

# Acts 19:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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**Not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia**—Paul's ministry had provincial impact, not merely local. The Greek πείθω (peithō, 'persuaded') indicates rational argumentation, not coercion. Paul **turned away much people** (μετέστησεν, metestēsen, 'caused to change sides'), using language of conversion and defection from false religion.

**They be no gods, which are made with hands** (χειροποίητοι, cheiropoīētoi)—This echoes prophetic mockery of idols (Psalm 115:4-8, Isaiah 44:9-20). Paul's preaching exposed the obvious absurdity: creators cannot be inferior to their creations. The gospel's intellectual coherence, combined with Spirit-power, systematically dismantled Artemis worship.

## Historical Context

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The seven churches of Asia (Revelation 2-3) emerged from Paul's Ephesian ministry, which reached the entire province through the hall of Tyrannus (Acts 19:9-10). Ephesus served as Paul's base for regional evangelism, training workers who planted churches throughout Asia Minor.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What 'handmade gods' (career, relationships, ideology) might dominate contemporary culture?
2. How can you balance reasoned persuasion and Spirit-empowerment in your witness?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	θεωρεῖτε	καὶ	ἀκούετε	ὅτι	οὐκ	μόνον	Ἐφέσου
Moreover	ye see	Moreover	hear	that	no	alone	at Ephesus
G2532	G2334	G2532	G191	G3754	G3756	G3440	G2181
ἀλλὰ	σχεδὸν	πάσης	οἱ	Ἀσίας	οἱ	Παῦλος	οὗτος
but	almost	throughout all	which	Asia	which	Paul	this
G235	G4975	G3956	G3588	G773	G3588	G3972	G3778
πείσας	μετέστησεν	ἴκανὸν	ὄχλον	λέγων	ὅτι	οὐκ	
hath persuaded	and turned away	much	people	saying	that	no	
G3982	G3179	G2425	G3793	G3004	G3754	G3756	
εἰσὶν	θεοὶ	οἱ	διὰ	χειρῶν	γινόμενοι		
they be	gods	which	with	hands	are made		
G1526	G2316	G3588	G1223	G5495	G1096		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 17:29** (References God): Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

**1 Corinthians 8:4** (References God): As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.

**Revelation 9:20** (Parallel theme): And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

**Deuteronomy 4:28** (References God): And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.

**Acts 19:10** (Parallel theme): And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

**Acts 14:15** (Creation): And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

**Jeremiah 10:11** (Creation): Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens.