

Acts 19:1-20

Paul's Ministry at Ephesus

Jeremy Doan

Holly Hills Bible Church

28 September 2014

Just a passin' through

1 It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples.

- *While Apollos was at Corinth*

- Apollos had been at Ephesus, teaching the baptism of John (18:24-25)
- Priscilla & Aquilla (& others) taught him about Jesus (v.26)
- Apollos moved on to Corinth (vs.27-28)

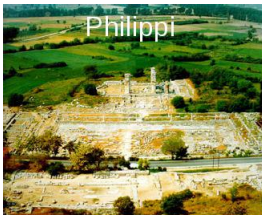
- *Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus*

- Paul had previously been to Ephesus, & promised to return (18:18-21)
- He spent some time in Antioch (v.22)
- He traveled through what is modern day Turkey (v.23)¹
- Had he tried to reach this area before? See Acts 16:6-7

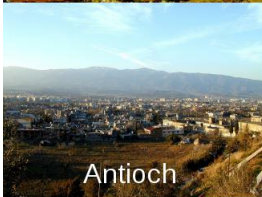
- *Found some disciples*

- Possibly disciples of John the Baptist by way of Apollos

¹See map on next slide



Philippi



Antioch



Lystra

Paul's Third Missionary Journey



Who's this Holy Spirit guy?

2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" and they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

- *"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"*
 - Ephesus was known for its religious superstition
 - Is Paul trying to find out where they are in the spiritual understanding?
 - See also Acts 8:14-17
 - During this transitional period, the giving of the Spirit (i.e. Baptism of the Spirit) was not consistent between events²
- *"No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."*
 - Also translated *that the Holy Spirit had been given*³
 - See also John 7:37-39
 - It appears they have heard only what Apollos had been teaching

²see the supplement

³According to Blue Letter Bible

Are we there yet?

3 Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”

- Talking about baptisms
 - *John baptized with the baptism of repentance*
 - See also Acts 11:15-17
 - John's baptism was pointed towards Jesus, the Messiah
 - *Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus*
 - Essentially, Paul is telling them that Jesus is the Messiah
 - Implicit in this is the fact that the Holy Spirit had been given
- *When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.*
 - *In* is literally “into”
 - Only recorded instance of re-baptizing
- They then receive the Holy Spirit, when Paul lays hands on them
 - Last instance of speaking of tongues

Welcome back!

8 And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God.

- *He entered the synagogue*
 - He had been welcomed there the last time he was in Ephesus (18:19-21)
 - Paul's teaching in the synagogue always⁴ centered around "reasoning & persuading"
 - He did this for three months
- *About the kingdom of God*
 - Kingdom of God is also preached in 1:3; 28:23-31
 - Jesus speaking about the Kingdom: Luke 4:43; 9:2, 11; ...
 - What "kingdom" is Paul preaching?

⁴as far as we know

The stubborn few

9 But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.

- *Some were becoming hardened and disobedient*
 - *Hardened* – see Hebrews 3:15
 - *Disobedient* – greek is “apeitheō”; see 14:2
- *Speaking evil of the Way*
 - *Way* is a generic word for road
 - Used as a proper noun – 2:28; 9:2; 19:23; 22:4; 24:14,22
 - Certainly reminds us of John 14:6
- *He withdrew from them*
 - Just as he had done in Corinth
 - School of Tyrannus
 - Some type of lecture hall made available to Paul
 - Used between the hours of 11am and 4pm
 - He continued there for two years

Who are you?

11 God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul

- Miracles performed by God through Paul
 - Healed from disease & rescued from demons
 - Just as with Peter – see 5:12-16
 - Also, consider 1 Corinthians 12
- *But also some of the Jewish exorcists*⁵
 - They tried to copy Paul's techniques for exorcism
 - Does Philippians 1:15-18 apply here?
- Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.
 - The man responded by attacking & chasing them out of the house
 - *“I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?”*
 - What went wrong here? Did anything go wrong here?
 - Maybe these weren't given the gift of healing?

⁵ESV says “itinerant Jewish exorcists”, which would be a great band name▶

Fear fell upon them

17 This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.

- *This became known to all*
 - What was *this*?
- The glorious results of the events at Ephesus
 - Fear fell upon all of them
 - The name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified
- Fruit in the lives of the believers
 - They confessed and divulged their practices
 - They burnt their “magic books”⁶
- *So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing*
 - This is another progress report detailing the growth of the church

⁶worth a total of 50k pieces of silver/day's wage

Chapter	2	8	10	19
Conditions	Jews in Jerusalem	Samaritans in Samaria	Gentiles in Caesarea	JB's Disciples in Ephesus
Sound of wind	X			
Tongues of fire	X			
Speaking in tongues	X		X	X
Laying on of hands		X		X
After believing	X	X		X
Upon believing			X	
Prayer	X	X		
Tarrying	X			

Table: Receiving the Holy Spirit in Acts

These instances of receiving the Holy Spirit in Acts are not consistent as to the external causes, or the concurrent effects. The inconsistency is because Acts is a transitional book, & ongoing truth for the church is intended to be derived from the epistles which the apostles wrote during the latter period in the book of Acts or after its writing. All believers today, living after the era of the apostles, receive the Holy Spirit at the point of believing in Christ (Eph. 1:13; Gal. 2:2; Rom. 8:9), & are blessed with every spiritual blessing when they believe (Eph. 1:3), at which time they are positionally made saints in Christ (1 Cor. 1:30).

-Vern Peterman