

Beware of an Angry Mob—Part 2

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of June 13, 2020.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Few things can infuriate you more than watching an angry mob seeking to bully a person or a neighborhood. Recently, I have watched a collection of angry mobs seeking to bully a nation.

- Some of the mob members were individuals who displayed a lack of self-control due to overwhelming anger.
- Others of the mob members were individuals who displayed hatred because of an accumulation of abuse (whether perceived or real).
- And yet others were anarchists who looked for opportunities to commit actions of misery and destruction.

Remembered previous studies

The reports of the mob behavior reminded me of two previous Bible studies that I had done in 2017. At a particular church service on Nov. 4, 2017, I had the opportunity to give two presentations at our church service—“Beware of the Angry Mob—Part 1” and “Beware of the Angry Mob—Part 2.”

The first presentation dealt with the angry mobs against the Son of God, and the second presentation dealt with the angry mobs against Stephen and Paul.

Against Stephen

Acts 6:12-14—“And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the council. They also set up false witnesses who said, ‘This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us.’ ”

Acts 7:54, 57-58—“When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth . . . Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him.”

Against Paul

Acts 13:50—"But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region."

Acts 14:2—"But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren."

Acts 16:19—"But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities."

Acts 16:22-24—"Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks."

Acts 17:5—"But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people."

Acts 19:29-30—"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. And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him."

Acts 21:30-31—"And all the city was disturbed; and the people ran together, seized Paul, and dragged him out of the temple; and immediately the doors were shut. Now as they were seeking to kill him, news came to the commander of the garrison that all Jerusalem was in an uproar."