

~APOLLOS (141)

(A-pol'los) [Destroyer, abbreviation of Apollonius]

- A Jew of Alexandria, Egypt, possessed of notable eloquence in speaking and a sound knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures. He seems to have been witnessed to by disciples of John the Baptizer or else by Christian witnesses prior to Pentecost, since he was **acquainted with only the baptism of John**.
- Now a certain Jew named **Apollos**, a native of Alexandria, **an eloquent man**, arrived in Ephesus, and he was **well versed in the Scriptures**. (**Acts of Apostles 18:24**)
- This man had been orally instructed in the way of Yehowah and, as he was aglow with the spirit, he went speaking and teaching with correctness the things about Jesus, **but being acquainted with only the baptism of John**. (**Acts of Apostles 18:25**)
- Yet he was fired with conviction, and on arriving in Ephesus about **52 C.E.**, he began witnessing in the local synagogue. This brought him in contact with Aquila and Priscilla, who filled in some of the gaps in his understanding of Christian teaching.
- From Ephesus he went over to Achaia, supplied with a letter of introduction, and there he seems to have centered his activity in Corinth, where Paul had preceded him. His intensity and his powerful Scriptural confutations of the arguments of the unbelieving Jews proved of great aid to the brothers there. He thus **watered what Paul had planted**.
- And this man started to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him into their company and expounded the way of God more correctly to him. (**Acts of Apostles 18:26**)
- Further, because he was desiring to go across into Achaia, the brothers wrote the disciples, exhorting them to receive him kindly. So when he got there, he greatly helped those who had believed on account of God's undeserved kindness. (**Acts of Apostles 18:27**)
- For with intensity he thoroughly proved the Jews to be wrong

- publicly, while he demonstrated by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ. (**Acts of Apostles 18:28**)
- In the course of events, while **Apollos** was in Corinth, Paul went through the inland parts and came down to Ephesus, and found some disciples. (**Acts of Apostles 19:1**)
 - I planted, **Apollos** watered, but God kept making it grow. (**1 Corinthians 3:6**)
 - Unfortunately, by the time Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians, **circa 55 C.E.**, factions had developed in the Corinth congregation, with some viewing the eloquent **Apollos** as their leader, while others favored Paul or Peter or held only to Christ.
 - Now I exhort you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that you should all speak in agreement, and that there should not be divisions among you, but that you may be fitly united in the same mind and in the same line of thought. (**1 Corinthians 1:10**)
 - For the disclosure was made to me about you, my brothers, by those of the house of Chloe, **that dissensions exist among you.** (**1 Corinthians 1:11**)
 - What I mean is this, that each one of you says; **I belong to Paul, But I to Apollos, But I to Cephas, But I to Christ.** (**1 Corinthians 1:12**)
 - Paul's letter corrected their wrong thinking, showing the vital need for **unity and the relative unimportance of individuals** as only ministers serving under God and Christ.
 - For when one says; I belong to Paul, but another says; I to **Apollos, are you not simply men?** (**1 Corinthians 3:4**)
 - What, then, is **Apollos?** Yes, what is Paul? **Ministers through whom you became believers,** even as the Lord granted each one. (**1 Corinthians 3:5**)
 - I planted, **Apollos** watered, **but God kept making it grow.** (**1 Corinthians 3:6**)
 - So that neither is he that plants anything nor is he that waters,

but God who makes it grow. (1 Corinthians 3:7)

- Now he that plants and he that waters are one, but each person will receive his own reward according to his own labor. (1 Corinthians 3:8)
- For **we are God's fellow workers**. You people are God's field under cultivation, God's building. (1 Corinthians 3:9)
- Hence **let no one be boasting in men**, for all things belong to you. (1 Corinthians 3:21)
- Whether Paul or **Apollos** or Cephas or the world or life or death or things now here or things to come, **all things belong to you**. (1 Corinthians 3:22)
- In turn you belong to Christ. **Christ, in turn, belongs to God**. (1 Corinthians 3:23)
- Now, brothers, these things I have transferred so as to apply to myself and **Apollos** for your good, that in our case you may learn the rule. **Do not go beyond the things that are written**, in order, that you may **not be puffed up individually in favor of the one against the other**. (1 Corinthians 4:6)
- For who makes you to differ from another? Indeed, what do you have that you did not receive? If, now, you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as though you did not receive it? (1 Corinthians 4:7)
- It appears that **Apollos** must then have been in or near Ephesus, where Paul evidently wrote First Corinthians, for Paul tells of his urging **Apollos** to visit the Corinth congregation.
- Now concerning **Apollos** our brother, I entreated him very much to come to you with the brothers, and yet it was not his will at all to come now, but he will come when he has the opportunity. (1 Corinthians 16:12)
- **Apollos** reluctance to go may have been due to the improper attitudes existing in Corinth or simply due to his having a field of activity that he felt required his continued attention a while longer. At any rate, Paul's brief statement shows that these two active

missionaries had not allowed matters to produce a breach in their own unity. The final mention of **Apollos** is at;

- Carefully supply Zenas, who is versed in the Law, and **Apollos** for their trip, that they may not lack anything. (**Titus 3:13**)
- Where Paul asks Titus, then in Crete, to supply **Apollos** needs for a certain trip.