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Paul's Third Missionary Journey

18:23 to 21:16

53 AD to 57 AD

First Corinthians was written in 55 AD from Ephesus,
 Second Corinthians was written in 56 AD from Macedonia,
 and Romans was written in 57 AD from Corinth



Paul launches out on what is often call his **Third Missionary Journey**. **Paul's** ministry in Ephesus followed the pattern already established at Corinth of setting up his mission in the major metropolitan center of the region and then working out from there.⁴³⁹ Therefore, the material we find in this section of **Acts** focuses almost entirely on **Ephesus**. **He** revisited cities associated with **his Second Missionary Journey**; however, this was not a journey. This was not just another stop on a journey. It was **Paul's** last major place of ministry as a free man. Once **he** reached **Ephesus**, **he** stayed there for three years. **He** worked long and

hard to plant a solid community of believers there. The fact that **Paul's** farewell speech will be addressed to **the Ephesian elders** is a further indication of the special importance of **Ephesus**.⁴⁴⁰

The unit's major incident occurs in **Ephesus** as **her** citizens react when the commerce associated with **the goddess Artemis** was affected and magic books were burned. An exorcism there also made a deep impression. Toward the end of **his** stay, **Paul** directs **the Ephesian elders** to be careful in **their** oversight of the body of believers. Then **he** returned to **Jerusalem**, where **he** would be arrested and begin **his** long trip to Rome. **Paul** was warned of what **he** would face in **Yerushalayim**, but **he** went nevertheless. In the midst of **his** suffering, **Paul** trusted in **ADONAI**.⁴⁴¹

Luke was with **Paul** on this journey and later chronicled these events. But **he** was also reliant on **Ephesian** traditions and information from **Priscilla and Aquila**. This would explain the information that does not involve **Paul**.