

## ACTES 17

- <sup>16</sup>While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.
- <sup>17</sup>**So he reasoned** in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.
- <sup>18</sup>A group of **Epicurean and Stoic philosophers** began to dispute with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because **Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.**
- <sup>19</sup>Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?"
- <sup>20</sup>You are bringing **some strange ideas** to our ears, and we want to know what they mean." ... <sup>22</sup>Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way **you are very religious.**
- 
-

<sup>23</sup>For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

**TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.**

Now what you worship as something unknown  
I am going to proclaim to you.

<sup>24</sup>"**The God who made the world** and everything in it is **the Lord** of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. <sup>25</sup>And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because He himself **gives all men life** and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup>From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. <sup>27</sup>God did this **so that men would seek him** and perhaps reach out for him **and find him**, though **he is not far from each one of us**. <sup>28</sup>'For in him we live and move and have our being.'  
As some of your own poets have said, '**We are his offspring.**'

---

---

<sup>29</sup>"Therefore since **we are God's offspring**, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man's design and skill. <sup>30</sup>In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now **he commands all people everywhere to repent**. <sup>31</sup>For he has set a day when **he will judge the world** with justice **by the man** he has appointed.

He has given **proof** of this to all men **by raising him from the dead**."

<sup>32</sup>When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject." <sup>33</sup>At that, Paul left the Council.

<sup>34</sup>**A few men became followers of Paul and believed.**

Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

---

---

*I Paul a courageous apologist  
Great debater of ideas in a pluralistic world*

<sup>16</sup>While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.

<sup>17</sup>So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.

## II Paul a learned man of his times

<sup>18</sup>A group of **Epicurean and Stoic philosophers** began to dispute with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods."

## III Paul 's central message

they said this because  
**Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.**

<sup>19</sup>Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "**May we know** what this new teaching is that you are presenting?

<sup>20</sup>You are bringing **some strange ideas** to our ears, and we want to know what they mean." ...

---

---

# IV Paul : The Culture Observer and Communicator

Start where people are !

<sup>22</sup>Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said:

"Men of Athens!

I see that in every way **you are very religious.**

<sup>23</sup>For as I walked around and looked carefully at

**your objects of worship,**

I even found an altar with this inscription:

**TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.**

Now what you worship as something unknown

I am going to proclaim to you.

---

---

# V Paul and the Big Picture

~~Tell the Grand Story before the little one~~  
CREATION ( Origins )

<sup>24</sup>"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. <sup>25</sup>And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup>From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

FALL ( Meaning )

<sup>27</sup>God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For in him we live and move and have our being.

' As some of your own poets have said,  
'We are his offspring.' ( Identity-worth )

---

---

## FALL

<sup>29</sup>"Therefore since we are God's offspring, **we should not think** that the **divine** being is like **gold or silver** or stone—**an image made by man's design** and skill.

<sup>30</sup>In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now

## REDEMPTION

**he commands all people everywhere to repent.**

## RESTAURATION

<sup>31</sup>For he has set a day when **he will judge the world** with justice

**by the man** he has appointed.  
He has given **proof** of this to all men  
**by raising him from the dead."**

---

---

Reach your conclusion : Unbelief or Faith

<sup>32</sup>When they heard about **the resurrection of the dead,**  
**some** of them **sneered,**  
but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject."

<sup>33</sup>At that, Paul left the Council.

<sup>34</sup>**A few men became followers of Paul and believed.**  
Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus,  
also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

