

AN EPHESIAN YEAR

¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

I Peter 4:14

¹⁵ One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” ¹⁶ Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. ¹⁷ When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.

Acts 19:15-17

³² If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

I Corinthians 15:32

*** Eight Ephesian themes for 2022**

- I. The Apollos theme. Extraordinary prodigies are emerging. (Acts 18:23-28)
 - A. Apollos had every gift, except he had an incomplete gospel.

- B. Apollos knew all the promises, but not their fulfillments.
- C. Apollos had zeal, but he lacked spiritual knowledge.
- D. Apollos had an old map that had been accurate in its day, but he desperately needed a new one.
- E. Apollos' training was limited to the facts about John the Baptist.
- F. Apollos' message was not inaccurate or insincere; it was incomplete.
- G. Apollos was eloquent (Acts 18:24), mighty in the scriptures, fervent (Acts 18:25), bold in the synagogue (Acts 18:26), highly instructed (Acts 18:25), very teachable (Acts 18:26), a guided man (Acts 18:27), a zealous man (Acts 18:28).
- H. Apollos' disciples (spiritual seekers) will receive a proper gospel. (Acts 19:1-10)

II. The Priscilla and Aquila theme (Acts 18:26)

- * God is raising up balanced servants who, in humility, will be able to complete the faith of others, preserving the others' dignities intact.

III. The theme of extraordinary signs and wonders (Acts 19:11-12)

- * Miracles occurred through Paul of such a nature that they shook the very supernatural foundation of the city of Ephesus.

IV. The theme of God revealing true foundations for what they are (Acts 19:11-20)

- V. The theme of extraordinary repentance (Acts 19:17-20; Zechariah 12:10)
- VI. Extraordinary preaching and teaching will become the order of the day. (Acts 19:8-10) Balance will be the theme of this outpouring. (Acts 20:27)
- VII. The theme of extraordinary persecution. This will result because of God's power. (Acts 19:21-41)
 - A. Satan will attack not as a deceiver (II Corinthians 11:3-4), but as the destroyer (I Peter 5:8) and the murderer. (John 8:44; John 16:2)
 - B. Mindless mobs will do what they always do. (II Samuel 15:11; Acts 19:32)
- VIII. The theme of God's rebuke of the church of Ephesus.
 - * God will correct the entire conservative wing of the body of Christ, issuing in the greatest joint harvest in Gospel history. (Revelation 2:2-5)