













About that time, serious trouble developed in Ephesus concerning the Way. <sup>24</sup> It began with Demetrius, a silversmith who had a large business manufacturing silver shrines of the Greek goddess Artemis. He kept many craftsmen busy.

Artemis: the goddess of nature, childbirth, wildlife, healing, hunting, animals, young women, and archery



<sup>25</sup> "Gentlemen, you know that our wealth comes from this business. <sup>26</sup> But as you have seen and heard, this man Paul has persuaded many people that handmade gods aren't really gods at all.

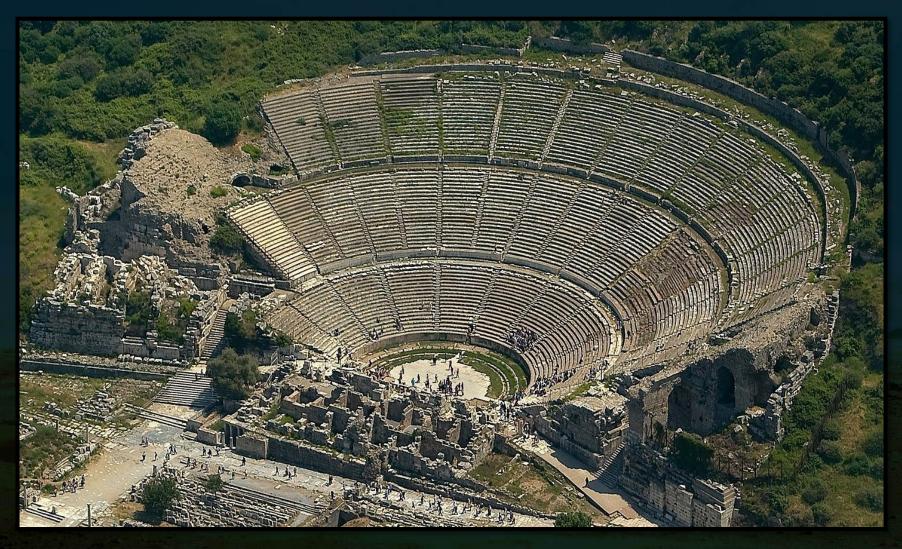
And he's done this not only here in Ephesus but throughout the entire province! <sup>27</sup> Of course, I'm not just talking about the loss of public respect for our business.

I'm also concerned that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will lose its influence and that Artemis – this magnificent goddess worshiped throughout the province of Asia and all around the world – will be robbed of her great prestige!"

At this their anger boiled, and they began shouting, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

Soon the whole city was filled with confusion. Everyone rushed to the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, who were Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia.

## The amphitheater of Ephesus



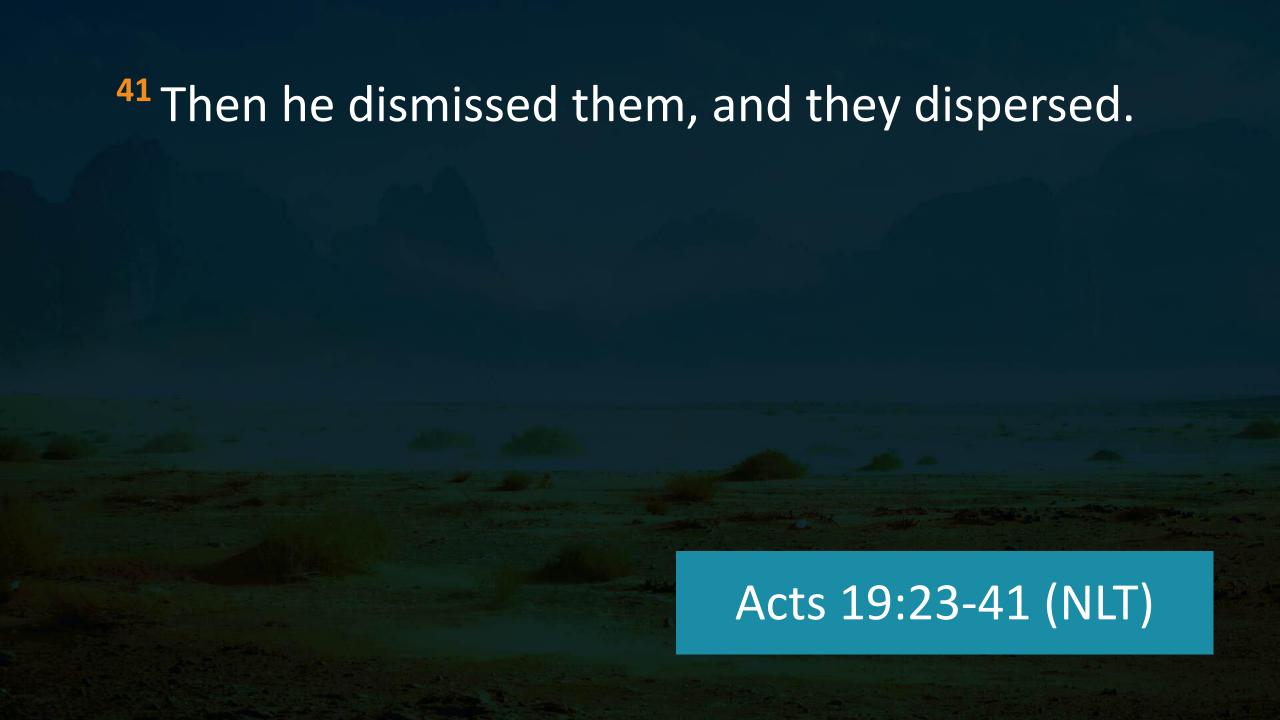
At last the mayor was able to quiet them down enough to speak. "Citizens of Ephesus," Everyone knows that Ephesus is the official guardian of the temple of the great Artemis, whose image fell down to us from heaven.

<sup>36</sup> Since this is an undeniable fact, you should stay calm and not do anything rash. <sup>37</sup> You have brought these men here, but they have stolen nothing from the temple and have not spoken against our goddess.

<sup>38</sup> If Demetrius and the craftsmen have a case against them, the courts are in session and the officials can hear the case at once. Let them make formal charges.

And if there are complaints about other matters, they can be settled in a legal assembly.

<sup>40</sup> I am afraid we are in danger of being charged with rioting by the Roman government, since there is no cause for all this commotion. And if Rome demands an explanation, we won't know what to say."



## ἐκκλησία (ekklesia)

- Acts 19:32 The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another.
- Acts 19:39 If there is anything further you want to bring up, it must be settled in a legal assembly.
- Acts 19:41 After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

