

**Acts 19:8-20 (#31) 12.6.2020 (20095)**  
**Ephesus and the True King**

**I. We all want and need better leaders. That's why we keep changing them! And all of them fail in this age. But God has always promised a King who would save the world.**

- A. A King will be born... **Isa.9:6-7.**
- B. He will take the Throne of David. God's Kingdom. **Luke 1:30-33.**
- C. He is here now, calling anyone who will come. **Mark 1:15**

**II. Acts is the record of the message of this king spreading in the Roman world.**

**A. It comes to Ephesus. Acts 19 is about gospel impact on the capital of Asia.** Paul on his third journey (Acts 19-20; Eph 4:14; 1-2 Tim).

1. Center of Roman Imperial Presence. (most cities were)
  - a) Capital of the Roman province of Asia. "Mother City of Asia."
  - b) About 250,000 population, Main port on the Aegean, gateway to Asia.
  - c) The leading city of the richest region of the Roman Empire.
2. Center of international Artemis worship. Acts 19
  - a) The hunting and fertility goddess.
  - b) Temple of Artemis/Diana was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. (Called the *Artemisian*)
3. Center of magical arts of all kinds. Acts 19:18-20
  - a) Magical arts in Ephesus were famous and powerful.
    - (1) They have uncovered tons of magic stuff from the ancient era in Egypt. Amulets, incantations, everything.
  - b) At least 50 other deities in town.
4. Center of Asian Outreach. Acts 19:20
  - a) Recipient of several NT letters. (8?)
    - (1) Ephesians, John's gospel and 1, 2, 3 John (all written while John was living in Ephesus. 1, 2 Timothy written to Tim, the pastor at Ephesus. Revelation written by John to the Ephesian church (among others)
  - b) Good leaders. Paul, Timothy, Apollos, aided by Priscilla and Aquilla.

**III. Five things the Lord, the King, does here in Ephesus. Acts 19:8-20. (Rom.1:16-17)**

**A. He begins in the Synagogue because he is the Jewish Messiah 8-10**

1. Explaining that the Messiah is Jesus, risen and ascended.
  - a) Using the OT and the Resurrection.
    - (1) Biblical and Historical evidence.
  - b) Reasoning = discuss, debate, dialogue, Q&A
  - c) Persuading = Persuade, convince, plead.
  - d) *Faith in Christ is a thoughtful process based on historical, biblical, and internal evidence.*
2. Offering the Kingdom to any who will trust Jesus Messiah. Col.1:13-14
  - a) From the domain of darkness to the Kingdom of Jesus.
  - b) Here we have freedom (redemption, purchased from slavery and doom) and forgiveness of sins.

3. Producing two responses: (always)
    - a) **Faith. Confidence in Jesus as the Messiah and king.**
      - (1) Becoming disciples of Jesus, following Paul.
    - b) **Anti-Faith. Decisive rejection. (our culture generally)**
      - (1) **Determined Unbelief.** Willful mental act.
        - (a) Refusal to allow oneself to be convinced.
      - (2) **Spiritual Sclerosis.**
        - (a) From the Greek word, skleros = become thick, hardened. “hardened themselves” or “became hardened.”
      - (3) **Verbal Ridicule.** Speaking evil of the Way. Public, verbal abuse
  4. Then Focusing on one group—Disciples. Jn.10:27-30
    - a) Out of the synagogue and into the world. neutral territory, at odd hours (11:00 AM to 4:00 PM according to western text)
  5. And in this way saturating Asia with the gospel. 10
    - a) This is also where he wrote 1 Corinthians.
    - b) *Long-term teaching produces lasting fruit.*
- B. He challenges the idolatry because there is only One Lord. 11-19.**
1. Apostolic miracles. Absolutely. **2 Cor. 12:12**
    - a) Validating apostolic message of Jesus.
  2. But no “magic.” (Sceva’s) 13-15
    - a) These professional, itinerant exorcists don’t believe the gospel, but they want to use the power of Jesus’s name.
  3. Two mistakes about works of power.
    - a) **Denial:** Modernism, Philosophical Naturalism, Liberal theology deny the supernatural. You got saved out of this form of idolatry.
    - b) **Obsession:** hankering after miracles to shore up a weak faith, chasing any supernatural thing that presents itself. Jesus warned us not to be deceived by the supernatural. Matt.24:24-25
  4. *It’s not us using God’s Power to do amazing things. It is God using us to bring people to Christ.*
- C. He transforms the disciples because they have new life. 18-19. 1 Jn.3:9**
1. Christians are new; they leave the old ways behind. **1 Jn.1:1-2:2**
    - a) Repenting, repudiating former spiritism/idolatry.
  2. *Coming to the Lord will change your mind, your worldview, your morals.*
- D. He wins against the odds because the gospel is the power of salvation. 20. (rom.1:16-17; Jn.1:4-5)**
1. Growing Mightily and Prevailing: Winning among those who hear the voice of Jesus. Jn.10:27-30

#### IV. What do we learn from this passage about being in Jesus’s kingdom? 3 Things:

- A. Trusting Him personally is the only way in. 8-10**
  1. This is why the exorcists failed when they used his name. We must come to him personally, individually, repentantly, trusting. Mk.1:15
- B. Obeying Him consistently is the only way forward. 18**
  1. The question is always, “What does the Lord want me to do in the life he has given me?”
    - a) Not, “How can I get Him to make my life the way I want it?”
  2. Refusing to let him change our minds and actions is a sure way to confusion and corruption.
- C. Resting in Him constantly is the only source of Peace. Eph.1:15-23**
  1. Resting in His Lordship and victory on our behalf.
  2. The King has already won the only battle that could be a danger to us. He is the True King.