



**Welcome to** **WHAT THE BIBLE IS ABOUT**

<p>No one's education is complete without a knowledge of the Bible.</p>	<p>Over half the world's people consider the Bible to be part of their belief structure.</p> 	<p>The Bible is not mere literature: it offers insight and wisdom to those seeking truth.</p>
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## What is the "Bible"?

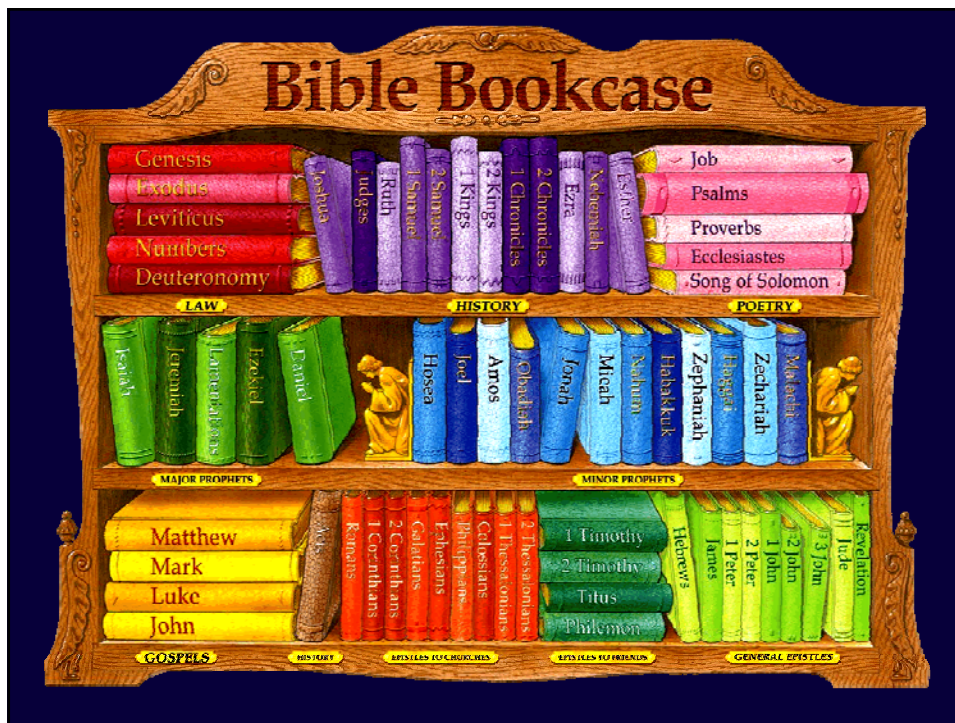
# τὰ βιβλία


from *biblia* (Latin)

from earlier *tà biblíā* (Koine Greek)

meaning "the books" or "library" or "book"

A collection of sacred texts or scriptures that Jews and Christians consider to be a product of divine inspiration and a record of the relationship between God and humans

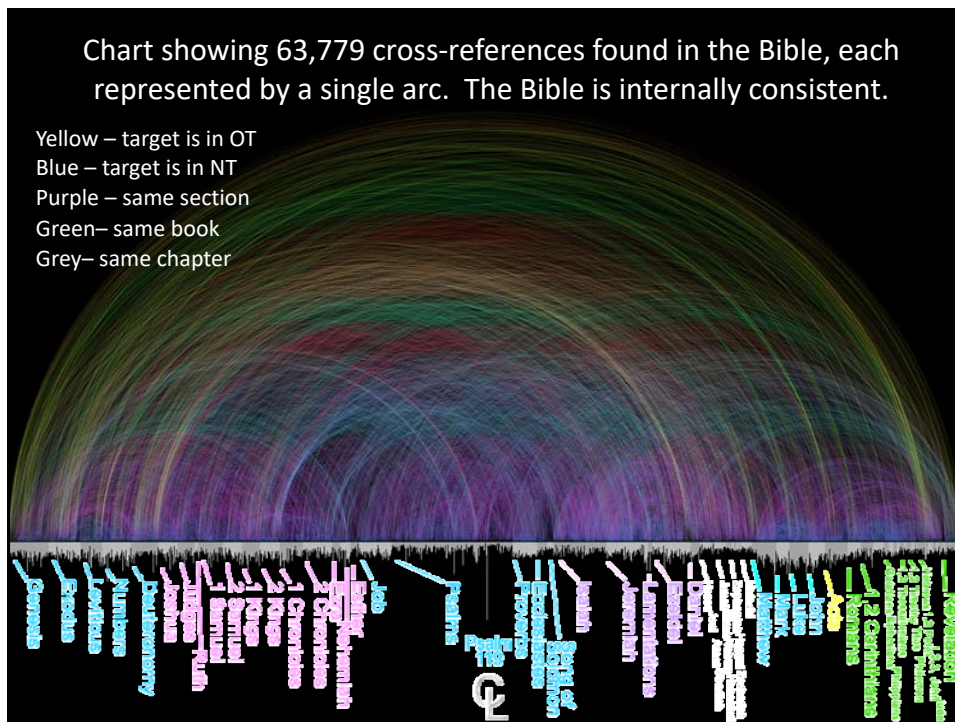


<p><b>66</b> books over <b>40</b> by authors</p>	<p><b>The Unity of Scripture</b></p>	<p>Yet with a <b>single, unified message</b></p>
<p>[shepherds, kings, scholars, prophets, fishermen, a priest, a soldier, and a cupbearer]</p>		<p>of <b>God's nature, His love, and His plan</b></p>
<p><b>3</b> from continents</p>	<p><b>WHAT THE BIBLE</b> Is <b>ABOUT</b></p>	<p>of <b>salvation</b> for fallen humanity</p>
<p><b>3</b> writing in languages</p>		
<p>over nearly <b>2,000</b> years.</p>		

**The Unity of Scripture**

<p><b>40</b> Authors</p>	<p>Books in the Bible</p>	<p><b>3</b> continents <b>3</b> languages</p>
<p><b>OT</b></p>	<p><b>66</b></p>	<p><b>NT</b></p>
<p><b>39</b></p>	<p>Chapters in the Bible</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>
<p><b>929</b></p>	<p><b>1,189</b></p>	<p><b>260</b></p>
<p><b>23,214</b></p>	<p>Verses in the Bible</p>	<p><b>7,959</b></p>
<p><b>592,439</b></p>	<p>Words in the Bible</p>	<p><b>181,253</b></p>
<p><b>773,692</b></p>	<p><b>773,692</b></p>	<p><b>181,253</b></p>

With a single, unified message.



**The Bible is unique in its integrated message.**

**The Bible is unique in its relevance over thousands of years.**

**The Bible is unique in its worldwide circulation.**

**The Bible is Unique**

**The Bible is unique in the truths it teaches.**

**The Bible is unique because it is alive to those who take it seriously.**

**The Bible is unique in its power and authority.**

## What does the Bible cover?



This book addresses all aspects of humanity:

- heroic and epic,
- tawdry and tragic,
- poetic and comic.



It is as fresh and relevant today as when it was being written 2,000 to 4,000 years ago.

## Purpose

**The purpose of this course is not to advise anyone on what I or anyone else think they should believe; it is to help people gain a clear understanding of what the Bible itself says so that they can determine for themselves what to believe.**

**Of the people of Berea, Paul stated:**

**These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

Acts 17:11

**Objectives**

- ① Introduce **objective study** of the Bible.
- ② Allow scripture to interpret scripture.
- ③ Appreciate guidelines of Bible interpretation.
- ④ Take into account context, literary styles, figures of speech, grammatical context, etc.
- ⑤ Respect diverse religious and non-religious sensibilities of participants.
- ⑥ Avoid promotion of various religious traditions over others or of religion over non-religion.

**Spirit**

ETSI DOCTRINA  
NON DARETUR

(“as if doctrine is not given.”)

**Questions**

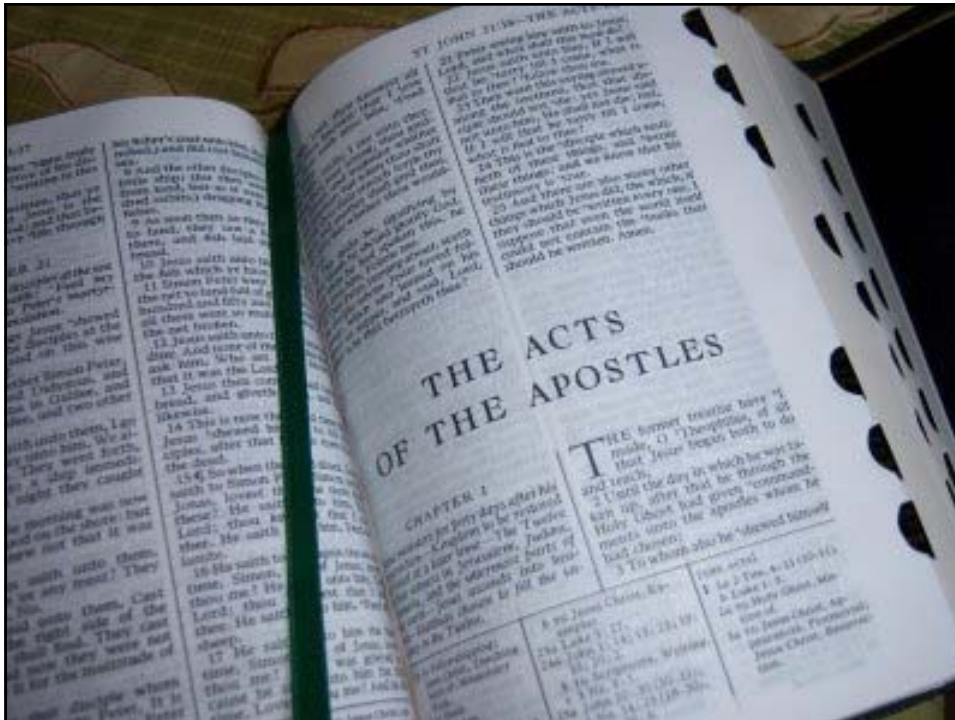


# 1

# WHAT THE BIBLE IS ABOUT

## Book of Acts

### Part 8 – Chap. 18:23-20





## KEY THEME

Jesus offers  
salvation to  
everyone.

Acts

## KEY VERSE

<sup>7</sup> And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

<sup>8</sup> But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8

## The book of Acts in two acts

### THE MINISTRY OF PETER (Chapters 1-12)

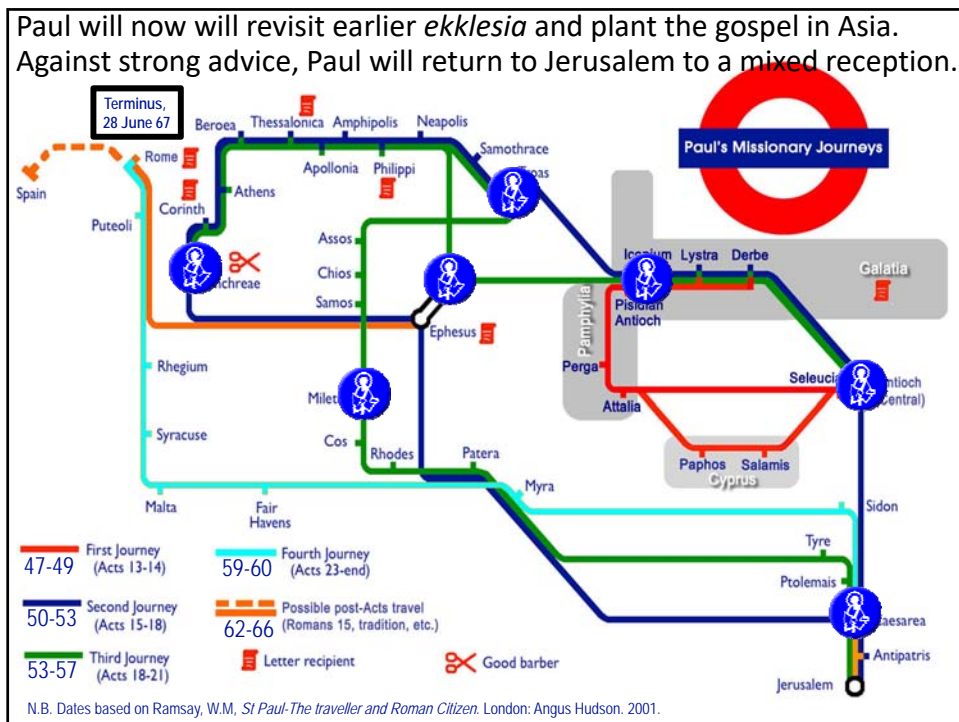
- Peter and the Jews, Acts 1—7
- Peter and the Samaritans, Acts 8
- The conversion of Paul, Acts 9
- Peter and the Gentiles, Acts 10—11
- Peter's arrest and deliverance, Acts 12

### THE MINISTRY OF PAUL (Chapter 13-28)

- Paul's first missionary journey, Acts 13—14
- The Council of Jerusalem, Acts 15
- Paul's second missionary journey, 16:1—18:22
- Paul's third missionary journey, 18:23—21:25
- Paul's arrest and trial in Caesarea, 21:26—26:31
- Paul's voyage to Rome, Acts 27-28

## THE ACTION THUS FAR

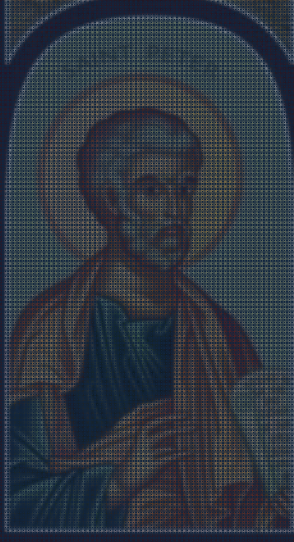
- The book of Acts began with the birth of Jesus' Church\* during the feast of Shavout (aka Feast of Weeks, Pentecost) fifty days after Christ's resurrection. (Acts 1-6:7)
  - \* Called "the Way". Later named "Christianity" by enemies.
  - "Ekklesia" meant a group of believers ("body of believers").
- The gospel took root in Jerusalem and then spread throughout Judea (Jews) and Samaria (half-Jews). (6:8-9:31)
- Peter began evangelism among the gentiles. (9:32-12:24)
- The gospel spread geographically through persecution. Chief persecutor Saul became evangelist Paul; his first missionary journey spread the gospel to Cyprus, Lycia and Galatia. (12:25-16:5)
- On his second journey, the Holy Spirit guided Paul to cross the Aegean Sea and spread the gospel to Europe. (16:6-19:20)



## Seven Progress Reports

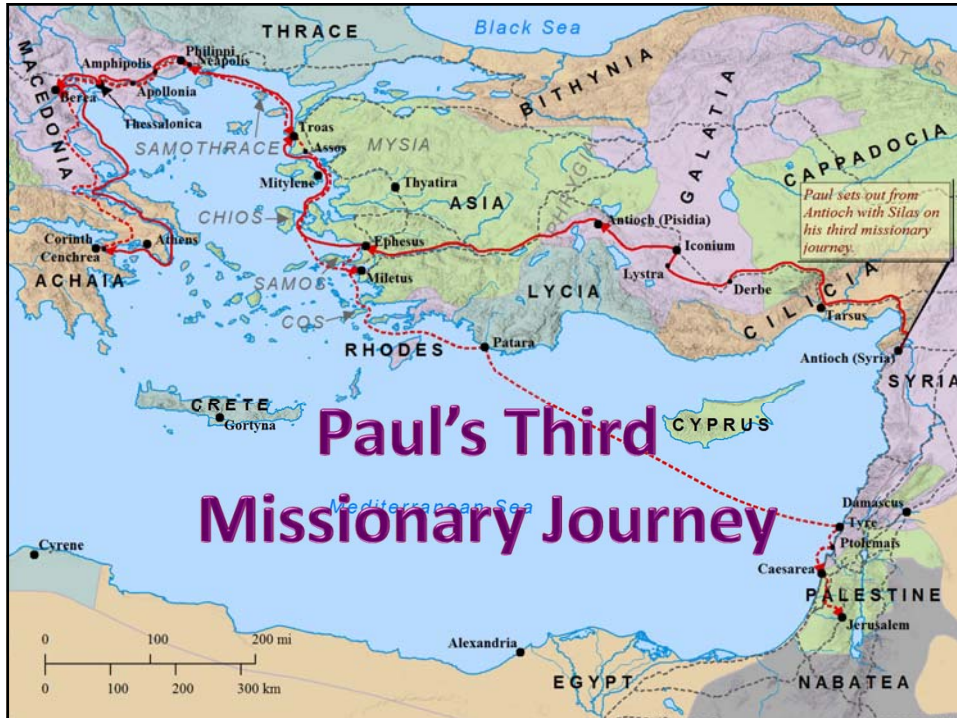
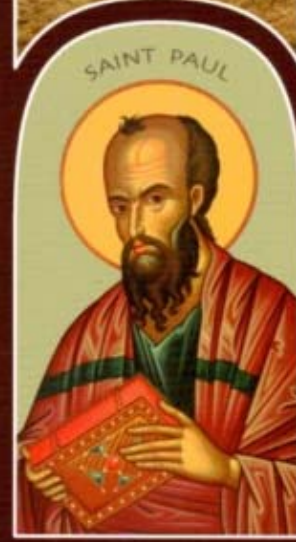
1. "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).
2. "So the Word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly" (Acts 6:7).
3. "Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria...was strengthened; and [it was] encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord" (Acts 9:31).
4. "But the Word of God continued to increase and spread" (Acts 12:24).
5. "So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers" (Acts 16:5).
6. "In this way the Word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power" (Acts 19:20).
7. "Paul...welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 28:30-31).

*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*  
Acts 1:8



# The Acts of Paul

## 13-28



## Paul's Third Missionary Journey

<sup>23</sup> After he had spent some time *there* [Antioch of Syria], he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.



<sup>24</sup> Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man *and* mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. <sup>25</sup> This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, **though he knew only the baptism of John**. <sup>26</sup> So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue.

When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

<sup>27</sup> And when he desired to cross to Achaia [Corinth], the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; <sup>28</sup> for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.



## The baptism of John (the Baptist)

<sup>25</sup> This man [Apollo] had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the **baptism of John**.

John the Baptist taught three great truths:

1. Forgiveness of sins (only) on the basis of repentance.
2. Expression through baptism.
3. One was coming who would complete their salvation.

What didn't John the Baptist teach?

1. The Cross. Sin covered by blood.
2. The resurrection. Death conquered.
3. Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Wow!  
Makes sense!  
Thanks, guys.



## Acts 19

Paul at Ephesus

- <sup>1</sup> And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus.





- Ephesus was capital of the wealthy Roman Province of Asia, a jewel in the Roman Empire since 130 BC and full of great cities. (The province name was later extended to the whole continent.)
- Ephesus was the **third largest city in the Roman Empire**, ahead of both Corinth and Antioch of Syria.
- The Temple of Artemis was one of the **7 Wonders of the World**.

And finding some disciples <sup>2</sup> he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

<sup>3</sup> And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?"

So they said, "**Into John's baptism.**"

<sup>4</sup> 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."

<sup>5</sup> When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

<sup>7</sup> Now the men were about twelve in all.

8 And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.



9 But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus [from the fifth hour to the tenth]\*.

\*Codex Bezae

- Hired lecture halls were common.
- Tradition suggests that a physician named Tyrannus lectured on medicine in Ephesus.
- Paul had the hall from lunch through the siesta (11 AM – 4 PM).



Codex Bezae is a bilingual manuscript on vellum, with Greek and Latin on facing pages, that dates to around 400 AD. It contains the Gospels, Acts and 3 John. It was the work of a single scribe.

10 And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

As elsewhere, his main success came after leaving synagogues. Faithful helpers like Epaphras, Archippus, Philemon, Erastus, Gaius, Aristarchus, Titus, Trophimus and Tychicus helped Paul establish *ekklesia* in Asia including Colosse, Laodicea, Hierapolis and (probably) Smyrna, Thyratira, Pergamum, Philadelphia and Sardis.



## Miracles Glorify Christ

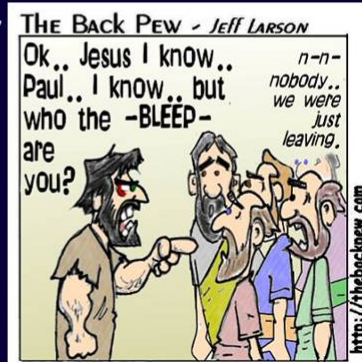
<sup>11</sup> Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, <sup>12</sup> so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

<sup>13</sup> Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to **call the name of the Lord Jesus** over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches."

<sup>14</sup> Also there were seven sons of Sceva\*, a Jewish chief priest, who did so.

<sup>15</sup> And the evil spirit answered and said, **"Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?"**

\* Sceva (Σκευᾶς), "mind reader", derived from Latin for "left-handed"; not a known Jewish priest.



<sup>16</sup> Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

<sup>17</sup> This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. <sup>18</sup> And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds.

<sup>19</sup> Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned *them* in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and *it* totalled fifty thousand *pieces* of silver.

<sup>20</sup> **So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.**

Forty years later, Pliny's famous letter to Trajan from Bithynia will say of Christianity:

"For the contagion of this superstition has not only spread through cities, but also through villages and country places."

### The Riot at Ephesus

<sup>21</sup> When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying,

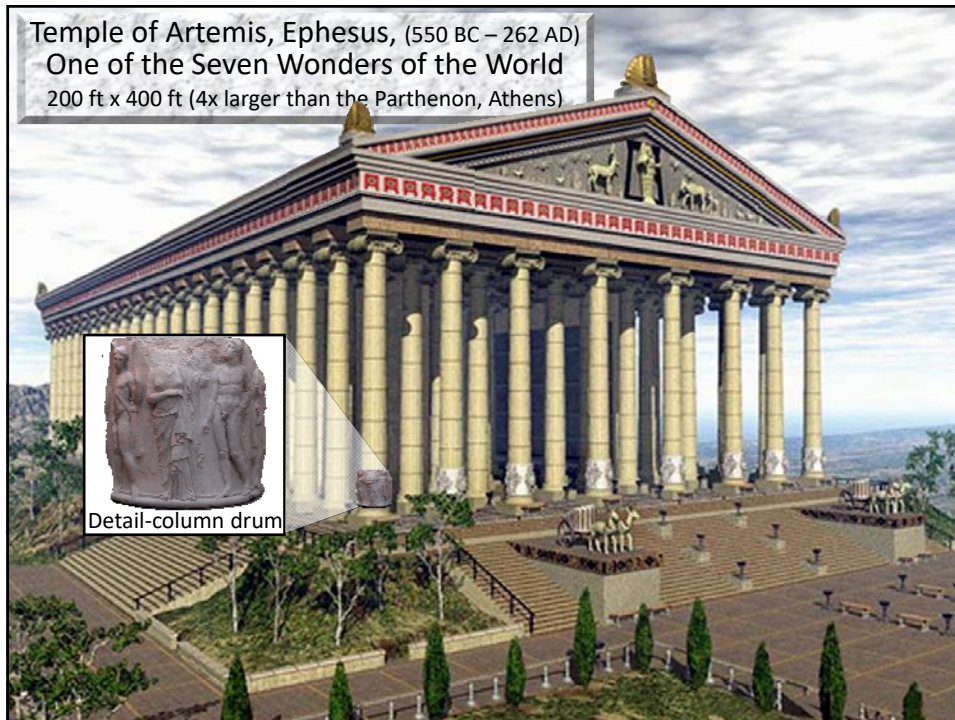
*“After I have been there, I must also see Rome.”*

<sup>22</sup> So he sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, but he himself stayed in Asia for a time.

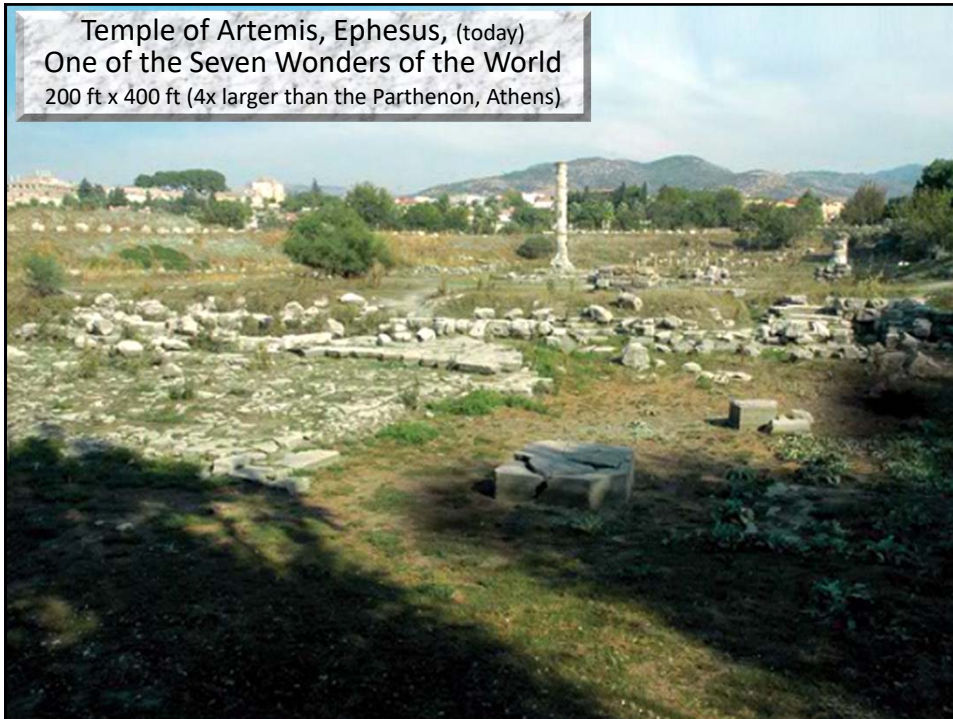
<sup>23</sup> And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way. <sup>24</sup> For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen.



Temple of Artemis, Ephesus, (550 BC – 262 AD)  
One of the Seven Wonders of the World  
200 ft x 400 ft (4x larger than the Parthenon, Athens)



Temple of Artemis, Ephesus, (today)  
 One of the Seven Wonders of the World  
 200 ft x 400 ft (4x larger than the Parthenon, Athens)



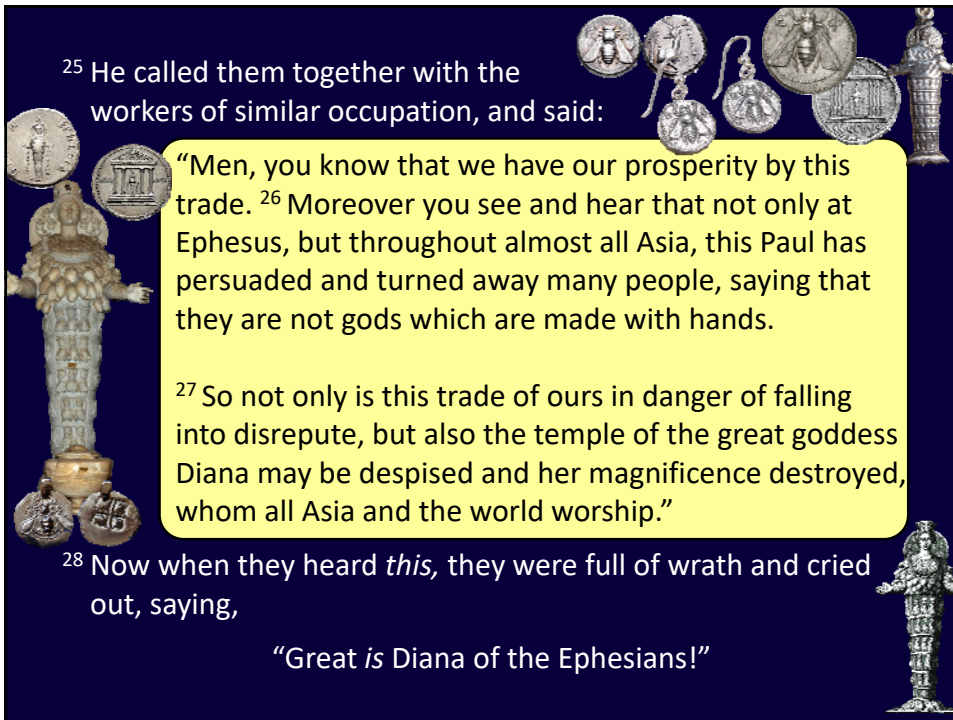
<sup>25</sup> He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said:

“Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. <sup>26</sup> Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands.

<sup>27</sup> So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship.”

<sup>28</sup> Now when they heard *this*, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying,

“Great *is* Diana of the Ephesians!”



<sup>29</sup> 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.



<sup>30</sup> And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him. <sup>31</sup> Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater. <sup>32</sup> Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together.

<sup>33</sup> And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand, and wanted to make his defense to the people. <sup>34</sup> But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours,



*“Great is Diana of the Ephesians!”*

<sup>35</sup> 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?  
<sup>36</sup> Therefore, since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly. <sup>37</sup> For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess. <sup>38</sup> Therefore, if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. <sup>39</sup> But if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be determined in the lawful assembly. <sup>40</sup> For we are in danger of being called in question for today’s uproar, there being no reason which we may give to account for this disorderly gathering.”

<sup>41</sup> And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

## Acts 20

### Journeys in Greece

<sup>1</sup> After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to *himself*, embraced *them*, and departed to go to Macedonia.



- 2 Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece<sup>3</sup> and stayed three months.



And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

- 4 And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.
- 5 These men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas.
- 6 But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days.



<sup>7</sup> Now on the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. <sup>8</sup> There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together.



<sup>9</sup> And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.

<sup>10</sup> But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing *him* said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him."



<sup>11</sup> Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. <sup>12</sup> And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.

<sup>13</sup> Then we went ahead to the ship and sailed to Assos, there intending to take Paul on board; for so he had given orders, intending himself to go on foot.

<sup>14</sup> And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene.

<sup>15</sup> We sailed from there, and the next *day* came opposite Chios.

The following *day* we arrived at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium.

The next *day* we came to Miletus.

<sup>16</sup> For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost.







### The Ephesian Elders Exhorted

<sup>17</sup> From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. <sup>18</sup> And when they had come to him, he said to them:

“You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, <sup>19</sup> serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; <sup>20</sup> how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>22</sup> And see, now I go **bound in the spirit to Jerusalem**, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.

<sup>24</sup> But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

<sup>25</sup> “And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more.

<sup>26</sup> Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. <sup>27</sup> For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

<sup>28</sup> Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

- <sup>29</sup> For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.
- <sup>30</sup> Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.
- <sup>31</sup> Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.
- <sup>32</sup> "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

### SAVAGE (GRIEVOUS) WOLVES (EXTERNAL)

Paul identifies two classes of enemies of the ekklesia: external and internal.

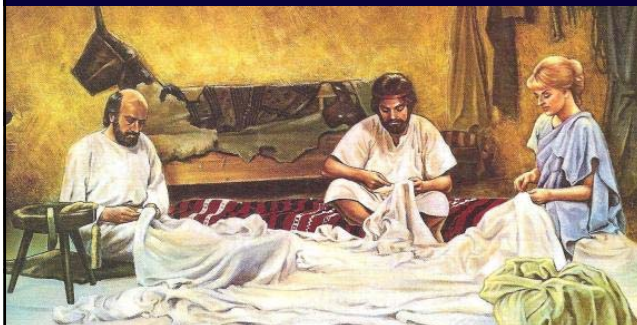
### PERVERSE MEN (INTERNAL)

1. Hymeneus (1 Timothy 1:20)
2. Alexander (1 Timothy 1:20)
3. Phygellus (2 Timothy 1:15)
4. Hermogenes (2 Timothy 1:15)
5. Philetus (2 Timothy 2:17)
6. Diotrophes (3 John 9)

<sup>33</sup> I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. <sup>34</sup> Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. <sup>35</sup> I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak.

And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'\* "

\*Not stated elsewhere in the Bible.



Paul worked as a tentmaker (Acts 20:33-34) and probably stayed with fellow tentmakers Priscilla and Aquila (1 Thess 2:9); he also pastored from house to house (Acts 20:20).

<sup>36</sup> And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. <sup>37</sup> Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, <sup>38</sup> sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more.

And they accompanied him to the ship.



Paul revealed that he was compelled by the spirit to go to Jerusalem in the face of danger.

*"If only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me".*

Acts 20:24