WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY- Acts Chapter 19 verses 21-28 (ESV 1028-1029)

Verse 21-22- After dealing with all of this idolatry and hypocrisy, Paul "purposed in the spirit" to take another journey. This meant that he made a firm, resolved decision inspired by the Holy Spirit. This likely had nothing to do with Paul's own personal needs or wants, but everything to do with following the Lord's leading.

1. We know from later scriptures that Paul wanted to go to Jerusalem to help out the church which was suffering there. He wanted to pass through Macedonia and Achaia to get help from them to take to Jerusalem. (Romans 15:25-31, ESV 1052), (1 Corinthians 16:1-4, ESV 1065)
2. Paul's need to visit Rome stemmed from his desire to take care of the church communities that he had already established. This was also mentioned in later scriptures. (Romans 1:8-15, ESV 1037-1038)

Though Paul cared for the faithful followers that he had not seen for some time, he did not want to leave this new community of believers too soon, so he sent Timothy and Erasmus, two of his trusted assistants, ahead to Macedonia while he stayed a little while longer in Asia. (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8), ESV 1089), (1 Peter 4:8-11, ESV 1119) (1 Timothy 4:7-8)

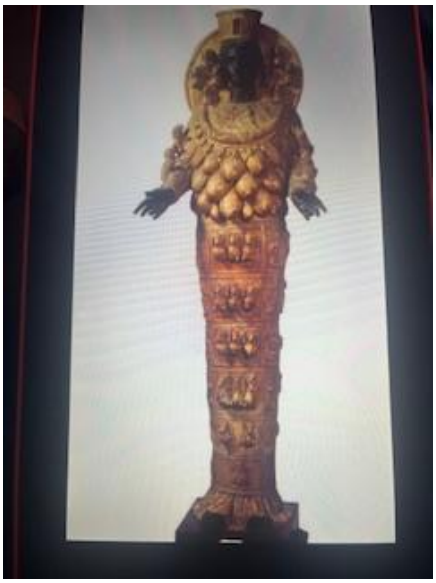
Verse 23-28- While Paul was trying to care for his fellow believers, Satan was cooking up a big disturbance once again. A popular silversmith and idol maker named Demetrius pulled together a group of people from similar occupations to stir up greed and distrust against Paul and the Christian followers. He appealed to the businessmen's sense of financial self-interest and to the citizen's sense of civic pride. Sound familiar?

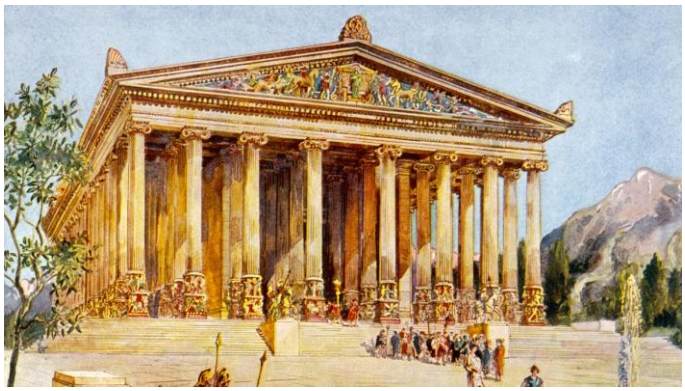
His points were:

1. Our business brings us great wealth.
2. This Paul is turning people away from our product, not only here in Ephesus, but all over the world.
3. Paul is ruining the reputation of our trade and our great city. He is disrespecting the great goddess Artemis and her temple which is worshipped all over the world.

This made many of the hearers enraged. This outsider was coming into their city and disturbing their happy life. So, they shouted in protest, "Great is Artemis (Diana) of the Ephesians!"

About Artemis:





The goddess Artemis of Ephesus (known as Diana in Latin) was a local goddess of fertility, virginity, childbirth and protection, who was believed to have fallen from heaven. Replicas of her statue were sold as charms and trinkets that would bring those things she was noted for to the recipient. Later on, she became mixed up with the classical Greek goddess, Diana known for hunting and protection of nature.

Inside the Temple of Artemis stood a richly decorated interior featuring a large cult statue of Artemis made of gold, ebony, silver, and black stone, surrounded by 127 elaborately carved Ionic columns about 60 feet high. Because of its size, elaborate statue and columns, the temple was considered one of the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World during Paul's time. It has been said that many merchants, kings and cities kept their money there as a sort of bank or treasury because it was believed to be safe there under the protection of the gods.

There is no evidence that Paul ever spoke against Artemis or her temple. But the incrimination by Demetrius was enough to start a riot. Of course, the real problem that Demetrius and others had with Paul was that he was convincing people that there was a real God who had real power, so he was ending their money pot.(Isaiah 54:17, ESV 686), (Matthew 5:11-12, ESV 898), (Titus 3:9-11, ESV 1101)