

# Acts 19:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre.

## Analysis

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**The whole city was filled with confusion** (σύγχυσις, sunchysis)—indicating chaotic disorder, not mere disagreement. The mob **rushed with one accord** (όμοθυμαδόν, homothumadon, unanimous impulse) into the theatre, revealing how mob psychology overrides individual reason. Gaius and Aristarchus, **men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel**, became surrogate targets when Paul couldn't be found—mob violence rarely discriminates in its fury.

Luke's precision naming these men (Aristarchus appears in Acts 20:4, 27:2; Colossians 4:10; Philemon 24) honors faithful companions who shared apostolic dangers. The theatre, seating 25,000, served as Ephesus's civic assembly space—religion, commerce, and politics converged in one chaotic explosion.

## Historical Context

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The Ephesian theatre, excavated by archaeologists, remains one of the largest from antiquity. It functioned as both entertainment venue and civic assembly (ἐκκλησία, ekklēsia—the same word for 'church'). This riot occurred around AD 55 during Paul's three-year Ephesian ministry (Acts 19:10), the longest he spent in any city. Macedonian believers Gaius and Aristarchus exemplify the international nature of Paul's missionary team.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does mob mentality in modern culture—whether political, religious, or ideological—mirror this ancient riot?
2. What does the seizure of Paul's companions teach about the cost of association with controversial gospel truth?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἐπλήσθη ἡ πόλις ὅλη συγχύσεως ὥρμησάν τε  
And was filled G3588 city the whole with confusion they rushed and  
G2532 G4130 G4172 G3650 G4799 G3729 G5037

όμοθυμαδὸν εἰς τὸ θέατρον συναρπάσαντες Γάιον καὶ  
with one accord into the theatre having caught Gaius And  
G3661 G1519 G2302 G4884 G1050 G2532

Ἀρίσταρχον Μακεδόνας συνεκδήμους τοῦ Παύλου  
Aristarchus men of Macedonia companions in travel G3588 Paul's  
G708 G3110 G4898 G3972

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 20:4** (Parallel theme): And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.

**Acts 27:2** (Parallel theme): And entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia; one Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us.

**Colossians 4:10** (Parallel theme): Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)

**Philemon 1:24** (Parallel theme): Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.

**Acts 19:22** (Parallel theme): So he sent into Macedonia two of them that ministered unto him, Timotheus and Erastus; but he himself stayed in Asia for a season.

**Romans 16:23** (Parallel theme): Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.

**1 Corinthians 1:14** (Parallel theme): I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;

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