

# SURVEY OF THE BIBLE

## Acts: The Beginning of a New Kingdom

### Paul's Third Preaching Tour and Meeting with the Elders from Ephesus

Quarter Four, Lesson Ten

**Focus Text:** Acts 18. 23 – 20. 38

**Other Readings:** 2 Corinthians 1. 3 – 11; Colossians 1. 1 – 2. 7; 1 Timothy 1. 1 – 7; 3. 1 – 7; Titus 1. 5 – 11

#### CONTENT

1. When Apollos arrived and began teaching in Ephesus, what were his strengths?

2. What was lacking in Apollos's teaching, and how was this lack corrected?

3. Why did Paul instruct the twelve disciples he met in Ephesus to be baptized a second time?

In what way does this incident seem to connect with the discussion of Apollos at the end of chapter 18?

4. How far did the gospel spread as a result of Paul's work in Ephesus?

5. What was the reason for the riot in Ephesus while Paul was teaching there?

6. According to Acts 19. 21, what was Paul's intended itinerary from Ephesus? According to 20. 1 – 6, how did he alter that plan?

7. What evidence do you find in Acts 20 that the Lord's Supper was a weekly observance in New Testament churches?

8. During his meeting in Miletus with the Ephesian elders, Paul reminds them of the work he did in Ephesus. What lessons can we learn from his conduct there?

9. What can we learn about the eldership from what Paul says to these elders?

*Lesson continues. . . .*

10. What feelings do the Ephesian elders seem to have had for Paul, and how were they shown?

## CONNECTIONS

1. Notice that his third journey takes Paul through Ephesus in the Roman province of Asia, where the riot occurred (Acts 19), then through Macedonia and Achaia (the region in which Corinth was located). Then he returns to Macedonia before heading (with stops including Troas and Miletus) to Jerusalem, in Judea.

With that overview of the account in Acts, compare the following bits of what Paul wrote to the church at Corinth about his travels, observing the connections with the Acts account: 1 Corinthians 16. 1 – 9 (writing from Ephesus); 2 Corinthians 1. 15 – 16, 1. 23 – 2. 3, 2. 12 – 13, 7. 5 – 7, and 9. 1 – 5.

Finally, compare Acts 20. 3 – 4 with 1 Corinthians 16. 3 – 4 and 2 Corinthians 9. 4. Why do you think Paul had so many companions when he left the vicinity of Corinth in Acts 20?

Why do you suppose Luke begins to use the pronouns we and us again in 20. 5?

2. Read Colossians 1. 1 – 2. 7. Is this epistle written to Christians Paul himself converted? How does the account in Acts 19 help explain Paul's relationship to the church in Colossae?
3. Keeping Paul's warnings to the Ephesian elders in mind, read 1 Timothy 1. 1 – 7 and 3. 1 – 7. What seems to be the condition of the church in Ephesus when Paul addressed this epistle to Timothy there?

What seems to be the condition of the same church when it is addressed in Revelation 2. 1 – 7?

4. What do 1 Timothy 3. 1 – 7 and Titus 1. 5 – 11 clarify about the work of elders?

## PLACES

On your map of the eastern Mediterranean region, indicate the locations of Troas and Miletus. Then (using a line you can distinguish from the dotted and dashed lines marking the first two journeys) trace the main stops of Paul's third journey thus far, as follows:

Galatia and Phrygia, Ephesus, Macedonia, Corinth, Macedonia (Philippi), Troas, Miletus