

~ARTEMIS (136) (Ar'te-mis)

- A Greek virgin goddess of hunting is known as **Artemis**, she was identified by the Romans with Diana. Equipped with bow and arrows, this **Artemis** is depicted as pursuing game, especially stags. Although the Greeks identified the **Ephesian, Artemis** with their own **Artemis**, the **Artemis of Ephesus**, who was worshiped in cities throughout Asia Minor, has little in common with the Greek deity of classical mythology.
- Moreover, the danger exists not only that this occupation of ours will come into disrepute but also that the temple of the **great goddess Artemis** will be esteemed as nothing and even her magnificence which the whole district of Asia and the inhabited earth worships is about to be brought down to nothing. (**Acts of Apostles 19:27**)
- The **Ephesian Artemis** was a fertility goddess represented as having multiple breasts, a turreted crown, and a kind of nimbus behind her head. The mummy-like lower half of her body was decorated with various symbols and animals.
- The **Artemis** worshiped at Ephesus has been closely connected with prominent goddesses of other peoples, and it has been suggested that they have a common origin.
- The ancients ranked the temple of **Artemis** at Ephesus as one of the seven wonders of the world. It was an imposing structure made of cedar, cypress, white marble, and gold.
- For the great festivals held in the month of **Artemision**, or March-April, visitors numbering hundreds of thousands arrived at Ephesus from all of Asia Minor. One feature of the celebration was the religious procession, with the image of **Artemis** being paraded about the city in a most jubilant manner.
- The making of silver shrines of **Artemis** proved to be a profitable enterprise for Demetrius and other Ephesian silversmiths. Therefore, when the apostle Paul's preaching in Ephesus caused a considerable number of persons to forsake the unclean worship of this goddess, Demetrius stirred up the other craftsmen, telling them that not only did Paul's preaching pose a threat to their financial security, but also the

danger existed that the worship of the great goddess Artemis would come to nothing. This culminated in a riot that was finally dispersed by the city recorder.

- **At that particular time there arose no little disturbance concerning The Way. (Acts of Apostles 19:23)**
- **For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, by making silver shrines of Artemis furnished the craftsmen no little gain. (Acts of Apostles 19:24)**
- **And he gathered them and those who worked at such things and said, Men, you well know that from this business we have our prosperity. (Acts of Apostles 19:25)**
- **Also, you behold and hear how not only in Ephesus but in nearly all the district of Asia this Paul has persuaded a considerable crowd and turned them to another opinion, saying that the ones that are made by hands are not gods. (Acts of Apostles 19:26)**
- **Moreover, the danger exists not only that this occupation of ours will come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be esteemed as nothing and even her magnificence which the whole district of Asia and the inhabited earth worships is about to be brought down to nothing. (Acts of Apostles 19:27)**
- **Hearing this and becoming full of anger, the men began crying out, saying; Great is Artemis of the Ephesians! (Acts of Apostles 19:28)**
- **So the city became filled with confusion, and with one accord they rushed into the theater, taking forcibly along with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, traveling companions of Paul. (Acts of Apostles 19:29)**
- **For his part, Paul was willing to go inside to the people, but the disciples would not permit him. (Acts of Apostles 19:30)**
- **Even some of the commissioners of festivals and games, who were friendly to him, sent to him and began pleading for him not to risk himself in the theater. (Acts of Apostles 19:31)**
- **The fact is, some were crying out one thing and others another,**

for the assembly was in confusion, and the majority of them did not know the reason why they had come together. (**Acts of Apostles 19:32**)

- So together they brought Alexander out of the crowd, the Jews thrusting him up front, and Alexander motioned with his hand and was wanting to make his defense to the people. (**Acts of Apostles 19:33**)
- But when they recognized that he was a Jew, one cry arose from them all as they shouted for about two hours; Great is **Artemis** of the Ephesians! (**Acts of Apostles 19:34**)
- When, finally, the city recorder had quieted the crowd, he said, Men of Ephesus, who really is there of mankind that does not know that the city of the Ephesians is the temple keeper of the great **Artemis** and of the image that fell from heaven? (**Acts of Apostles 19:35**)
- Therefore since these things are indisputable, it is becoming for you to keep calm and not act rashly. (**Acts of Apostles 19:36**)
- For you have brought these men who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess. (**Acts of Apostles 19:37**)
- Therefore if Demetrius and the craftsmen with him do have a case against someone, court days are held and there are proconsuls, let them bring charges against one another. (**Acts of Apostles 19:38**)
- If, though, you are searching for anything beyond that, it must be decided in a regular assembly. (**Acts of Apostles 19:39**)
- For we are really in danger of being charged with sedition over today's affair, no single cause existing that will permit us to render a reason for this disorderly mob. (**Acts of Apostles 19:40**)
- And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly. (**Acts of Apostles 19:41**)

See Also EPHEBUS