

Study Aids  
Discussion Questions  
For “What’s the Message?” Lessons

Lesson 121

Questions:

The Greeks had brought the fertility goddess, Artemis, with them when they first began colonizing the Aegean coast about the 10th century B.C. For over a thousand years, the mother goddess Artemis was the prominent deity of the region, and her temple was the focal point of her followers from near and as far away as ports in France. Does this help you to understand more fully why the pagans in general, and the silversmiths in particular, saw Paul as a dangerous challenge to their way of life?

Keep in mind that the central agora was more than just a marketplace, it was the social center of the community, the one place that attracted more people than any other location (except the Artemision). Do you think this factor played a role in Paul’s successful ministry there? Is it a good idea to place a church near where people already congregate?

Does the fact that Paul taught in the hall of Tyrannus for two years say anything to you about his ability as a teacher? Does the decline in the sales by the silversmiths attest to this skill of Paul? Does Paul have anything in his epistles to teach you?

Demetrius was concerned “that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence.” During the next several centuries after God used Paul to bring the light of Jesus to the Roman world, this “prophecy” of Demetrius was fulfilled. The temple that once was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World is now but a single column put together from the few fragments that remain, and her statues are in a museum, worshipped by no one. But the message that Paul spoke about Jesus has spread throughout the entire world, and continues to grow. Does this show the guiding hand of God at work? Can you see God at work in your life?