

Acts 19:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when they knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

Analysis

But when they knew that he was a Jew—Recognition of Alexander's Jewishness immediately terminated his defense. The crowd responded **all with one voice** (φωνὴ ἐγένετο μία, phōnē egeneto mia) **about the space of two hours cried out**, chanting μεγάλη ἡ Ἀρτεμις Ἐφεσίων (megalē hē Artemis Ephesiōn) continuously. Two hours of monotonous chanting reveals religious mania replacing rational discourse.

This sustained chanting functioned like modern protest chants—drowning out opposition through sheer volume and repetition. The anti-Jewish prejudice exposed here shows that mob violence targets minorities indiscriminately. Jews couldn't separate themselves from Christians because pagans viewed both as threats to Artemis worship. The two-hour duration suggests demonic energy sustaining religious fervor—human voices grow hoarse, but spiritual opposition perseveres.

Historical Context

Two-hour ritualistic chanting was common in pagan worship, inducing altered states of consciousness and group cohesion. This wasn't spontaneous emotion but cultic practice turned weaponized. The Ephesian riot foreshadowed later pagan mob violence against Christians throughout the Roman Empire, often featuring similar sustained chanting and religious fervor masking economic and social fears.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do modern ideological movements use repetitive slogans to shut down dialogue and create tribal solidarity?
2. What spiritual forces sustain prolonged hostility to the gospel beyond natural human emotion?

Interlinear Text

ἐπιγνόντων δὲ ὅτι Ἰουδαῖός ἐστιν φωνὴ ἐγένετο μία
when they knew But that a Jew he was voice G1096 G1520
G1921 G1161 G3754 G2453 G2076 G5456

ἐκ πάντων ὡς ἐπὶ ὥρας δύο κραζόντων Μεγάλη¹
with all about the space hours of two cried out Great
G1537 G3956 G5613 G1909 G5610 G1417 G2896 G3173

ἡ Ἀρτεμις Ἐφεσίων
is Diana of the Ephesians
G3588 G735 G2180

Additional Cross-References

Acts 19:28 (Parallel theme): And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

