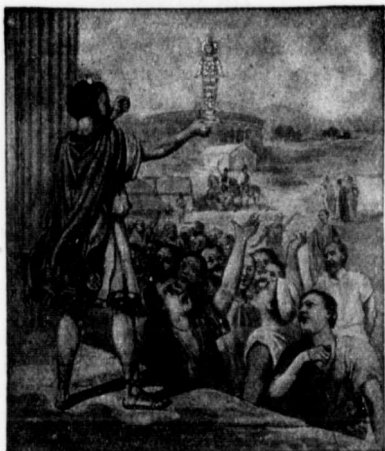


84 Paul's Third Missionary Journey—The Riot in Ephesus

Lesson VIII. PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY August 22, 1909 —THE RIOT IN EPHESUS

Acts 19 : 23-30, 35-41. Study Acts 19 : 23 to 20 : 1—Memory Verse, 26.

Golden Text—He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee : for my strength is made perfect in weakness.—2 Corinthians 12 : 9.



23 And the same time there arose no small stir about that way.

24 For a certain man named Deme'trius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Dian'a, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen ;

25 Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.

26 Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Eph'esus, but almost throughout all A'sia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands :

27 So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought ; but also that the temple of the great goddess Dian'a should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all A'sia and the world worshippeth.

28 And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Dian'a of the Eph'esians.

29 And the whole city was filled with confusion : and having caught Gai'us and Aristar'chus, men of Macedo'nia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre.

30 And when Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not.

35 And when the townclerk had appeased the people, he said, Ye men of Eph'esus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Eph'esians is a worshipper of the great goddess Dian'a, and of the image which fell down from Ju'piter ?

36 Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly.

37 For ye have brought thither these men, which are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess.

38 Wherefore if Deme'trius, and the craftsmen which are with him, have a matter against any man, the law is open, and there are deputies : let them implead one another.

39 But if ye enquire any thing concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful assembly.

40 For we are in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar, there being no cause whereby we may give an account of this concourse.

41 And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly.

THE LESSON RETOLD

In Ephesus there was a very beautiful temple, built in honor of the great goddess Diana, and many silversmiths in the city made much money by selling little silver models of this temple containing an image of the goddess. These were called shrines.

Now the chief of the shrine-makers, a man named Demetrius, when he heard Paul telling people they should not worship idols, called together all the silversmiths of the city, and said to them, "Sirs, you know it is by making these shrines that we get our wealth. Now, you have heard that both here in Ephesus and in all the other cities of Asia, this Paul is trying to persuade people that these are false gods which are made by men's hands. So there is danger, not only that we cannot sell our shrines, but that the great goddess Diana shall not be worshiped

any longer, nor people come to her beautiful temple."

Then the workmen were filled with rage, and shouted out, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians !" And having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, two Macedonian friends of Paul, who had come with him to Ephesus, they rushed all together into the theatre, a large building where public meetings were held. But when Paul would have followed them in, the disciples prevented him, fearing that harm might be done to him. Some of the chief men of the city, also, who were Paul's friends, begged him not to risk himself in the crowd.

The people in the theatre were in a great uproar, some crying one thing and some another; for many who had followed the silversmiths into the building did not know why they had done so.