

ACTS CHAPTER 19

VS 1 WHO WAS APOLLOS? WHERE IS PAUL NOW? WHILE APOLLOS WAS IN CORINTH, PAUL TAKES TIME FOR A TRIP TO EPHESUS. EPHESUS WAS THE CAPITAL CITY OF THE ROME PROVINCE OF ASIA. IT HAD A POPULATION OF ABOUT 300,000 PEOPLE. JUST LIKE ATHENS, EPHESUS HAD SEEN ITS HEYDAY AND WAS NOW IN DECLINE WHEN PAUL VISITED. EPHESUS BECAME PAUL'S BASE OF OPERATION DURING HIS THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY. WHO DID PAUL FIND WHEN HE REACHED EPHESUS? HE MEETS TWELVE MEN WHO PROFESSED TO BE CHRISTIAN "DISCIPLES", BUT WHOSE LIVES GAVE EVIDENCE THAT SOMETHING WAS LACKING.

VS 2-4 WHAT DOES PAUL ASK THESE DISCIPLES? THIS IS AN IMPORTANT QUESTION BECAUSE THE WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT IS THE ONE INDISPENSABLE PROOF THAT A PERSON IS TRULY BORN AGAIN. LOOK AT ROMANS 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. AND EPHESIANS 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of the promise. IN VERSE 2 HOW DO THEY ANSWER? THEIR REPLY REVEALED THE VAGUENESS AND UNCERTAINTY OF THEIR FAITH. THEY HAD NOT HEARD THAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD HAS COME.

VS 3 WHAT DOES PAUL FIND OUT? THEY WERE BAPTIZED INTO _____ BAPTISM. THEIR INSTRUCTION IS INCOMPLETE. THEY KNEW ONLY OF JOHN'S BAPTISM, A SIGN OF REPENTANCE TOWARD GOD. (MATT 3:2,6,8,11; MARK 1:4-5; LUKE 3:8) WE ARE CAUGHT IN THE SPECIAL SITUATION OF A TRANSITION HERE. THE TEXT SEEMS CLEAR THEY HAVE COME TO FAITH IN JESUS, SO THEIR PROBLEM IS LIKE APOLLOS, KNOWING ABOUT JESUS BUT NOT THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT THAT IS ALSO A PART OF THE PROMISE.

VS 4 PAUL MAKES A POINT THAT JOHN THE BAPTIST TOLD HIS DISCIPLES TO LOOK FOR JESUS-MESSIAH WHO WILL BAPTIZE WITH THE SPIRIT. JOHN POINTED THE WAY TO JESUS CHRIST AS THE ONE IN WHOM THEY SHOULD BELIEVE. (MATT 3:11-12; MARK 1:7-8; LUKE 3:16-17)

VS 5 HOW DID THE DISCIPLES REACT? NOTE: THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THAT REFERS TO ANYONE BEING REBAPTIZED. QUITE CLEARLY, JOHN'S MINISTRY WAS ANTICIPATION, CHRIST IS THE FULFILLMENT OF ALL THINGS.

VS 6 WHAT HAPPENED WHEN PAUL LAID HANDS ON THEM? THIS IS THE FINAL MENTION OF TONGUES IN ACTS. THIS SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION CONFIRMS THAT THE SPIRIT HAS COME. THERE IS NO PATTERN IN HOW THE SPIRIT COMES IN ACTS. THE SPIRIT CAN COME BEFORE OR AFTER BAPTISM, AS ACTS 10 SHOWS. THE FILLING OF THE SPIRIT ENDORSED THE DISCIPLES AS BELIEVERS. WHAT IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT? WAS IT THE FACT THAT PAUL LAID HANDS ON THEM THAT THEY RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT? IS IT THE ACT OF BAPTISM? THE ANSWER IS NEITHER. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS BESTOWED UPON US BY BELIEVING, RECEIVING AND

~~SURRENDERING TO THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST. BY USING PAUL TO CONVEY THE GIFT OF THE SPIRIT, GOD AFFIRMED PAUL'S APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY .~~

SINCE THIS IS THE LAST MENTION OF TONGUES IN ACTS, LET'S LOOK BACK TO WHERE WE STUDIED:

1. PENTECOST- ACTS 2:4 TELLS US When the day of Pentecost [a]had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly a noise like a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 And tongues *that looked* like fire appeared to them, [b]distributing themselves, and a *tongue* [c]rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with different [d]tongues, as the Spirit was giving them *the ability* to speak out.

2. THE GENTILES AT CORNELIUS' HOUSE- ACTS 10:44-46 44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the [a]message. 45 All the [b]Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had also been poured out on the Gentiles. 46 For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God.

3. EPHESIAN BELIEVERS - ACTS 19:6 6 And when Paul had laid hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they *began* speaking with tongues and prophesying.

EACH OF THESE PLACES WHERE THOSE WHO BELIEVED SPOKE IN TONGUES HAD A PURPOSE. AT PENTECOST, ONE OF THE PURPOSES WAS TO VALIDATE FOR THE JEWS THE FULFILLMENT OF JOEL 2. IT ALSO WAS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE JESUS HAD MADE TO THEM THAT HE WOULD SEND A HELPER, AN ADVOCATE. CORNELIUS AND HIS HOUSEHOLD SHOWED THE PURPOSE WAS TO VALIDATE FOR THE JEWS GOD'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE GENTILES. IN OUR LESSON TODAY THE PURPOSE WAS TO VALIDATE FOR THE DISCIPLES PAUL'S MESSAGE.

TODAY, IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR A PERSON TO HAVE THE GIFT OF TONGUES TO RECEIVE THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. NOWHERE IN SCRIPTURE ARE WE ADMONISHED TO SEEK A BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, OR TO SPEAK IN TONGUES. WHEN WE RECEIVE CHRIST, THE SPIRIT DWELLS WITHIN US AND WE MUST ALLOW THE SPIRIT TO WORK AS WE WALK AND GROW WITH CHRIST.

VS 8 WHAT IS PAUL DOING? 1. _____
2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____ 5. _____

WHAT WAS PAUL TEACHING ABOUT? _____. THE TERM "KINGDOM OF GOD" IS ANOTHER WAY THAT LUKE PRESENTS PAUL'S CASE FOR JESUS AS THE MESSIAH WHO FULFILLS PROMISES. FOR PAUL, THE TWO ARE BOUND UP TOGETHER IN THE GOSPEL. THIS IS THE ONLY INSTANCE OF THIS TERM IN ACTS.

VS 9 EVERYTHING IS GOING GREAT! AND THEN WE SEE _____. WHAT DOES THIS CONTRAST WORD TELL US? 1. _____

2.

3.

"THE WAY"

WAS AN EARLY NAME FOR CHRISTIANS. IT APPEARS TO POINT TO THE WAY OF SALVATION AS A WAY OF AND TO LIFE. IT IS SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS "THE WAY OF THE LORD" OR "THE WAY OF GOD". HOW DOES PAUL RESPOND? TYRANNUS IS EITHER A LECTURE HALL OR A SCHOOL BUILDING, AS THE TERM INDICATES. TYRANNUS WOULD LIKELY BE THE OWNER OR TEACHER.

VS 10 HOW LONG DID PAUL TEACH AT TYRANNUS? HOW SUCCESSFUL WAS PAUL'S TEACHING? PAUL'S MINISTRY IN EPHESUS RUNS INTO ITS THIRD YEAR. OUT OF EPHESUS CAME A MINISTRY THAT IMPACTED THE ENTIRE LYCUS VALLEY, PLANTING CHURCHES THAT RECEIVED THE LETTERS LATER RECORDED IN REV. 2-3.

VS11-12 GOD WAS TRULY BLESSING PAUL'S MINISTRY AND THE WORD WAS SPREADING. NOW WE HAVE A NEW SCENE THAT FOCUSES ON GOD'S MIRACULOUS WORK THROUGH PAUL, EVEN TO THE POINT THAT HANDKERCHIEFS AND APRONS THAT TOUCHED PAUL'S BODY ARE GIVEN TO THE SICK AND BRING HEALING. THAT GOD IS THE SOURCE OF THESE WORKS IS IMPORTANT TO LUKE. PAUL IS BUT A MEDIATOR OF GOD'S POWER, WHICH ATTESTS TO GOD'S APPROVAL OF PAUL. IN BIBLE HISTORY, WE WILL FIND THREE SPECIAL PERIODS OF MIRACLES: 1. THE TIME OF MOSES; 2. THE TIME OF ELIJAH AND ELISHA; AND 3. THE TIME OF JESUS AND HIS APOSTLES.

VS 13 OUR SCENE IS SEVEN EXORCISTS IN CONTRAST TO ONE PAUL. WHAT HAPPENS? IN EXORCIST PRACTICE, THE USE OF A CORRECT OR POWERFUL NAME IS IMPORTANT. THIS IS WHAT THESE EXORCISTS ARE ATTEMPTING TO DO BY USING JESUS'S NAME. TO USE JESUS'S NAME FRAUDULENTLY LEAVES ONE DESERVING BLAME BEFORE GOD.

VS 14 NOW WE LEARN WHO THESE MEN ARE. THEY ARE?

VS 15 WHAT HAPPENS? THE EVIL SPIRIT RESPONDS CRITICALLY, SAYING IT KNOWS JESUS AND PAUL BUT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THESE IMPOSTERS. THE DIFFERENT VERBS FOR "KNOWING" JESUS AND BEING ACQUAINTED WITH PAUL PROBABLY SUGGEST A DIFFERENT LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE. GOD PERFORMS THE HEALING THROUGH PAUL WHO USES THE NAME OF JESUS.

VS 16 SO DID THEY HAVE SUCCESS? WHAT HAPPENS? INSTEAD OF BEING EXORCISED OF HIS DEMON, THE POSSESSED MAN BECAME SUPERNATURALLY STRONG AND OVERCAME ALL SEVEN MEN. DEMONS CAN SOMETIMES CAUSE THOSE THEY POSSESS TO HAVE UNUSUAL PHYSICAL POWER. (MARK 5:3-4)

VS 17-19 HOW DO THE PEOPLE RESPOND?

VS 20 THE CLEANSED CHURCH BECAME A POWERFUL AND GROWING CHURCH. WITH THIS SIXTH "PROGRESS REPORT" LUKE BROUGHT ANOTHER SECTION OF HIS BOOK TO A CONCLUSION.

VS 19:21-28:31 THE EXTENSION OF THE CHURCH TO ROME.

VS 21 WHERE DOES PAUL WANT TO GO? PAUL HAD TWO PURPOSES: 1. TO CONFIRM AND STRENGTHEN THE CHURCHES AND 2. TAKE UP AN OFFERING FOR THE SAINTS IN JERUSALEM. THIS VERSE SETS THE TONE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE BOOK. PAUL'S SIGHTS WERE NOW SET ON ROME VIA JERUSALEM. HERE WE HAVE THE FIRST MENTION OF PAUL'S PLAN TO GO TO ROME.

VS 22 TIMOTHY, WHO WAS LAST SEEN WITH PAUL IN CORINTH (18:5), ONCE AGAIN COMES ON THE SCENE. WHERE DID PAUL SEND THEM?

VS 23 WHAT DO WE LEARN HAPPENS? WHO DOES IT EFFECT?

VS 24-26 WHAT IS THE PROBLEM? WHO DO THEY BLAME? IN VS 26 HOW FAR REACHING IS PAUL'S TEACHING?

VS 27-28 WHAT IS THE CONCERN? IN ONLY TWO INCIDENTS RECORDED IN ACTS DID GENTILES OPPOSE PAUL: HERE AND THE PHILIPPIAN FORTUNE-TELLER (16:16-24). IN BOTH CASES THE OPPOSITION WAS BECAUSE OF VESTED MONETARY INTEREST.

VS 29 THE SILVERSMITHS, ENRAGED AT PAUL BY DEMETRIUS' SPEECH, INSTIGATED A RIOT AND RUSHED TO THE EPHESIAN THEATER, THE LARGEST PLACE FOR AN ASSEMBLY. EVIDENTLY THESE TWO MEN ESCAPED WITH LITTLE OR NO INJURY.

VS 30-31 PAUL WAS EAGER TO DEFEND THE GOSPEL, READY TO TAKE ON HIS OPPONENTS. BUT THE CHRISTIANS DID NOT LET HIM. EVEN THE RULERS OF ASIA WHO WERE IN CHARGE OF THE COMMUNITY'S POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS WELFARE WOULD NOT LET HIM GET CAUGHT UP THE RIOT. (REMEMBER CHRISTIANITY HAD A GOOD STANDING WITH ROME AND ROME DID NOT LIKE UNREST)

VS 32-34 IRONICALLY MOST OF THE PEOPLE DID NOT EVEN KNOW WHY THEY WERE THERE. "CONFUSION" IN THE GREEK AS USED HERE CAN BE RENDERED "CHAOS". IT REFERS TO BEING "MIXED UP" OR "CONFOUNDED". THEY DO NOT KNOW WHICH WAY TO GO WITH ALL THE VIEWS BEING EXPRESSED.

VS 35-37 WHO DO WE SEE COME FORWARD? THE TOWN CLERK IS A KEEPER OF RECORDS, REGISTRAR, AND ACCOUNTANT FOR TEMPLE FUNDS. HE IS THE HIGHEST CIVIC OFFICIAL IN THE CITY, OPERATING MUCH LIKE A POWERFUL CITY MANAGER AND SERVES AS THE CITY'S LIAISON TO ROMAN AUTHORITIES. HIS VOICE WOULD COUNT FOR A GREAT DEAL ON THIS MATTER.

VS 38 WHAT DOES HE ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO? THESE MATTERS SHOULD BE SETTLED LEGALLY IN THE COURT.

VS 39 HE GIVES THEM ANOTHER OPTION. GO TO THE _____ THE LAWFUL ASSEMBLY WHICH MET AS OFTEN AS THREE TIMES A MONTH. SO THEY HAVE TWO LEGAL OPTIONS.

VS 40 WHAT IS THE TOWN CLERK FEARFUL WILL HAPPEN. THE RISK IS THAT THE CROWD WILL BE IN DANGER, NOT PAUL. HE FEARS THAT THE RABBLE WILL BE ARRESTED BY THE ROMANS FOR CAUSING A DISTURBANCE WITHOUT ANY DIRECT EVIDENCE THAT PAUL AND THE OTHERS HAVE ACTED DIRECTLY OR PHYSICALLY AGAINST THE GODDES IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY COULD BE CHARGE WITH A CRIME. THE IMPLICATION IS THAT ROMAN MIGHT BE FORCED TO STEP IN AND LIMIT EPHEBUS'S PRIVILEGES AS A FREE CITY. SO THE CLERK WARNS OF DIRE CONSEQUENCES FOR CIVIC FREEDOM, APPEALS FOR CALM AND IS SUCCESSFUL.

VS 41 THE CLERK COMPLETES HIS REMARKS AND DISMISSES THE CROWD. A RIOT IS AVOIDED.

