

## Acts of the Apostles: The Story of the Early Church

### Chapters 18 and 19: Paul in Corinth, Antioch and Ephesus

In Chapter 17, Paul and Silas preach in Thessalonica. Though some Jews and Gentiles (including “leading women”) become believers, the Jewish leaders became “jealous” and cause an uproar. The believers urge Paul and Silas to leave, and they travel to Beroea, where they are well received. But some Thessalonians follow them, and Paul sails to Athens, leaving Silas and Timothy behind. There he gives a speech at the Areopagus (literally “martial peak,” or Mars Hill), where a court met to hear cases dealing with public morals and question traveling lecturers like Paul. His reception is tepid, though Dionysius the Areopagite and Demaris, a woman, believe.

#### Notes For Chapter 18

- 18:1: **Corinth** – About 40 miles from Athens, across a narrow isthmus, Corinth was a prosperous commercial center with a population of around 600,000 in Paul’s time, including people of many backgrounds. The city was known for its temple to Aphrodite, the goddess of love, which featured temple prostitution. It was also known for the Isthmian Games (featuring running, wrestling, boxing, chariot racing, etc.), held every two years.
- 18:2: **Aquila** – From Greek *akulas* = “eagle.” Born in Pontus, in northeastern Asia Minor, he had traveled from there to Italy—at least 1,200 miles. Then he traveled from Rome to Corinth (where Paul met him), another 700 miles or so. This may have been in 49 AD, as that was the year Emperor Claudius expelled the Jews from Rome.
- 18:2: **Priscilla** – From Greek *Priska* = “ancient.” The wife of Aquila, though we don’t know where she’s from or when they married.
- 18:3: **tentmakers** – The Greek word is *skenoipoios*, which has a wider meaning of leatherworker.
- 18:11: “...**a year and six months...**” - one of Paul’s longest residencies
- 18:12: **Gallio** – governor of Achaia for a time during the reign of Emperor Claudius (41 AD to 54 AD). A stone inscription, known as the Gallio Inscription, was discovered in 1905. The Greek inscription is a copy of a letter by Emperor Claudius that reveals Gallio was indeed governor of Achaia, most likely between 51 and 52. Therefore, Paul was in Corinth during this time. This is an anchor for a chronology of Paul’s entire life and ministry.
- 18:12: **Tribunal** – Greek *bema*, meaning judgment seat. This was a raised platform, much like we refer to “the bench” in a courtroom as the place of the judge.
- 18:18: “...**hair cut, for he was under a vow...**” – This refers to
- 8:24: “**Apollos, a native of Alexandria...**” – Paul mentions Apollos in his letters several times. He was from Alexandria in northern Egypt, one of the major capitals of Judaism in the first century.

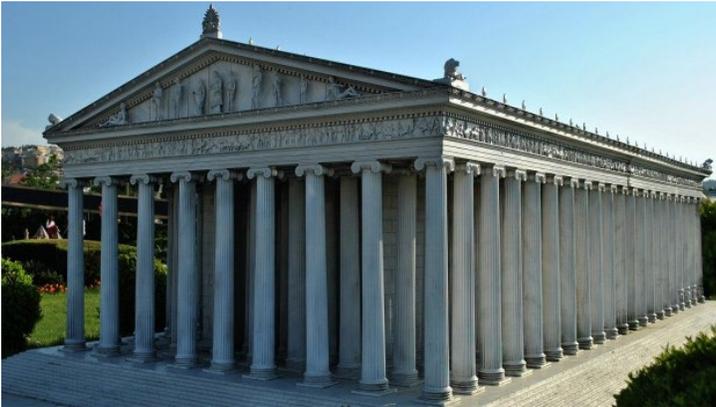
## Notes for Chapter 19

- 19:3: **John's baptism** – that is, baptism in water, signifying repentance (Greek *metanoia*, or “changing the mind”). Baptizing “in the name of the Lord Jesus” was linked with the Holy Spirit.
- 19:9: **the lecture hall of Tyrannus** – apparently a space in the city that could be rented
- 19:24: **Artemis** – the Greek goddess of wild animals, hunting, chastity, fertility and childbirth. (The Roman equivalent was Diana.) The Temple of Artemis in Ephesus was one of the “Seven Wonders of the World,” an enormous structure (350 by 180 feet) lined with artworks built in 550 BC and destroyed in the 260s AD.
- 19:35: “...the statue that fell from heaven...” – supposedly a “stone” or “image” of Artemis that “fell from Zeus”—ie, from heaven.





The Gallio Inscription,  
discovered in 1905



Rendering of Temple of Artemis, Ephesus



Remains of Ephesian Street, c. 1<sup>st</sup> century



Statute of Artemis, 1<sup>st</sup> century AD