

Welcome to Sierra



Community Church



ACTS:

A HISTORY BOOK

Living **IN YOU.**

VINTAGE IDEAS FOR LIVING TODAY

PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY, 49-52 CE



5 Cities of Acts 17:

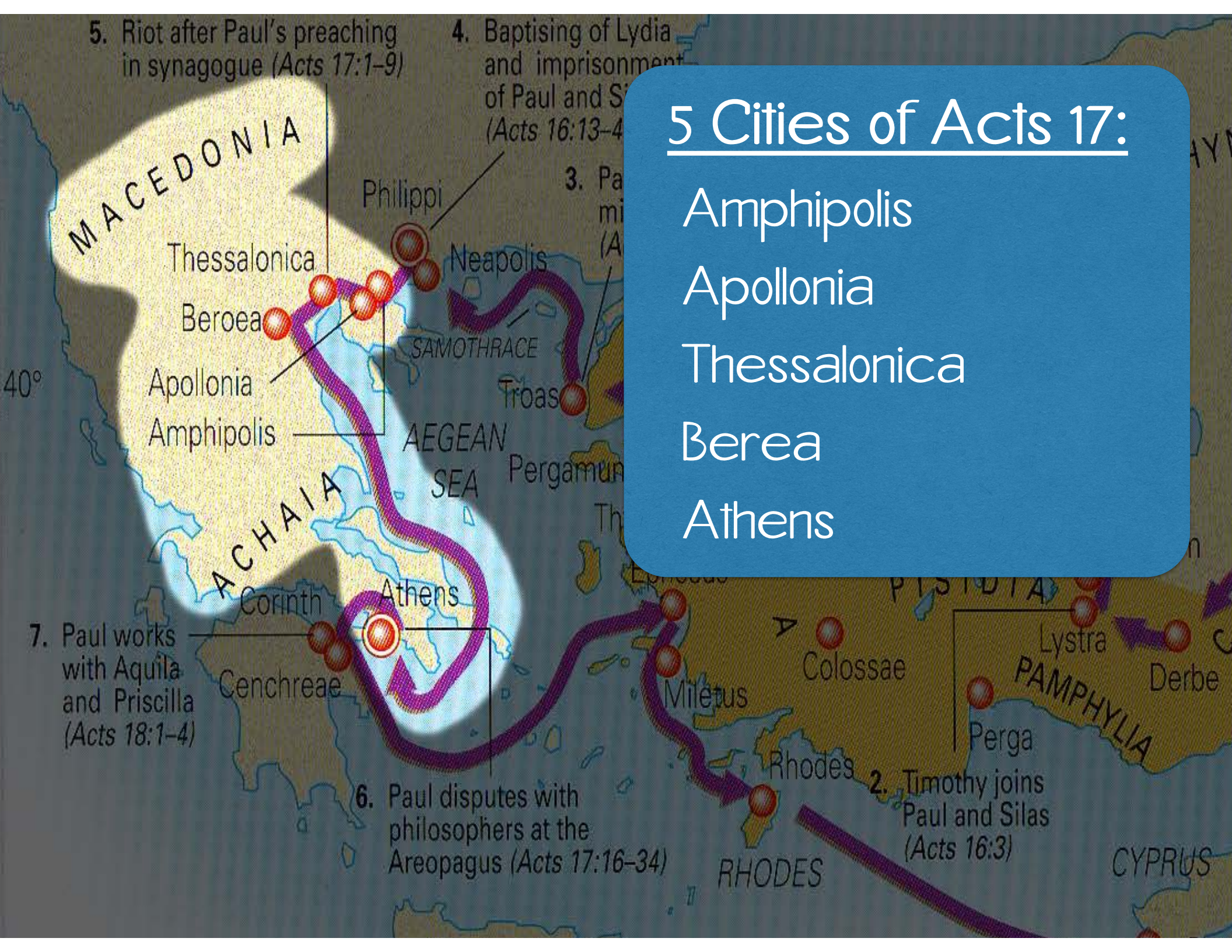
Amphipolis

Apollonia

Thessalonica

Berea

Athens





Thessalonica:

verse 2: “Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures”



Thessalonica:

verse 4: “Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks”



Thessalonica:

verse 5: “But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city”



Thessalonica:

verse 10: “As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea”



Berea:

verse 11-12: “the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. As a result, many of them believed...



Berea:

verse 13: “But when the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God at Berea, some of them went there too, agitating the crowds and stirring them up.”



Berea:

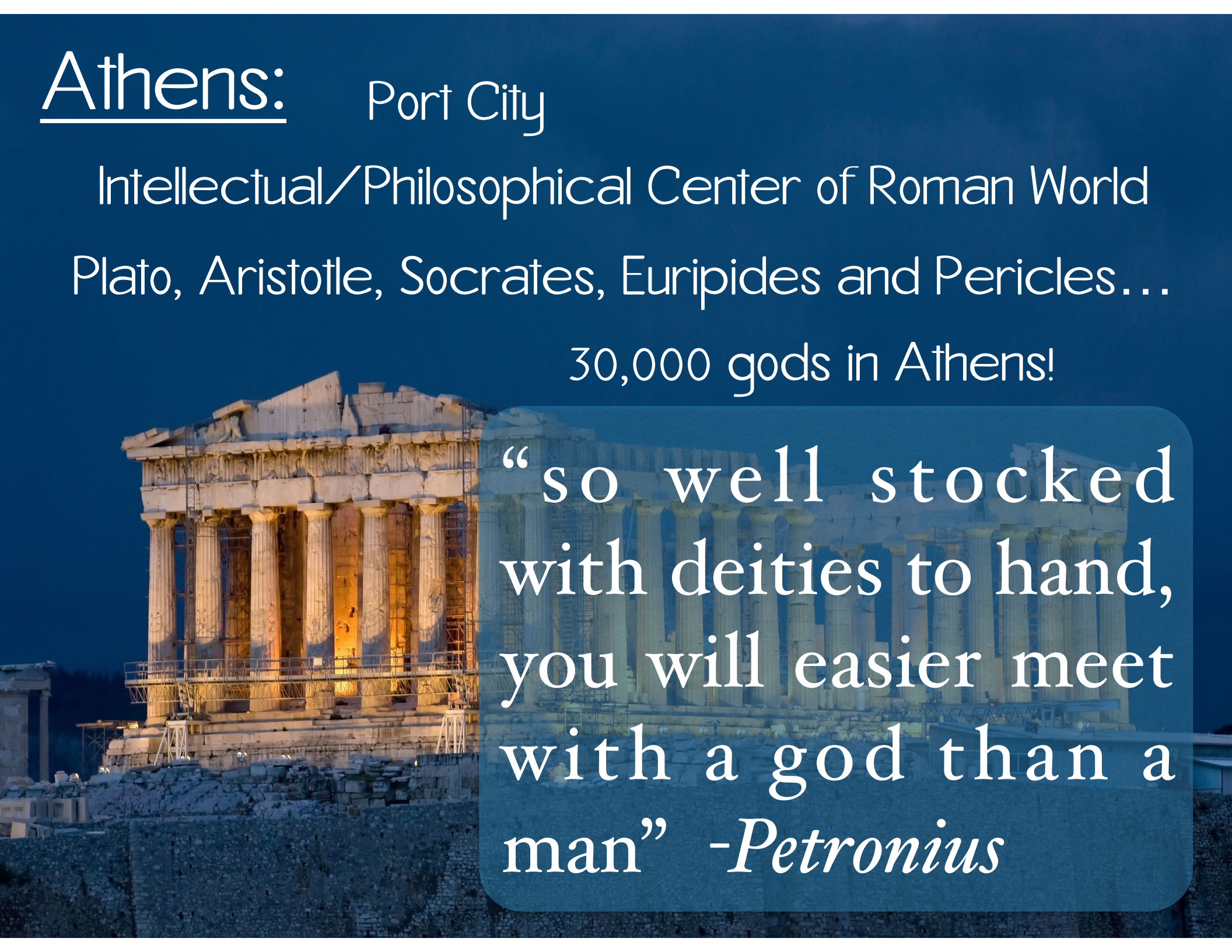
verse 14–15: “The believers immediately sent Paul to the coast, Silas & Timothy stayed at Berea. Those who escorted Paul brought him to Athens.”

Athens: Port City

Intellectual/Philosophical Center of Roman World

Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Euripides and Pericles...

30,000 gods in Athens!

The background of the slide is a photograph of the Parthenon on the Acropolis in Athens, Greece, illuminated at night. The temple's columns and facade are brightly lit, contrasting with the dark blue night sky. Scaffolding is visible around the structure, indicating ongoing restoration work. The temple is situated on a rocky hillside.

“so well stocked
with deities to hand,
you will easier meet
with a god than a
man” -*Petronius*

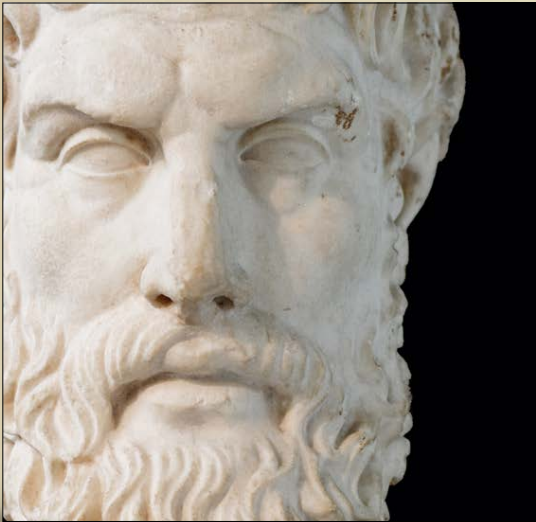


¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate 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. ¹⁹Then 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?”

²⁰ You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.” ²¹ *(All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)*

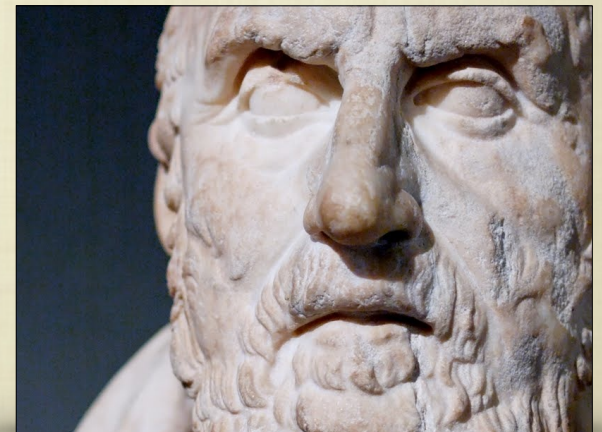
Epicurus 341-270 BC



Epicureans: “Nothing to fear in God,
Nothing to feel in death; Pleasure can be
attained; Pain can be endured.” -Diogenes

“Eat, drink, and be merry,
for tomorrow we die.”

Stoics: *Live in accordance with
nature, recognize your own self-
sufficiency and independence,
suppress desires.*



Zeno 340 -265 BC



1. *A Biblical World View BELONGS in the market place of ideas!*

2. *Some will reject it, others will be curious, and some will believe!*

3. *Regularly schedule ministry, BUT remember ministry rarely needs a schedule.*



Penn Movie "Bible"

²²Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ 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’*. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴ “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 human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

²⁷God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ *‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’* As some of your own poets have said, *‘We are his offspring.’* ²⁹“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 human design and skill.

³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹For 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 everyone by raising him from the dead.”

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

³⁴Some of the people 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.



Helping Others Hear God's Story

Paul knows THE STORY!

Paul is GUIDED by it.

Paul knows his audience.

Paul makes the story COMPELLING.

Paul challenges people to RESPOND.

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