

*Greetings, today our manna is from Genesis 20; Matthew 19; Nehemiah 9; Acts 19.*

## January 19 – Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

[Note: I have added emphasis with underlines, highlights, and [brackets] to Scripture for teaching purposes only.]

### Genesis 20

#### Abraham and Abimelech

**Gen 20:1** And Abraham set out from there to the land of the South, and dwelt between Qadēsh and Shur, and stayed in Gerar.

**Gen 20:2** And Abraham said concerning Sarah his wife, “She is my sister.” And Abimelech sovereign of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

Abraham and Sarah have another encounter in which Abraham declares Sarah as his sister. This time they encounter Abimelech king of Gerar.

**Gen 20:3** But Elohim came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, “See, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man’s wife.”

**Gen 20:4** However, Abimelech had not come near her, and he said, “יהוה, would You kill a righteous nation also?”

**Gen 20:5** “Did he not say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she, even she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and in the innocence of my hands I have done this.”

**Gen 20:6** And Elohim said to him in a dream, “Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart, and so I kept you from sinning against Me. For this reason I did not let you touch her.”

YHWH showed Abimelech mercy for he truly did not know she was married. YHWH divinely protected Sarah. Abimelech then confronts Abraham due to this near catastrophe.

**Gen 20:7** “And now, return the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, and let him pray for you and you live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall certainly die, you and all that are yours.”

**Gen 20:8** So Abimelech rose early in the morning, and called all his servants, and spoke all these words in their hearing. And the men were greatly frightened.

**Gen 20:9** And Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? In what have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and on my reign a great sin? You have done matters to me that should not be done.”

**Gen 20:10** And Abimelech said to Abraham, “What did you have in view, that you have

done this matter?”

Gen 20:11 And Abraham said, **“Only because I said to myself, the fear of Elohim is not in this place, and they shall kill me for the sake of my wife.**

Gen 20:12 **“And yet, she is truly my sister. She is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife.**

Gen 20:13 **“And it came to be, when Elohim caused me to wander from my father’s house, that I said to her, ‘This is your loving-commitment that you should do for me: in every place, wherever we go, say of me, ‘He is my brother.’” ’ ”**

Sarah apparently was a very beautiful and desirable woman. Even before any encounters in foreign territories, Abraham foresaw possible trouble due to her great beauty. For this reason, Abraham had asked Sarah to declare him only as her brother.

Gen 20:14 Then Abimeleḵ took sheep, and cattle, and male and female servants, and gave them to Abraham. And he returned Sarah his wife to him.

Gen 20:15 And Abimeleḵ said, “See, my land is before you, dwell wherever it is good in your eyes.”

Gen 20:16 And to Sarah he said, “See, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. See, it is to you a covering of eyes before all who are with you and before all others, and you are cleared before everyone.”

To prevent others from coveting Sarah, Abimeleḵ suggests a covering to veil her beauty especially since she was a married woman. This was a very good suggestion that is applicable today. All men, women, and children should be dressed modestly as to not invoke the lust of the eyes; the lust of the flesh; and the pride of life. This is a constant battle as the world promotes lust by seductive clothing and swimwear.

**Adam Clarke Excerpt: Behold, he is to thee a covering of the eyes - It - the one thousand shekels, (not he - Abraham), is to thee for a covering - to procure thee a veil to conceal thy beauty (unto all that are with thee, and with all other) from all thy own kindred and acquaintance, and from all strangers, that none, seeing thou art another mans wife; may covet thee on account of thy comeliness.**

Gen 20:17 And Abraham prayed to Elohim, and Elohim healed Abimeleḵ, and his wife, and his female servants, so they bore children,

Gen 20:18 for הוה' had closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimeleḵ because of Sarah, Abraham’s wife.

Abraham took part in praying for Abimeleḵ, his wife, and female servants so they would be able to bear children. Abraham saw how his action of telling partial truth had affected innocent lives.

## Matthew 19

The House of Israel and the House of Judah had both been unfaithful to YHWH. They both committed great whoredoms. In Jeremiah 3:8, YHWH gives the House of Israel a certificate of divorce; yet, her sister Judah was more treacherous than she! He sends the House of Judah into exile and burns down her temple and devastates her lands; yet we know, He relents from making a complete end of her.

Only by Yahusha laying down His life and taking it back up again would He be able to take Israel back as His betrothed; by one day reuniting the two houses into one stick; Israel, His firstborn; the one new man born from above.

### Teaching About Divorce

**Mat 19:1** And it came to be, when יהושע had ended these words, that He left Galil and came to the borders of Yehudāh beyond the Yārdēn.

**Mat 19:2** And large crowds followed Him, and He healed them there.

**Mat 19:3** And the **Pharisees came to Him, trying Him**, and saying to Him, **“Is it right for a man to put away his wife for every reason?”**

**Mat 19:4** And He answering, said to them, “Did you not read that He who made them at the beginning **made them male and female**, [Gen 1:27](#); [Gen 5:2](#).”

Gen 1:27 And Elohim created the man in His image, in the image of Elohim He created him – male and female He created them.

Gen 5:2 Male and female He created them, and He blessed them, and called their name ‘Ādam’ in the day they were created.

**Mat 19:5** and said, **‘For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?** [Gen 2:24](#).

Gen 2:23 And the man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. This one is called ‘woman,’ because she was taken out of man.”

Gen 2:24 For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Gen 2:25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, yet they were not ashamed.

**Mat 19:6** **“So that they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what Elohim has joined together, let man not separate.”**

**Mat 19:7** They said to Him, “Why then did Mosheh command to **give a certificate of**

**divorce, [Deu 24:1](#), [Deu 24:3](#) and to put her away?”**

Deu 24:1 “When a man takes a wife and shall marry her, then it shall be, if she finds no favour in his eyes because he has found a matter of uncoveredness<sup>a</sup> in her, and he shall write her a certificate of divorce, and put it in her hand, and send her out of his house, Footnote: <sup>a</sup>Proof that she is not a maiden, indicating that she had previously been fornicating. See also [Mat 5:32](#) and [Mat 19:9](#).

Deu 24:2 and if she left his house and went and became another man’s wife,

Deu 24:3 and the latter husband shall hate her and write her a certificate of divorce, and put it in her hand, and send her out of his house, or when the latter husband dies who took her to be his wife,

Deu 24:4 then her former husband who sent her away is not allowed to take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled, for that would be an abomination before יהוה. And do not bring sin on the land which יהוה your Elohim is giving you as an inheritance.

**Mat 19:8** He said to them, **“Because of the hardness of your hearts, Mosheh allowed you to put away your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.**

**Mat 19:9** **“And I say to you, whoever puts away his wife, except on the ground of whoring, and marries another, commits adultery. And whoever marries her who has been put away commits adultery.”<sup>a</sup>** Footnote: <sup>a</sup>See footnote [Mat 5:32](#).

**Mat 19:10** His taught ones said to Him, “If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is good not to marry.”

**Mat 19:11** And He said to them, **“Not all receive this word, but only those to whom it has been given,**

**Mat 19:12 for there are eunuchs who were so born from their mother’s womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the reign of the heavens. He who is able to receive it, let him receive it.”**

### Let the Children Come to Me

**Mat 19:13** Then young children were brought to Him to lay His hands on them and pray, and the taught ones rebuked them.

**Mat 19:14** But יהושע said, **“Allow the young children and do not stop them from coming to Me, for of such is the reign of the heavens.”**

**Mat 19:15** And having laid hands on them He went from there.

We must all come to Him with child-like faith. We come to Him with a sincere heart and a heart of repentance. He receives us just as we are, but He refuses to leave us that way. We are no longer our own; but we are betrothed to Him. He lovingly and patiently matures us into His bride.

## The Rich Young Man

**Mat 19:16** And see, one came and said to Him, **“Good Teacher, what good shall I do to have everlasting life?”**

**Mat 19:17** And He said to him, **“Why do you call Me good? No one is good except One – Elohim. But if you wish to enter into life, guard the commands.”**<sup>b</sup> Footnote: <sup>b</sup>See also [Luk 10:28](#), [Joh 12:50](#), [Rev 22:14](#).

**Rev 22:14** **“Blessed are those doing<sup>b</sup> His commands,<sup>c</sup> so that the authority shall be theirs unto the tree of life, and to enter through the gates into the city.** Footnotes: <sup>b</sup>See [Mat 19:17](#). <sup>c</sup>Long before the books were compiled to form “The New Testament,” [Rev 22:14](#) was quoted, as it is here given, by Tertullian (CE 208), and by Cyprian (CE 251) – see the well-known *Antenicene Fathers*.

**Mat 19:18** He said to Him, “Which?” And יהושע said, **“ ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’** [Exo 20:13-16](#), [Deu 5:17-20](#).

**Mat 19:19** **‘Respect your father and your mother,’** [Exo 20:12](#), [Deu 5:16](#) and **‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’** ” [Lev 19:18](#).

**Mat 19:20** The young man said to Him, “All these I have watched over from my youth, what do I still lack?”

When the rich young ruler asked Yahusha which commands he should guard; **that was actually a very wise question.** Yahusha was laying the ‘groundwork’ to elevate the Melchizedek Priesthood back to its reigning position. We know based on Hebrews 7:12 that with a change in priesthood comes a change in law. The Melchizedek Priesthood administers Covenant Torah; or ‘Royal’ Law as stated in James 2. Yahusha is the Melchizedek. Melchizedek is both kingly and priestly.

**Jas 2:8** If you really fulfill **the royal law** according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

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**1Pe 2:9** But you are a **chosen race,**<sup>b</sup> [Deu 10:15](#) **a royal priesthood,**<sup>c</sup> [Isa 61:6](#) a **set-apart nation,**<sup>d</sup> [Exo 19:6](#) a **people for a possession,**<sup>e</sup> [Isa 43:2](#) that you should proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light, Footnotes: <sup>b</sup>Also see [Isa 43:20](#). <sup>c</sup>Also see [Isa 66:21](#). <sup>d</sup>Also see [Deu 7:6](#). <sup>e</sup>Also see [Exo 19:5](#), [Tit 2:14](#).

**1Pe 2:10** who once were **not a people,**<sup>f</sup> but now the **people of Elohim;**<sup>f</sup> who had **not obtained compassion,**<sup>f</sup> but now **obtained compassion.**<sup>f</sup> [Hos 1:9-10](#), [Hos 2:23](#).

Footnote: <sup>f</sup>Also see [Isa 65:1](#), [Hos 1:9](#), [Isa 63:16](#), [Isa 64:8](#), [Rom 9:25-26](#).

To this day, there is a deep void of understanding about: ‘What law are you under?’ Some would say ‘no law’; others would say ‘all law’; and finally, others would say Covenant Torah [Law]. The last answer is correct.

Well if we are under Covenant Torah, who is our High Priest? \_\_\_\_\_  
Correct. Yahusha. Or do you wait for another? There is no other except for the counterfeit Anti-messiah.

Well if we are under Covenant Torah and our High Priest is Yahusha, where is His temple? Is it the one being promoted by the Temple Institute? No! We are the temple! There is no need to buy coins to help build a ‘temple’ for the anti-messiah with their desire to return to animal blood sacrifices!

**KJV:** 1Co 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

1Co 6:19 What? know ye not **that your body is the temple** of the Holy Ghost *which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

1Co 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

**ISR:** 1Co 6:18 Flee whoring. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits whoring sins against his own body.

1Co 6:19 Or **do you not know that your body is the Dwelling Place** of the Set-apart Spirit who is in you, which you have from Elohim, and you are not your own?

1Co 6:20 For you were bought with a price, therefore esteem Elohim in your body and in your spirit,<sup>b</sup> which are of Elohim. Footnote: <sup>b</sup>See 1Co 7:23, 1Pe 1:18-19.

Yahusha answers the rich young ruler by referring to Covenant Torah. He recites several of the commandments stated in the Book of the Covenant; our marriage Ketubah. Yes, we also see many of these commandments dovetail into the Book of the Law section [Ex. 24:12 – Deut. 31:26]. This dovetailing shows us that these commands originated under covenant or royal Torah; which means, those that dovetail, are still applicable under Covenant Torah. We can find Covenant Torah details nestled in or weaved throughout Book of the Law.

The Book of the Law administered by the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood was a tutor pointing to Yahusha. Revelation of Yahusha can constantly be found within the Book of the Law; Tabernacle/Temple system. It was a ‘parable’ [Heb. 9:9], to show us all that Yahusha would fulfill!

Heb 9:7 But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which

he offered for himself and for sins of ignorance of the people,<sup>a</sup> Footnote: <sup>a</sup> [Num 15:15-28](#).

Heb 9:8 the Set-apart Spirit signifying this, that the way into the Most Set-apart Place was not yet made manifest while the first Tent has a standing,

Heb 9:9 which **was a parable** for the present time in which both gifts and slaughters are offered which are unable to perfect the one serving, as to his conscience,

Heb 9:10 only as to foods and drinks, and different washings, and fleshly regulations imposed **until a time** of setting *matters* straight.

### Redemption Through the Blood of Yahusha

Heb 9:11 But Messiah, having become a High Priest of the coming good *matters*, through the greater and more perfect Tent not made with hands, that is, not of this creation,

Heb 9:12 **entered into the Most Set-apart Place once for all, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood, having obtained everlasting redemption.**

To gain a better understanding between Covenant Torah under the Melchizedek Priesthood and Book of the Law under the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood, one may want to read the book by Dr. David L. Perry, Th. D. '[Back to the Melchizedek Future](#)'.

Mat 19:21 יהושע said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go,<sup>c</sup> sell what you have and give to the poor, and you shall have<sup>d</sup> treasure in heaven. And come, follow Me." Footnotes: <sup>c</sup> [Luk 12:33](#), [Luk 16:9](#), [Act 2:45](#), [Act 4:34](#). <sup>d</sup> [Mat 6:20](#).

Mat 19:22 And when the young man heard the word, he went away sad, because he had many possessions.

Mat 19:23 And יהושע said to His taught ones, "Truly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter into the reign of the heavens.

Mat 19:24 "And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel<sup>e</sup> to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the reign of Elohim." Footnote: <sup>e</sup>Aramaic "gamla", which is camel or rope.

Now we are about to read another very pertinent question. "Who then is able to be save?" The Book of the Law was a combination of Blessings and Curses; Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal. Blessings if you obeyed; but potentially life-taking if you did not.

Only through the precious blood of the Lamb can our garments be washed without spot or blemish. By grace we are save through faith [Eph. 2:8]. Yahusha, our Melchizedek High Priest, made full atonement for our sins on the heavenly altar! With mankind, under the Book of the Law, the Aaronic Levitical High Priest could only cover the sins annually on the Day of Atonement. It is IMPOSSIBLE for us to make it to heaven without faith! For YHWH our Elohim so loved us that He sent His only begotten Son. For those before Yahusha; the people still exercised faith looking forward to the Messiah; and now, we live after Yahusha's completed work stating, 'It is finished!'

Mat 19:25 And when His taught ones heard it, they were very astonished, saying, “Who then is able to be saved?”

Mat 19:26 **And looking intently יהושע said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with Elohim all is possible.”**

Mat 19:27 Then Kěpha answering, said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. What then shall we have?”

Mat 19:28 And יהושע said to them, **“Truly I say to you, when the Son of Adam sits on the throne of His esteem, you who have followed Me in the rebirth, shall also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Yisra’ěl.**

Matthew 19:28 identifies that Yahusha’s twelve disciples would sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Could these be 12 of the 24 elders in the Book of Revelation? Yes, it is very possible.

Mat 19:29 **“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My Name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.**

Mat 19:30 **“But many who are first shall be last, and the last first.**

## Nehemiah 9

### The People of Israel Confess Their Sin

**Neh 9:1** And on the **twenty-fourth day of this new moon** the children of Yisra’ěl were assembled with fasting, and in sackcloth, and with earth on them.

This is now the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month. The children of Israel are earnestly repenting as they separate themselves from all foreigners.

**Neh 9:2** **And the descendants of Yisra’ěl separated themselves from all foreigners, and stood and confessed their sins, and the crookednesses of their fathers,**

**Neh 9:3** and they stood up in their place and **read from the Book of the Torah of יהוה their Elohim a fourth part of the day, and a fourth part they were confessing and worshipping יהוה their Elohim.**

**Neh 9:4** Then Yěshua and Bani, Qadmi’ěl, Shebanyah, Bunni, Shěřbyah, Bani, Kenani stood on the stairs of the Lěwites and cried out with a loud voice to יהוה their Elohim.

**Neh 9:5** Then the Lěwites, Yěshua and Qadmi’ěl, Bani, Həshabneyah, Shěřbyah, Hodiyah, Shebanyah, Pethahyah, said, **“Rise, bless יהוה your Elohim forever and ever! And let them bless Your esteemed Name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise!**

**Neh 9:6** “You are יהוה, You alone. You have made the heavens, the heavens of the

heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that are on it, the seas and all that are in them, and You give life to them all. And the host of the heavens are bowing themselves to You.

They continue to recount and proclaim all that YHWH had done for them; they acknowledge their disobedience and the disobedience of their forefathers; and they also acknowledge that they have reaped what they have sown.

**Neh 9:7** “You are יהוה, the Elohim who chose Abram, and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gave him the name of Abraham,

**Neh 9:8** and found his heart trustworthy before You, and made a covenant with him to give the land of the Kena'anites, the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Yebusites, and the Girgashites – to give it to his seed. And You have established Your words, for You are righteous,

**Neh 9:9** and saw the affliction of our fathers in Mitsrayim, and heard their cry by the Sea of Reeds,

**Neh 9:10** and gave signs and wonders against Pharaoh, and against all his servants, and against all the people of his land. For You knew that they acted proudly against them. And You made a Name for Yourself, as it is this day.

**Neh 9:11** “And You split the sea before them, and they passed over into the midst of the sea on the dry land. And their pursuers You threw into the deep as a stone into the mighty waters.

**Neh 9:12** “And You led them by day with a cloudy column, and by night with a column of fire, to give them light in the way they were to go.

**Neh 9:13** “And You came down on Mount Sinai, and spoke with them from the heavens, and gave them straight right-rulings and **Torot<sup>a</sup> of truth,<sup>b</sup>** good laws and commands. **Footnotes:** <sup>a</sup>Torot - plural of Torah - teaching. <sup>b</sup>Traditionally rendered *laws of truth*, of which we also read in [Mal 2:6](#), while it is rendered in [Rom 2:20](#) as *the truth in the law*.

**Neh 9:14** “And You made known to them Your set-apart Sabbath, and You commanded them commands and laws and Torot, by the hand of Mosheh Your servant.

**Neh 9:15** “And You gave them bread from the heavens for their hunger, and brought them water out of the rock for their thirst, and said to them to go in to possess the land which You had sworn to give them.

**Neh 9:16** “But they and our fathers acted proudly, and hardened their necks, and did not obey Your commands.

**Neh 9:17** “And they refused to obey, and they remembered not Your wonders that You did among them, and hardened their necks, and in their rebellion they appointed a leader to return to their bondage. But You are a forgiving Eloah, showing favour, and compassionate, patient, and of great loving-commitment, and did not forsake them.

**Neh 9:18** **“Even when they made a moulded calf for themselves, and said, ‘This is**

**your mighty one that brought you up out of Mitsrayim, and worked great blasphemies,**

**Neh 9:19 yet You, in Your great compassion did not forsake them in the wilderness. The column of the cloud did not turn away from them by day to lead them on the way, nor the column of fire by night to give them light in the way they were to go.**

Neh 9:20 “You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct<sup>c</sup> them, and did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, and gave them water for their thirst. Footnote: <sup>c</sup> [Pro 1:23](#), [Eze 36:27](#), [Zec 7:12](#).

Neh 9:21 “And for forty years You sustained them in the wilderness – they lacked not. Their garments did not wear out and their feet did not swell.

Neh 9:22 “And You gave them reigns and peoples, and apportioned them their lot. So they took possession of the land of Siḥon, and the land of the sovereign of Ḥeshbon, and the land of Oḡ sovereign of Bashan.

Neh 9:23 “And You increased their children as the stars of the heavens, and brought them into the land which You had said to their fathers to go in and possess.

Neh 9:24 “So the sons went in and possessed the land, and You humbled before them the people of the land, the Kena’anites, and gave them into their hands, with their sovereigns and the people of the land, to do with them as they desired.

Neh 9:25 “And they captured walled cities and a rich land, and possessed houses filled with all good, cisterns already dug, vineyards, and olive-trees, and fruit trees, in plenty. So they ate and were satisfied and grew fat, and delighted themselves in Your great goodness.

Neh 9:26 “But they became disobedient and rebelled against You, and cast Your Torah behind their backs. And they kill Your prophets who had warned them, to bring them back to Yourself. And they worked great blasphemies.

Neh 9:27 “Therefore You gave them into the hand of their enemies, who distressed them. And in the time of their distress, when they cried to You, You heard from the heavens. And according to Your great compassion You gave them saviours who saved them from the hand of their enemies.

Neh 9:28 “But after they had rest, they turned back to do evil before You. Then You left them in the hand of their enemies, so that they ruled over them. But when they turned back and cried out to You, You heard from the heavens, and delivered them according to Your compassion, many times,

Neh 9:29 and warned them, to bring them back to Your Torah. But they acted proudly, and did not obey Your commands, and sinned against Your right-rulings, ‘which if a man does, he shall live<sup>d</sup> by them.’ And they gave the rebellious shoulder and hardened their necks, and would not hear. Footnote: <sup>d</sup> [Lev 18:5](#), [Mat 19:17](#), [Luk 10:28](#) and [Joh 12:50](#).

Neh 9:30 “And You had patience with them for many years, and did warn them by Your Spirit, by the hand of Your prophets, yet they would not give ear. Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.

Neh 9:31 “But in Your great compassion You did not make an end of them nor forsake

them, for You are an Ĕl of favour and compassion.

**Neh 9:32** “And now, our Elohim, the great, the mighty, and awesome Ĕl, guarding the covenant and the loving-commitment, let not all the trouble that has come upon us, our sovereigns and our heads, our priests and our prophets, our fathers and on all Your people, from the days of the sovereigns of Ashshur until this day, seem little before You.

**Neh 9:33** “And in all that has come upon us You are righteous, for You have done truth, but we have done wrong.

**Neh 9:34** “And our sovereigns, our rulers, our priests, and our fathers, have not done Your Torah, nor heeded Your commands and Your witnesses, with which You witnessed against them.

**Neh 9:35** “For they have not served You in their reign, or in Your great goodness that You gave them, or in the large and rich land which You set before them – neither turned back from their evil deeds.

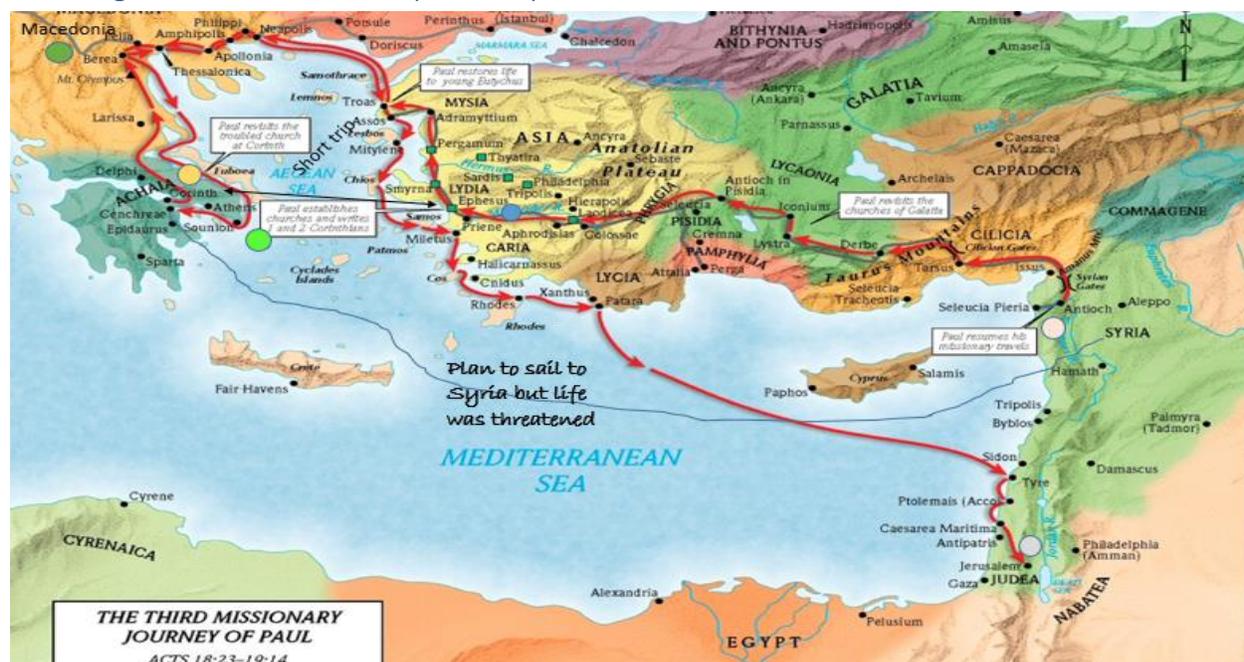
**Neh 9:36** “See, we are servants today! And the land that You gave to our fathers, to eat its fruit and the good of it, see, we are servants in it!

**Neh 9:37** “And its rich yield goes to the sovereigns You have set over us, because of our sins. And they rule over our bodies and our livestock at their pleasure, and we are in great distress.

**Neh 9:38** “And because of all this, we are making a trustworthy pledge, and write it. And our rulers, our Lēwites, our priests set their seal on it.”

## Acts 19

Paul begins his 3rd Missionary Journey.



## Paul in Ephesus

**Act 19:1** And it came to be, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Sha’ul, having passed through the upper parts, came to Ephesos. And having found some taught ones,

**Act 19:2** he said to them, **“Did you receive the Set-apart Spirit when you believed?”** And they said to him, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Set-apart Spirit.”

**Act 19:3** And he said to them, “Into what then were you immersed?” And they said, “Into Yoḥanan’s immersion.”

**Act 19:4** And Sha’ul said, “Yoḥanan indeed immersed with an immersion of repentance, saying to the people **that they should believe in the One who is coming after him, that is, in Messiah יהושע**.”

**Act 19:5** And when they heard this, **they were immersed into the Name of the Master יהושע**.

**Act 19:6** And when Sha’ul had laid hands on them, the Set-apart Spirit came upon them, and they were speaking in tongues and prophesying.

**Act 19:7** And all the men were about **twelve**.

**Act 19:8** And having gone into the congregation **he spoke boldly for three months**, reasoning and persuading concerning the reign of Elohim.

**Act 19:9** **But when some were hardened and did not believe, speaking evil of the Way before the crowd, he withdrew from them and separated the taught ones, reasoning daily in the school of Turannos.**

**Act 19:10** And this took place **for two years**, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Master יהושע, both Yehudim and Greeks.

We find Paul on his 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey and he spends quite some time in Ephesus. He teaches about the belief and immersion in Yahusha HaMashiach. Initially he witnessed to about 12 men; then over the course of two years, many lives were touched.

At one point, Paul separates the taught ones away from the congregation of those with hardened hearts. He then teaches them from the school of Turannos for two years.

### **Adam Clarke excerpt on the ‘school of Turannos’**

...It appears that the person in question was a schoolmaster, and that he lent or hired his room to the apostles; and that they preached daily in it to as many, both Jews and Gentiles, as chose to attend. It is very likely that Tyrannus was a Jew, and was at least well affected to the Christian cause; for we have many proofs that individuals among them kept schools for the instruction of their youth; besides the schools or academies kept by the more celebrated rabbins. ...

The sons of Sceva learn a hard lesson about Spiritual warfare.

## The Sons of Sceva

**Act 19:11** And Elohim worked unusual miracles through the hands of Sha’ul,

**Act 19:12** so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the wicked spirits went out of them.

**Act 19:13** But certain **roving Yehudi exorcists** took it upon themselves to call the **Name of the Master יהושע** over those who had wicked spirits, saying, **“We exorcise you by יהושע whom Sha’ul proclaims.”**

**Act 19:14** And there were seven sons of a certain **Skeua**, a Yehudi chief priest, who were doing this.

**Act 19:15** And the wicked spirit answering, said,

1. “יהושע I know,
2. and Sha’ul I know,
3. but who are you?”

**Act 19:16** And the man in whom **the wicked spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them**, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

**Act 19:17** And this became known to all, both Yehudim and Greeks dwelling in Ephesos. And fear fell on them all, **and the Name of the Master יהושע was made great.**

Repentance occurs with the burning of satanic ‘magic’ books which valued at 50 thousand pieces of silver.

**Act 19:18** And many who had believed came confessing and declaring their deeds.

**Act 19:19** And many of those who had **practiced magic brought their books together, burning them before all.** And they reckoned up the value of them, and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver.

**Act 19:20** So the word of the Master was growing mightily and prevailing.



### A Riot at Ephesus

**Act 19:21** Now when these *matters* had been completed, Sha’ul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Makedonia and Achaia, to go to Yerushalayim, saying, “After I have been there, I have to see Rome too.”

**Act 19:22** And having sent into **Makedonia** two of those assisting him, **Timotiyos and Ērastos**, he himself remained in Asia for a time.

**Act 19:23** **And about that time there came to be a great commotion about the Way.**

Demetrios the silversmith; maker of silver shrines of Artemis, stirs up the merchants of similar trade against Paul for encroaching on the wealth of their businesses.

happened to the city that hosted it? What turned Ephesus from a busy port of trade to a few shacks in a swamp?

**The Shrine to the Goddess Artemis**

The first shrine to the Goddess Artemis was probably built around 800 B.C. on a marshy strip near the river at Ephesus. The Ephesus goddess Artemis, sometimes called Diana, is not quite the same figure as was worshipped in Greece. The Greek Artemis was the goddess of the hunt. The Ephesus Artemis was a goddess of fertility and was often pictured as draped with eggs or multiple breasts, symbols of fertility, from her waist to her shoulders.

That earliest temple contained a sacred stone, probably a meteorite, that had "fallen from Jupiter." The shrine was destroyed and rebuilt several times over the next few hundred years. By 600 B.C., the city of Ephesus had become a major port of trade and an architect named Chersiphron was engaged to build a new, larger temple. He designed it with high stone columns. Concerned that carts carrying the columns might get mired in the swampy ground around the site, Chersiphron laid the columns on their sides and had them rolled to where they would be erected.

This temple didn't last long. According to one story in 550 B.C., King Croesus of Lydia conquered Ephesus and the other Greek cities of Asia Minor and during the fighting, the temple was destroyed. An archeological examination of the site, however, suggests that a



An 18th century engraving of the goddess Artemis of Ephesus.

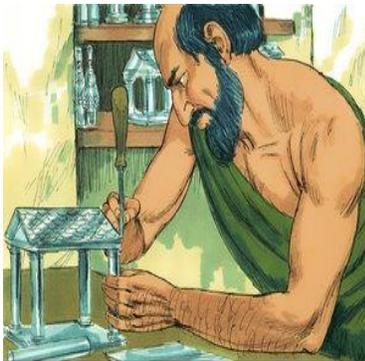
The great temple is thought to be the first building completely constructed with marble. Like its predecessor, the temple had 36 columns whose lower portions were carved with figures in high-relief. The temple also housed many works of art including four bronze statues of Amazon women.



**Act 19:24** For a certain man named Demetrios, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, provided no little business to the craftsmen,

**Act 19:25** who, having called them together, with the workers of similar trade, said, "Men, you know that our wealth is from this business.

**Act 19:26** "And you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Sha'ul has persuaded and turned away a large number, saying that they are not mighty ones which are made with hands.



**Act 19:27** "And not only is this trade of ours in danger of coming to rejection, but also that the temple of the great female mighty one Artemis whom all Asia and the world worship, shall be regarded as worthless and her greatness diminished."

**Act 19:28** And having heard this, they were filled with rage and cried out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

**Act 19:29** And the entire city was filled with confusion, and they rushed with one mind into the theatre, having seized Gaios and Aristarchos, Makedonians, Sha'ul's fellow travellers.

**Christianity Brings an End to Artemis Worship**



The city continued to prosper over the next few hundred years and was the destination for many pilgrims coming to view the temple. A souvenir business in miniature Artemis idols, perhaps similar to a statue of her in the temple, grew up around the shrine. It was one of these business proprietors, a man named Demetrius, that gave St. Paul a difficult time when he visited the city in 57 A.D.

St. Paul came to the city to win converts to the then new religion of Christianity. He was so successful that Demetrius feared the people would turn away from Artemis and he would lose his livelihood. He called others of his trade together with him and gave a rousing speech ending with "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" They then seized two of Paul's companions and a near riot followed during a meeting at the city theater. Eventually, however, the city was quieted, the men released and Paul left for Macedonia.

It was Paul's Christianity that won out in the end, though. By the time the great Temple of

(Licensed through Wikipedia Commons courtesy Norman Hen)

**Act 19:30** And Sha'ul, intending to go in among the mob, the taught ones did not allow him.

**Act 19:31** And some of the officials of Asia, being his friends, sent to him begging him not to risk himself into the theatre.

**Act 19:32** Then others indeed shouted this and others that, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together.

**Act 19:33** And some of the crowd instructed Alexander –

the Yehudim putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand, and wished to make his defence to the people.

**Act 19:34** But having recognized that he was a Yehudi, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, **"Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"**

Finally, the city clerk reasons with the crowd and they are dismissed.

**Act 19:35** And **the city clerk, having calmed the crowd, said**, "Men of Ephesos, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is the guardian of the temple of the great female mighty one Artemis, and of that which fell down from Zeus?"

**Act 19:36** "Therefore, if these *matters* are undeniable, you need to be calm, and do not act rashly.

**Act 19:37** "For you have brought these men here who are neither temple-robbers nor speaking evil of your female mighty one.

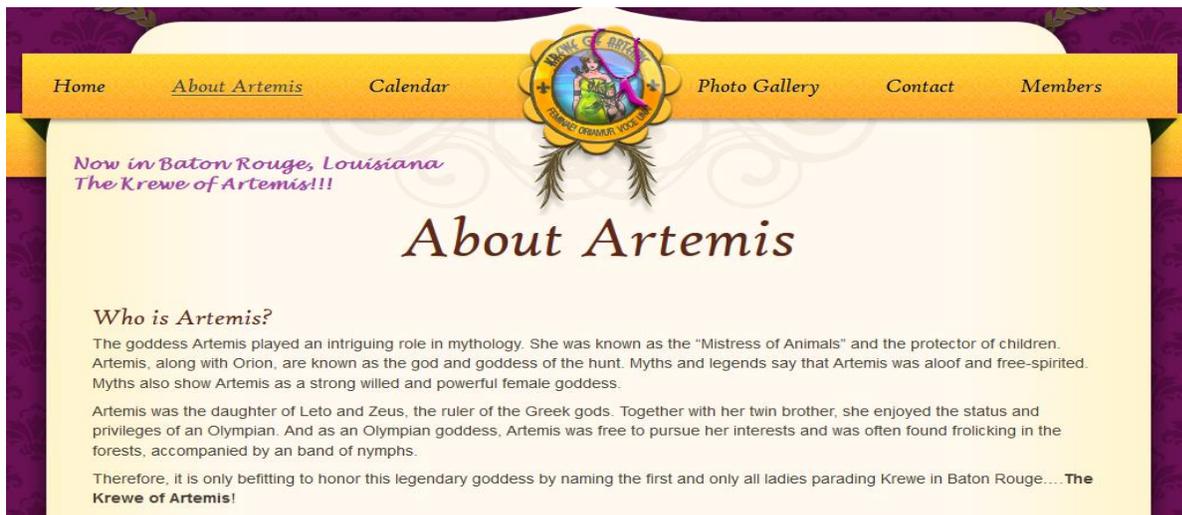
**Act 19:38** "If truly then Demetrios and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them accuse one another.

**Act 19:39** "And if you have any further complaint, it shall be settled in the regular assembly.

**Act 19:40** "For we are in danger of being accused of riot concerning today, there being no reason which we could give to account for this disorderly gathering."

**Act 19:41** **And having said this, he dismissed the assembly.**

These same ‘gods’ and ‘goddesses’ are ‘glorified’ today; especially with pagan holidays such a Mardi Gras. Below was from a website in 2018.



The screenshot shows a website page with a yellow navigation bar at the top containing links for Home, About Artemis, Calendar, Photo Gallery, Contact, and Members. A central logo features a figure holding a bow and arrow, surrounded by the text 'BANK OF BRITAIN' and 'FORNEX ORAMUAT VOCE'. Below the navigation bar, the page is titled 'About Artemis' in a large, brown, serif font. To the left of the title, there is a purple text box that reads 'Now in Baton Rouge, Louisiana The Krewe of Artemis!!!'. Below the title, the text 'Who is Artemis?' is followed by a paragraph describing her role in mythology as the 'Mistress of Animals' and protector of children. Another paragraph mentions her parents, Leto and Zeus, and her status as an Olympian goddess. The final paragraph concludes with 'Therefore, it is only befitting to honor this legendary goddess by naming the first and only all ladies parading Krewe in Baton Rouge... The Krewe of Artemis!'.

~ Shalom ~ Libby

Devotional Reading Plan Link: <http://www.mcheyne.info/calendar.pdf>