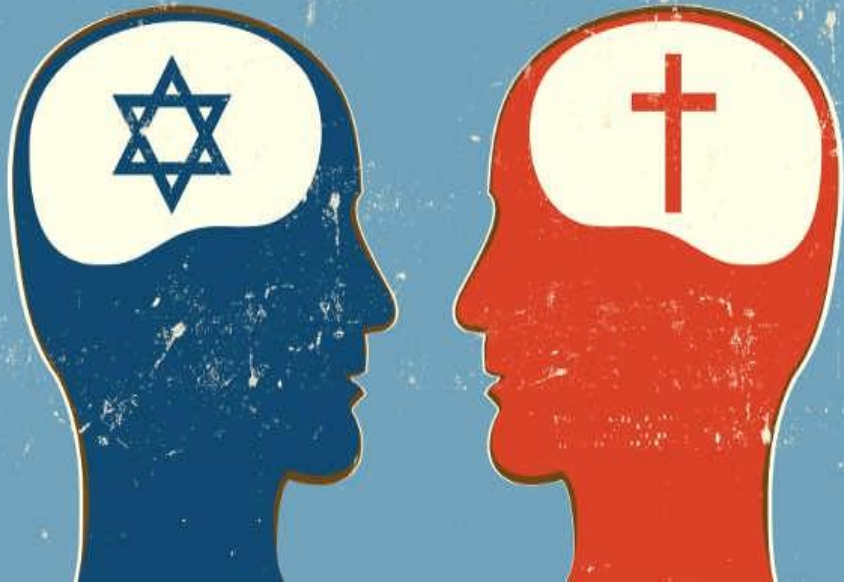


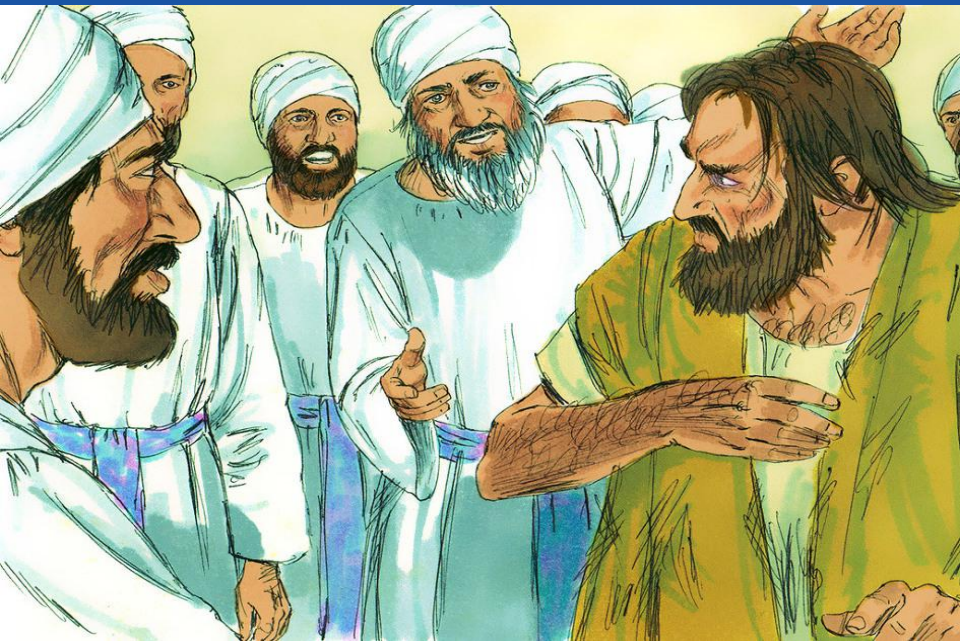


KNOWLEDGE VS. CHANGE

- Behavior change of new Believers was slow to come
- Believing Jews saw trust in Yeshua as a natural progression of their current faith
- Believing gentiles put one foot in The Way, and kept the other in the gentile world
- Jews had no demands put on them to change
- Gentiles were told to change by the Jerusalem Council
- Changes involved diet, idolatry and immorality



EPHESIAN BELIEVERS CHANGED



- Diaspora Jews made lifestyle concessions
- Jewish exorcists used pagan ways to oust demons
- Jews & gentiles who came to belief usually made no immediate changes
- **AFTER** the experience of Paul healing and dealing with demons, versus Jewish exorcists failing, true change in Ephesian Believers happened !
- Coming to Christ **MUST** pass from theory to application for it to be of real value

PAUL DECIDED “BY THE SPIRIT”

- “Some time later” a Hebrew literary device that changes the subject
- Paul & the Spirit had input on his decision of where to go after leaving Ephesus
- Do NOT be paralyzed waiting for a list of specifics from God !!
- Paul knew that Rome was God’s key destination



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE POOR

- Romans 15:23 – 26
- 1Cor. 16:1 – 4
- Collection of funds for the poor is heavily on Paul's mind
- Timothy reappears on the scene in Ephesus
- Paul sent Timothy and Erastus ahead of him to Macedonia
- Paul would stay in "Asia"



ARTEMIS

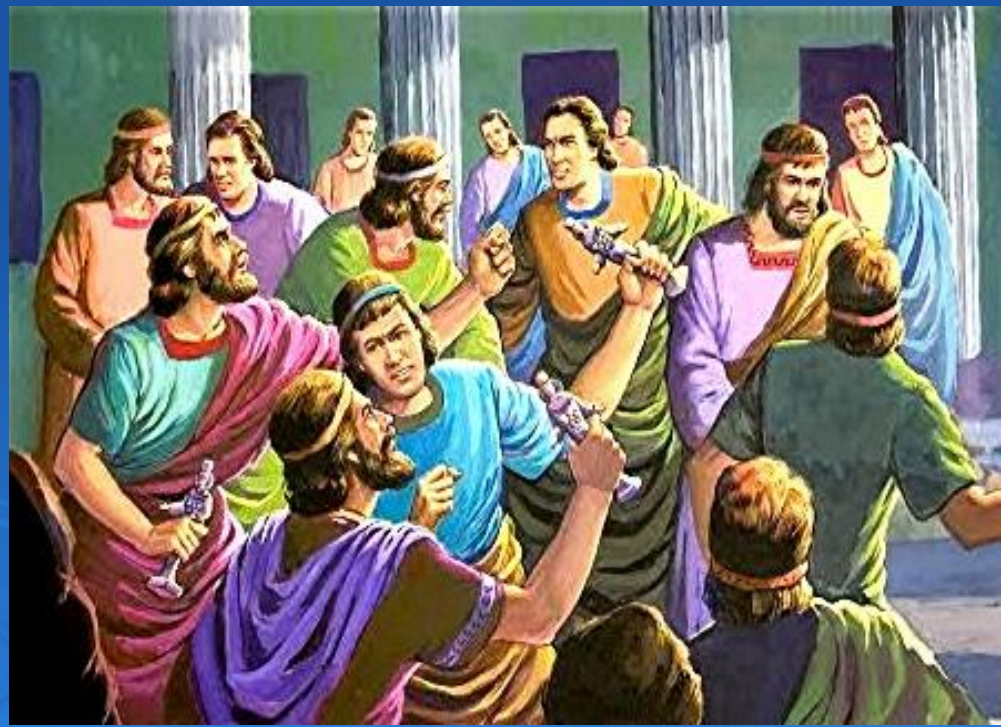
FERTILITY GODDESS

- Demetrius, head of the Silversmith guild, ignited a disturbance
- Riot started on account of principles of The Way that upset the silversmiths
- Silversmiths' main business was associated with Artemis
- Artemis, Ashteroth, Eostre, Ishtar, Easter all the same
- Artemis a special protector and benefactor of Ephesus



JEWS DID NOT DENOUNCE IDOLS

- Artemis Temple was 400 ft. X 200 ft.
- Artemis worship had a major impact on regional economy
- Jews only made laws against idol use for Jews
- Paul spoke out against idols in Athens, but that didn't cause much outcry
- In Ephesus, idol making was their life's blood



“Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”



- Economic ruin and loss of honor for Artemis will result from the Jews saying that idols aren't real
- If Artemis lost prestige, she would lose her power and position among the gods....and so would Ephesus !
- Gaius & Aristarchus dragged with the crowd into the theatre
- Paul wanted to confront the mob, but advised not to for fear of his life

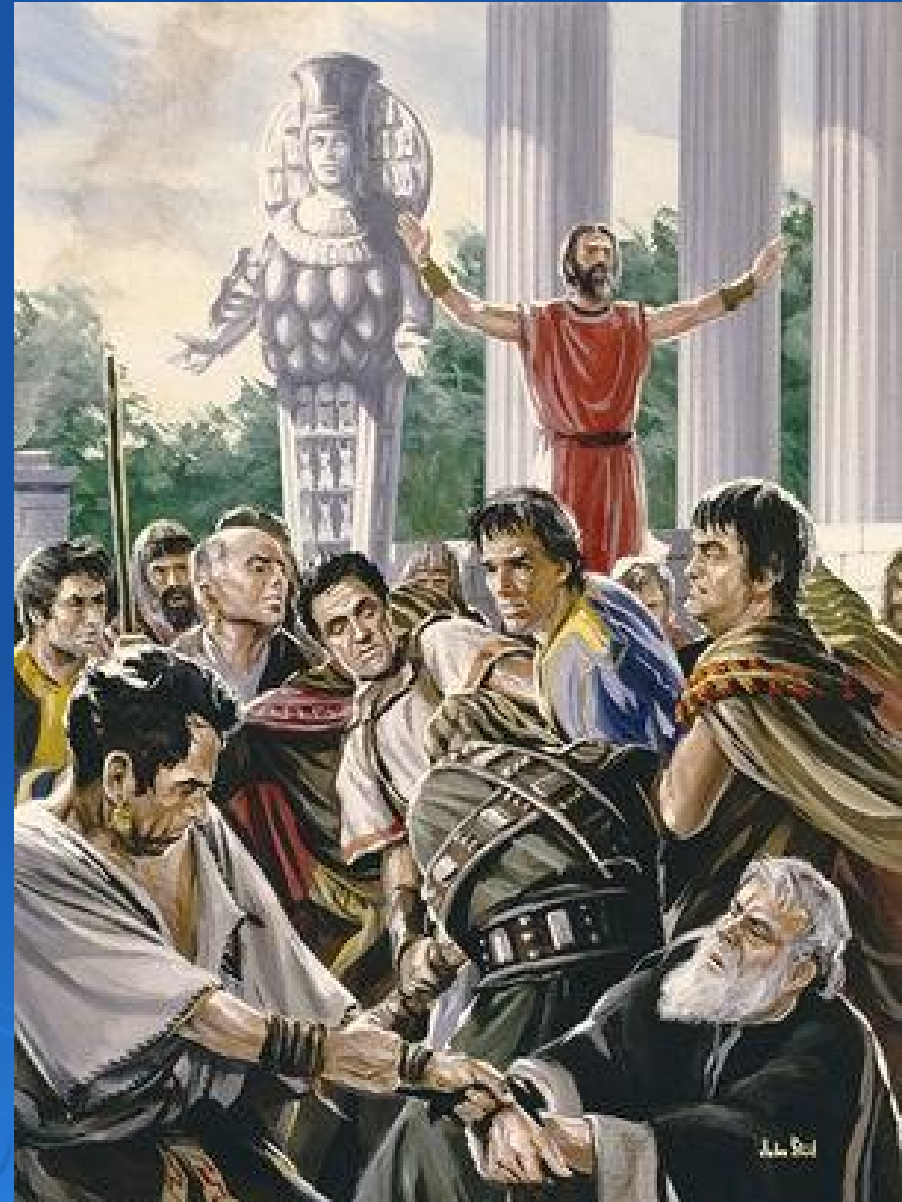
RIOT WAS ANTI-JEWISH

- Alexander, a Jew, tries to speak to the crowd but is shouted down
- Gentiles saw The Way as a Jewish religion
- The Jews saw The Way as a Jewish religion
- City Clerk finally able to calm everyone down
- He begins by diplomatically showing solidarity with the crowd

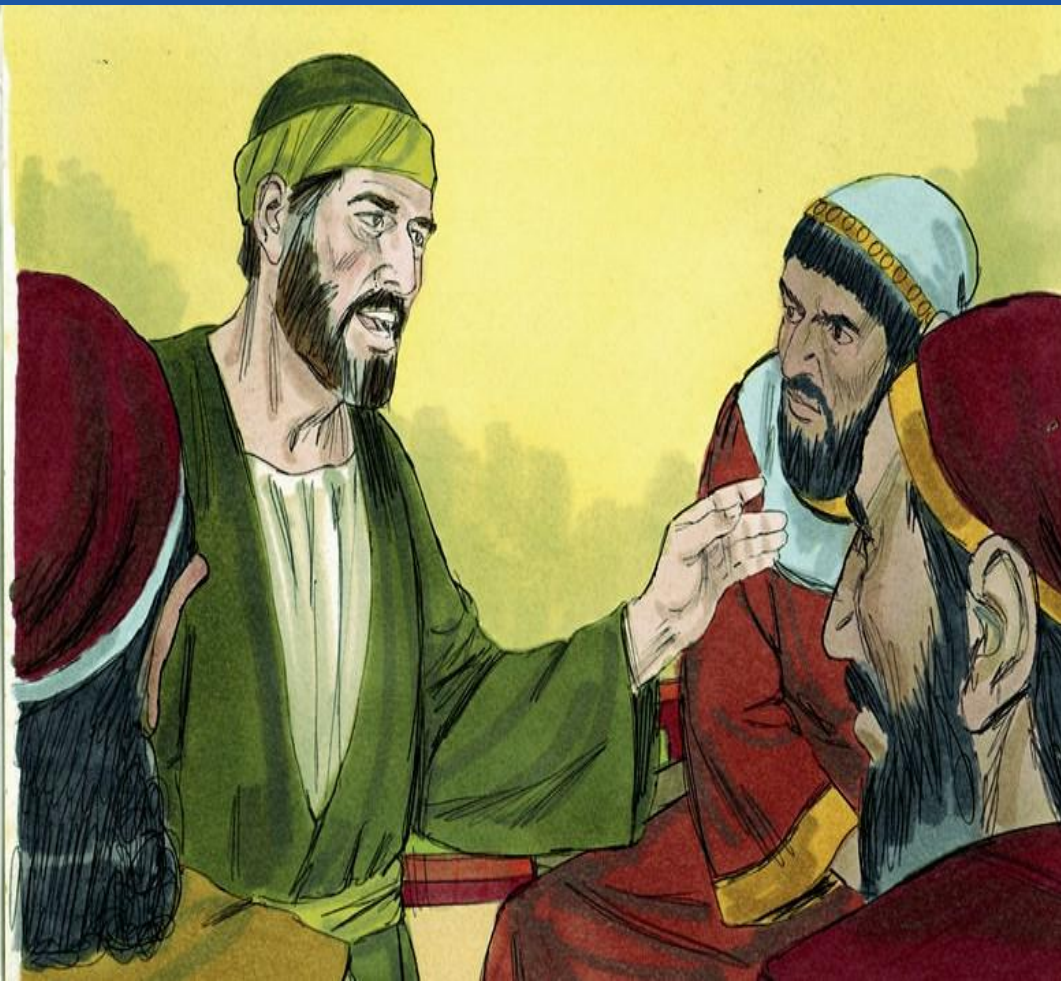


CITY CLERK SAYS THE JEWS ARE INNOCENT OF INSULTING ARTEMIS

- City Clerk says no need to be so upset; it is self-evident that Artemis is real and above reproach
- The Sacred Stone is also proof
- Islam venerates The Black Stone as holy
- These are meteorites
- *Ekklesia* = crowd, assembly
- Christians usually translate *ekklesia* as Church



ACTS CHAPTER 20: PAUL PREPARES TO LEAVE ASIA



- “After the furor died down” = after the riot
- Sha’ul called a meeting of the local disciples to encourage them
- They were worried and shaken
- How enthused could they be about their faith and its value after the riots aimed at The Way?

coexist



islam buddhism science judiasm paganism wiocan christian

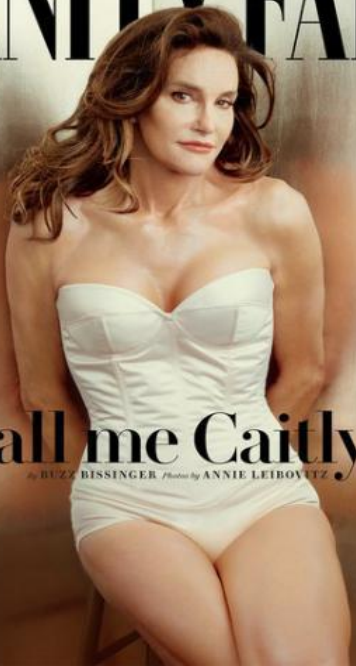
God is too big to fit in one place

WHERE DO YOU STAND ?



- Christianity dying in Europe
- America said not to be a Christian nation
- In many Churches the Bible no longer the last word on morality or right and wrong
- Are we prepared for the consequences of refusing to cave in to the trend?
- Theory is easy; practice is hard and bought at a price
- Matt. 16:24 - 28

VANITY FAIR



“Call me Caitlyn”

by BUZZ BISSINGER Photos by ANNIE LEIBOVITZ