

# Acts 19

## Acts 19.1-7

**V1** – The center of the church was moving from Jerusalem to Antioch and then to Ephesus  
-These 12 men became the nucleus of these changes

**V 2-3 – What kind of baptism had they received?** The baptism of John the Baptist, after the Day of Pentecost (because they didn't know any better)  
-The baptism of John was valid up until the Day of Pentecost, but not afterwards, so these men had an received an invalid baptism  
-Today, there are always some cases in every congregation where a person needs to be scripturally rebaptized  
-At this instructor's home congregation, we occasionally have someone from a denominational church who tells us that he was baptized for the forgiveness of sins in that denominational church  
-Our policy is to ask that person to write the minister of that church and have him send us a letter to that effect (so far that has never happened)  
-So we require the person to be baptized scripturally (immersion in water, in the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit, and for the forgiveness of sins)

**V4** – Paul explained that John's baptism was to lead up to the Day of Pentecost – it was a forerunner of Christian baptism  
-Those baptized with John's baptism before the Day of Pentecost had a valid baptism and did not need to be rebaptized after the Day of Pentecost  
-This is why we do not read of the apostles being rebaptized after the Day of Pentecost  
-However, these men at Ephesus received John's baptism after the Day of Pentecost

**V 5-7** – This is the only account in the New Testament of rebaptism

**V6** – Laying on of hands, at the time of an inheritance in the Old Testament: *Gen 48.14-20*  
-Rights of an office:  
-1 *Tim. 4.14*  
-2 *Tim. 1.6*  
-Restored Paul's sight – *Acts 9.12*  
-Baptism of the Holy Spirit – *Acts 8.17, 19, 19.6*

**V7** – There were 12 men who were scripturally rebaptized

## Acts 19.8-10

**V8** – Ephesus – By this time in the First Century, Ephesus was a city in decline, a dying city  
-Ephesus was devoted to the goddess Artemis (Diana) – the goddess of forest and childbirth  
-Her temple was served by pagan priestesses  
-It became a great tourist attraction in the First Century – people wanted souvenirs, etc.  
-The temple of Diana was 425 feet long, 220 feet wide, 137 columns (60 feet high, 6 feet in diameter)  
-The original statue was a meteor (v 35)

-The church was established there

-**What happened to the church at Ephesus over time?** It lost its original enthusiasm (*Rev. 2.1-5*)

-**How long did Paul preach in the synagogue?** 3 months

**V 9** – **The name of the early group of Christians?** The way

-**Who was Tyrannus (literally, tyrant)?** A teacher

**V 10** – The gospel message spread to both Jews and Gentiles

## **Acts 19.11-20**

**V 11** – **How long did Paul preach there?** 2 years

-During this time he established the church in Colossae (*Col. 2.1*) and Laodicea and probably Hierapolis (*Col. 4.13*)

**V 12** – **How were some healings accomplished?** By things that Paul had touched

-**How was this similar to Jesus?** People touched his robe and were healed (*Mark 5.27ff, Mark 6.56*)

-**Was Peter involved with this kind of healing?** Remember that the shadow of Peter healed some people (*Acts 5.15*)

**V 13** – Jewish magicians were trying to use the name of Jesus to cast out demons

-True Jews refused to pronounce the name of God (from about 300 B.C. onward) – It was too sacred to say

-Remember the Third Commandment about not taking the name of God in vain

-The Jews did not even want to take a chance at violating that commandment, so they just stopped pronouncing the 4 letters (YHWH)

-There were no vowels in ancient Hebrew, so the pronunciation of the name was lost for centuries

-Bible scholars have recently concluded that the name YHWH was probably pronounced as Yahweh

-The name Jehovah was a manufactured name that was proposed in the early 1500's

**V 14** – There were 7 Jewish brothers who were irritating and challenging Paul

**V 15** – Remember that the spirits believe and tremble (*James 2.19*)

**V 16** – The evil spirits can attack a person – See *Mark 5.1ff* when the swine were drowned

**V 17** – Fear fell on the church

-**Why fear?** Respect for the power of God

-**Had this happened before?** The deaths of Ananias and Sapphira (*Acts 5.5, 10*)

**V 18** – The ancient belief was that exposing magic destroyed its effectiveness

-**Implications of v 18?** Some of the Christians had been practicing magic also

**V 19** – 50,000 pieces of silver = Worth about 1-3 million dollars today

-**Lessons for us today?** We must not "dabble" in black magic, astrology, tarot cards, Ouija boards,

and similar things

-Notice that they did not just sell their evil books to the local book dealer, or have what we might call today a garage sale – but they destroyed the books, so that no-one else would be influenced by them

**V 20** – Another "progress report" on the growth of the church

## **Acts 19.21-22**

**V 21** – Paul wanted to see Rome and Spain (See *Romans 15.26-28*)

**V 22** – Erastus – *Romans 16.23* – Treasurer at Corinth

**-Can a Christian serve in the civil government today?** Yes, as long as he does not have to violate any of the teaching of the New Testament in that job

## **Acts 19.23-27**

**V 23** – Paul fought with beasts (*1 Cor. 15.32, 2 Cor. 1.8-10*)

-A Roman citizen could not be required to fight animals (so this is a reference to people who were like wild beasts)

**V 24** – **Purpose of shrines?** Souvenirs, home worship, etc.

**V 25** – **Any similar professions today that are evil, but that produce income?** Abortionists, gamblers, those who run a state lottery, those who sell fake drivers' licenses, etc.

**V 26** – 7 churches of Asia (*Rev. 2-3*)

**-What part of the message of Paul was particularly galling to these evil people?** That Paul had been preaching that "gods" made with hands were no gods at all

-Notice that Paul had not softened the message just to keep from offending people

**-Do we have any examples where Christ set the example for being bold and condemning evil people?** Basically *Matthew 23* (the entire chapter), where he condemned the Jewish leaders

-John the Baptist was also that bold

**V 27** – Temple of Diana – one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world

-What a sad statement in defending a false goddess based on idol worship (they would lose money from what Paul was saying, and also this great "goddess" was being disrespected)

## **Acts 19.28-41**

**V 28** – **What was their "argument" against Paul?** Just to scream their rage in their defense of Artemis (same as the Roman goddess Diana)

**V 29** – **What was the reaction of the crowd to these words?** To physically drag away Gaius and Aristarchus (two Christian brethren who had been helping Paul)

**V 30** – **Why not let Paul into the temple?** He would have been killed

**V 31** – Asiarchs = Roman government officials (still friendly to the church)

**V 32** – Most of us have been to meetings like this today, where people get whipped into a frenzy, but do not really understand what the issues are

**V 33** – Alexander – **Is Alexander a Jew?** Apparently  
-**Why would the Jews object to Diana?** It was idolatry

**V 34** – **Does this remind anyone of a famous Old Testament passage that was very similar?**  
Remember *1 Kings 18.25-29*, where the 450 prophets of Baal cried from morning till noon, "O Baal, hear us" – Elijah mocked them and then poured water 3 times on his altar

**V 35** – The original statue of Artemis was a meteorite that had landed near the city  
-How foolish for people to worship a meteorite!

**V 37** – Very interesting: Paul was not rude in his preaching – he had not "blasphemed" their goddess

**V 38** – **What was the advice of the town clerk?** The Roman courts were open and could resolve the situation

**V 39** – Any further actions would be settled according to the laws of the Roman government  
-Notice that the word here for "assembly" is the Greek word *ekklesia*, from which we get the word *church*

**V 40** – Roman law: The whole town could be fined for a riot  
-**Why would the Romans have enacted such a law?** They were very afraid of any kind of popular uprising  
-Remember the rebellion of slaves led by Spartacus in 71 B.C. and how the Roman government brutally put it down  
-The Roman Empire was made up of many national groups of people who had been defeated by the Romans  
-So any kind of mob scene such as this one made them very, very nervous and would not be tolerated

**V 41** – The assembly then disbanded (out of fear of the Roman Empire)

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