

## *the remotest part of the earth*

#23, the elders of Ephesus – Acts 20:1-38

It had been an absolute riot! The shouting was deafening! The whole mess was an effort to maintain the business of marketing some pagan god. The experience had deeply affected Paul who wrote about his personal feelings. II Corinthians 1:8-10, 8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; 9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; 10 who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us,

1 After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and when he had exhorted them and taken his leave of them, he left to go to Macedonia. 2 When he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation, he came to Greece.

[1.] v:1, he had exhorted them, & v:2, given them much exhortation, Our nasb translation renders these two words very similar however, in the Greek they are two different words. Write down the two Greek meanings.

[2.] v:2, he came to Greece. On your map (pg 2) color in the area that is called Greece. Note: There is extra credit available if you color it light green!

3 And there he spent three months, and when a plot was formed against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. 4 And he was accompanied by Sopater of Berea, the son of Pyrrhus, and by Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. 5 But these had gone on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas.

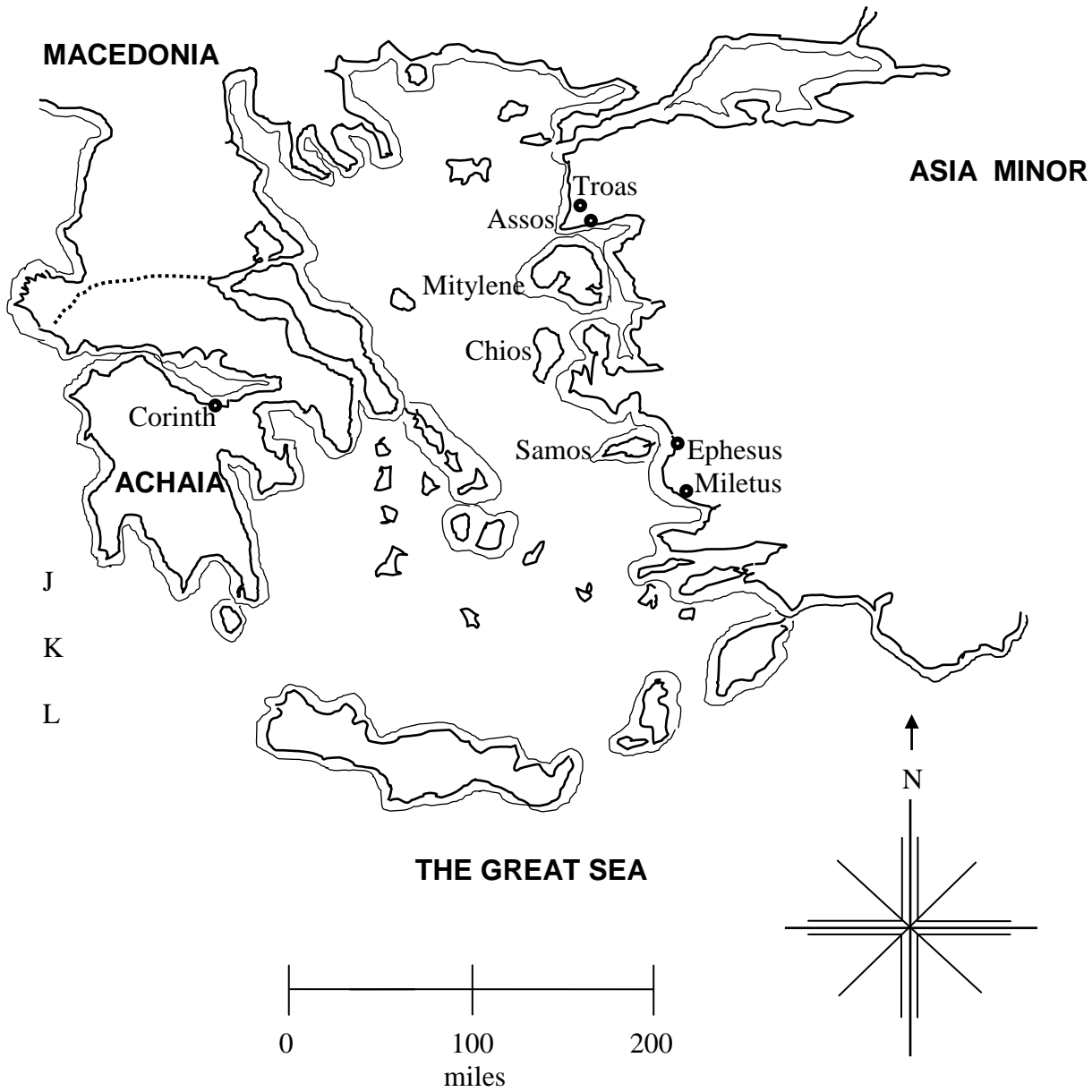
From the above verses we see: 1) another plot by the Jews to kill Paul. Also, 2) there is an unusually large group accompanying Paul. The John MacArthur Study Bible mentions that this was probably the time Paul wrote Romans and II Corinthians. In the letter to Corinth he mentions a collection by the churches in Macedonia for the saints (II Cor 8:1-3). This is also mentioned in Romans 15:25-26.

[3.] Your opinion please! Write “yes” or “no” to each question.

Are they indeed carrying relief for the saints in Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_ Were the extra guys used to protect the funds? \_\_\_\_\_ Did the Jews want to hinder the offering from getting to Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_ Or was it something else? \_\_\_\_\_

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6 We sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them at Troas within five days; and there we stayed seven days.

[4.] v:6, after the days of Unleavened Bread, After reviewing I Corinthians 5:6-8, decide whether Paul actually celebrated the Jewish feast or Luke used it as a time of year reference.

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7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

8 There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together. 9 And there was a young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead. 10 But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, "Do not be troubled, for his life is in him." 11 When he had gone back up and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while until daybreak, and then left. 12 They took away the boy alive, and were greatly comforted.

13 But we, going ahead to the ship, set sail for Assos, intending from there to take Paul on board; for so he had arranged it, intending himself to go by land.

14 And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene. 15 Sailing from there, we arrived the following day opposite Chios; and the next day we crossed over to Samos; and the day following we came to Miletus. 16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

[5.] v:7, the first day of the week, What day is this and why do Christians normally meet on this day? (Mk 16:2, 9 & Lk 24:1)

[6.] question [5.], According to Colossians 2:16, Why or why can't Christians meet on any day of the week?

[7.] v:8-12, a long while until daybreak, The Christians, at Troas, listened to Paul for about an entire day. In what ways was the power of God manifest in that meeting?

[8.] question [7.], In what ways is the power of God manifest in your Bible study?

[9.] v:13, so he had arranged it, Paul walked alone across the peninsula to Assos. Why is it sometimes important for a laborer to spend some time alone?

[10.] v:14-15, On your map (pg 2) Draw in the ports of call from Troas to Miletus.

[11.] v:16, sail past Ephesus, Review Acts 19:23-41. Why or why wasn't bypassing Ephesus a sign of weakness in Paul?

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17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. 18 And when they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, 19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews;

20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, 21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

22 "And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me.

24 "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

25 "And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face.

26 "Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole

[12.] v:17-19, through the plots of the Jews; Galatians 4:29 gives the Biblical reason for this. What was it and, in your own words, what does it mean?

[13.] v:20-21, not shrink from declaring to you, What was the substance of Paul's preaching?

[14.] v:22-23, not knowing what will happen to me there, Regarding Jerusalem, what was the Holy Spirit's message to Paul?

[15.] v:24, so that I may finish my course, As you get older, what new difficulties hinder your own ministry?

[16.] v:25, no longer see my face. From the statements below, pick the best meanings of this statement:

- a) I've had it with Asia, I'm not returning.
- b) I'm going to retire in Tarsus.
- c) I'll die soon.

[17.] v:26-27, the whole purpose of God. Ephesians 3:8-11 states this purpose. List some of the elements.

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28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

32 "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

33 " I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes. 34 "You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. 35 "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

[18.] v:28, Be on guard, What does this statement mean and how is it accomplished?

[19.] v:29-31, savage wolves, From these verses, write down the things that these "wolves" will do?

[20.] question [19.] How would these wolves be identified?

[21.] question [19.] again, Who is most vulnerable to these wolves?

[22.] v:32, which is able to build you up, If the Word is what "builds up" the saints, what does it say about those who habitually ignore it?

[23.] v:33-35, you must help the weak, From I Corin 9:9) and I Tim 5:18, we see that Paul's believed God's laborers should be provided for. From these verses we also see that no one was exempt from helping the weak. Who are the weak?

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36 When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. 37 And they began to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him, 38 grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they were accompanying him to the ship.

[24.] v:36-38, not see his face again. Eventually most of us will give the “last good bye” to someone. What have you planned to say when this eventuality comes?

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**NOTES**