

The Book of Ephesians

Background

Points to Consider

1. Basic City Information
2. The City's Religious Setting
3. The Church of Ephesus

Basic City Information

- A city of Ionia in _____ Minor. The city was located approximately 40 miles south of Smyrna, and near the mouth of the river Cayster.

The City's Religious Setting

Acts 19:23-41

The city's major economic engine was the worship of the goddess _____ at the temple bearing her name.

Demetrius brought his fellow craftsmen together and convinced them that the message Paul was preaching would _____ them financially and eventually bring down the temple of Diana.

- Demetrius was concerned because Paul was not only having success in Ephesus but the rest of Asia as well.
- In addition, Demetrius stated that the whole _____ worshipped the goddess Diana.
- Paul was preaching that things made by men's hands were **not** truly gods worthy of worship.

When the multitude amassed in the theater some had **no** idea why they were there.

The city clerk quieted the crowd by reminding them that Ephesus was the temple guardian of the great goddess Diana, and Diana was not made with man's hands. She fell down from _____.

In the clerk's mind, these were facts that could not be denied. As a result, he dismissed the crowd to avoid a _____ from the Roman government.

The Church at Ephesus

Acts 18:18-21 - Paul came to Ephesus and stayed for a seemingly short time. He was on his way to Jerusalem to keep the feast.

He _____ Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus while he went to Jerusalem.

Acts 18:24-28 - In Ephesus Aquila and Priscilla took Apollos aside and taught him "the way of God more _____."

Matt 3:1-6 *In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'" 4 Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. NKJV*

Mark 1:4-5 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. 5 Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. NKJV

John preached a message of _____ because the kingdom of heaven was coming _____.

He preached a baptism of repentance for the _____ of sins.

Apollos would have been teaching people the _____ message. He would have been telling them that the Messiah was coming soon, and they needed to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins.

Acts 19:1-10

Paul came back to Ephesus and found some disciples. He asked them if they _____ the Holy Spirit when they believed.

It doesn't appear that these disciples were even aware that the Holy Spirit was _____.

The _____ between baptism and the Holy Spirit is so tight that Paul asked, "Into what then were you baptized?" Paul knew they could not have been baptized into Christ if they had not heard of the Holy Spirit. When these disciples heard that the Christ had already come, they were baptized in the name of the Lord _____.

After they were baptized, Paul laid hands on them and the Holy Spirit came upon them causing them to speak in tongues and prophecy.

Paul went into the Synagogue teaching the _____ about the kingdom of God.

When the Jews did not believe, Paul started sharing the message with the _____ as well.

He spent two more years in Ephesus teaching at the school of Tyrannus which resulted in both Jews and Greeks being baptized into Christ.

Acts 19:11-21

While in Ephesus God worked many _____ miracles by the hands of Paul.

Even the evil spirits knew who Paul was and that they _____ to do what he said. God gave him that much power!

These unusual miracles became known to _____ the Jews and Greeks that lived in Ephesus.

Those who believed, confessed their sins and some burned their books of magic in the sight of **all** the people.

The word of the Lord grew mightily and _____ in Ephesus.

Acts 17:5-9

In Thessalonica, Paul and his companions were accused of turning the world upside down.

This reputation Paul had, combined with the success he had in convincing those who practiced magic to burn their books, gave Alexander and the rest of the craftsmen great concern. This led to the riot we talked about in our second point.

Acts 20:17-38

Paul reminded the Ephesian elders of his selfless work in their city amid _____ persecution.

He told them that he was innocent of the blood of all men since he told both Jews and Greeks the _____ counsel of God.

He emphasizes the incredible _____ they had as overseers of God's flock in Ephesus.

He warned them that _____ wolves would enter the flock and try and tear it apart.

He also warned that some of their own number would speak _____ things and try to "draw away the disciples after themselves."

Paul's departure was accompanied with hugs and _____.