

## Notes on the Greek New Testament Day 180 – June 29<sup>th</sup> – Acts 19:21-41

### Works frequently referenced in these notes on Acts

Bruce, FF, *The Acts of the Apostles*, London, 2nd ed. 1952

Polhill, John B, *Acts: The New American Commentary*, Nashville, 1992

Stott, John R W, *The Message of Acts*, IVP (The Bible Speaks Today), Leicester, 1990

#### Verse 21

Ὡς δὲ ἐπληρώθη ταῦτα, ἔθετο ὁ Παῦλος ἐν τῷ πνεύματι διελθὼν τὴν Μακεδονίαν καὶ Ἀχαΐαν πορεύεσθαι εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα, εἰπὼν ὅτι Μετὰ τὸ γενέσθαι με ἐκεῖ δεῖ με καὶ Ῥώμην ἰδεῖν.

"This verse summarises the remainder of Ac., referring as it does to the visit to Jerusalem and the journey to Rome, although neither of these turned out exactly as Paul expected." Bruce

πληροῦ fill, fulfill, accomplish

ἔθετο Verb, 2 aor midd indic, 3 s τιθημι  
midd decide, resolve

πνευματι may be either 'in his spirit' or 'by the Spirit'. Bruce thinks, "a reference to the Holy Spirit is the more likely."

ἐκεῖ there, in that place, to that place

The first mention of Rome, cf. Rom 1:11ff.; 15:23ff.

"The best commentary on this passage is Paul's own discussion of his plans in Rom 15, which was written from Corinth probably within a year or so of this point in the Ephesian ministry. There Paul spoke of his desire to carry on a mission in Spain and the western portion of the empire, probably hoping that Rome would sponsor him in the undertaking (Rom 15:24,28). As in Acts 19:21, he explained that his route must first take him to Jerusalem. Acts is silent about the reason for going first to Jerusalem, but Paul explained to the Romans that a collection for the Jerusalem Christians necessitated his going there before proceeding to Rome (Rom 15:25-31). This also explains the reference to his visiting Macedonia and Achaia in Acts 19:21. Paul made it a point to revisit and strengthen his congregations, but in this particular instance his epistles reveal that he was particularly preoccupied with the collection on this final visit to Macedonia and Achaia." Polhill

#### Verse 22

ἀποστείλας δὲ εἰς τὴν Μακεδονίαν δύο τῶν διακονούντων αὐτῷ, Τιμόθεον καὶ Ἐραστον, αὐτὸς ἐπέσχευεν χρόνον εἰς τὴν Ἀσίαν.

διακονεῶ serve

ἐπέσχευεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s ἐπεχω stay;  
ἐ. χρόνον stay a while

Sent to prepare the way for Paul's arrival.

#### Verse 23

Ἐγένετο δὲ κατὰ τὸν καιρὸν ἐκεῖνον ταραχος οὐκ ὀλίγος περὶ τῆς ὁδοῦ.

ταραχος, ου m confusion, commotion,  
disturbance

"It is tempting to believe that the outburst may have been connected with the celebration of the great Ephesian festival of the Artemisia, which took place in March or April." Duncan

#### Verse 24

Δημήτριος γάρ τις ὀνόματι, ἀργυροκόπος, ποιῶν ναοὺς ἀργυροῦς Ἀρτέμιδος παρείχετο τοῖς τεχνίταις οὐκ ὀλίγην ἐργασίαν,

ἀργυροκοπος, ου m silver-smith

Ramsay says that these were small shrines for votaries to dedicate in the temple, representing the goddess in a niche or *naiskos*, with her lions beside her.

ναος, ου m temple, shrine

ἀργυρος, ου m silver, silver coin, money

Ἄρτεμις, ἰδος f Artemis (Roman name  
Diana)

παρείχετο Verb, imperf act indic, 3 s παρεχω  
act & midd cause, bring about

τεχνιτης, ου m craftsman, workman;  
designer

ἐργασία, ας f gain, profit, business

#### Verse 25

οὗς συναθροίσας καὶ τοὺς περὶ τὰ τοιαῦτα ἐργάτας εἶπεν· Ἄνδρες, ἐπίστασθε ὅτι ἐκ ταύτης τῆς ἐργασίας ἡ εὐπορία ἡμῖν ἐστίν,

συναθροίζω gather, gather together

ἐργατης, ου m labourer, workman

ἐπίσταμαι know, understand

εὐπορία, ας f wealth, prosperity

**Verse 26**

καὶ θεωρεῖτε καὶ ἀκούετε ὅτι οὐ μόνον Ἐφέσου ἀλλὰ σχεδὸν πάσης τῆς Ἀσίας ὁ Παῦλος οὗτος πείσας μετέστησεν ἱκανὸν ὄχλον, λέγων ὅτι οὐκ εἰσὶν θεοὶ οἱ διὰ χειρῶν γινόμενοι.

σχεδὸν adv almost, nearly

πείσας Verb, aor act ptc, m nom s πειθω persuade, convince

μετέστησεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s μεθιστημι remove, mislead

ἱκανος, η, ον worthy, sufficient, large, much

**Verse 27**

οὐ μόνον δὲ τοῦτο κινδυνεύει ἡμῖν τὸ μέρος εἰς ἀπελεγμὸν ἐλθεῖν, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸ τῆς μεγάλης θεᾶς Ἀρτέμιδος ἱερὸν εἰς οὐθὲν λογισθῆναι, μέλλειν τε καὶ καθαιρεῖσθαι τῆς μεγαλειότητος αὐτῆς, ἣν ὅλη ἡ Ἀσία καὶ ἡ οἰκουμένη σέβεται.

κινδυνεύω be in danger, run a risk

μερος, ους n here in the sense of 'line of business'

ἀπελεγμος, ου m discredit, a bad reputation

Here alone in the NT.

θεα, ας f goddess

ἱερὸν, ου n temple, temple precincts

"The temple, successor to that destroyed in 356 BC, was one of the Seven Wonders of the World." Bruce

οὐθεις, οὐθεμια, οὐθεν equivalent to οὐδεις, οὐδεμια, οὐδεν no one, nothing

λογισθῆναι Verb, aor pass infin λογίζομαι reckon, suppose

καθαρεῖσθαι Verb, pres pass infin καθαιρέω take down, pull down, overthrow

μεγαλειότης, ητος f majesty, greatness

οἰκουμένη, ης f world, inhabited earth

σεβομαι worship

An appeal to civic pride. "Luke left no doubt that Demetrius's real concern was the damage Paul's preaching was doing to his economic interests. Still, as a skilled demagogue Demetrius was quick to bring religion and patriotism into the picture, which were more prone to get the public attention." Polhill

**Verse 28**

Ἀκούσαντες δὲ καὶ γενόμενοι πλήρεις θυμοῦ ἔκραζον λέγοντες· Μεγάλη ἡ Ἄρτεμις Ἐφεσίων.

πληρης, ες (sometimes not declined) full, complete

θυμος, ου m passion, great anger

κραζω shout, shout out

**Verse 29**

καὶ ἐπλήσθη ἡ πόλις τῆς συγχύσεως, ὥρμησάν τε ὁμοθυμαδὸν εἰς τὸ θέατρον συναρπάσαντες Γάϊον καὶ Ἀρίσταρχον Μακεδόνας, συνεκδήμους Παύλου.

ἐπλήσθη Verb, aor pass indic, 3 s πιμπλημι

fill, fulfil; aor pass come to an end

συγχυσις, εως f confusion

Here alone in the NT. For the corresponding verb, cf. v.32; 2:6; 9:22; 21:31.

ὄρμαω rush

ὁμοθυμαδον together, with one accord

θεατρον, ου n theatre

Estimated to be capable of holding 25,000 people.

συναρπαζω sieze, drag by force

Cf. 20:4.

συνεκδημος, ου m travelling companion, fellow traveller

**Verse 30**

Παύλου δὲ βουλομένου εἰσελθεῖν εἰς τὸν δῆμον οὐκ εἶον αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταί·

βουλομαι wish, decide

δημος, ου m people, crowd, public

assembly

εἶον Verb, imperf act indic, 1 s & 3 pl εἶω

allow, permit, leave, let go

**Verse 31**

τινὲς δὲ καὶ τῶν Ἀσιαρχῶν, ὄντες αὐτῷ φίλοι, πέμπαντες πρὸς αὐτὸν παρεκάλουν μὴ δοῦναι ἑαυτὸν εἰς τὸ θέατρον.

Ἀσιαρχης, ου m Asiarch – a high ranking official of the province of Asia.

"Their friendly relations with Paul show that the imperial policy at that time was not hostile to the spread of Christianity, and that the more educated classes did not share the antipathy to Paul felt by the more superstitious populace." Bruce

φίλος, ου m friend

παρακαλεω encourage, exhort, beg

**Verse 32**

ἄλλοι μὲν οὖν ἄλλο τι ἔκραζον, ἦν γὰρ ἡ ἐκκλησία συγκεχυμένη, καὶ οἱ πλείους οὐκ ᾔδεισαν τίνος ἕνεκα συνελήλυθεισαν.

ἄλλος, η, ο another, other

ἐκκλησια, ας f assembly; here of the assembly of Ephesians

συγκεχυμένη Verb, perf pass ptc, f nom s

συγγεω and συγχυννω bewilder, stir up;

pass be confused or bewildered

πλειων, ον more; οἱ πλειους most, the

majority

ἤδεισαν Verb, pluperf act indic, 3 pl οἶδα  
(verb perf in form but with present  
meaning) know, understand

ἐνεκα because of, for the sake of; τινος  
έ. why

συνεληλύθεισαν Verb, pluperf act indic, 3 pl  
συνερχομαι come together, assemble,  
meet

"The humour of this remark is unmistakable. The result of the general ignorance of the purpose of the meeting was that the agitation was as much anti-Jewish as anti-Christian, especially when they saw Alexander." Bruce

### Verse 33

ἐκ δὲ τοῦ ὄχλου συνεβίβασαν Ἀλέξανδρον  
προβαλόντων αὐτὸν τῶν Ἰουδαίων, ὁ δὲ  
Ἀλέξανδρος κατασεισας τὴν χεῖρα ἤθελεν  
ἀπολογεῖσθαι τῷ δήμῳ.

συμβιβαζω decide – see below

"A difficult word here, though the meaning 'instructed' (as in the LXX) is just possible... More probably it means that they 'conjectured' Alexander to be the cause of the trouble when the Jews put him forward." Bruce

προβαλόντων Verb, aor act ptc, gen pl  
προβαλλω trans put forward  
κατασειω shake, motion (with the hand)

Cf. 12:17; 13:16; 21:40.

ἀπολογεομαι speak on one's own behalf,  
defend oneself

δημος, ου m see v.30

### Verse 34

ἐπιγινόντες δὲ ὅτι Ἰουδαῖός ἐστιν φωνὴ ἐγένετο  
μία ἐκ πάντων ὡς ἐπὶ ὥρας δύο κραζόντων·  
Μεγάλη ἡ Ἄρτεμις Ἐφεσίων.

ἐπιγινωσκω perceive, understand,  
recognise

### Verse 35

καταστείλας δὲ ὁ γραμματεὺς τὸν ὄχλον  
φησίν· Ἄνδρες Ἐφεσίοι, τίς γάρ ἐστιν  
ἀνθρώπων ὃς οὐ γινώσκει τὴν Ἐφεσίων πόλιν  
νεωκόρον οὖσαν τῆς μεγάλης Ἀρτέμιδος καὶ  
τοῦ διοπετοῦς;

καταστείλας Verb, aor act ptc, m nom s  
καταστελλω quieten, silence  
γραμματευς scribe; here = 'town clerk'

"The 'town clerk' or executive officer who published the decree of the Demos was an Ephesian, not a Roman citizen, but as the most important native official of the provincial capital he was in close touch with the Roman authorities, who would hold him responsible for the riotous assembly." Bruce

φησιν 3s φημι say

νεωτερος temple keeper  
μεγας, μεγαλη, μεγα large, great  
διοπετης, ες fallen from heaven

"probably a meteorite, like the Palladium of Troy, the image of the *Magna Mater* brought from Pessinus to Rome, that of the Tauric Artemis ..., of Ceres in Enna... and of the god El Gabal of Emesa..." Bruce

### Verse 36

ἀναντιρρήτων οὖν ὄντων τούτων δέον ἐστὶν  
ὑμᾶς κατεσταλμένους ὑπάρχειν καὶ μηδὲν  
προπετεὺς πράσσειν.

ἀναντιρρητος undeniable

δεον, ωντος ptc from δει, impersonal verb, it  
is necessary, it is needful; δεον ἐστιν

is equivalent to δει

κατεσαλμενος see v.35

ὑπαρχω here equiv to εἶμι

προπετης, ες rash, precipitate

πρασσω do, practice

### Verse 37

ἡγάγετε γὰρ τοὺς ἄνδρας τούτους οὔτε  
ιεροσύλους οὔτε βλασφημοῦντας τὴν θεὸν  
ἡμῶν.

ἡγάγετε Verb, aor act indic, 2 pl ἄγω

ιεροσυλος, ου m temple robber, one who  
commits sacrilege

Cf. Rom 2:22.

### Verse 38

εἰ μὲν οὖν Δημήτριος καὶ οἱ σὺν αὐτῷ τεχνῖται  
ἔχουσιν πρὸς τίνα λόγον, ἀγοραῖοι ἄγονται καὶ  
ἀνθύπατοί εἰσιν, ἐγκαλείωσαν ἀλλήλοις.

τεχνῖται see v.24

ἀγοραῖος, ου m court session

ἄγονται here = are being held

Bruce suggests that the phrase may be a  
Latinism.

ἀνθυπατος proconsul

ἐγκαλεω press charges against

ἀλληλων, οἰς, acc. ους one another (only  
in pl. and not in nom.)

### Verse 39

εἰ δὲ τι περαιτέρω ἐπιζητεῖτε, ἐν τῇ ἐννόμῳ  
ἐκκλησίᾳ ἐπιλυθήσεται.

περαιτερω adv. further

ἐπιζητεω seek, want, look for

ἐννομος, ον subject to law, legal, regular

"Such assemblies, according to Chrysostom ..., met three times a month. An irregular or unlawful assembly like the present one would not be tolerated by Rome; it might seriously endanger the city's favourable status." Bruce

ἐπιλυθήσεται Verb, fut pass indic, 3 s ἐπιλυω  
explain, settle (a dispute)

#### Verse 40

καὶ γὰρ κινδυνεύομεν ἐγκαλεῖσθαι στάσεως  
περὶ τῆς σήμερον μηδενὸς αἰτίου ὑπάρχοντος  
περὶ οὗ οὐ δυνησόμεθα ἀποδοῦναι λόγον περὶ  
τῆς συστροφῆς ταύτης. [41] καὶ ταῦτα εἰπὼν  
ἀπέλυσεν τὴν ἐκκλησίαν.

κινδυνευω see v.27

"In v.27 Demetrius argued that Paul was a danger to Ephesus. In v.40 the clerk clarified where the real danger lay – not from Paul but from the unruly Ephesians." Polhill

ἐγκαλεῖσθαι Verb, pres pass infin ἐγκαλεω  
see v.38

στασις, εως f uproar, uprising

σημερον adv. today

αἴτιος, ου m cause, reason, source

ἀποδοῦναι Verb, aor act infin ἀποδιδωμι  
give; ἀ. λογον give account

συστροφη, ης f uproar, unruly gathering

ἀπολυω release, dismiss