

1  **NT History****Part 24**

Acts 18B-19A: Corinth and Ephesus

4  **Review of Acts 18:1-16**

- Paul probably arrived in Corinth in February or March A.D. 50. He stayed 18 months in Corinth.
- Paul met in Corinth Aquila and Priscilla, who had been exiled from Rome by the order of Claudius.
- When Silas and Timothy arrived in Corinth, Paul was able to carry out his missionary work full time.
- Paul's work was both successful and difficult. "Many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized." Paul also met Sosthenes; see 1 Cor. 1:1.
- Paul was brought before the proconsul of Achaia, Gallio, and charged with treason. Gallio made a very important decision not to accept the complaint, giving Paul important legal precedent for his continued ministry in the region.

5  **Acts 18:18-21**

- Acts 18:18 So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. He had his hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow. ¹⁹ And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰ When they asked him to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent, ²¹ but took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing." And he sailed from Ephesus.

6  **Acts 18:22-23**

Acts 18:22 And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch. ²³ After he had spent some time there, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.

7  **Acts 18:24-28**

Acts 18:24 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures,

came to Ephesus. 25 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. 26 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. 27 And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; 28 for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

8 **Apollos**

- 1Cor. 1:12 Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.”
- 1Cor. 3:5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.
- Titus 3:13 Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing.

9 **Problems in Corinth**

- Divisions over Christian preachers
- Sexual immorality and lack of church discipline
- Legal problems
- Lack of understanding on marriage and divorce
- Issues about food offered to idols
- Problems in worship and the celebration of the Lord’s Supper
- Questions about the resurrection

11 **Ephesus**

Ephesus was originally founded around 1100 B.C. by Greeks who had come from Athens. Over the next 1000 years it would be ruled by the Lydians, Persians, Greeks, Selucids, and finally the Romans, under which it reached its zenith having a population of nearly 300,000. During that same time the city itself also moved because of the changing coastline. During Roman times it was the leading seaport of Asia Minor and was one of the major centers for the emperor cult. It was also as is

noted in the book of Acts a major center for occult activity run by Jews.

12 

The city was known as the “Vanity Fair of the Ancient World” as well as the “highway of the martyrs.” A visitor to Ephesus coming by boat would enter into its famous harbor and then walk along a wide, marble street that would lead to its large theater. Along the street you would pass by beautiful buildings with columned porches including the gymnasium, public baths, public library, and the public brothel. The theater cut into the side of a mountain measured nearly 500 feet in diameter and could hold 24,000 people.

13 

Artemis (the Roman Diana) was both the deity of the city and province. The temple of Artemis was very important economically for the city for it brought in many visitors and worshippers. The temple located one mile northeast of the theatre was one of the Seven Wonders of the World. And no wonder, for it was a massive and beautiful structure. The temple complex stood on a platform 418 feet long and 239 feet wide. The temple itself measured 340 feet long and 160 feet wide, nearly twice the size of the Parthenon. Its roof was covered with white marble tiles and was supported by 127 blue-gray granite columns each 60 feet in height.

18 

Acts 19:1-7

Acts 19:1 And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples ² 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.” ³ And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?” So they said, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴ 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.” ⁵ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

⁶ And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. ⁷ Now the men were about twelve in all.

19  **Acts 19:8-10**

¹ Acts 19:8 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. 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.

20  **Acts 19:11-12**

Acts 19:11 Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹² 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.

22  **Acts 19:13-17**

¹³ 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." ¹⁴ Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. ¹⁵ And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.

23  **Acts 19:18-20**

¹⁸ And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. ¹⁹ 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 totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord grew

mightily and prevailed.