

Acts 19:22: Erastus is mentioned as one of Paul's companions who was sent ahead to Macedonia along with Timothy while Paul remained in Asia (Ephesus). This reference indicates that Erastus was actively involved in Paul's missionary work and trusted to carry out important tasks.



Erastus was an important figure in the early Christian community, particularly associated with Corinth. He is mentioned as a companion of Paul and is noted for his significant role as a city official. The combination of biblical references and archaeological evidence suggests that Erastus was a prominent and influential member of both the civic and Christian communities in Corinth. His involvement in public service and his support for Paul's missionary efforts highlight the diverse backgrounds and contributions of early Christian leaders. As an aedile or city treasurer, Erastus would have been responsible for overseeing public buildings, markets, and possibly financial matters in Corinth. His role would have placed him in a position of considerable influence and authority within the city.

An inscription discovered in Corinth mentions an Erastus who was an aedile, a public official responsible for public works and services in Roman cities. The inscription reads: "*Erastus, in return for his aedileship, laid the pavement at his own expense.*" This suggests that Erastus was a wealthy and influential individual who contributed to the city's infrastructure. The inscription dates to the mid-first century AD, which aligns with the timeframe of Paul's ministry, supporting the identification of this Erastus with the one mentioned in the New Testament.



Erastus Inscription

Source: <https://holylandphotos.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/gsplco01.jpg>



Romans 16:23: In this passage where Paul was writing to the Romans from Corinth later on in the third missionary journey, Paul sends greetings from Erastus, who is described as the city treasurer (or director of public works) of Corinth. This suggests that Erastus held a significant and influential position within the city government of Corinth.

2 Timothy 4:20: Paul mentions that Erastus stayed in Corinth. This reinforces the idea that Erastus continued his work there while also contributing to the Christian community.

Three Years At Ephesus

Paul spent about 3 years in Ephesus. The longest stay at any place during his missionary journeys. This was also very significant in many ways: (a)in nurturing and training the next generation of Christian leaders (b)in establishing churches across Asia through the people he trained and (c)in the writing of the Corinthian letters.

Writing 1 Corinthians (AD 53-54)

There were some people, including “those of Chloe’s household” (1 Corinthians 1:11) who visited Paul at Ephesus and gave him an update on all the problems at the church at Corinth. Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus (1 Corinthians 16:17) could have been some of the people who may have come from Corinth.

While at Ephesus, Paul wrote 1 Corinthians to address the problems in the Corinthian church, which he had been informed about. Either the people who had come from Corinth or Titus could have carried this first epistle back to Corinth. Paul sent Titus to Corinth, to oversee the affairs of the church there. Paul informed the Corinthians that he had a great opportunity to preach at Ephesus, although there was much opposition. He told them that he planned to stay at Ephesus until Pentecost, in late spring and then head out to Macedonia (1 Corinthians 16:8-9). Later, Paul had planned to meet with Titus at Troas (2 Corinthians 2:12-13).

1 Corinthians: 53-54 AD (written during Paul's third missionary journey, Acts 19)

Upsetting Artemis (Acts 19:23-41)

At Ephesus we see clearly the intersection of religion, business, and politics. Demetrius the silversmith, maker of shrines of Diana, a businessman caused an uproar and stirred up other businessmen against Paul and his team. Then “some of the officials of Asia” (government officials) who were Paul’s friends got involved (Acts 19:31). Apparently, Paul knew them and they advised Paul to stay away from the commotion being created by Demetrius. Finally, the city clerk, directed the mob to go to the courts if they had any serious complaints, and dismissed the crowd.



We also read about Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions (Acts 19:29). Young men were being trained by Paul as they worked and journeyed with him. We see a longer list of names of people being trained by Paul in Acts 20.

Soon after this Paul departed from Ephesus to go over to Macedonia.

ACTS CHAPTER TWENTY (53-57 AD)

Third missionary journey of Paul (53-57 AD)



Third missionary journey of Paul (53-57 AD)

Adapted from BibleStudy.org

(Note our dates are different from what is given in the website image)

Back To The Regions of Macedonia and Achaia, Greece (Acts 20:1-3)

From Ephesus Paul went to Macedonia (Acts 20:1), which would include the following cities (Neapolis, Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea).

Writing 2 Corinthians (AD 55-56)

While in Macedonia Paul wrote 2 Corinthians. At Macedonia, Paul suffered much but was greatly comforted by the arrival of Titus, who gave him great reports about the Church at Corinth (2 Corinthians 7:5-7). Titus, accompanied by two other brothers, carried Paul's second epistle to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 8:23). Titus was also handed the responsibility for making final arrangements for the collection, begun a year earlier, in Corinth (2 Corinthians 8:6,16-17).



2 Corinthians: 55-56 AD (written during Paul's third missionary journey, Acts 20)

Galatians: 48-55 AD (most likely written after Paul's first missionary journey immediately after the Jerusalem Council in A.D. 49. However, while not very convincing, some scholars place it here during his third, Acts 13-14, 18-20)

Three Months in Greece

From Macedonia Paul traveled to Greece where he stayed three months. He must have covered cities such as Athens, Corinth and Cenchrea.

The Second Time At Corinth

Paul must have spent some of this time in Corinth as well.

Writing to Rome (AD 56-57)

It is from Corinth during his second visit, during his third missionary journey that Paul wrote the letter to the church at Rome (Romans 15:23-26).

Romans: 56-57 AD (written during Paul's third missionary journey, Acts 20)

The Next Generation of Leaders (Acts 20:4-6)

At Ephesus he trained many young leaders, Sopater of Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, Gaius of Derbe, Timothy from Lystra, Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia (Acts 20:4), and Erastus from Corinth (Acts 19:22; Romans 16:23). He also met Philemon and Epaphras, both from the city of Colossae, about 100 miles East of Ephesus. The church in Colossae was established by Epaphras. Titus was also part of this team that worked with Paul at Ephesus during this time. Paul also raised up leaders, called Elders or Overseers to shepherd the believers at Ephesus. These men travelled with Paul during his third missionary journey, from Ephesus to Macedonia, and then back to Asia.

The Jews plotted against Paul as he was ready to sail to Syria (Acts 20:3). So, Paul changed plans for his own safety and travelled through Macedonia, and came to Philippi.

Philippi to Troas (Acts 20:6)

Luke joined Paul at Philippi (Acts 20:5-21:18) and along with seven other brothers (Sopater, Aristarchus, Secundus, Gaius, Timothy, Tychicus, Trophimus) made the journey with the team to Jerusalem to bring the collections to the saints there.



From Philippi Paul went on to Troas (Acts 20:6).



Third missionary journey of Paul (53-57 AD)
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Ministry at Troas and Eutychus (Acts 20:7-11)

At Troas, while Paul preached from evening till midnight, Eutychus fell asleep and fell from the third floor. He was raised from the dead (Acts 20:9-12).

Paul's Exhortation to the Ephesian Elders at Miletus (Acts 20:17-38)

From Troas Paul and his companions travelled through several ports (Assos to Mitylene to Chios to Samos to Trogyllium) and arrived at Miletus (Acts 20:15). Miletus was approximately 28 miles south of Ephesus. Paul met with the elders from the Church at Ephesus at Miletus (Acts 20:17-38). Here Paul delivered a powerful message to the elders of the church.

Summarize Acts 20:17-36

Key Lessons and Insights

There are several insights we learn from Paul's third missionary journey:

- 1, The importance of nurturing believers and local churches
- 2, The importance of raising up younger generation of leaders by having them work alongside you.
- 3, The work of the Holy Spirit who transforms regions in His time through ways we do not expect. As we observed Paul wanted to evangelize Asia during his second missionary journey, but the Holy Spirit directed him to Europe. Later, during his third missionary



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journey, all who dwelt in Asia (Asia Minor) received the word from Paul's time in Ephesus.

SUMMARY

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



Acts – Book Study – Chapters 19-20
Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide



Acts Book Study Chapters 19-20
Sunday August 04, 2024

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *Please request Life group members to read Acts 19-20, before the Life Group Meeting. This can help save time.*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, During his third missionary journey, Paul revisited churches he had planted. He spent three years at Ephesus, the longest in any city. Discuss the importance of nurturing believers and local churches. Also, consider why Paul chose Ephesus, and why would he have spent such a long time in this city.



2, *Discuss the importance of raising up younger generation of leaders by having them work alongside you, as Paul did.*

3, *The work of the Holy Spirit who transforms regions in His time through ways we do not expect. As we observed Paul wanted to evangelize Asia during his second missionary journey, but the Holy Spirit directed him to Europe. Later, during his third missionary journey, all who dwelt in Asia (Asia Minor) received the word from Paul's time in Ephesus. Discuss the importance of following the leading of the Holy Spirit in doing the work of the Kingdom. Why would the Holy Spirit say 'no' to doing a certain kingdom work among a certain region at a given time?*

4, *Discuss key highlights of Paul's exhortation to the Ephesian leaders, from a Christian Leadership perspective (Acts 20:17-36).*

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, *families to be protected and strengthened*

2, *a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*

3, *for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.*

Close by thanking God together.



Acts – Book Study – Chapters 19-20 Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide



USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

The book of Acts records the first 40 years of the Early Church. This is a book study of the Acts of the apostles, or more correctly, the acts of the Holy Spirit through the early believers. As we study the book of Acts there are two compelling perspectives that we develop: (A) the Church's DNA – what a Spirit filled church would look like and (B) how the Church would go about fulfilling the Great Commission empowered by the Holy Spirit. We glean spiritual and practical insights from each chapter and share ways we can apply these in our lives. In this sermon we cover Acts chapters 19-20. We journey with Paul in his third missionary journey and examine his ministry at Ephesus. We discover how God impacted the city of Ephesus and the larger region of Asia Minor. We discover how Paul trained younger leaders who worked with him. We also highlight Paul's exhortation to the Elders at Ephesus.

KEYWORDS

Acts of the apostles, book study of Acts, Gospel preaching, Spirit filled church community, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources



Acts – Book Study – Chapters 19-20
Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.

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Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

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