

Comments About Acts 19

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Acts. This week, we will talk about chapter 19.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Acts.

Overview of Paul's travels

As we entered into Acts 13, we began reading about Paul's missionary journeys. According to some Bible commentaries, the trips can be categorized in the following manner.

- First missionary journey—Acts 13:1 until Acts 14:28
- Second missionary journey—Acts 15:36 until Acts 18:22
- Third missionary journey—Acts 18:23 until Acts 21:16
- Trip to Rome—Acts 21:17 until Acts 28:31.

Water and Spirit

In chapter 18, we learned about Apollos teaching in Ephesus (Acts 18:24-28).

- Apollos went to Corinth, and Paul went back to Ephesus (Acts 19:1).
- When Paul asked the people if they had received the Holy Spirit, they replied that they hadn't heard of the Holy Spirit (verse 2).
- When Paul asked them into what they were baptized, they replied that they were baptized into John's baptism (verse 3).

Here is a reminder about what is said in the Gospel writings.

Matthew 3:11—"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Paul repeated the same idea in Acts 19:4.

Acts 19:4—"Then Paul said, 'John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.' "

- The people were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus (verse 5). The same wording (in the name of Jesus Christ) was used in Acts 2:38, Acts 8:16 and Acts 10:48.
- After the laying on of hands, the people spoke with tongues (verse 6)—as occurred in Acts 2:1-4 and Acts 10:44-46.
- Paul continued to speak boldly (verses 7-10).
- Paul reasoned daily in the school of Tyrannus (verse 9).

Many miracles

- God worked many miracles by the hands of Paul (verse 11-12).
- Some of the exorcists sought to call upon the name of the Lord (verses 13-18). Notice what the evil spirit said to the exorcists in verse 15.

Acts 19:15—“And the evil spirit answered and said, ‘Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?’ ”

- Many who had previously practiced sorcery burned their books (verse 19).

Riot at Ephesus

- Paul wanted to go to Rome (verses 21-22).
- A silversmith named Demetrius, who was getting wealthy by making silver shrines of Diana, was disturbed by Paul’s preaching against idolatry, and he influenced a riot against Paul (verses 23-34).
- A city clerk quieted the crowd (verses 35-41).

Acts 19:35-36—“And when the city clerk had quieted the crowd, he said: ‘Men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple guardian of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Zeus? Therefore, since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly.’ ”