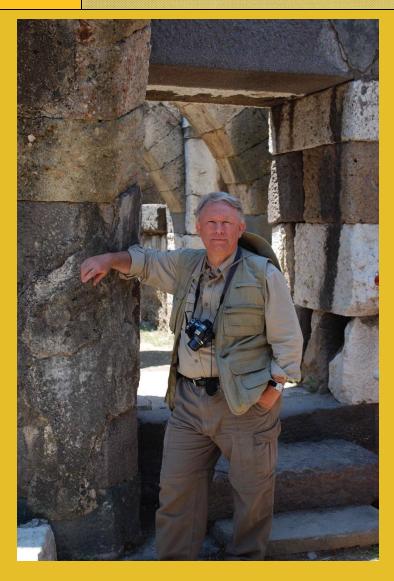
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Archaeology & Greece (Athens and Corinth)

See the House Visual Study Bible (hvsb.app) and Website (hwhouse.com) for more discussion of archaeology and the Bible.



Why the Study of Greece?

See the **House Visual Study Bible** for more discussion of archaeology and the Bible, hvsb.app and hwhouse.com.

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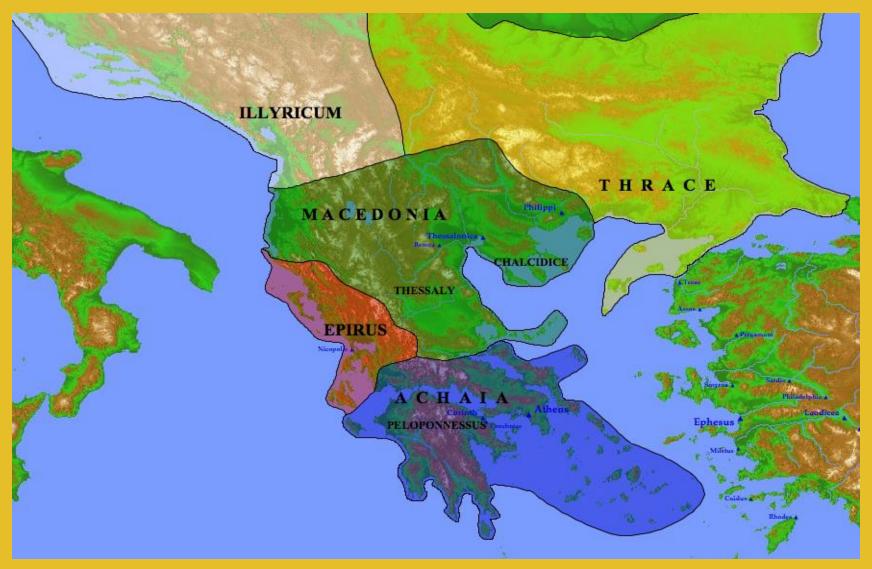
Why Study about the Greece?

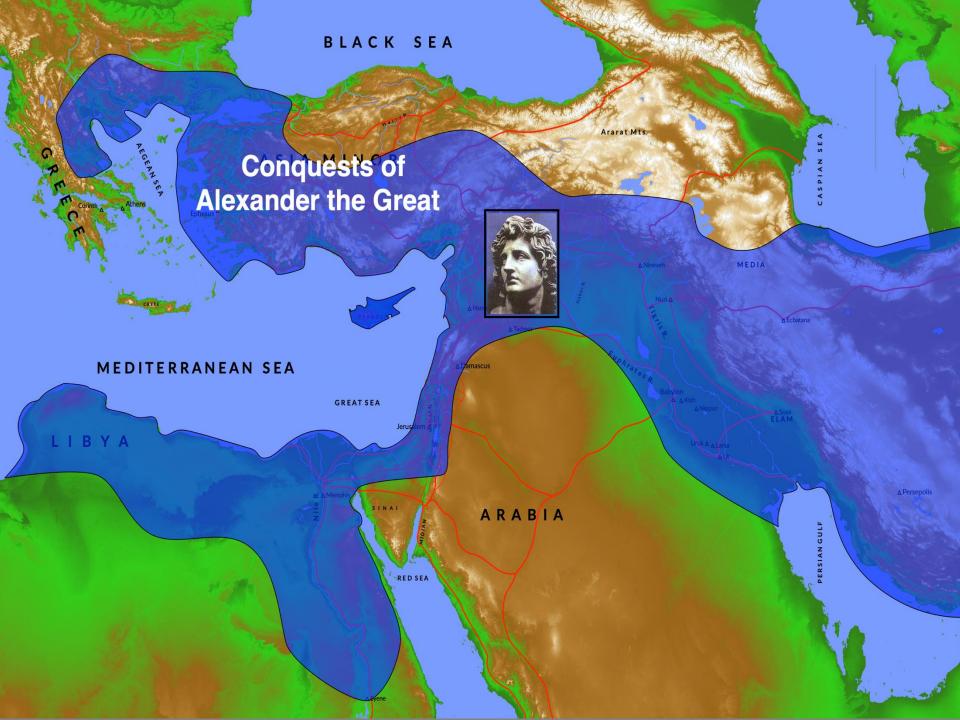
In Achaia (Greece) there are several important Christian Centers: Athens (Acts 17) Corinth (Acts 1:5; 1 & 2 Corinthians). Delphi (Connected to Apollo worship and oracle of Delphia) Thessalonica (1 and 2 Thessalonians). Berea (Acts) Philippi (Philippians) Lydia (Acts) Meteroia

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Map of Macedonia and Thrace





Paul's Call from God to Preach in Macedonia

"Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the religion of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel the them." Acts 16:6-10

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Paul's Trip to Athens

Temple to Athena on the Acropolis



Acts 17 Paul in Athens

16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.

"16, 17. wholly given to idolatry--"covered with idols"; meaning the city, not the inhabitants. **Petronius**, a contemporary writer at Nero's court, says satirically that it was **easier to find a god at Athens than a man**. This "stirred the spirit" of the apostle. "The **first impression which the masterpieces** of man's taste for art left on the mind of St. Paul was a revolting one, since all this majesty and beauty had placed itself between man and his Creator, and bound him the faster to his gods, who were not God. "

17 "So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there."

Therefore, he set himself to lift up his voice to the idol city, but, as his manner was, he began with the Jews.

Acts 17 Paul in Athens

When Paul visited Athens, Acts says he was "in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there." The Agora of Rome is probably the marketplace mentioned. As a natural gathering place for the citizens of Athens, who were famous for being intensely interesting in the newest gossip or distraction, the **appearance of a foreigner** preaching a new religion would have probably gathered a large crowd there. This agora has been continuously excavated by the American Schools of Classical Studies since the 1931. They discovered evidence of all kinds of merchant activity there including the shops of potters, cobblers, bronzeworkers and sculptors.[1] The excavators also found a library and numerous temples (including one dedicated to **Hephaistos** – the god of fire and metalwork[2]) and smaller shrines.[3] They also discovered the Odeon of Agrippa in the agora compound, city council chambers, magistrates' offices, lawcourts (the Athenians were a notoriously litigious society) and the city mint. Long stoas (covered porches) sheltered shoppers and other people gathered at the agora. One of these, the **Stoa of Attalos** has been rebuilt and serves as a museum and the headquarters of the excavation team of the Agora.

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Temple to Zeus, Near the Acropolis



Biblical Archaeology the Early Church



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Paul in Greece – Athens, Temple of Zeus



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Paul in Greece – Athens, Acropolis

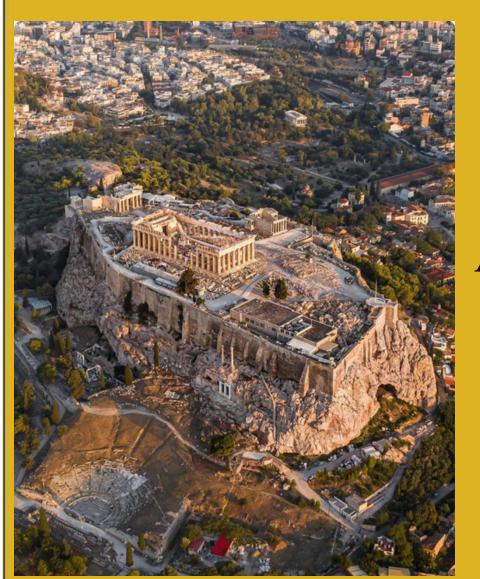


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Paul in Greece – Athens, Acropolis, Areopagus (Mars Hill)

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Biblical History and Geography

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TEMPLE TO HERA



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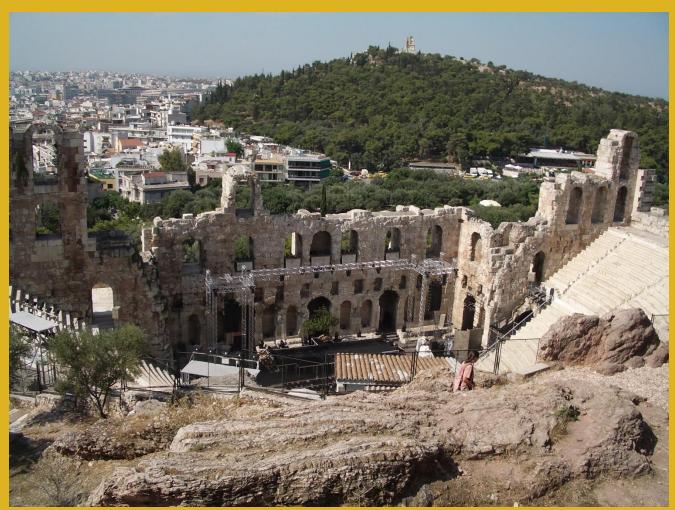


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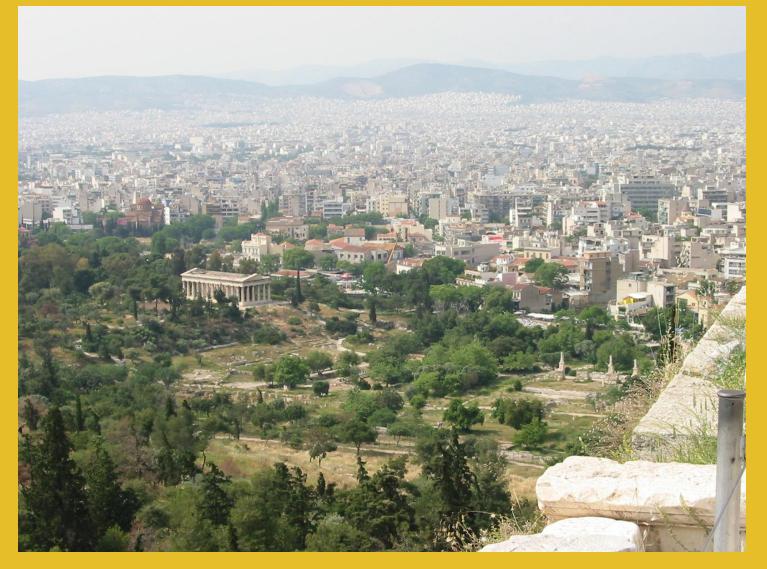
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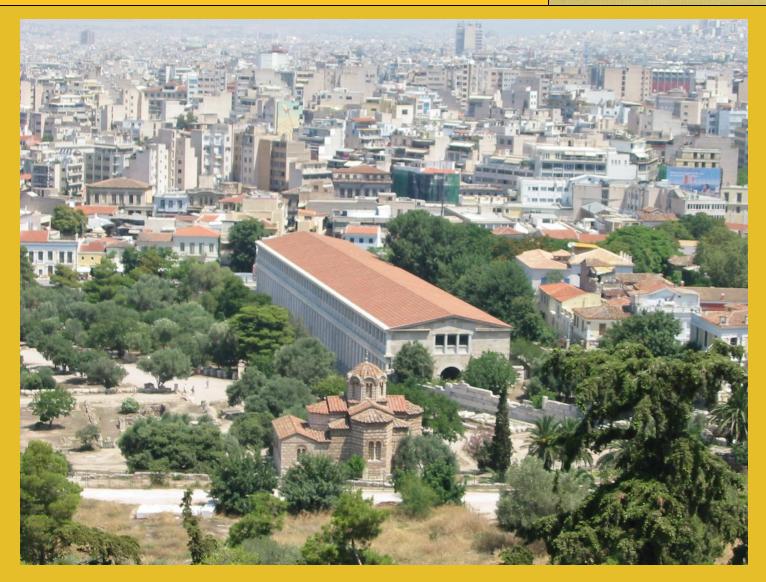
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Acts 17 Paul in Athens

17:18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler [picker of seeds, like a bird] wish to say?"

The word, which means "a picker-up of seeds," bird-like, is applied to a gatherer and retailer of scraps of knowledge, a prater; a general term of contempt for any pretended teacher.

Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus (*Iesous* Ἰησους) and the resurrection. (*Anastasis* ανάστασις)

Acts 17 Paul in Athens

What will this babbler say?--The word, which means "a picker-up of seeds," bird-like, is applied to a gatherer and retailer of scraps of knowledge, a prater; a general term of contempt for any pretended teacher.

Three ways to look at the world: materialists, eastern philosophy, theist

Acts 17 Epicureans

18-21. certain ... of the Epicureans--a well-known school of atheistic materialists, who taught that pleasure was the chief end of human existence; a principle which the more rational interpreted in a refined sense, while the sensual explained it in its coarser meaning.

Acts 17 Stoics

and of the Stoics--a celebrated school of severe and lofty pantheists, whose principle was that the universe was under the law of an iron necessity, the spirit of which was what is called the Deity: and that a passionless conformity of the human will to this law, unmoved by all external circumstances and changes, is the perfection of virtue.

Three ways to look at the world: materialists, eastern philosophy, theist

Acts 17:2 Stoic Philosophers

The Stoics, on the other hand, followed the teaching of the Greek **philosopher Zeno** (c. 334-c.262 B.C.) who **came from** Citium, **Cyprus**. Stoics got their name from the **Painted Stoa** (i.e. Porch), the marketplace in Athens **where Zeno taught**. Stoics were **pantheists** who believed that all of humanity and the world were united with **impersonal divinity**, and were thus diametrically **opposed to the Epicureans**. Stoics tried to achieve goodness and peace of mind from living a life of virtue in **harmony with nature**. The **only genuine good is virtue**, which led Stoics to **inculcate indifference to everything but virtue**. Since such **indifference requires an unemotional disposition and high tolerance for pain**, persons even today refer to those who exemplify these personality traits as stoic.

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Three ways to look at the world: materialists, eastern philosophy, theist

Acts 17:2 Epicurean and Stoic Philosophers

While therefore the Stoical was in itself superior to the Epicurean system, both were alike hostile to the Gospel. "The two enemies it has ever had to contend with are the two ruling principles of the Epicureans and Stoics

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Acts 17 Paul in Athens

19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? **20** For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." **21** Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

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Paul in Greece – Athens, Areopagus (Mars Hill)



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Paul in Greece – Athens, Acropolis



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On Top of Mars Hill



Biblical Archaeology the Early Church



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Paul in Greece – Athens, Acropolis



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Acts 17 Paul in Athens

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22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

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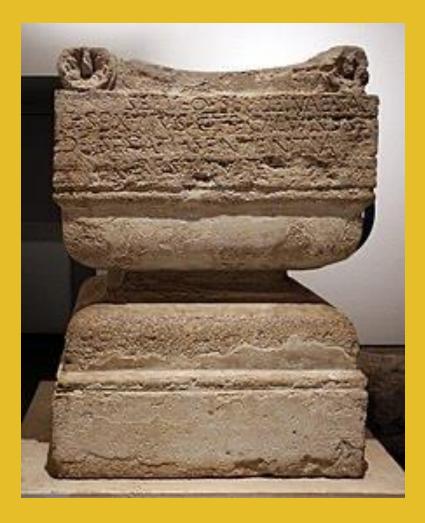
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Acts 17 Paul Addresses the Areopagus

24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for 'In him we live and move and have our being';

27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for' In him we live and move and have our being';

Acts 17 Paul in Athens

This passage demonstrates that Paul was willing and prepared to engage the culture and ideas of his day with the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom 1:16; 2 Tim. 4:2; see also Peter's encouragement in 1 Pet 3:15)

Acts 17 Paul in Athens

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