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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.<sup>439</sup> 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**.<sup>440</sup>

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**.<sup>441</sup>

**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**.