

Study of Acts 19
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Acts 19:1-41

Acts 19 is some of the text that many believers use as part of the proof text for what they call the baptism of the Holy Spirit; ***BUT IF*** you read the text very carefully we can see that they were baptized in the name of Yeshua the Messiah and according to *Acts 2:38* they received the Holy Spirit of our heavenly Father at that time. *Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Yeshua Messiah for the remission of sins, and YOU SHALL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.*

Are there cases where YHVH immerses some people in His Holy Spirit in order to specifically help them in completing a task that He has given them? The answer is ***YES*** of course He does. He did so, many times in the Hebraic Scriptures as well as here in the Apostolic Scriptures.

But ***IT IS NOT*** an either or situation, as some church leaders teach and would have you believe that unless you have specifically been baptized in the Holy Spirit of Elohim, then you ***DON'T*** have the Holy Spirit of Elohim dwelling within you. Some go as far as to say that the evidence of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of our heavenly Father ***IS*** that a person begins to babble in an unknown tongue and unless you do so immediately, then you ***DO NOT*** have the Holy Spirit indwelling you. That my friends ***IS*** an absolutely ***FALSE*** teaching that does ***NOT*** even come close to lining up with the Word of Elohim. The teaching of the babbling or unknown tongues ***IS*** a topic for another time, ***BUT I*** can assure you that ***IT IS NOT*** found anywhere in Scripture.

Acts 2:38 along with other verses in Scripture make it perfectly clear that when a person is baptized in the name of Yeshua the Messiah, he or she does indeed receive the Holy Spirit of YHVH, for the Scriptures tell us that Yeshua and the Holy Spirit are Echad, ***THEY ARE ONE AND THE SAME SPIRIT***, they are the Spirit of our heavenly Father, therefore they are inseparable. Therefore ***IF*** you have the only begotten Son of our heavenly Father dwelling within you, ***THEN*** you can rest assured that you indeed have the Father and His Holy Spirit indwelling you, ***BECAUSE*** they are Echad, they are ***ONE***. In Scripture the Holy Spirit of our heavenly Father ***IS*** called ***the COMFORTER***, and in *John 14:18* Messiah said *I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.*

To confirm that the Father and the Son are One let's read *John 14:10-11* *Believe Me that I am in the Father, AND THE FATHER IS IN ME: or else believe Me for the very works' sake. 11 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believes on ME (the Living Torah, the Living Word of Elohim), the works that I do, shall he do also; and GREATER works than these shall he do; BECAUSE I go unto My Father.*

It stands to reason that ***IF*** the Father ***IS IN MESSIAH***, then when we receive the Messiah, the Living Torah as our Master and Saviour, ***THEN*** we receive the Father, and since the Father and His Holy Spirit are ***ONE***, ***THEN*** we also receive His Holy Spirit at that same time.

John 14:9 says *Have I been so long time with you, and YET you have NOT known Me, Philip? HE THAT HAS SEEN ME, HAS SEEN THE FATHER; and how can you then say, Show us the Father?* The Scriptures are replete with proof that the Father and the Son ***ARE ONE***, they are Echad.

In *verse 8 of Acts 19* we see that Paul was teaching in the synagogue of the area for three months. The number three in Scripture often refers to the resurrection of Messiah, therefore I believe that YHVH orchestrated this time period of Paul teaching in the synagogue to show us that Paul **WAS INDEED PREACHING AND TEACHING** the people that were gathered in the synagogue of the advent of Messiah and His crucifixion, His death and resurrection, and His ascension into heaven, confirming therefore that Messiah **IS** the Living Torah of the Father, made flesh.

Paul like others before him met with a lot of opposition as we see in *verse 9*. They even spoke evil things about him because he was teaching the **TRUTH**, the inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of YHVH, His Torah of Life, and that His Torah, His way of Life **IS** for everyone and **NOT** for a select **FEW**. Paul spoke and taught the Torah of YHVH and **NOT** the oral Torah of man, and Scripture tells us that he remained in Asia for two years teaching YHVH's **TRUTH**, His directives for everlasting Life, His eternal Torah.

Paul says follow me as I follow Messiah and in *verse 11* we are told that YHVH did miracles by the hand of Paul, the same way that the Father did miracles by the hand of Messiah Yeshua. In both cases **IT WAS** the Father doing the miracles through the loving surrendered obedient hearts of both Paul and Messiah.

Verse 12 says that even aprons and handkerchiefs from Paul cured the diseased and caused evil spirits to depart from the presence of people.

Then we are told about some vagabond Jews who claimed to be exorcists and when they saw miracles being performed by Paul and his disciples in the name of Yeshua they decided to invoke the name Yeshua in their so called exorcism. They did so without having an intimate relationship with Messiah, the Living Torah. That brings to mind a Scripture in *Matthew 7:21-23* where Messiah says, *Not every one that says unto Me, Adonai, Adonai, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of My Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, Adonai, Adonai, have we not prophesied in Your Name? And in Your name have rebuked devils? And in Your Name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I, Messiah profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, you that work iniquity, SIN, Lawlessness, Torahlessness.* They did not have an intimate relationship with Messiah either, therefore Messiah told them to depart from him..

Verse 12-15 So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went **OUT OF THEM**. Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Adonai Yeshua, saying, We adjure you by Yeshua whom Paul preaches. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Yeshua I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

The word **OUT** used here **IS** the Greek word Exerkomai which is Strong's Number **1831** ἐξέρχομαι [E]CE/RXOMAI {exérchomai} \ex-er'-khom-ahee\
from **1537** and **2064**; to issue (literally or figuratively):--come (forth, out), **depart** (out of), escape, get out, **go** (abroad, away, forth, out, thence), **proceed** (forth), spread abroad.

It is made up of these two Greek words, Strong's number 1537 and 2064:

1537 ἐκ [E]K] {ek} \ek\ or ἐξ [E]C] {ex} \ex\ a primary preposition denoting origin (the point whence action or motion proceeds), **from**, out (of place, time, or cause; literal or figurative; direct or remote):--after, among, X are, at, betwixt(-yond), by (the means of), exceedingly, (+ abundantly above), for(- th), **from** (among, forth, up), + **grudgingly**, + heartily, X heavenly, X hereby, + very highly, in, ...ly, (**because, by reason**) of, off (from), on, out among (from, of), over, since, X **thenceforth**, through, X unto, X vehemently, with(-out). Often used in composition, with the same general import; often of completion.

2064 ἔρχομαι [E]/RXOMAI] {érchomai} \er'-khom-ahee\
middle voice of a primary verb (used only in the present and imperfect tenses, the others being supplied by a kindred (middle voice) ἐλεύθομαι [E]LEU/QOMAI] {eleúthomai} \el-yoo'-thom-ahee\
or (active) ἔλθω [E]/LQW] {élthō} \el'-tho\ which do not otherwise occur); **to come or go** (in a great variety of applications, literally and figuratively):--**accompany, appear, bring, come, enter, fall out, go, grow, X light, X next, pass, resort, be set.**

Although this word has been translated as **OUT OF THEM** in the phrase, *the evil spirits went OUT OF THEM*, Exerkomai, a responsible unbiased translator would have translated this as *the evil spirits went away, or departed FROM THEM*, Exerkomai; as can easily be seen by the Strong's definition of this Greek word. More on this in a moment.

In *verse 14* we have a case where seven sons of Sceva, a Jew and a chief ruler of the priests of Judaism who believed, practiced and followed the man made traditions of their forefathers, the ways of the world, their own man made oral torah, rather than the pure inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of our heavenly Father, His Pure Torah of Life, and we are told that these seven people practiced exorcism (Jewish mysticism) on an individual by trying to invoke the Name of Yeshua the Messiah, and commanding the evil spirit to **DEPART FROM** the presence of the man and stop troubling and or tormenting him.

When this story **IS** recounted many people believe that the evil spirit left the man and beat up **ALL** these seven sons of Sceva and sent them away naked, running for their lives, **BUT IT IS** very evident by the text that it was the deranged and tormented man that overpowered these seven brothers and sent them running for their lives. *Verse 16 And the man whom the evil spirits were troubling leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house NAKED and wounded.*

The word **NAKED** is Strong's number 1131 γυμνός [GUMNO/S] {gymnós} \goom-nos\ of uncertain affinity; nude (absolute or relative, literal or **figurative**):--naked. It is derived from the Hebrew word *Arom*, עָרוֹם, which is derived from the root word, *Avoor*, עָוַר, which means *to be bared, be exposed, to make blind, blinded, it can also mean skin or hide*. Now that we have defined this word *naked*, we have a clearer picture of what Luke the writer of the book of Acts is telling us. These seven sons of Sceva were willingly blinded to Elohim's **TRUTH**, His Pure inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, because they lived by their own man made doctrinal world view, their own man made oral torah, and therefore they **DID NOT** follow the **WAYS** of YHVH and **DID NOT** have the protective covering of Elohim's Torah, which means that they were without covering they were **NAKED**.

Now let's think this through for a moment and let's begin with, when a person is a servant or is in bondage, he does indeed serve whatever or whoever he is in bondage to and Messiah says in *John 8:33-34* *The Pharisees answered him, We are Abraham's seed, and WE were never **in bondage** to any man: how can You say, You shall be made free?* And Messiah said to them in *verse 34* *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever commits **SIN IS** the **SERVANT OF SIN**. Romans 8:21* *Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from **THE BONDAGE OF CORRUPTION** into the glorious liberty of the children of Elohim.*

Paul said in *Galatians 4:9* *But now, after that you have known Elohim, or rather are known of Elohim, **WHY** do you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto you desire again **TO BE IN BONDAGE**? This **IS** telling us that when we turn away from YHVH's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, we come under **BONDAGE to SIN, NOT** possessed by devils.*

We have to understand that **WE ARE THE ONES THAT PUT OURSELVES IN BONDAGE** when we give into the lusts of our flesh, and we become servants of that lust or **SIN**, and all a person is doing when they believe this **FALSE** teaching of being possessed by the devil or demons or evil spirits **IS**, they are consciously or subconsciously trying **TO SHIFT** the blame away from where it really belongs, they shifting the blame away from themselves, for not being strong enough to **RESIST SIN**. Paul clearly tells us in *Philippians 2:12* *Wherefore, my beloved, as you have always **OBEYED**, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING**. In this statement Paul has placed the responsibility of choosing salvation exactly where it belongs, and that my friends **IS ON OUR SHOULDERS, WE, YOU and ME ARE RESPONSIBLE** for our own salvation and we cannot blame the devil or his demons for what happens to us, because Scripture makes it **ABUNDANTLY CLEAR** that we reap what we sow, and **IF** we sow **SIN** we will reap corruption and bondage to **SIN**, and although **IT IS** indeed the devil that influences us, **WE ARE THE ONES** that have the **FREE WILL**, and it is **UP TO US TO SAY NO** to being in bondage to **SIN**. Remember what James said in *James 4:7* *Submit yourselves therefore to Elohim. Resist the devil, **AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU**.**

The point I am trying to make **IS**, the evil spirit **DID NOT** come from within the man, it is **NOT** an evil spirit that came and possessed the man and made him do things he did **NOT** want to do. We have to understand that we all have our own spirit and that spirit my friends has a yetzer Tov and yetzer harrah, a good and or a bad inclination, and depending on how we live our lives and what we allow to influence us, then one or the other of these inclinations **WILL** be dominant in our lives. There are many, many stories of men in certain circumstances and or situations that have demonstrated super-human strength, and I believe that this **IS** the case in this story of the seven sons of Sceva being overwhelmed by **ONE** man.

I know that it is very difficult for many of you to believe what I have just told you, for many of you have been taught that evil spirits or demons **CAN** and **DO** possess people; **BUT** Scripture **IS** quite clear when it says that the **HEART** or the **SPIRIT** that **IS** resident in every man **IS DECEITFUL AND DESPERATELY WICKED**, and that we have to work very hard at getting that wickedness, you could even say **THAT BONDAGE TO SIN** out of our lives, and the only way to do that,

according to Scripture, **IS BY** surrendering our spirit, including our evil inclination, our wicked hearts to our heavenly Father in total surrendered loving obedience to His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of life made flesh, and James tells us that the devil **WILL FLEE FROM US**.

In Jeremiah 17:10 we read something very interesting, I YHVH search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man ACCORDING TO HIS WAYS, and ACCORDING TO THE FRUIT OF HIS DOINGS. Now IF we combine what Jeremiah says in Jeremiah 17 with what Matthew says in Matthew 10:29 where it says Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without the will of your Father; THEN we can correctly deduce that the spirit that influences us, actually depends on OUR OWN CHOICES. IF we willingly choose to surrender our spirit to YHVH in loving surrendered obedience, THEN YHVH's Holy Spirit comes and makes His abode within us and Scripture says that the Father's Holy Spirit is given to us with the very specific purpose of CAUSING every willing loving heart to walk out His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, Ezekiel 36:26-27.

However **IF** we choose to **NOT** surrender our wills to YHVH, then our spirit **IS ON ITS OWN**, and can easily be **INFLUENCED and DECEIVED** by the evil spirit of the enemy who has come to steal, kill and destroy **ALL** of mankind. YHVH has told us in *Deuteronomy 30:15, 19 See, I have set BEFORE YOU this day life and good, and death and EVIL; 19 I call heaven and earth to record this day AGAINST YOU, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore CHOOSE LIFE, that both you and your seed may live. To choose Life means to choose His Torah for YHVH has said throughout the Torah that IT IS LIFE TO THE ONES THAT OBEYS AND DOES HIS TORAH.* But please remember that He has also said that He would send deceiving Spirits, *Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit of Elohim speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall DEPART from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; the doctrines of devils ARE ALL the man made doctrines of this world including any and all oral torahs.*

These verses confirm to us that YHVH in His infinite wisdom, love, grace, mercy and longsuffering forgiveness has set **CHOICES** before us, and regardless of what choice we make, **IT WILL** influence **ALL** of our lives and our spirit from birth to death. Whatever choice we make along the path, we call our lives, **WILL** set the stage for what spirit will influence and direct our lives. **IF** we choose the path that YHVH has admonished us to choose, and willingly and lovingly **FOLLOW THAT PATH, THEN** according to YHVH we will have Life and we will have it abundantly and He says, we will be at His side as part of His eternal family; however **IF** we choose to walk **ANY OTHER PATH** than what YHVH has designated and admonished us to walk on, **THEN** it means that we have chosen death and curses, and YHVH says He **WILL** give us what we desire, and in the case of making the wrong choice and following our own man made understanding rather than the **PURE TRUTH** of YHVH, His Torah of Life, **IT WILL** lead **ALL** people who make that free will choice to their death and everlasting damnation.

I have said all of this to show you that **YOU** and **YOU ALONE ARE RESPONSIBLE** to work out your own salvation. YHVH, by His infinite loving grace, mercy and His longsuffering forgiving nature has given us the gift of salvation and He has set the Path for **ALL OF US** that **LEADS TO THAT SALVATION**, to eternal life, and that Path **IS** His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, and **IT IS** up to every individual to choose for himself whether or **NOT** they will **TAKE** the **PATH** that YHVH has so clearly outlined for us to follow.

The subject of demonic possession is too extensive to go into in this short teaching on the study of *Acts 19*, **BUT** please be aware that nowhere in the Torah of Moses **IS** this subject discussed, and since **ALL** of Scripture **IS** based on the **FIRST FIVE BOOKS** of the Scriptures known as the Torah of Moses, **THEN IF** YHVH chose **NOT** to teach us about this so called man made demonic possession doctrine or theory, **IT IS BECAUSE IT DOES NOT EXIST, IT IS** a fabrication of men's evil hearts, intent on discrediting Elohim by giving the devil powers that he does **NOT POSSESS**.

We have to understand that our heavenly Father loves **ALL** of His created human beings with an infinite unending love, and therefore He absolutely would **NOT** leave us without instructions on how to deal with demonic possessions **IF THERE WERE SUCH A THING**, for Scripture emphatically states that our heavenly Father **IS NOT THE AUTHOR of CONFUSION**. Furthermore our heavenly Father has said in *Genesis 18:17-19* And YHVH said, **SHALL I HIDE FROM ABRAHAM THAT THING WHICH I DO**; Seeing that Abraham **SHALL** surely become **A GREAT and MIGHTY NATION** (that nation **IS** Israel), and all the nations of the earth **SHALL** be blessed in Abraham? For **I YHVH KNOW HIM, I KNOW** that he **WILL COMMAND** his children and his household after him, and they **SHALL KEEP THE WAY OF YHVH**, My Torah, My inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, **TO DO** justice and judgment; that **I YHVH may bring upon Abraham ALL** that which **I YHVH has spoken of him**. Now please follow **THE LOGIC** of this statement so you can see for yourself that demonic possession **IS NOT found anywhere in the PURE WORD OF YHVH**. **IF THERE WERE** such a thing as demon possession that was going to happen sometime in the future, **THEN** this would have been a perfect time for YHVH to educate Abraham on this subject of demonic possession, since YHVH prophesied that Abraham was going to become a **GREAT and MIGHTY NATION, and COMMAND** his children and his household after him, to **KEEP THE WAY OF YHVH, KEEP and DO** YHVH's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life; **BUT** the subject **IS NEVER** broached in the Torah of Moses, **BECAUSE IT DOESN'T, NOR HAS IT EVER EXISTED, IT IS** a fabrication of men's perverted minds, it is a distortion of the pure Torah of Elohim.

Let me show you a few Scriptures that plainly show us the sovereignty of YHVH and how much leeway, how far YHVH has allowed His created being, the devil to go.

Job 15:12-35 Why, Eliphaz, does your heart carry you away? And what do your eyes wink at, that you turn your spirit against Elohim, and let such words go out of your mouth? What is man, that he should be clean? And he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous? Behold, YHVH puts **NO TRUST** in His saints; yea, the heavens **ARE NOT CLEAN** in His sight. How much more **ABOMINABLE AND FILTHY IS MAN**, who **drinks iniquity like water**? I will show you Eliphaz, hear Me; and that which I have seen I will declare; Which wise men have told from their fathers, and **HAVE NOT HID IT**: Unto whom alone the earth was given, and no stranger passed among them. The **WICKED MAN TRAVAILS WITH PAIN ALL HIS DAYS** (he is tormented by his sinful life), and the number of years **IS HIDDEN** to the oppressor. A dreadful sound is in his ears: in prosperity **THE DESTROYER SHALL COME UPON HIM**. He believes **NOT** that he shall return out of darkness, and he is waited for of the sword. He wanders abroad for bread, saying, Where is it? He knows that the day of darkness is ready at his hand (he is scared). **TROUBLE AND ANGUISH SHALL MAKE HIM AFRAID**; they **SHALL** prevail against him, as a king ready to the battle. For he stretches out his hand **AGAINST** Elohim, (the same way that satan does) and strengthens himself **AGAINST** the Almighty. He runs upon him, even on his neck, upon the thick bosses of his bucklers: Because he covers his face with his fatness, and makes himself obese and fat

on his flanks. And he dwells in desolate cities, and in houses which **NO** man inhabits, which are ready to become heaps. He shall **NOT** be rich, (he, like satan shall not get what he desires) *neither shall his substance continue, neither shall he prolong the perfection thereof upon the earth. **HE SHALL NOT DEPART OUT OF DARKNESS** (just like satan is always in darkness); the flame shall dry up his branches, and by the breath of HIS mouth, (by his words) shall he go away. **LET NOT HIM THAT IS DECEIVED TRUST IN VANITY:** for vanity shall be his recompense. It shall be accomplished before his time, and his branch **SHALL NOT** be green. He shall shake off his unripe grape as the vine, and shall cast off his flower as the olive (he will die before his time, in the same manner that satan will be thrown in the pit and later in the lake of fire). For the congregation of hypocrites shall be desolate, and fire shall consume the tabernacles of bribery. They conceive mischief, and bring forth vanity, and their belly prepares deceit.*

If a person cannot understand, accept and believe in the ultimate sovereignty of our heavenly Father, in that He has absolute and total control over **ALL** of His creation, which includes **ALL** of his created angels, the two thirds and stayed with Him and **ALL** the fallen angels, **THEN** that person will **NEVER** be able to understand the Scriptures in the manner that our heavenly Father wants us to understand **THEM**. He has allowed all of His created beings a lot of leeway, **BUT** YHVH has placed limits on **ALL** of them, limits that He will **NOT** allow His created beings **TO GO BEYOND** and that includes **ALL** of His created beings, for YHVH **IS** sovereign and **HE DOES CONTROL ALL THINGS**. If you want to truly understand the Scriptures in the manner that YHVH wants you to understand them, then start with accepting and truly believing this foundational **TENET**, **YHVH IS SOVEREIGN** over **EVERYTHING**. Amen

*Proverbs 2:8 YHVH **KEEPS** the paths of judgment, and **preserves the way of His saints**, how can YHVH say that He preserves the way of His saints **IF** YHVH allows them to be possessed by demons, it doesn't make any logical sense?*

*Daniel 7:25 -27 And he (satan) shall speak great words **AGAINST** the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and **HOPE** to change times, and laws (all the devil can do **IS HOPE** that He can change things, **BECAUSE he is NOT** in control, YHVH **IS IN TOTAL CONTROL OF ALL THINGS**): and the saints shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time (satan **DOES NOT** enter their bodies and possess them, that is a ridiculous conclusion, according to the text of Daniel 7, the devil simply ends up having authority over YHVH's saints for a specified period of time, because of their disobedience). 26 But the judgment shall sit, and they (the saints) **SHALL take away the devil's dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.** 27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, **SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH**, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and **ALL DOMINIONS SHALL SERVE AND OBEY HIM.***

I know I have said it before **BUT IT IS** very evident that since the devil **IS** a created being of Elohim, that the devil **ONLY HAS THE POWER THAT ELOHIM ALLOWS** him to have and according to **ALL of Scripture** the devil **DOES NOT HAVE THE POWER NOR the AUTHORITY TO POSSESS PEOPLE, BECAUSE YHVH HAS NOT ALLOWED** the devil **TO GO THAT FAR.**

I will leave it up to you to make your own mind up, **BUT** I would **CAUTION** you that **YOU DO SO** according to Scripture, according to the Torah of Moses, and **NOT** according to any man made doctrinal and or theological belief system. Please keep in mind what it says in *Deuteronomy 4:2* for

IT IS A FOUNDATIONAL TEACHING from YHVH Himself that ***COMMANDS US NOT*** to add anything to, ***NOR*** take anything away from His ***TORAH***. Now based on this ***VERY BASIC TORAH COMMANDMENT*** found in *Deuteronomy 4:2* logic therefore dictates that ***IF*** any person willingly chooses to believe that there ***IS SUCH A THING AS DEMONS BEING ABLE TO POSSESS A PERSON*** and ***CAUSE THAT PERSON*** to do whatever the demons want him to do, ***THEN YOU ARE INDEED ADDING*** something to the ***Torah of MOSES, BECAUSE THAT BELIEF or DOCTRINE IS A MAN MADE DOCTRINE AND IS NOT FOUND ANYWHERE IN THE TORAH***. Please take this matter to YHVH in Prayer and let the Holy Spirit guide you, for I know that ***ALL*** of us including myself ***ARE*** seekers of YHVH's eternal ***TRUTHS***. Amein

As we continue on in *Acts 19* we see that this incident of the healing of the people and of the seven sons of Sceva, convinced a lot of people to believe in the *Good News*, the ***GOSPEL OF TRUTH***, the Torah of YHVH, as it was given to Moses on Mount Sinai, that Paul was preaching, and it says that the Word of Elohim ***GREW MIGHTILY AND PREVAILED***. It also says that the people that now believed brought their books of curious arts on witchcraft and ***THEY BURNED THEM ALL*** and it also says that there were at least ***fifty thousand pieces of silver's worth of books*** that were burnt. Why do you supposed it was fifty thousand pieces of silver and not some other number? In Scripture the number fifty represents the restoration of all things, and therefore this tells me that when Messiah returns to restore all things, that He will be coming to burn and destroy ***ALL*** man made doctrines and theologies.

We have to understand that when we turn to YHVH as our Master and Saviour, we ***MUST*** leave our old life, our old belief system and all our old superstitions behind us and learn to ***TRUST*** in YHVH and He guarantees us that He will direct our paths, and since Scripture tells us that ***IT IS*** the Father's wish that ***NOT*** even ***ONE PERSON PERISH***, you can rest assured that the Father will direct us into His everlasting Kingdom where we will be with Him for eternity. What a wonderful comforting thought.

Next we are told that Paul sends Timothy and Erastus to Macedonia, and there they encounter a certain man named Demetrius who was a maker of silver idols of the goddess Diana. Demetrius stirred up all the people and spoke against the message that Paul and his disciples were bringing to Macedonia, and he said that Paul and his disciples were preaching against their goddess Diana and that Diana was in danger of being despised and that her magnificence would be destroyed by their teaching. That of course ***IS TRUE***, since her magnificence ***IS IN*** the form of a statue that ***IS*** worshipped by many people, which of course directly contradicts the 2nd Commandment of YHVH which prohibits the making and worshipping of idols or graven images of ***ANY KIND***, including images of Elohim Himself.

Then we are told that Demetrius and his cohorts caught Paul's disciples and brought them to the theatre to be judged. We are told that the disciples suggested that Paul ***NOT*** come to the theatre, and they asked him to instead have Alexander speak on their behalf. But when the crowd found out that Alexander was a Jew, they wouldn't let him speak. Instead they chanted with one loud voice for over two hours, the words, great is Diana of the Ephesians! That reminds me of a child that doesn't want to hear something that he doesn't like and therefore he speaks without stopping, and speaks loudly so that he and all other people around him will ***NOT*** be able to hear the message of the disciples. That is called a tantrum and ***IS NOT*** a very mature reaction.

However we are told that cooler heads prevailed as one of their leaders, the town clerk said, in *verse 35-37* *And when the town clerk had appeased the people, he said, You men of Ephesus, what man is there among you that does NOT know that the city of the Ephesians IS a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Jupiter? Seeing then that these things CANNOT BE SPOKEN AGAINST, you ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly. For you have brought these men here, and they are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess. Wherefore if Demetrius, and the craftsmen which are with him, have a matter against any man, THE LAW IS OPEN, and there are deputies: let them accuse one another.*

This town clerk along with **MOST** of the people of Ephesus believed in and worshipped Diana and the statue of Diana and the town clerk said it really doesn't matter what these men say **BECAUSE** what man among you isn't a worshipper of the great goddess Diana and of the image that fell down from Jupiter, therefore you **KNOW** the truth and these people's (Paul and his disciples) lies cannot affect our goddess **DIANA**.

Now I want you to compare the deception that the people of Ephesus were affected by to the deception that all man made religion impose upon their people and then look around you and see **IF** you can spot the deception that is in their teachings, for just like this town clerk in Ephesus was **TOTALLY** deceived into believing that Diana was a goddess, because of their man made doctrines and belief system, so to are all religions that teach that the Torah of YHVH, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions has been partially or totally done away with, are **TOTALLY DECEIVED**.

Now listen to what the town clerk said about Paul and his disciples, these men have **NEITHER** robbed the churches or blasphemed Diana; therefore **I FIND NO FAULT OR WRONG IN THEM**, in the same manner that Pontius Pilate found no fault or wrongdoing in Messiah and washed his hands of the whole thing. Whether the town clerk understood the importance of his statement or **NOT**, it is important that we understand what YHVH **IS** communicating to us through that clerk's statement, which is that these **MEN**, meaning Paul and his disciples are **FAULTLESS** and have done **NOTHING WRONG, BECAUSE** they are teaching **MY** Torah which is faultless.

It is amazing to me that the town clerk in Ephesus, who, in my opinion is representative of the **WORLD SYSTEM** of today was so concerned about their man made laws to the point that he chastised everyone for putting their man made **LAW and ORDER** system into question by this quasi unlawful assembly, that is accusing men of wrongdoing without due process, and yet he has no concern whatsoever for the Word or the Law, the Torah of YHVH, which **IS** exactly what the state of the world **IS IN** today. For the most part people do **NOT** believe what is written in the Scriptures and therefore they govern their lives accordingly. Let us **NOT** be caught up in that same hysteria, to the point that we are seduced into believing the doctrines of devils, **BUT** let us rather be diligent in surrendering our hearts in total loving obedience to YHVH's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah, His directives for everlasting Life. **Amein**.

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought, and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹם עִלְיֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amein