

**THE ONLY TRUE WONDER OF THE WORLD,
THE POWERFUL GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!
ACTS CH19:11-20**

Can you name the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World?

The Temple of Artemis, The Great Pyramid of Giza, The Colossus at Rhodes, The Hanging Gardens Of Babylon, The Lighthouse of Alexandria, The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, The Statue of Zeus at Olympia.



Wikipedia – Temple of Artemis

EXTRAORDINARY POWER IN THE NAME OF JESUS! V11-12

Handkerchief ministry, no! There are some things in the Bible that are “DESCRIPTIVE – telling us what’s going on. There are some things in the Bible that are PRESCRIPTIVE – telling us what we need to do. This section is descriptive. We don’t need to start up a handkerchief ministry! The GOSPEL exposes good and bad intentions. Here there are people responding in faith for JESUS’ glory and ministering to the sick, either by physical illness or through being possessed.

So, what exactly is happening?

1. Luke records that God is doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul!
2. Paul’s “work flannels”, presumably used whilst tent making, covered in sweat, are being taken and used to touch the sick, who are instantly healed and to touch the

demon possessed, where exorcisms are performed!

Who does this remind you of?

1. Jesus, in Luke Ch8:40-48, where the woman with the 12 year bleed touches the fringe of His garment, and is healed!
2. Peter in Acts Ch5:12-16, where people brought the sick and diseased and as Peter passed by, those in his shadow were healed!

What is Luke trying to convey to Theophilus?

1. That these acts are just not ordinary miracles by God, but extraordinary miracles!
2. That the power of Jesus can work in extraordinary ways!
3. That neither Jesus, Peter or Paul at the times of the healings and exorcisms, were asked by individuals for healings or exorcisms!

EXTRAORDINARY POWER AGAINST THOSE WHO MISUSE THE NAME OF JESUS! V13-16

There are siblings, 7 of them, somehow related through their father to the High Priest, (The phrase chief priest – archiereus – is regularly used in the plural in Luke's Gospel Ch9:22; Ch19:47; Ch20:1; Ch20:19 and in Acts Ch4:23, denoting members of the Jewish Priestly Aristocracy), wanting to take advantage of the power that has been clearly seen and understood! Because there are also people who don't know JESUS, have no intention of following JESUS, but want to get in on the act! These 7 sons of Sceva, get their butts kicked, running, naked, and bleeding! Quite the opposite of what happens in Luke Ch8:26-39, where Jesus performs an exorcism on a man, where the demons are called Legion, who whilst possessed is in a cave, naked in chains. But through Jesus, he is no longer demon possessed, but sitting in his right mind, clothed and ready for ministry!

As a culture people are messing about with powerful dark forces.

EXTRAORDINARY POWER IN THOSE WHO TRUST IN THE NAME OF JESUS! V17-20

News of what happened to the seven Sons of Sceva, a person related to the High Priest, spread quickly throughout Ephesus! All who heard were overcome by reverential fear (phobos). The people of Ephesus learnt not to misuse or treat lightly the name of Jesus, for He is powerful! When JESUS' name is held in high honour, people repent, confess and have a clear out and the Word of the LORD spreads!. About £2, 000, 000! WOW! Imagine that happening in CWMRHYDYCEIRW!! People bringing out their witchcraft material, demonology books, dark magic instructions, sorcery scrolls and burning everything!

We should respect God's power and authority, not because He's angry with us, but because we desire to please Him. This is called reverential fear.

APPLICATION!

Paul's strategy was to hit major cities, speaks at the places the Jews gathered, then turn to the Gentiles, where his faith is rewarded for such a bold move, JESUS confirms His Word, through the miracles and movement.

Let's ask GOD to give us a heart for the lost.

Let's ask GOD for greater understanding of His Gospel.

Let's ask GOD for opportunities.

Let's ask GOD for courage and faith to share the Gospel.