

# 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

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**This our craft is in danger to be set at nought** (ἀπελεγμὸν, apelegmon, 'disrepute')—Demetrius initially frames opposition economically before pivoting to religious concern: **the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised**. The Greek καθαίρειω (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

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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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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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

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οὐ	μόνον	δὲ	τοῦτο	κινδυνεύει	ἡμῖν	τὸ	μέρος	εἰς
<b>that not</b>	<b>only</b>	<b>So</b>	<b>this</b>	<b>is in danger</b>	<b>our</b>	G3588	<b>craft</b>	<b>at</b>
G3756	G3440	G1161	G5124	G2793	G2254		G3313	G1519
ἀπελεγμὸν	ἐλθεῖν	ἀλλὰ	καὶ	τὸ	τῆς	μεγάλης	θεᾶς	
<b>nought</b>	<b>to be set</b>	<b>but</b>	<b>also</b>	G3588	G3588	<b>of the great</b>	<b>goddess</b>	
G557	G2064	G235	G2532			G3173	G2299	
Ἀρτέμιδος	ιερόν	εἰς	οὐδὲν	λογισθῆναι	μέλλειν	δὲ		
<b>Diana</b>	<b>that the temple</b>	<b>at</b>	G3762	G3049	<b>should</b>	<b>So</b>		
G735	G2411	G1519			G3195	G1161		
καὶ	καθαιρεῖσθαι	τὴν	μεγαλειότητα	αὐτῆς	ἣν	ὅλη	ἡ	
<b>also</b>	<b>be destroyed</b>	G3588	<b>magnificence</b>	<b>her</b>	<b>whom</b>	<b>all</b>	G3588	
G2532	G2507		G3168	G846	G3739	G3650		
Ἀσία	καὶ	ἡ	οἰκουμένη	σέβεται				
<b>Asia</b>	<b>also</b>	G3588	<b>the world</b>	<b>worshippeth</b>				
G773	G2532		G3625	G4576				

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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