

the book of
ACTS

Acts 19:23—41

The account of the growth of the Church



At 11:11 AM every Veteran's Day the sun aligns perfectly with the Anthem Veteran's Memorial in Arizona to shine through the ellipses of the five marble pillars representing each branch of the Armed Forces illuminating The Great Seal of the United States.



What do you see?



An attractive
young woman?



An old woman?

²³ About that time, serious trouble developed in Ephesus concerning the Way. 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. ²⁵ He called them together, along with others employed in similar trades, and addressed them as follows:

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²⁵ “Gentlemen, you know that our wealth comes from this business. 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! ²⁷ Of course, I’m not just talking about the loss of public respect for our business. 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!”

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²⁸ At this their anger boiled, and they began shouting, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” 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. ³⁰ Paul wanted to go in, too, but the believers wouldn’t let him. 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.

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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. ³³ The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander forward and told him to explain the situation. He motioned for silence and tried to speak. ³⁴ But when the crowd realized he was a Jew, they started shouting again and kept it up for about two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians! Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

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**most of them didn't even
know why they were there**

*What has been will be again, what has been
done will be done again; there is nothing
new under the sun.*

Ecclesiastes 1:9

³⁵ At last the mayor was able to quiet them down enough to speak. “Citizens of Ephesus,” he said. “Everyone knows that Ephesus is the official guardian of the temple of the great Artemis, whose image fell to us from heaven. ³⁶ Since this is an undeniable fact, you should stay calm and not do anything rash. ³⁷ You have brought these men here, but they have stolen nothing from the temple and have not spoken against our goddess.

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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. ³⁹ And if there are complaints about other matters, they can be settled in a legal assembly. 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.” ⁴¹ Then he dismissed them, and they dispersed.

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²³ During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. ²⁴ God heard their groaning, and ***he remembered his covenant*** with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. ²⁵ So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

Exodus 2:23-25

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? ² My help comes from the **LORD**, who made heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴ Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵ The **LORD** is your keeper; the **LORD** is your shade on your right hand. ⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷ The **LORD** will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. ⁸ The **LORD** will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Psalm 121

⁴ Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” ⁶ So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

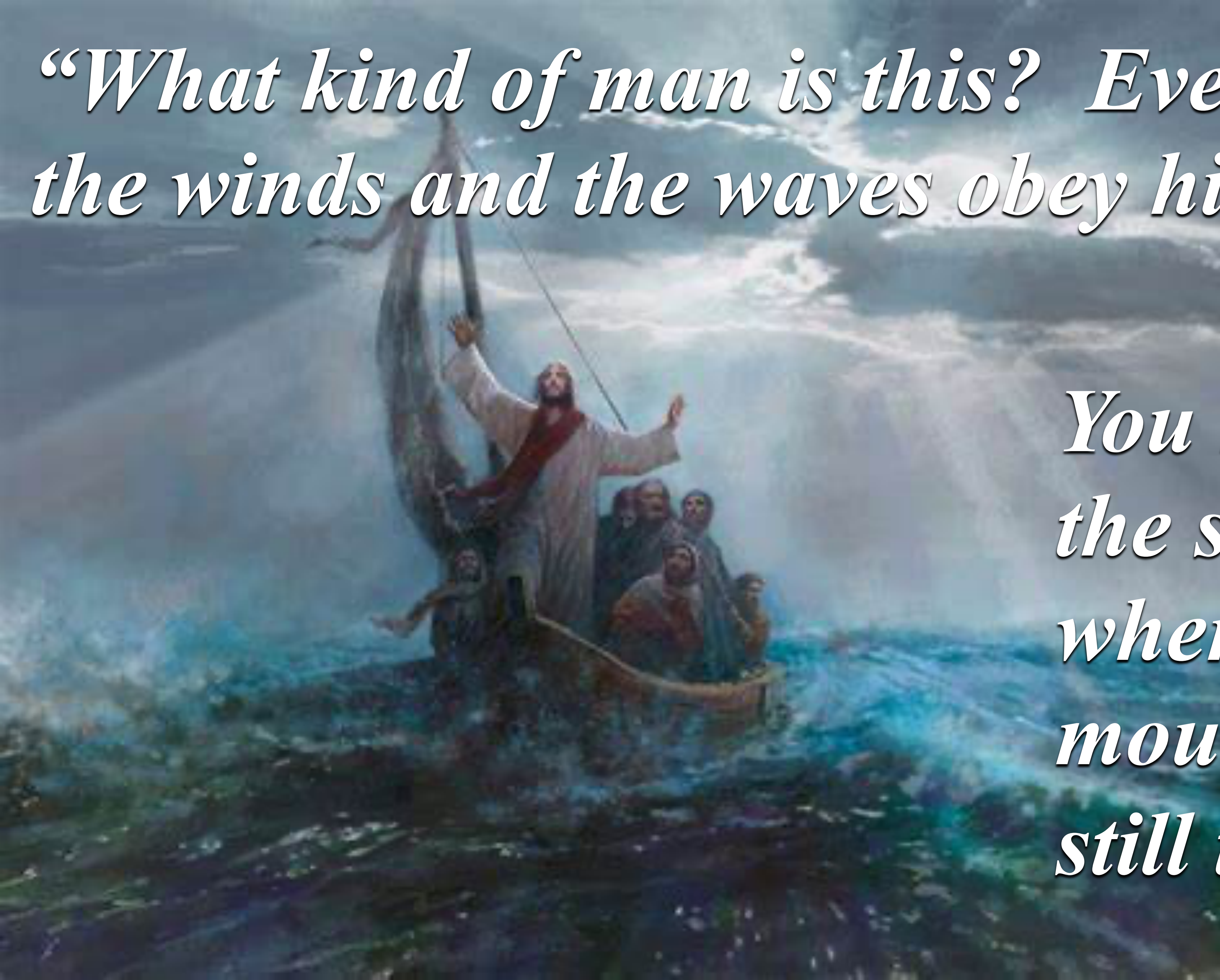
*“I will **by no means** leave you;
I will **by no means** forsake you.”*

Hebrews 13:4—6



*“What kind of man is this? Even
the winds and the waves obey him!”*

*You rule over
the surging sea;
when its waves
mount up, you
still them.*



*“You can never learn that
Christ is all you need, until
Christ is all you have.”*



Even though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for
you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Psalm 23:4

