


the book of
ACTS

The account of the growth of the Church

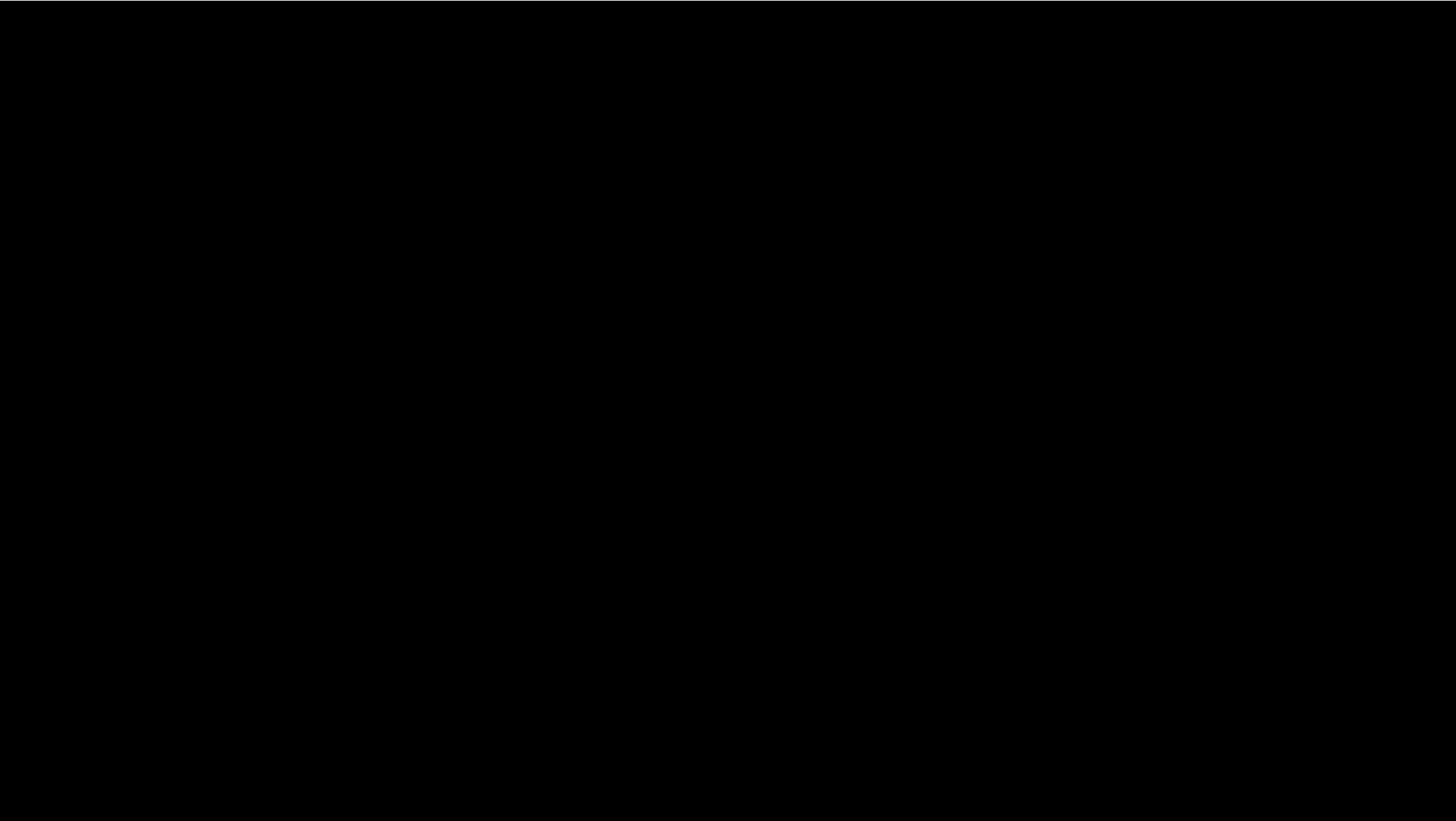


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It was said that there were more statues of the gods in Athens than in all the rest of Greece put together, and that in Athens it was easier to meet a god than another person.





While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So 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.

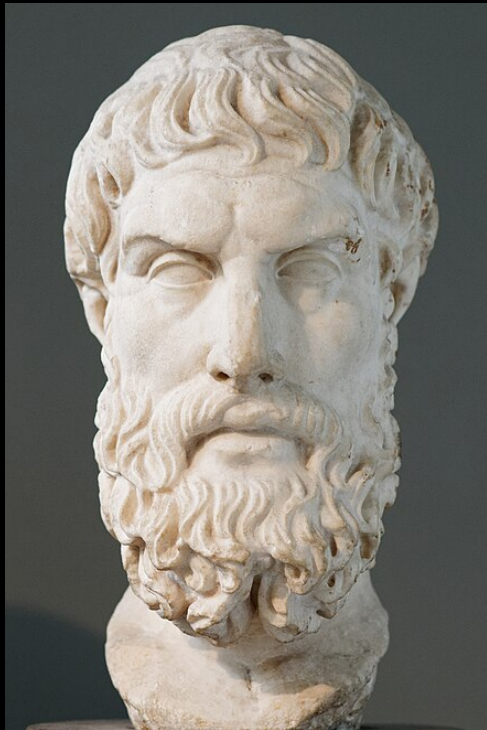
Acts 17:16,17



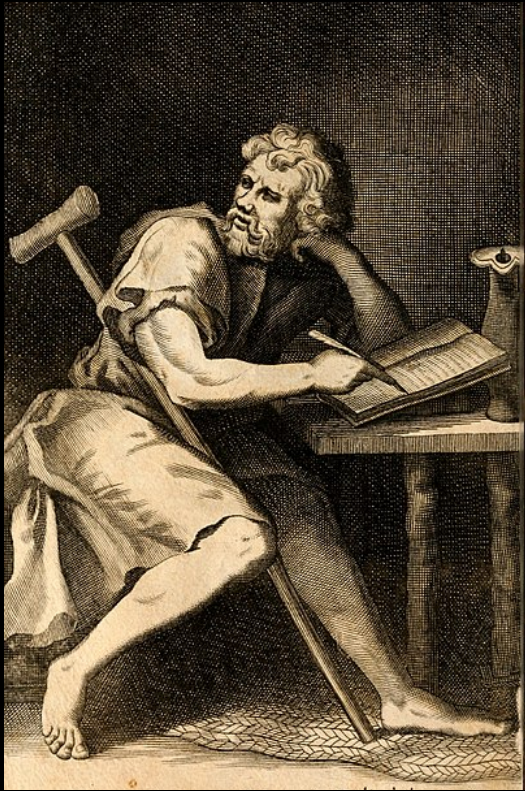
¹⁸ A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "*He seems to be advocating foreign gods.*" They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

Acts 17:18



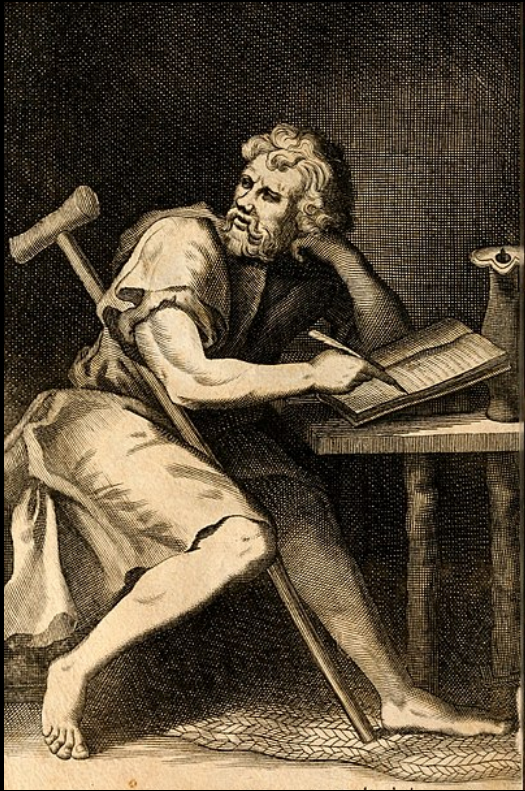


Epicurus-Epicureanism
Athenian philosopher around
300 B.C. He taught that the
highest goal in life is pleasure,
defined as the, "absence of pain
in the body and trouble the soul."



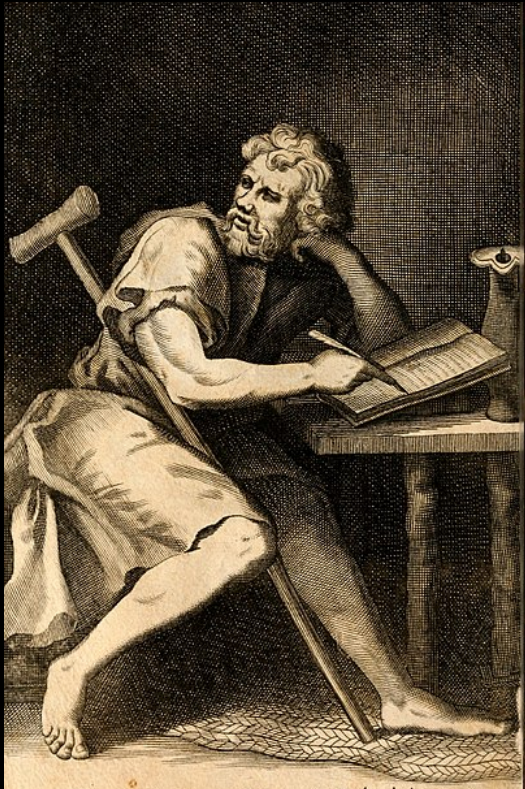
Epictetus-Stoics

The highest goal in life is personal character improvements. The only thing you can control is your own moral choices. Everything else is outside your power.



Epictetus-Stoics

Stoics also believed in “*Divine Reason*” because human logic proved the existence of an overarching logic that governed the universe. They called this LOGOS.



Epictetus-Stoics

In the beginning was the Word (Logos) and the Word (Logos) was with God and the Word (Logos) was God.

John 1:1

Then they took him and brought him to a
meeting of the Areopagus,
Acts 17:19







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? 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.) Acts 17:19-21

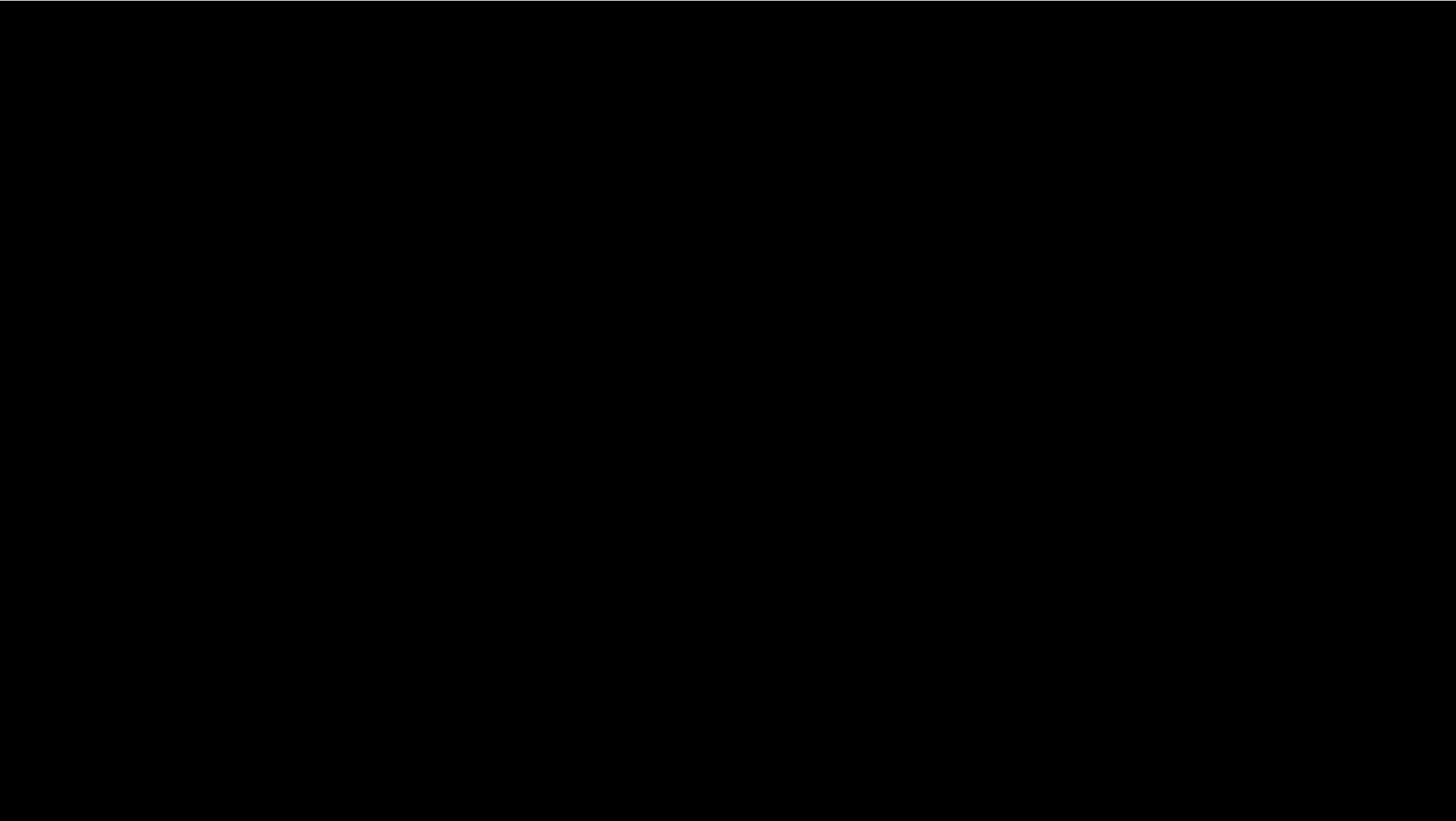


1 Paul appeals to them from their own perspective.

²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. Acts 17:22

1 Paul appeals to them from their own perspective.

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.” Acts 17:23



Take a flock of sheep, made up of both black and white sheep, to the Areopagus, and let them go wherever they will and when they tire and lie down - right on that spot, you kill them and offer them as a sacrifice to the nearest idol.



EPIMENIDES

Co. Dactylus. Support.



2

God is Creator

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. Acts 17:24

3

God is Giver

²⁵And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. Acts 17:25

4

WE Are All Equal

²⁶From 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. Acts 17:26

5

God is Near

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.

Acts 17:26-29

5

God is Near

*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.'** ²⁹Therefore 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.*

Acts 17:26-29

6 God is the Ultimate Judge

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

Acts 17:30-31

For he has set a day when he
will judge the world with
justice by the man he has
appointed. Acts 17:31



For He has given proof of this
to everyone by raising him
from the dead. Acts 17:31



For He has given **proof** of
this to everyone by raising
him from the dead.

Acts 17:31



Flannery O'Connor

American novelist, and
short stories writer

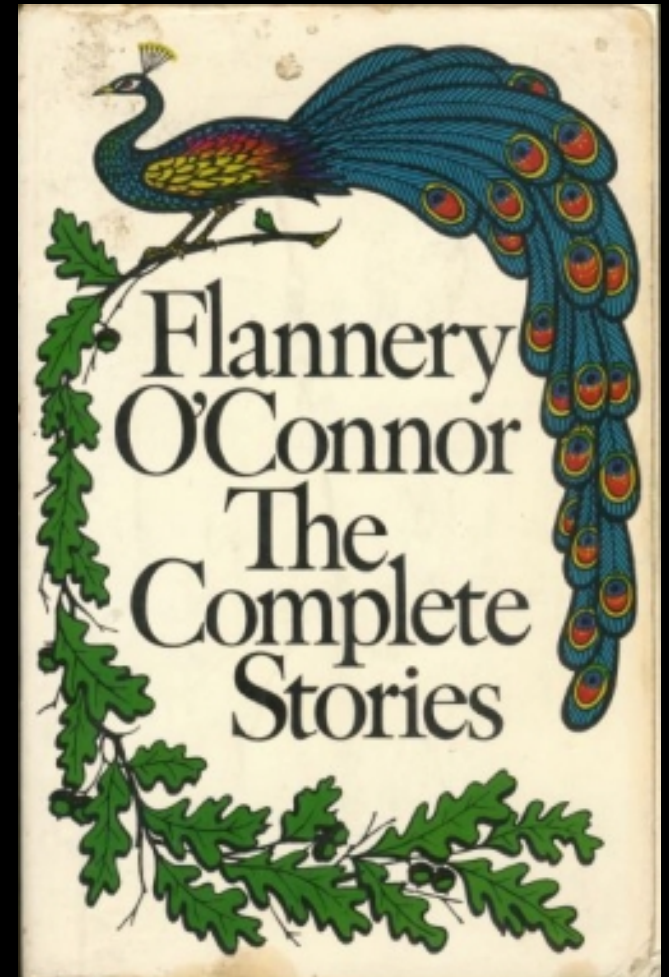


Flannery O'Connor

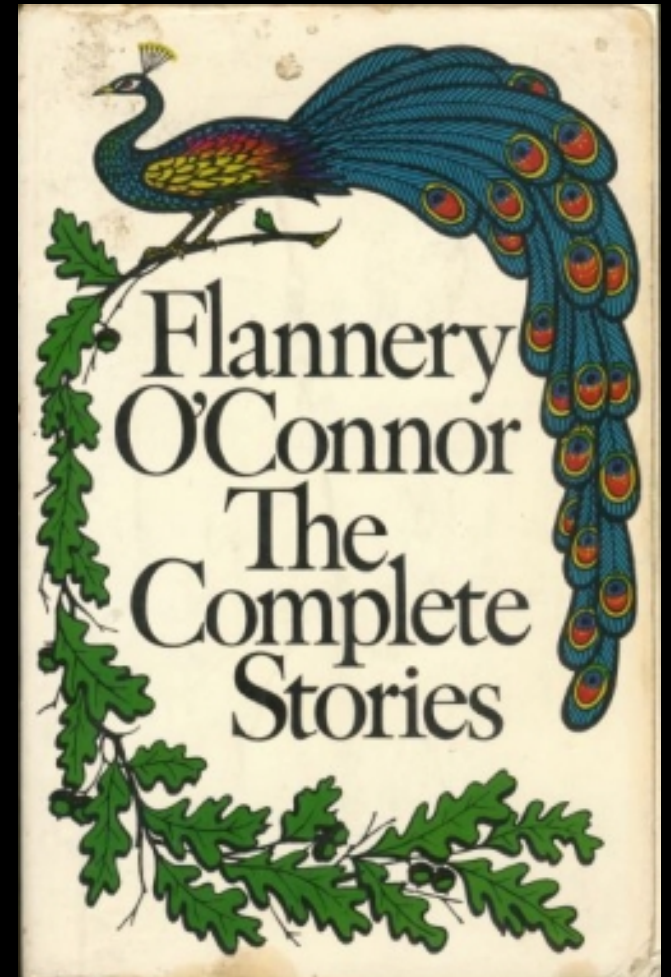
In 1972 Flannery was
posthumously awarded
the “*National Book
Award For Fiction*”



In her award winning
book she wrote a short
story called,
*“A Good Man is
Hard to Find”*

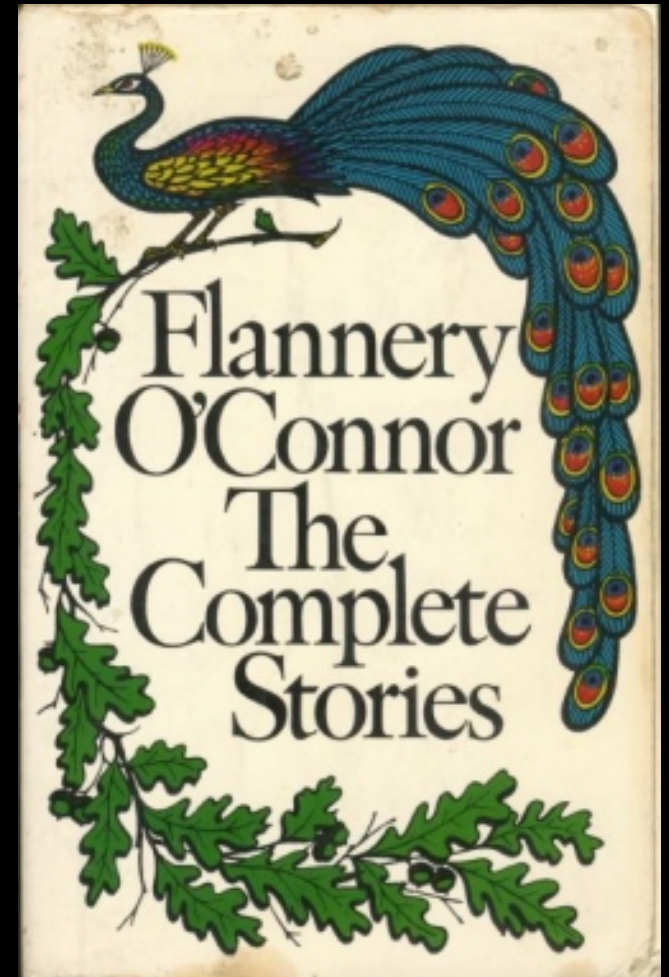


The story is about an
escaped convict called
“The Misfit”



Misfit replies-

“It’s Jesus who has thrown everything off balance. If he did what he said, then it’s nothing for you to do but throw away everything and follow him. But if he didn’t do what he said, then it’s nothing for you to do but to enjoy the few minutes you have left the best way you can by killing somebody or burning down his house or doing some other meanness to him.”

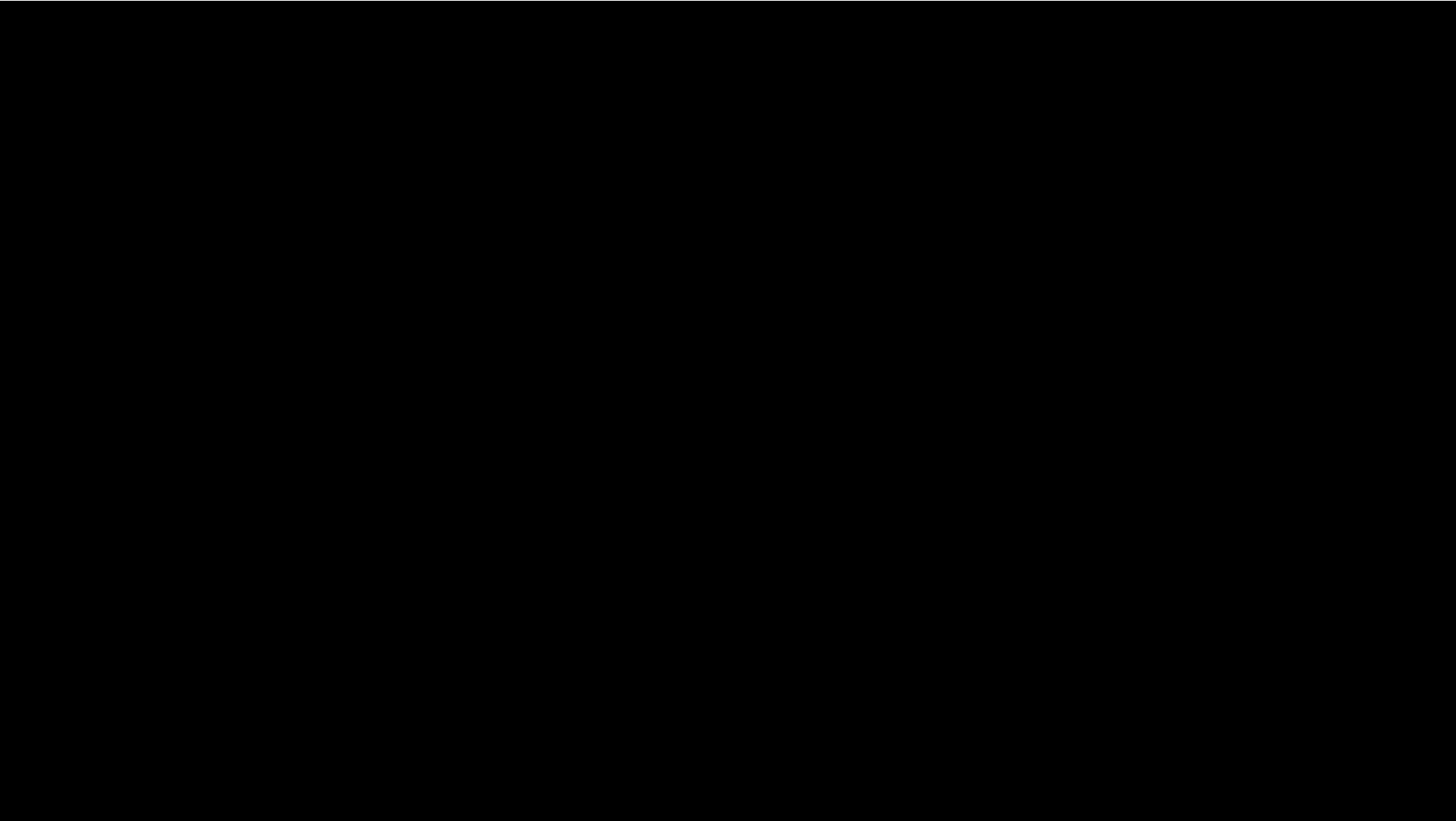


Flannery O'Connor

The Misfit knew how outrageous the resurrection was. He says,


"If Christ did what he said he did, then I have to throw everything over and follow him. There's no halfway. I have to live for him and him alone. If he didn't do what he said he did, if he didn't rise from the dead, then I can live any way I want to."






7 You Cannot Control the Response

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. After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. Acts 17:32- 18:1



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