

ACTS 19:8-20

A. Paul goes to the synagogue in Ephesus, then the school of Tyrannus.

Acts 19:8-10 - And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. Acts 19:9 But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. Acts 19:10 And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

1. As Paul's custom was, he would share with the Jews in the synagogue how Christ the Messiah had **come** and was rejected by the national leaders of Israel. He shared that Jesus was then crucified, rose from the dead, and the Kingdom was offered and rejected. He then told them what God was doing today, through their risen Messiah - in **grace**.

2. God must have generated a lot of interest for the synagogue to have allowed Paul to speak each Sabbath for so long (3 months). Paul did not hold back on telling God's truth "boldly". Paul **debated** and **disputed** with the Jewish leaders about the things of God and the truth of God's Word.

3. We learn once again in verse 9 that when one's religion, tradition, opinions, and wrong understanding are confronted with truth, it will bring the Biblicist to the **center** of contention and controversy.

Note: It is when there is religious debate among believers that the truth is brought out more clearly, because debate **forces** study!

4. A number of different Jews remained in unbelief and opposed Paul and his teaching. They spoke **awful** about Paul (evil). Paul, seeing this (his ministry coming to an end in the synagogue), takes the believing ones **with** him to the schoolhouse.

*No doubt, Paul thought it important to keep these new converts **away** from such mean and unbiblical people. We do not know if this school was a rented building, or if Tyrannus was a convert of Paul's team and opened his house to use. We do know this place was used for **2** years.

**God's truth sounded out from this place to the Jews and Gentiles (sent out to all Asia Minor).

5. The Ephesus Church started here. As far as ministry was concerned, Paul loved the Ephesian people - but it was not always an **easy** ministry there.

Acts 20:29-31 - For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Acts 20:30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Acts 20:31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

I Corinthians 15:32 - If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

Acts 20:18-19 - And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, Acts 20:19 Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

B. Paul's miraculous deeds (an Apostle):

Acts 19:11-12 - And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: Acts 19:12 So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

1. To show that Paul's message was God-true, God, through Paul, performed tremendous miracles. Remember, in the **absence** of the written New Testament against which one could measure someone's teaching, God used signs and wonders to authenticate Paul's **new** ministry to the Body of Christ.
2. Amazingly, after Paul worked hard, people would take his headband or apron that was all sweaty and take it to the sick and afflicted. By touching Paul's handkerchief, people would be healed from **diseases** and evil spirits would come **out** of people!
****God was not recommending this for today, as we have seen it on TV being used by some preachers and ministries to raise money.**
3. By doing these special miracles, it further proved to the Jews and Gentiles alike that Paul was of **God** and spoke for God!

II Corinthians 12:12 - Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

I Corinthians 1:22a - For the Jews require a sign,...

John 4:48 - Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

- a. So when Paul comes on the scene, it is not difficult to understand why he is doing signs and wonders. Individual Jews usually would not believe the message with**out** some sign.
- b. Signs also were a sign of God's **judgment** upon stubborn, unbelieving Israel during the Acts period.

I Corinthians 14:21-22 - In the law it is written, With *men of other tongues and other lips* will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. 1Cor. 14:22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying *serveth* not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

- c. Some people say: "Well, I saw it (miracle-sign) happen!"

****If one is not willing to **submit** their experience to the message-truth of God's Word, it shows they are wrong. Just shake the dust off your feet.**

Deuteronomy 13:1-3 - If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, Deut. 13:2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Deut. 13:3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

***If one does signs, but asks you to turn your back on obedience to the one true God and His message, they are **wrong** and do not follow them.**

Example: II Thessalonians 2:9-10 - *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 2Thess. 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

They will put signs over truth just like **today. The signs and wonders program is not working today - not a part of what God is doing today. Today, we do not need signs since we have a completed Bible. We are to walk by **faith** and stand for the truth of God's Word.

II Corinthians 5:7 - (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Ephesians 4:13-14 - Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: Eph. 4:14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

C. Paul's adversaries try to compete with him.

Acts 19:13-16 - Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. Acts 19:14 And there were seven sons of *one* Sceva, a Jew, *and* chief of the priests, which did so. Acts 19:15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? Acts 19:16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

1. Seeing the power that Paul had by using the name of Jesus, some of the traveling Jewish exorcists try to horn in on the demon-casting-out business (\$\$). These Jewish apostates commanded the demons to come out of some people, **expecting** the same results that Paul had. No doubt, they had rejected Jesus as Messiah, and yet they wanted to **use** Him/His name for financial gain.

2. Question? Would Satan cast out one/several of his own demonic followers.

Answer: Yes! He does this to further entangle people in his **de**ceiving web. Satan is the greatest counterfeiter.

II Corinthians 11:14-15 - And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 2Cor. 11:15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

I Timothy 4:1 - Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

3. Notice the response from the demons. They knew Jesus and Paul, but asked them - "who are ye?" These demons **jump** on these Jewish exorcists and beat the **tar** out of them. What a sight that must have been! These Jews were so afraid that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

**Arizona highway and suitcase.

4. There is a saying: "Hell knows the people God is using." Demonic forces know who **we** are and they have an organized evil system to attack us.

Ephesians 6:11-13, 18-20 - Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Eph. 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Eph. 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Eph 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; Eph. 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, Eph. 6:20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

D. When God is involved in ministry, evil cannot compete with Him.

Acts 19:17-20 - And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Acts 19:18 And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Acts 19:19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all *men*: and they counted the price of them, and found *it* fifty thousand *pieces* of silver. Acts 19:20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

1. God used what happened to the Jewish exorcists to spread the Word throughout Ephesus. Christ was lifted up and many believed in Paul's message.

*God had turned the misuse of Jesus' name and brought about **good** from evil's defeat (Gen. 50:20).

2. Once again, we have salvation happening among Jews, but mainly Gentiles, as a result of Israel's **fall**.

Romans 11:11-12 - I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. Rom. 11:12 Now if the fall of them *be* the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

3. These Ephesians did something that all new converts need to do. They made a **break** from their old habits and old gods! These believers, who had curious arts (occult-magic-sorcery) and secret books (incantations), staged a large bonfire party and burned those satanic things. Adding up the total value of what they burned, it amounted to about 50,000 **days'** wages for a laborer.

**This was a supernatural testimony, demonstrating that Paul's message was of God!

4. People flocked to the truth of God's Word (vs. 20). We should never doubt that God's Word will prevail. Actually, we should believe it will prevail and even expect it to - even when everything looks **bleak**. Example: The coming of Christ.

E.

Remember: God's Word is:

1. **In**fallible - There are no mistakes or errors. It is flawless.
2. **In**errant - It is all pure: all words, all parts, all punctuations, all letters, all scriptures, for all time!

3. **Complete** - 39 O.T. books, 27 N.T. books, equaling **66** books.

*We are not to add to, or take away, from these books - the Bible

4. **Authoritative** - The Bible speaks God's absolute **truth**, thus having authority and power.
5. **Preserved** - God has **promised** His Word will be protected from all of man's devised attempts to do away with it.

Psalm 12:6-7 - The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as* silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Psalm 12:7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

Isaiah 40:8 - The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Isaiah 59:21 - As for me, this *is* my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that *is* upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.

Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

II Timothy 3:16 - All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

I Peter 1:23 - Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

II Peter 1:20-21 - Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 2Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

6. For English-speaking people, we **only** use the K.J.V. "The K.J.V. was the only Bible available to most English-speaking people for **centuries**. The manuscripts, from which it was translated, were used by the majority of believers through the centuries. Thus, they represented the Word of God which God promised to preserve for all generations." - Bruce Lackey

Psalm 100:5 - For the LORD *is* good; his mercy *is* everlasting; and his truth *endureth* to all generations.

- a. Almost every modern version of the Bible has been made from manuscripts which were rather **recent** discoveries - yet claiming to be ancient. They have been altered and have many **corruptions** in them.
- b. Remember 95+ percent of existing Greek manuscripts agree with the text (Textus Receptus) that our K.J.V. Bible was translated from!

		<u>W-H</u>	<u>T-R</u>	<u>W-H</u>	<u>T-R</u>
Papyrus Fragment	88	13	75	15%	85%
Unicals	267	9	258	3%	97%
Cursives	2764	23	2764	1%	99%
Lectionaries	<u>2143</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2143</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>100%</u>
<u>*Total:</u>	5255	45	5210	1%	99%

- (1) *Modern Bibles are based on 1-2% of available texts!
- (2) **We use the K.J.V., based on 98-99% of available texts. The K.J.V. has superior **texts** (Hebrew & Greek), superior **translators**, superior **technique**, and superior **beliefs** (theology).

c. We should **never** be ashamed of the K.J.V. translation - the Book of books.

Psalm 138:2b - [...for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.]

*And that is **why** He has preserved it!