

Acts 19:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

This our craft is in danger to be set at nought (ἀπελεγμόν, *apelegmon*, 'disrepute')—Demetrius initially frames opposition economically before pivoting to religious concern: **the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised**. The Greek καθαιρέω (*kathaireō*, 'destroyed') means 'pulled down' or 'deposed,' suggesting Artemis' dethroning.

Whom all Asia and the world worshippeth—Artemis commanded international reverence. Her temple functioned as bank, asylum, and pilgrimage destination. Yet Demetrius betrayed anxiety: if Christianity could devastate Artemis worship in her own city, no idol was safe. The gospel's exclusivity ultimately confronts every false god, whether ancient idols or modern ideologies.

Historical Context

The Temple of Artemis Ephesia housed a meteorite (the 'image which fell down from Jupiter,' Acts 19:35), worshiped as the goddess's physical manifestation. Artemis worship combined Anatolian mother-goddess traditions with Greek religious elements, making her one of antiquity's most widely venerated deities.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the gospel's exclusive truth challenge pluralistic tolerance that treats all religions as equally valid?
2. What cultural 'magnificence' in your context needs to be 'destroyed' by confrontation with Christ's supremacy?

Interlinear Text

οὐ μόνον δὲ τοῦτο κινδυνεύει ἡμῖν τὸ μέρος εἰς
that not only So this is in danger our G3588 craft at
G3756 G3440 G1161 G5124 G2793 G2254 G3313 G1519

ἀπελεγμὸν ἔλθεῖν ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸ τῆς μεγάλης θεᾶς
nought to be set but also G3588 of the great goddess
G557 G2064 G235 G2532 G3173 G2299

Ἄρτέμιδος ἱερὸν εἰς οὐδὲν λογισθῆναι μέλλειν δὲ
Diana that the temple at G3762 G3049 should So
G735 G2411 G1519 G3195 G1161

καὶ καθαιρεῖσθαι τήν μεγαλειότητα αὐτῆς ἦν ὅλη ἡ
also be destroyed G3588 magnificence her whom all G3588
G2532 G2507 G3168 G846 G3739 G3650

Ἀσία καὶ ἡ οἰκουμένη σέβεται
Asia also G3588 the world worshippeth
G773 G2532 G3625 G4576

Additional Cross-References

Zephaniah 2:11 (Worship): The LORD will be terrible unto them: for he will famish all the gods of the earth; and men shall worship him, every one from his place, even all the isles of the heathen.

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