

Acts 19:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

Analysis

Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus—After ministering in the highland regions of Asia Minor, Paul reached Ephesus, the capital of proconsular Asia and hub of pagan worship centered on Artemis's temple. **Finding certain disciples** (μαθητάς τινας) introduces a puzzling group who knew of Jesus but lacked full apostolic instruction. Their incomplete discipleship (lacking Holy Spirit knowledge, v. 2) demonstrates that true Christianity requires more than secondhand information—it demands encounter with Christ through Spirit baptism. This episode shows Paul's thoroughness in ensuring doctrinal completeness, not merely numerical growth.

Historical Context

Ephesus (circa AD 53-54) was Asia Minor's largest city, a commercial center with perhaps 250,000 residents. These 'disciples' likely learned from Apollos before Priscilla and Aquila instructed him more fully (Acts 18:24-26), explaining their partial knowledge of Christian truth.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How might incomplete teaching create 'disciples' who lack essential elements of Christian faith?
2. What does Paul's careful questioning teach about pastoral responsibility to ensure sound doctrine?

Interlinear Text

Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ τὸν Ἀπολλῷ εἶναι ἐν
it came to pass And at G3588 G3588 **that while Apollos was at**
G1096 G1161 G1722 G625 G1511 G1722

Κορίνθῳ Παῦλον διελθόντα τὰ ἄνωτερικὰ μέρη ἐλθεῖν
Corinth Paul having passed G3588 **through the upper coasts came**
G2882 G3972 G1330 G510 G3313 G2064

εἰς Ἔφεσον καὶ εὐρών τινας μαθητάς
to Ephesus and finding certain disciples
G1519 G2181 G2532 G2147 G5100 G3101

Additional Cross-References

Acts 18:1 (References Paul): After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;

1 Corinthians 16:12 (Parallel theme): As touching our brother Apollos, I greatly desired him to come unto you with the brethren: but his will was not at all to come at this time; but he will come when he shall have convenient time.

1 Corinthians 1:12 (References Paul): Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.