

Acts 19:21: *'After these things were ended, 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. So he sent into Macedonia two of them that ministered unto him, Timotheus and Erastus; but he himself stayed in Asia for a season.'*

Paul sent Timothy and Erastus back into Macedonia while he stayed in Ephesus 'for a season.' The literal meaning of the phrase, 'for a season' means: for about 3 months as that is the time on the calendar of each season.

Verse 23: *'And the same time there arose **no small stir** about that way.'*

And once again, we see a 'Lukism:' These Lukisms: no small this, no small that, is an interesting insertion by the Holy Spirit which shows that even though God's Written Word is verbally inspired by God's Holy Spirit unto each of the many men He used to write out His Word, He still used each man's own personality and writing style in so doing. This is one of the best examples of that; Luke is the only writer to use this verbal turn of phrase.

Verse 24: *'For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought **no small gain** unto the craftsmen;'*

Diana is the 'patron goddess' of Ephesus where stood a great statue to 'her' which had supposedly fallen from the sky, from the 'head of the gods' Jupiter. Demetrius is a member of the 'union of silver-goddess-shrine makers.' Everyone showed their allegiance to Diana/Artemis, by having a silver shrine to 'her' in every home and office, very much like every Catholic has a statue of their version of 'Mary' or some other of various 'saints' in their home, office or car which serve as talismans, lucky charms to ward off evil... since they lack the Holy Spirit for such protection.

These silver shrines were copies of the great temple of Diana in Ephesus; within these personal home-shrines dwelt the spirit of Diana right there in their own living rooms. These were genuine miniatures of the goddess and her temple which Demetrius and his union had built with their hands.

To Catholics, their statues of 'Mary' are much the same; they pray to those statues; they bow down to those statues and they do, in fact, worship before those statues made with hands.

Remember what Peter had said: *'Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, ⁴⁹Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? ⁵⁰Hath not my hand made all these things? ⁵¹Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.'* Acts 7:48... As did the Jews, as did the pagans and as do the Catholics as well as so many supposed Christians.

This is the World from which arose the twisted 'church' to become the travesty of Catholicism. Remember: Catholicism is not simply another Christian denomination; it is, rather, the twisted, adulterous whoring wife masquerading as the bride of Christ.

Constantine ruled the Roman Empire from AD 306-337; his empire was huge, far-flung and near to impossible to govern. All the World into which True Christianity emerged was pagan; the darkness of paganism ruled over all things. We see it here, in Ephesus with the worship of Diana. Every home had statues and shrines fashioned by Demetrius and his group. In order to consolidate his rule, Constantine declared Christianity to be the official state religion but in order to gain the loyalty of the huge pagan population, many changes were necessary; many things had to be added to True Christianity to meld it with paganism and there were far, far more pagans than Christians. Money was showered upon the priesthood in order to buy their loyalty; lavish robes and cathedrals; pagans needed statues of gods to worship; newly invented 'saints' fit the bill. Most important of all was paganism's goddess worship; 'Mary' filled that slot. Mother with child was important in paganism and so 'Jesus' remained ever a baby in 'Mary's' arms. So much more was added but this is how Catholicism was formed to produce the antichrist-ian monster it eventually became and remains to this day.

As we read this section of Acts 19, we are seeing the foundation upon which Catholicism would eventually grow.

Verse 25: *'Whom (Demetrius) called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.'*

Demetrius called together all the silver shine makers of Ephesus: something of a union who, through their craft had all become wealthy; this was not something which they could allow to endanger their very lucrative corner of the job market.

Verse 26: *'Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:'*

Demetrius is saying 'Paul's ministry is actually telling people that what we create are not really gods or temples at all! Even though we might actually know that to be true, we must keep the gravy train rolling!'

Verse 27: *'So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.'*

Our lucrative craft, our most important consideration, is in danger! This cannot be allowed to continue; oh, and also, of course there is Diana to think of; we must protect her (since we know that she is not really a genuine god at all who is capable of protecting herself... like Muslims must protect Allah). He adds that all Asia and the whole World worships Diana but if they really believed that and if Diana were real and true, they would have nothing about which to worry but they are worried because the demons who direct them are the ones who are really worried; they know the Truth of True Christianity; it must be stopped by whatever means possible and, eventually, the best means to stop it would be the mixing of Christianity with paganism to create Catholicism but that will be several years into the future. Right now, the demons who masquerade as pagan gods are still finding their way, finding what will work most effectively to destroy True Christianity which, by the way, will never be destroyed; Jesus said: *'I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'* Matt 16:18 No demon, fallen angel, evil spirit or false god can stand against the Lord Jesus Christ as He calls to Himself and saves every single person His Father chose for Him from the foundation of the World; He is building His Body and Bride, one by one true saint at a time, until He comes for us all in the Rapture.

Verse 28: *'And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.'*

While in Rome, they cry out, 'Great is Jupiter of the Romans!' And like all Dallas cries out, 'The Dallas Cowboys are the greatest team ever!' even though they consistently fall short of every goal...

This is what the silver smiths of Ephesus are doing: they are riling themselves up into a frenzy and hoping to rile up all the population of Ephesus to be moved to buy bigger, better and more expensive silver shrines to Diana but, of course, their true motivation is ever and only for the honor of Diana!... sure it is...

Remember back in verse 23: *'And the same time there arose **no small stir** about that way.'* This is all part of the ever present '*no small stir*' caused by the Truth of Christianity, as preached by Paul, as it invades the kingdom of darkness with the Light of the Gospel.

'And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.' John 3:19

These silversmiths of Ephesus are like people everywhere throughout time: they love, serve and worship their false gods because the false gods are self-absorbed sinners, like themselves, who do not demand any change in behavior or thinking; no holiness is required: only that they bring their sacrifices to the gods' shrines and temples; their deeds are evil and so they love the darkness of paganism.

Salvation through True Christianity results in the humble submission to our Holy God as one presents himself as a living sacrifice unto God; paganism allows sinful man to work for his own salvation through the sacrificial

work of his hands. *'... this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:'* As long as the people can be kept in darkness, away from the Light of Paul's Gospel, Demetrius and the other silversmiths can maintain their wealth... sort of like many TV ministers.

Verse 29: *'And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre.'*

Gaius and Aristarchus had joined Paul's ministry team back in Greece, in Macedonia. Demetrius and his bunch along with 'the whole city,' grabbed these two and took them to the theater.

This was the Grand Theater of Ephesus which could seat 25,000 with many more standing. Cut into a hillside and built from stone, including marble, the Ephesus Theatre was an all-purpose venue for plays, concerts, public debates, even gladiator battles, and was used until the 5th century AD, when it was damaged by an earthquake.

<https://www.israeljerusalem.com/theater-of-ephesus.htm>



Verse 30: *'And when Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not. ³¹ And certain of the chief of Asia, which were his friends, sent unto him, desiring him that he would not adventure himself into the theatre.'*

Paul was ready to go right into the middle of the mob to preach the Gospel again; all he saw was a great crowd hungry for the Gospel, knowing that God would protect him; remember his vision from God while he was in Corinth: *'Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: ¹⁰ For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.'* Acts 18:9

Paul figured that since God was protecting him in Corinth, it should be no different in Ephesus and, so, he is about to rush into the theater but the other disciples recognized the extreme danger and restrained him from doing so. His friend, who was a chief in Asia, urged him to stay away!

Verse 32: *'Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused: and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together.'*

As Demetrius and his union rushed Gaius and Aristarchus through the streets toward the theater, others would join the growing crowd; one would cry out one thing while others cried out something else and, like most mobs, no one really knows exactly what it is they're protesting; everyone wants to be part of the crowd while no one wants to be left out; confusion reigns!

Verse 33: *'And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defence unto the people.'*

Who is Alexander of Ephesus? Is he about to speak in defense of Paul or in defense of those coming against Paul? Paul, in his letters to Timothy, who was the pastor at Ephesus, mentions Alexander twice, once in each letter: *'Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: ²⁰ Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn*

not to blaspheme.' 1Tim 1:19 and: 'Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: ¹⁵ Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.' 2Tim 4:14

This is likely the same Alexander; he was a Jew who greatly withstood Paul's Gospel. He, like so many other Jews, sought to kill Paul and did blaspheme against the Truth of the Gospel. Here, he wanted to be the one to tell all and to condemn Paul but he experienced great blowback when all the Gentile pagans of Ephesus showed forth their hatred of Jews by not even allowing him to speak, even though he was in agreement with them all. Demetrius was a silversmith; Alexander was a coppersmith; he imagined himself to be one of the gang, one of the cool tradesmen, one of the 'in-crowd' but quickly discovered that he was just as excluded as the Christians he sought to condemn... it must have been a rude awakening for poor Alexander and very disheartening: he hated Christians for what they chose to believe but Gentiles hated poor Alexander for what he was, for that over which he had no control.

The Jews elected Alexander to speak to the gathered throng; he was likely a fine orator; he strutted out on the stage, assuming that with just a wave of his hand, he would bring silence and rapt attention...

Verse 34: 'But when they knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, **'Great is Diana of the Ephesians! Great is Diana of the Ephesians! Great is Diana of the Ephesians!'**...

Poor Alexander... this was his moment to really shine; imagine his chagrine when all the Gentiles suddenly began to shout for two straight hours: Great is Diana of the Ephesians!

This is like our modern day Muslim terrorists shouting out Allah akbar: Allah is greater! thinking that crying it out incessantly will make it true, contrary to all reality.

Verse 35: 'And when the townclerk had appeased the people, he said, Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Jupiter?'

Finally the townclerk quieted the vast crowd: 'Everyone knows that our great city is filled with worshippers of the great goddess Diana whose great statue we all worship which everyone knows fell down from the sky, coming from the great Jupiter, king of the gods... everyone knows all these things... everyone! All these things are without dispute!

Verse 36: 'Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly.'

No one can dispute these things... everyone knows these truths; in fact, (if everyone really knew these things, there'd be no reason for riotous carrying on!) So convince yourself that you really do believe all these things and quiet down...

Verse 37: 'For ye have brought hither these men, which are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess.'

These men have done nothing contrary to our laws; we are civilized human beings... we are Ephesians! Everyone wants to be us...

Verse 38: 'Wherefore if Demetrius, and the craftsmen which are with him, have a matter against any man, the law is open, and there are deputies: let them implead one another. ³⁹ But if ye enquire any thing concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful assembly.'

We are law abiding citizens of the greatest city on Earth! We do things lawfully.

Verse 40: 'For we are in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar, there being no cause whereby we may give an account of this concourse.'

We are no longer governed by Greece; we are now under the boot of Rome! Rome does not suffer kindly to riots and uproars; the Roman garrison demands Pax Romana: Roman Peace! If we break that peace, we will pay a heavy price!

Verse 41: 'And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly.' And everyone grumbled on home...