

~**DEMETRIUS 1 (132)**

(De-me'tri-us) [Of or Belonging to Demeter, the Greek goddess of agriculture]

- A silversmith of the city of Ephesus in Asia Minor who stirred up a riot against the apostle Paul and his companions at the close of Paul's stay of between two and three years in Ephesus circa **53-55 C.E.**, in the course of his third missionary journey. Paul's preaching had been blessed with success, many turning from the practice of magic and burning their books.

- **Demetrius**, who conducted a flourishing business of making silver shrines of the goddess Artemis, becoming alarmed at the prospect of loss of income through Paul's success in making disciples of Christ, roused the craftsmen and others. With a twofold argument of threatened loss of business and the danger of disrepute to the temple of Artemis, he succeeded in causing the entire city to be thrown into confusion.

- After about two hours the city recorder managed to quell the disturbance, he pointed out that if **Demetrius** and the craftsmen had a charge against Paul and his companions, there were courts to handle the matter legally but that this disorderly demonstration made the city liable to a charge of sedition by the Roman government.

- The crowd then quieted down, releasing Paul's fellow workers and leaving the theater, the scene of the disgraceful riot. Shortly afterward Paul set forth for Macedonia.

- And many of those who had become believers would come and confess and report their practices openly. (**Acts of Apostles 19:18**)

- Indeed, quite a number of those who practiced magical arts brought their books together and burned them up before everybody. And they calculated together the prices of them and found them worth fifty thousand pieces of silver. (**Acts of Apostles 19:19**)

- 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**)
- Now after the uproar had subsided, Paul sent for the disciples, and when he had encouraged them and bidden them farewell, he went forth to journey into Macedonia. (**Acts of Apostles 20:1**)