

44-Acts-Pt19-Transcript

does here is mine sector cassia is his
mystic skillet is Chris invested
escalated us-cuban leoben's riada hello
kitty ears can you hear us we are
thinking we are sick hello this is the
German close god what are you thinking
about

I was just saying that hopefully you
found that humorous and you know being
unqualified for a job sometimes it can
be humorous often it can be dangerous
and here in Acts chapter 19 we're gonna
actually see where some people are
trying to do a job that they're
unqualified for and it turns out to be
dangerous so welcome back to Wednesday
night Bible study and I just want to
thank all of you who were praying for me
and fasting for me as we had our debate
to our interfaith dialogue on Thursday
last week thursday evening around the
topic is Allah the God of the Bible and
we had over a hundred Muslims in
attendance and I was just wonderful to
be able to preach the gospel to an
audience that traditionally has never
heard what the what the Bible actually
teaches and what the true gospel is and
just wonderful feedback from brethren
from our guests from from Christian
traditional Christians as well as from
the Muslims themselves and I was in
conversation with them for over an hour
after the debate and just very very
enjoyable these are people who take God
seriously and if you stop any Muslim or
almost any Muslim and say you want to
talk about God they'll stop and they'll
talk to you whereas you know typical
Western citizen or citizen of Western
civilization here in the West you stop
them when you want to talk about god

they're not interested so just a wonderful event and still to this day I'm still getting positive feedback and emails and commendations on just how professionally it was conducted and just everybody was just very intrigued and happy to participate in it so I want to thank you for your prayers so let's get into a Acts chapter 19 and we'll just open with a word of prayer or Heavenly Father we want to come before you and just thank you so much Lord for preserving these scriptures and that we can study them and study them freely and draw lessons from them and use the lessons that we learn in our day-to-day lives and we can inform the decisions that we have to make today based on the principles that we learn from the faithful brethren of the early church so we thank you Father and we ask that you be with us now as we study Acts chapter 19 and we ask this Lord in our Lord and saviors name Jesus Christ amen so let's let's begin in Acts chapter 19 and you'll remember that the tail end of Acts chapter 18 we came across Apollo's and it said hear a certain jew named Apollo's born at Alexandria which is in Egypt an eloquent man and mighty in the scriptures he really knew his scriptures he came to Ephesus this man was instructed in the way of the Lord and being fervent in the spirit he spoke and taught diligently the things of the Lord knowing only the baptism of John so that's all he had was the baptism of John that the preaching that John brought and they've a call to repentance and he understood then the prophecies pertaining to our Lord and so based on the the Ministry of John and the scriptures that he had in the prophecies that he understood he was

powerfully proclaiming the way of the Lord and he began to speak boldly in the synagogue whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard they took him unto them and expounded unto Him the way of God or perfectly so or more completely they basically gave him the missing component that he didn't have so that he could really understand Jesus Christ and the gospel of the kingdom and when he was disposed to pass into a Kia the Brethren wrote exhorting the disciples to receive him who when he was come helped them much which had believed through grace oh he was a real asset for he mightily convinced the Jews and that publicly so he's doing this publicly showing by the scriptures that in fact Jesus was the Messiah now we come into acts 19 on the heels of Apollo's doing such great work and it came to pass that while Apollo's was at Corinth and lo you just remember here here just didn't finish the sentence while it was a Corinth Paul having passed through the upper coast came to Ephesus and finding certain disciples so just remember I map then you can see Corinth just under a Kia that's where Apollo stays and Paul has sailed on to Ephesus and we remember now when we actually looked at when we actually look at the first chapter of Corinthians when Paul wrote to the Corinthians so Apollo stays in Corinth Paul's gone on to Ephesus and then you remember that Corinth was a very divisive Church divisive congregation and so Paul wrote to them I'm baking you brethren by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you but that you'll be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment for it has been declared

unto me of you my brethren I basically got a bad report by them which are of the house of Chloe that there are contentions among you now this I say that that every one of you says I am of Paul and I of Apollo's so Paul was a powerful preacher of truth a Polish was a powerful preacher of truth and the Corinthians were now starting to divided over who they're following some are followers of Paul some are followers of Apollo's the summer of Cephas of Peter and summer you know I'm of Christ haha the question is Christ divided don't do this it's the Holy Spirit the Christ sends and we're all members of the same body and priced is not divided it's a rhetorical question and it's asked in such a way that the obvious answer is no is Christ divided was Paul crucified for you or were you baptized in the name of Paul so that he just is beside himself that people are following him and holding him up to the same level as Christ I I he's saying I wasn't I wasn't crucified for you and you weren't baptized in the name of Paul and since then he says in fact I thank God that I didn't ties any of you except Crispus and Gaius lest any should say that i baptized in my own name and that's why they're followers of Paul so let's just go back here then to mark sorry just have a problem here with the scripture so we were in first Corinthians and acts 19 I wanted to get 2x19 too but I can just see where I just have if you'd give me one one moment here and I'll just put this in here I wanted to get 2x 19 and I see what's happened here I should do it okay so we'll come back to acts 19 now verse 2 so he says to these disciples that he came across saw

policies in Corinth he's in Ephesus he comes to these disciples and he says to them have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed so there are now followers of Christ and then Paul wants to know have you received the Holy Spirit and they said to him we don't even we have not so much as heard if the reason if there is even a Holy Spirit we don't know what you're talking about we just know that we have to repent and we now follow the leaf now follow Jesus Christ we believe in Christ Jesus as the Messiah but we don't know anything about this Holy Spirit and he said unto them unto what then were you baptized so the annuity knows that they were baptized but they have no clue about the Holy Spirit so he's curious like so what were you baptized into that and they said unto John's baptism and so if we look at mark now the Gospel of Mark he opens with John's baptism so so mark comes out swinging if you if you look at Matthew Matthew begins with this long genealogy and wants us to understand the legitimacy of Christ's claim to the throne of David and so he begins with this long genealogy mark doesn't do that mark just boom the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God as it is written in the prophets behold I send my messenger before your face which shall prepare your way before you the voice of one crying in the wilderness prepare you the way of the Lord that the Lord is coming make his paths straight John did baptize in the wilderness and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sin so that was John's mission I was his ministry to just come proclaiming that Jesus Christ is coming that the Lord is coming and so there went out unto him all the land of Judea

so so he was such a powerful preacher that people came to him and and responded to his message and they of Jerusalem and they were all baptized of him in the River Jordan and so he went through this whole this calling in this this ministerial call to repentance to prepare the way of the Lord and so they all came to him and believed that in fact Jesus or or thus the Messiah was coming and so they came to be baptized of him in the River Jordan confessing their sins and repenting of their sins and John was clothed in camel's hair and with a girdle of skin about his loins and he ate locusts and wild honey and he preached saying there comes one mightier than I after me the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down on loose I indeed have baptized you with water but he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit so somehow these disciples that Paul came across in Ephesus they completely missed this part of the message that when Christ comes he throw in the Messiah comes he's going to baptize you with the Holy Spirit and so they completely lost that part they got the part about repentance and they got the part about baptism and so they were baptized into this call for repentance but missed the Holy Spirit didn't even know what it was and so now Marcus said comes out swinging and just you know as it says it's written in the prophets he is of course referring to the Prophet Malachi who basically is the last prophet the last scripture the last revelation that the last message that the Israelites received before this 400-year period of silence so after Malachi their silence until Christ oh sorry i should say until john the

baptist and so mark just picks it up right from there to say this is now the fulfillment of the prophecy that Malachi gave and we'll just read the specific part of the Prophet Malachi in chapter 3 where he says behold I will send my messenger speaking of John the Baptist and he shall prepare the way before me and the Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to his temple so so John the Baptist is a harbinger John the Baptist is a signal that the Lord is coming and when the Lord comes it's it's not going to be an easy time it's going to be a very difficult time so when John arise it's a call to repentance to prepare for the Lord so he shall prepare the way before me and the Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to his temple even the messenger of the Covenant whom you delight in behold he shall come says the Lord of hosts but who may abide the day of his coming and who shall stand when he appears so they desire him they want him but the scripture is asking can you stand when he appears and why does it ask that it says here but who may abide the day of his coming and who shall stand when he appears for he is like a refiners fire and like fuller soap so something that really gets in and cleanses and he shall sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver and he shall purify the sons of Levi and purge them as gold and silver that they may offer unto the Lord and offering in righteousness so a couple of things going on here first of all he says here that he's going to prepare the way before me I will send my messenger and he shall prepare the way before me and the Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to his temple so he's the Lord will

come suddenly now there's always these hidden intervals in prophecy and he will come suddenly he's going to come like a thief in the night he will come suddenly but there's this two thousand year period that we've had between his first coming and his coming to purify the sons of Levi so God is patient God God doesn't want any to perish and sometimes we mistake God's patience for for thinking that he's broken his promises God never breaks his promises and he will fulfill every single one but he's patient and so when he says he's going to come suddenly it doesn't mean John the Baptist appears and suddenly I you know the Messiah comes to do this job of refining the sons of Levi nope they what the what they missed was the whole spring holy day plan and so the first coming of Christ he comes and he comes as a lamb to be slaughtered as a mercy to the sons of Levi as a mercy to Israel as a mercy to the whole world until the day of trumpets which is going to be fulfilled with his second coming now in addition to that he says he's going to purify the sons of Levi and that's really important as we end the Old Testament with this repeated failure of the Israelites to live up to the Covenant and this repeated faithlessness that's how we end the book of Malachi is basically a condemnation of Israel for their faithlessness and what it says here he's going to come and is going to purge them as gold and silver why so that they may offer unto the Lord an offering of in righteousness and he is called the messenger of the Covenant and so there's a covenant that God has with Israel and he's going to keep that covenant and unfortunately for for Levi and for Israel they have to be purified

in order for them to fulfill their part of the Covenant and so what God is sitting here is as much as they are rebellious as much as they have turned away from him he's going to purify them and lead them to repentance so that they can in fact be that kingdom of priests to the world and helped to bring the whole world to God so he says then at this time when he purifies them and we actually see that purification process in the Prophet Zechariah that shows what's going to happen to Judah just before Christ returns to the point where if you look at Zechariah 12 they're actually going to now acknowledge Christ to him whom they have pierced as their Savior and they are going to be purifying themselves when we look in Revelation we see twelve thousand from each tribe have having purified themselves having repented and being prepared now to receive their Lord and so at that time shall the offering of do and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord as in the days of old and as in the former year so this is the plan God has not forsaken Israel he has not forsaken Judah he is going to restore them not just Judah and Levi and Benjamin which we you know we call them the southern tribe the tribe of Judah today but all of the tribes the lost tribes are going to be brought back as well and i will come near to you to judgment and i will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and this is this is what john the baptist would have been preaching against i'm going to be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against false wearers and against those that are pressed the hireling in his wages the widow and the fatherless that turn aside to stranger

from his right and do not fear me set
the Lord of hosts so all of this sin
that is in Israel God is saying he's
going to be as he's going to come
suddenly and he's going to be a swift
witness against all of this sinfulness
so before he comes though he sends this
messenger before him John the Baptist to
signal to them that this judgment is
coming so when John the Baptist comes
and he starts preaching out of Malachi
they will realize that time is short and
they need to come to repentance and now
notice this last verse in this passage
for I am the Lord and I don't change
therefore you sons of Jacob are not
consumed and a lot of people think they
try to get into Greek philosophy here
that you know god is so spiritual and
he'll never change and they try to
impose Greek philosophy on the text but
that's not what the text is saying well
the text is saying he's a mess and he's
the messenger of the Covenant it's all
about the Covenant and because when God
makes a promise he always keeps it and
so this covenant that he has with Israel
he's going to keep this covenant that he
has with Abraham the covenant with
Israel was conditional they broke it so
now he has a new covenant with Israel
because of the unconditional covenant
has with Abraham and because of that
unconditional covenant with Abraham he
says because I don't break my promise
because I never break a covenant that's
why you sons of Jacob are not consumed
you deserve to be destroyed your
sorcerers your adulterers you're thieves
you're liars you're breaking all of the
commandments you should be destroyed but
because of the Covenant because of
because God never breaks a promise
instead they're going to be led through

the refiners fire they're going to be purified they're going to be brought to repentance and they're not going to be destroyed so the Old Testament ends with a promise to Israel that they won't be destroyed but judgment is going to come on them and so mark opens his gospel swinging that here is the messenger that comes before the Lord that comes before the judgment so when you see John the Baptist judgment is coming on Israel so coming back now to acts 19 then said Paul John truly baptized with the baptism of repentance so they're explaining to him the baptism that they took which was a baptism of repentance and Paul acknowledges that that was in fact a valid baptism saying unto the people that they should believe on him which should come after him that is on Christ Jesus so he's explaining that the whole purpose of John coming was so that you would believe in Jesus and in the baptism of the Holy Spirit and when they heard this they were then baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus and light my colleague Michael pastor Marie Palmateer appointed the scripture to me because sometimes we have people coming into our fellowship who have been baptized in another traditional Christian Church and they didn't know anything about the Ten Commandments so they didn't understand sin and so they repented not understanding sin but they were baptized and then they'll come into our fellowship and think that they don't need to be baptized again and pastor Murray points to the scripture to say here are people who are baptized by John it was a valid baptism but they didn't understand the Holy Spirit and so when they came to understand the holy spirit they were

baptized again and so sometimes we do need to be humble that sometimes people feel that you know if I'm baptized again then does that call into question my life with God before when I was baptized before is it was my walk with God invalid because I was baptized before I think we just have to be humble and follow the process it's a critical process and so that's what these brethren did and when Paul then laid hands on them after they were baptized the Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke with tongues and prophesied and all the men were about 12 so it's interesting that we see in acts 2 when the Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost that they spoke in tongues and they prophesied and then I believe it was in acts 13 I'm not exactly sure if it that's that's the chapter when we had the Gentiles who would then baptized if it's not 13 in acts 10 they were then baptized and the same thing happened with Cornelius in his household where before in fact in that case before they were baptized the Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied as a confirmation that God had in fact given the access to the Gentiles to come into the covenant and now we see the same thing happening here and perhaps it's just again to validate that the baptism of John was was in fact Valley because all Judea came to John to be to repent and be baptized and now we see them having to be baptized again in order to receive the Holy Spirit and so it's just this sort of confirmation that the baptism of John was preparatory but insufficient and they really needed to be baptized again and so that could be communicated to everybody that Jesus Christ or Jesus is the Christ he is the

Messiah and then for some reason in verse 7 Luke finds it necessary to tell us that there were about 12 men I'm not sure why that is but we know that 12 is an important number you know the 12 tribes of Israel the 12 apostles you know 12 x 12 thousand 144,000 and so you know maybe this is just the show that this is in fact a complete transition now from the baptism of John to the baptism of the holy spirit and not sure about that but again Luke finds it significant to write to Theophilus to tell him about this and that that there were 12 and so he went into the synagogue and this isn't this is interesting as well verse 8 says he went into the synagogue and he spoke boldly for the space of three months disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God and again we have Christians among us that believe you know we shouldn't enter into debate we should mind her own business we should keep our head down we should be invisible and you see a Paulus was preaching publicly disputing publicly and Paul was preaching and disputing publicly and what's interesting here and I he died as a result of the debate that we did last week with the Muslim community it's interesting to see here that Paul was disputing debating with these brethren in the synagogue's for three months and I think that's something that I picked up in the debate yesterday that you know in a single event anybody can say anything and really get away with it but if you're there over time if we're going to have a part two and a part 3 and a part 4 and people can go in fact check people can go and search the Scriptures to see if these things are so it's much harder to

be much more careful about what you say because we're going to come back and we're going to fact-check you and we're going to see if in fact what you're saying is true and so over the course of three months you know the truth just stands a gains momentum whereas falsehood over time and you know initially it can appear that sounds good but over time it falls apart and so it's very very interesting that Paul is debating with these people in the synagogue for three months and notice that he speaks boldly it's boldly the Holy Spirit enables us to be bold concerning the kingdom of God so that's the content he's either its other the kingdom of God or it's the divinity of Christ is the necessity of his suffering it's the power of his resurrection its Christ in the kingdom that's what Paul is constantly disputing with them now he's there for three months we been explaining this to the Jewish people there but when several were hardened and that happens you know you're preaching the truth but it's not for everybody and so several were hardened and they didn't believe instead they spoke evil of that way in before the multitude so Paul is bringing truth to the multitude these people are speaking evil of this message to the multitude trying to persuade them or dissuade them he departed from them and separated to the disciples so now he's left the synagogue with his disciples and now he's disputing daily so you know weekly in the synagogue now he's left them and now its daily he's debating in the School of one Tyrannis and again it's over time it's not just one thing it's over time daily so they can go in fact check and come back and fact check

again and come back and search the Scriptures to see if these things are so and so there's some person here at tyrannous and perhaps again Theophilus would know who this is and in his school and that's where Paul is he's there in the school every single day debating and disputing and trying to show them from the scriptures that Jesus is Messiah and this continued by the space of two years so he was daily in the school for a two-year period teaching so that all they which dwelt it dwell in dwelt in Asia so basically if you look at turkey today that whole area of Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus both Jews and Greeks this man was very effective and just unstoppable he was just so filled with the truth that everybody had to hear and he was just relentless and and into fat in the fatigue in I forget the word indefatigable fight the long word anyway he couldn't be fatigued so God wrought special miracles and God Surat special miracles by the hand of Paul by the hands of Paul so that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons and so just just if you took something from his body and you gave it to the sick they would be healed and the disease's departed from them and evil spirits went out of them so this man Paul was full of the Holy Spirit and he's there preaching and debating and his tireless he's tireless he's just non-stop showing them from the scriptures that Jesus is Christ and at the same time he is healing and not just touching them with his hands if they even take a part of his clothing they're healed now Theophilus having read the first volume of Luke this this is actually going to bring to mind what

Luke wrote in chapter 8 about Christ and a woman having an issue of blood for 12 years imagine that every single day not for a year not for three enough for five years for 12 years this woman really suffer just bleeding constantly for 12 years which had spent all her living upon physician so she wants to get better she's taking all her savings and just going to every single physician she can and giving them whatever money she can and they're all making promises yes I think I can help you is just going to cost you know 500 dine or whatever the the currency was and you know we'll try and help you and so what she this is her hope so she's going to gather all her savings and give it to these physicians and neither could she couldn't be healed of anything none of none of them none of the physicians that she sought counsel could heal her even though she gave them all her money she came behind the master and she touched the border of His garment and immediately her issue of blood clotted it just stopped she had been bleeding for 12 years she touched the hem of His garment and it just stopped and Jesus said who touched me when all denied Peter and they that were with him said master the multitude strong you and they press you and you say who touched me I mean come on everybody's touching it and Jesus said no somebody has touched me for I perceived that power has left me power has gone out from me and when the woman saw that she wasn't hit she came trembling and falling down before him she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him so she explained the 12 years bleeding non stop all of her money being spent on physicians and that's why she

just had to touch him and how she was healed immediately and he said to her daughter be of good comfort your faith has made you whole go in peace so Theophilus would immediately have known having read volume 1 that something is going on with Paul and again what what Luke is doing here is he's legitimizing the ministry of Paul because Paul is now in Rome is on trial and so Luke is gathering all of this evidence to show the legitimacy of Paul's ministry and so what you see in Christ we now see in Paul a so filled with the Holy Spirit ease preaching and teaching exactly what Christ preached and taught and also he has this miraculous power that Jesus Christ had and so clearly Theophilus is getting it this is a legitimate messenger of the Lord so continuing now in acts 19 then certain of the vagabond Jews and we think of the vagabond is a very negative connotation call somebody a vagabond today or insulting them but this is really just wandering Jew's on nomadic Jews so they didn't really live anywhere they just roamed they were exorcists so this is their profession they made money casting out demons they took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus so this is a new development so they are exorcists and now that Jesus is being proclaimed so powerfully by Paul all over Asia they're now using the Lord Jesus's name to help with the exorcism process and they would say we a jury you or we command you by Jesus whom Paul preaches the same Jesus that Paul is preaching so powerfully we command you by this Jesus now of these wandering Jew's these exorcists there were seven sons of one skiva a Jew and chief of the priests so Steve is a very exalted or

esteemed highly esteemed individual he's chief of the priests and these sons of Skiba seven of them were doing the same thing there are also exorcists and they're using the name of Jesus Christ to call out these evil spirits so it seems like a lot of people were plagued by evil spirits at this time and in this location and so this would be very young people are looking the same way you saw the the woman who had this blood this issue for 12 years and going to anybody who could help her while these people who are vexed with evil spirits they're desperate and they're going to pay money to anybody who promises that they can remove these spirits and so just as extra credentials and a bit more clout they're now using Jesus name everybody is turning two people are repenting people are hearing about Jesus Christ and so they're including Jesus in their credentials now in terms of removing these evil spirits and the evil spirits of a so this that they do this they call on Jesus name to remove the evil spirit and the evil spirit answered and it said Jesus I know and Paul I know and again Lucas legitimizing the ministry of Paul and so this the evil spirit is now speaking to these sons of schema and it's saying I know Jesus and I know Paul but who are you I have no clue who you are and so you know you guys are just here to make money you're just here to you know exalt yourself and I guess you know if everybody's doing this and you're the sons of the chief priest you've got to kind of position yourselves as well but we don't we have no clue who you are we just don't recognize there's no power in you whereas they see the power in Paul and they they obey him when he commands them

in the name of Jesus Christ but these guys are just charlatans and so the men in whom the evil spirit was leaked on them and overcame them and prevailed against them so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded and again if you're Theophilus now and you're trying to understand why Paul is being brought to trial and potentially facing a death sentence and you see that the the evil spirits themselves are acknowledging Paul's ministry and may acknowledge Christ's ministry you see the parallels between Paul's ministry and Christ's ministry Theophilus is getting it and these guys who are pretenders who are not qualified to do this kind of work it ends in disaster for them so the man in whom the evil spirit in whom the evil spirit was leaked on them overcame them and prevailed against them so that they fled out of that house naked and wound it you know where the seven sons of sceva where the sons of the high priest we really are exalted people and now they're stripped naked humiliate it and have to run and they've been wounded as well and this became known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus so this was a big story and it went all over the place and people realized the Ministry of Paul is real and fear fell on them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified they really saw that this Jesus is the Christ and then everybody's going to magnify his name whether they like it or not and today we have a lot of opposition to Christ's name but you know we're going to see what happened here happen everywhere his name will be exalted and will be magnified throughout the whole earth and many that believed

came and confessed their sins they
confessed their their their sins and
they showed their deeds and and he says
here they confessed they showed their
deeds so they confessed their sins and
they showed what they were up to so they
would such fear fell on them about the
Lord Jesus that they really had to just
now present what they were actually up
to and many of them which used curious
arts so they were into magic and sorcery
they brought their books together and
burn them before all men and they
counted the price of them and found it
fifty thousand pieces of silver that's
how invested everybody was in this
sorcery so Ephesus was a real city of
magic and sorcery and witchcraft and all
these evil spirits in communing with
these evil spirits and when they saw the
power of the name of Christ they just
repented

fifty thousand pieces of silver that's a
lot of money and so they took all of
these books and burned them all and so
they counted the price of them and
founder fifty thousand pieces of
silver so mightily grew the word of God
and prevailed here in the city of
Ephesus and after these things were
ended Paul purposed in the spirit when
he had passed through Macedonia and
aquella to go to Jerusalem saying after
I have been there I must also see Rome
and we know that he'll be arrested in
Roman and Luke is just marching us
through these different chapters to get
us to Rome so that Theophilus
understands everything that led up to
Paul coming to Rome so he sent into
Macedonia two of them that ministered
unto him so he had to two people
assisting him Timothy and Erastus but he
himself stayed in Asia for a season so

he sends them on he stays in Asia and the same time there arose no small stir about that way about Christopher what Paul was preaching and a certain man named Demetrius a silversmith which made silver shrines for diana bought no small game brought no small gain unto the craftsmen so he you know diana was basically the greek form of Ishtar of Semiramis the ancient mystery religion and and it was thriving in Ephesus and this man would make shrines for these idols and it made them a lot of money these are very very religious people he saw just the books alone worth fifty thousand pieces of silver so they were really into this and they would buy these shrines and by the idols and really live their life believing in this goddess Diana and so they were making a lot of money whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation and said serves you know that by this craft we have our wealth so they were very very wealthy and it's because of how they supported this cult worship moreover you see and hear that not alone in Ephesus but almost throughout all Asia this Paul this man was so powerful in this preaching so not only at Ephesus but throughout all Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people saying that they be no God's which are made with hands so that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought but also the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised so there's a trying to tell these men we've got a crisis on our hands you know what this this wealth that we've built this income the steady stream of income that we have it is being jeopardized by this one Paul who's preaching throughout all

Asia and convincing people to turn away from these idols that we manufacture and so even the temple now is going to be despised and so he says here moreover you see in here that not alone and Ephesus but almost throughout all Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people saying that they are no gods which are made with hands so that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nothing but also the Temple of the Great Goddess night Diana should be despised and her magnificence should be destroyed whom all Asia and noticed the world worships so this Ishtar this a simmer amis worship it's not just in Ephesus and it's not just all over Asia it's all over the world these men travel they go all over the place and she's called by different names but this worship is everywhere and now along comes Paul up rooting the whole religious system and we you know if we if we want a clue of what's going to happen here in Ephesus we just have to look at the rest of Asia it's almost like today we would say if you know if you want to get a sense of what's going to happen to North America look to Europe what's going on in Europe because that's spreading and it's coming here and so what he's saying is looked at look at Asia guys this is what Paul is doing and it's going to come here in to Ephesus and when they heard these sayings they were full of wrath and they cried out saying greatest Diana of the Ephesian so they just really doubled down and buckled up here and just really ready to fight for Diana and so they're just really emphasizing how great diana is that this Ishtar this sem rms is the true goddess and and we just really need to defend her honor and not allow Paul

to make any inroads and the whole city was filled with confusion so the whole thing is now in an uproar and having called Gaius and Aristarchus men of Macedonia Paul's companions in travel they rushed with one Accord into the theater and when Paul would have entered in unto the people the disciples wouldn't allow him so he wants to now go in to the theater and deal with this head-on but the disciples understand the uproar that the state the heightened anxiety that these people are in and they don't want Paul facing this they know basically he'll he'll be killed and so they would not allow him to go into the theater and certain of the chief of Asia which were his friends sent unto him desiring him that he would not adventure himself into the theater so seems like he had some connections here and there really telling him love don't do this some therefore cried one thing and some another again the whole city is in confusion for the assembly was confused and the more part new not there for why they were even there so this is the problem with crowds you sort of you get into a crowd and this kind of groupthink takes over and and you know again just the other day I was in Pennsylvania and I just happen to get into the middle of an anti-trump rally and you could just see so many people there just protesting and just really upset and I was tempted to sort of pull some people aside and say can kind of sit down with you from it I really want to understand what your issue is did you even vote what is your concern and I'm sure that if I had pressed a lot of these people had no clue why they were there is just a big crowd and you can kind of caught up in the emotion and

that's why we need to be careful with crowds and group thick and so the crowd is all come together everybody's in an uproar but they're confused they really don't even know why they're there don't they do they really don't understand what the issue is but the people who are making money at this they're the ones who are stirring up the crowd because they have a great deal to lose and they drew Alexander out of the multitude the Jews putting him forward an Alexander beckoned with the hand and would have made his defense unto the people but when they knew that he was a Jew all with one voice so they realized that he's a Jew he doesn't accept their religion so now they're really in an uproar all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out great is Diana of the Ephesian so just for two hours they're just chanting and then you know you can think today if you could see sort of a similar situation analogy where if you were a Muslim kind of caught up in a crowd normally not the issues are but everybody just starts Allahu Akbar Allahu Akbar years doing that for two hours you can see very very similar parallels to today and so they just keeps you know diana Akbar diana Akbar of the Ephesians and when the town clerk had appeased the people he said you men of Ephesus what men is there that doesn't know how the city of the Ephesians is a worshiper of the great goddess Diana so everybody knows this and not just Diana but the image which fell from Jupiter so in addition to worshipping Diana there was some sort of stone that fell from Jupiter or they were they came from space and they claimed it was from Jupiter that was

part of their narrative that they worshiped this stone as well and you know again today we have this black stone in Mecca which is what you're being kissed and touched and run really honored by the Arabs and it's the same thing they understand that this stone fell from space and they put a different narrative around it in the case of the Ephesians it fell from Jupiter but in the case of the Arabs the story is told that it was sent down from space by God to Abraham and Ishmael to tell them the precise location of where to build the Kaaba and so somehow we have to get Abraham in the middle of the desert in the middle of nowhere with Ishmael and and this just does not stand up to the biblical texts and there's absolutely zero archaeological evidence to support this narrative but you have to put a narrative around it so the Ephesians put this narrative that the rock came from Jupiter here the Arabs put this narrative that God sent it from space to tell Abraham where to build the Kaaba but in any case NASA Western scientists have confirmed that this black stone is not from Earth that that it comes from space is that it's a meteorite so it was it did fall from space and we have many many cultures who worship these stones and especially if they can find that they fell from space and there's some evidence that this very stone actually was transferred to Arabia and that's why there's the pagans before Muhammad made such a big deal of it Muhammad then came along and just put a narrative around it basically saying that God sent it to Abraham and all of that the circumambulation around this stone and the running back and forth and

all these practices were what the pagans were doing hundreds of years before muhammad was born when he came along then he puts a narrative around it that makes it sound biblical and and it's not it's actually rooted in paganism seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against you ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly so this leader here of the Ephesians is saying look everybody knows that the Ephesians worship Diana and everybody knows that the Ephesians worship the black stone so settle down settle down he's really concerned that your earth is this whole huge uproar that is completely unnecessary for you have brought here these men which are neither robbers of churches nor yet blasphemers of your goddess we're if Demetrius and the craftsmen which are which are with him so this guy understands the root of the problem where it's coming from so Paul is not Oh actually it's um the the gentleman they found who was it Alexander and others that they've captured is saying look if Demetrius and the craftsmen which are with him have a matter against any man the law is open you have this facility where you can bring your accusations so why don't they do that why are you causing a riot the law is open and there are deputies let them accuse one another so if there's an issue under the law come with your accusation that's how a civilized society works is basically what he's saying to that but if you inquire anything concerning other matters it shall be determined in a lawful assembly so so there's there are ways that we have of dealing with these issues and it's not to get into this heated frenzy and turn the whole city up into a riot

now these craftsmen who had everything to lose they obviously wanted to do this and in fact it with with meka a lot of the opposition that Muhammad face when he wanted to get rid of all these idols that were in the Kaaba was for this very same reason people were making tunde the crazy tribe were wealthy because of the very same reason people coming in and wanting to worship and have these different idols and they they were running a real strong economy built around the worship of the black stone and the idols of the Kaaba and so Muhammad came basically was smashing all of these idols except and saying there's no God except Allah they were worried that their whole economy would fall apart so when they saw that he actually still would keep the Hajj and still keep all of these practices and people still could come to the quraish a to do the Hajj and they could still keep the economy going was still a wealth generator that's actually when they started to cooperate with him and feel much much more comfortable about what he was doing but initially there was this huge backlash for the very same reason that we see here in Ephesus so we are in danger to be so he says here you know there's a way to handle these things because look now you've put us all in trouble we are all at risk we are now in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar so this thing is so big that the Roman authorities are going to hear about all of this and they're going to want to know what's going on there being no cause whereby we may give an account of this commotion so so when we're when we're asked what what's going on there's no legal reason we have to be carrying on like this so he's

telling them basically settle down and when he had thus spoken he dismissed the assembly and so you can see how God is protecting Paul and protecting that the faithful brethren and just through this basic logic that this leader shares with the people of Ephesus he was able to get them to settle down and leave the assembly so so that's Acts chapter 19 and we're now going to come into acts chapter 20 where where Paul is now going to leave Ephesus and very some very interesting counsel that he has for the leaders in Ephesus as he as he begins to leave them and we'll cover that next time I certainly hope that you enjoyed and you're getting as much out of these studies as I am Acts chapter 19 and so with that I'll say good night and God bless and look forward to us chatting with some of you online and remember Jesus Christ is Lord