



EPISODE 7: October 18/19
The Witness to the Ephesians
Acts 19:1-21:16

THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

¹⁹ And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus.

(Acts 19:1)

PAUL IN EPHEBUS AND THE “COSMIC BATTLE”

- I. **THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN (19:1–7):** Paul meets twelve former disciples of John the Baptist.
 - a. They have never heard of the Holy Spirit (19:2b).
 - b. Paul brings them up to date concerning Jesus’ ministry (19:3–4).
 - c. When they are baptized in the name of Jesus, they receive the Holy Spirit (19:5–7).

- II. **THE DECLARATION OF THE GOSPEL (19:8–10)**
 - a. Paul preaches the Good News boldly each Sabbath in the synagogue (19:8).
 - b. Due to open hostility, he moves to the public hall of Tyrannus and preaches daily for the final two years (19:9–10).

- III. **SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN EPHEBUS**
 - a. **THE MIRACLE OF THE PRAYER CLOTHS (19:11–12):** God so anoints Paul that even a handkerchief of cloth that has touched Paul’s skin brings about healing when placed on the sick (reminiscent of Peter’s Shadow).
 - b. **THE SON OF SCEVA (19:13–17).**
 - i. Seven brothers attempt to cast out a demon, using the name of Jesus as a magical incantation (19:13–14).
 - ii. The demon comes out but then jumps on them, beating them severely (19:15–17).

- c. NEW CONVERTS (19:18–20).
 - i. These new believers have been brought out of the occult through Paul’s preaching (19:18).
 - ii. They burn their books on black magic (19:19–20).
 - iii. The apostle vows to visit Rome in the near future (19:21–22).
- IV. THE RIOT IN EPHESUS (19:23–41): A riot breaks out in Ephesus.
- a. Trouble with Demetrius (19:23–27).
 - i. *Demetrius* employs many craftsmen to make silver shrines of the Greek goddess Artemis (19:23–24).
 - ii. *He* calls his associates together and lectures them concerning how Paul’s preaching is harming their business (19:25–27).
 - iii. Demetrius’s fiery speech incites mob action against Paul and his associates (19:28–34).
 - iv. They meet in the city amphitheater and for two hours cry out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” (19:28–31).
 - v. Many simply rush there without even knowing why (19:32–34).
 - b. The Clerk’s Intervention (19:35–41): This reasonable Greek official calms down the mob through four logical arguments.
 - i. All the world knows that Ephesus is the official guardian of the image of the goddess Artemis, which he says fell down to them from heaven (19:35–36).
 - ii. The apostles have neither said nor done any punishable thing (19:37).
 - iii. Demetrius should pursue any and all grievances through the court system (19:38–39).
 - iv. Unless the mob disperses, the Roman officials may well intervene (19:40–41).

PAUL RETURNS TO GREECE (20:1–3): The Jews plot against his life (20:3b).

PAUL RETURNS TO ASIA

- V. PAUL IN TROAS (20:7–12).
 - a. He is accompanied by seven associates, including Timothy (20:4–6).
 - b. Paul preaches until midnight (20:7).
 - c. A young man in attendance named Eutychus accidentally falls to his death from an upper window (20:8–9).
 - d. Paul raises him from the dead (20:10–12).
- VI. PAUL IN MILETUS (20:17–38): The apostle shares his heart with a group of select men.
- a. The apostle is hurrying to Jerusalem for the celebration of Pentecost (20:13–16).
 - b. Paul sends for the Ephesian elders to join him at Miletus (20:17).
 - c. Paul summarizes the gospel ministry in a threefold manner (20:18–35).
 - i. *He reviews the past* (20:18–21, 26–27, 31, 33–35).
 - 1. For three years he fearlessly, faithfully, and tearfully preached Christ among them (20:18–21, 31).

2. Paul has always been faithful in declaring God’s Word, so no one’s damnation can be blamed on him (20:26–27).
 3. Paul reminds them of his unselfish ministry (20:33–35).
 4. Paul fully supports himself, taking money from no one (20:33–35a).
 5. He remembers—and challenges them to remember—Jesus’ words: “It is more blessed to give than to receive!” (20:35b).
- ii. *He overviews the present* (20:22–25, 28, 32).
 1. Paul explains that this will be their final meeting, for he will face difficult times ahead (20:22–25).
 2. “Feed and shepherd God’s flock” (20:28).
 3. “I entrust to you God and the word of his grace” (20:32).
 - iii. *He previews the future* (20:29–30): Paul warns them to watch out for false teachers in the church.
 1. They will be like vicious wolves, not sparing the flock (20:29).
 2. They will come from the leadership of the church itself (20:30).
 3. Paul’s Prayer (20:36–38): When Paul finishes speaking, he kneels and prays for them. After a tearful farewell, he departs for Jerusalem.
- VII. PAUL IN TYRE (21:4–6): The Holy Spirit warns Paul through these believers that trouble awaits him in Jerusalem (21:4b–6).
- VIII. PAUL IN CAESAREA (21:8–15).
- a. Paul visits with Philip the evangelist, one of the seven deacons (21:8).
 - b. Philip has four unmarried daughters who have the gift of prophecy (21:9).
 - c. God speaks through Agabus, warning Paul of his arrest and imprisonment in Jerusalem (21:10–11).
 - d. Paul’s traveling companions and the believers at Caesarea beg him not to go to Jerusalem (21:12).
 - e. Realizing Paul is determined to visit Jerusalem, the believers declare: “The will of the Lord be done!” (21:13–15).
- IX. EPILOGUE: EPHESIANS-- The Sovereignty of God and the Supremacy of Christ.