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











































































Chapter 19. While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions until he reached Ephesus, on the coast, where he found several believers. Verse 2. "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" he asked them. "No," they replied, "we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

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Verse 3. "Then what baptism did you experience?" he asked. And they replied, "The baptism of John." Verse 4. Paul said, "John's baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus." Verse 5. As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Verse 6. Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied. Verse 7. There were about twelve men in all. Verse 8. Then Paul went to the synagogue and preached boldly for the next three months, arguing persuasively about the Kingdom of God. NLT

                    	                    	                    	                    
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Verse 9. But some became stubborn, rejecting his message and publicly speaking against the Way. So Paul left the synagogue and took the believers with him. Then he held daily discussions at the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

Verse 10. This went on for the next two years, so that people throughout the province of Asia -- both Jews and Greeks -- heard the word of the Lord. Verse 11. God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles. Verse 12. When handkerchiefs or aprons that had merely touched his skin were placed

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on sick people, they were healed of their diseases, and evil spirits were expelled. Verse 13. A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, "I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!"

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Verse 14. Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. Verse 15. But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?" Verse 16. Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, NLT

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Verse 19. A number of them who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars. Verse 20. So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect. Verse 21. Afterward Paul felt compelled by the Spirit to go over to Macedonia and Achaia

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before going to Jerusalem. "And after that," he said, "I must go on to Rome!" Verse 22. He sent his two assistants, Timothy and Erastus, ahead to Macedonia while he stayed awhile longer in the province of Asia. Verse 23. About that time, serious trouble developed in Ephesus concerning the Way.

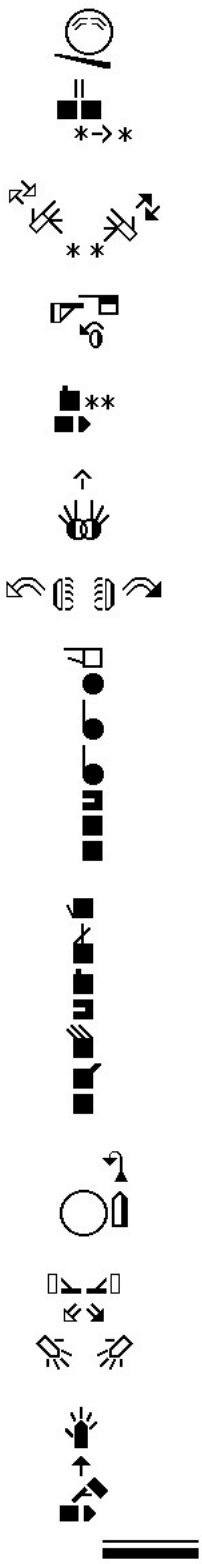
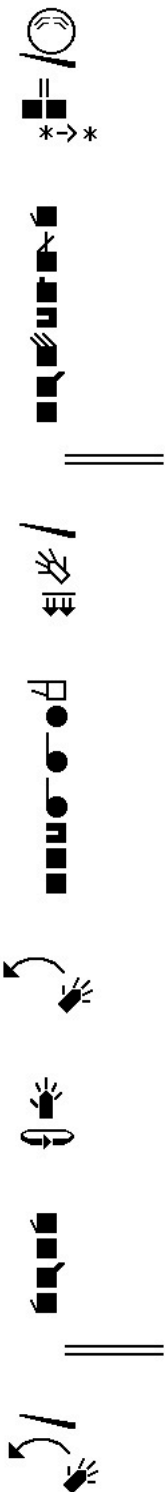
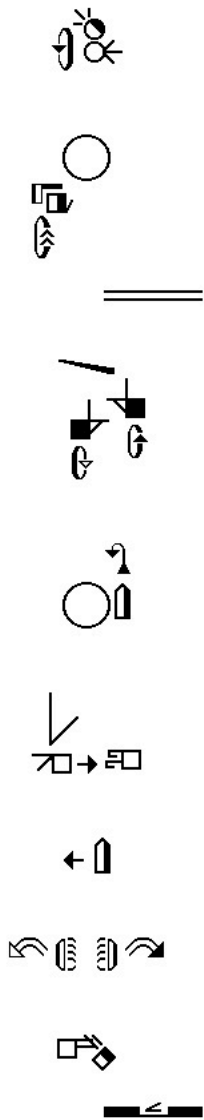

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Verse 24. It began with Demetrius, a silversmith who had a large business manufacturing silver shrines of the Greek goddess Artemis. He kept many craftsmen busy. Verse 25. He called them together, along with others employed in similar trades, and addressed them as follows: "Gentlemen, you know that our wealth comes from this business. NLT

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Verse 26. But as you have seen and heard, this man Paul has persuaded many people that handmade gods aren't really gods at all. And he's done this not only here in Ephesus but throughout the entire province! Verse 27. Of course, I'm not just stalking about the loss of public respect for our business.

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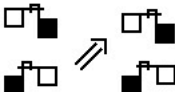
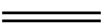


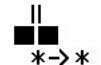

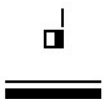
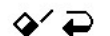


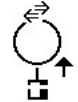









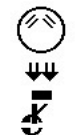


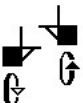





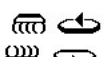


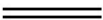

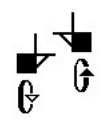
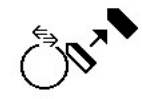


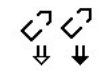

			
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I'm also concerned that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will lose its influence and that Artemis -- this magnificent goddess worshiped throughout the province of Asia and all around the world -- will be robbed of her great prestige!" Verse 28. At this their anger boiled, and they began shouting,  
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"Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" Verse 29. Soon the whole city was filled with confusion. Everyone rushed to the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, who were Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia. Verse 30. Paul wanted to go in too, but the believers wouldn't let him.

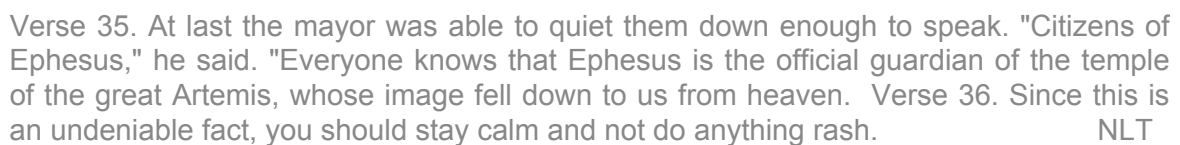
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Verse 31. Some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, also sent a message to him, begging him not to risk his life by entering the amphitheater. Verse 32. Inside, the people were all shouting, some one thing and some another. Everything was in confusion. In fact, most of them didn't even know why they were there. NLT

NLT






Verse 37. You have brought these men here, but they have stolen nothing from the temple and have not spoken against our goddess. Verse 38. "If Demetrius and the craftsmen have a case against them, the courts are in session and the officials can hear the case at once. Let them make formal charges.

                        	                        	                        	                        
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Verse 39. And if there are complaints about other matters, they can be settled in a legal assembly. Verse 40. I am afraid we are in danger of being charged with rioting by the Roman government, since there is no cause for all this commotion. And if Rome demands an explanation, we won't know what to say." NLT

