

REACHING A CULTURE
THAT HAS
ABANDONED SCRIPTURE

Acts 17:16-34



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CULTURE ABANDONS SCRIPTURE?

- **Loses it's Biblical Worldview**
- **Loses it's Moral Foundation**
- **Has no Basis for Right or Wrong**
- **Invites God's Judgment**

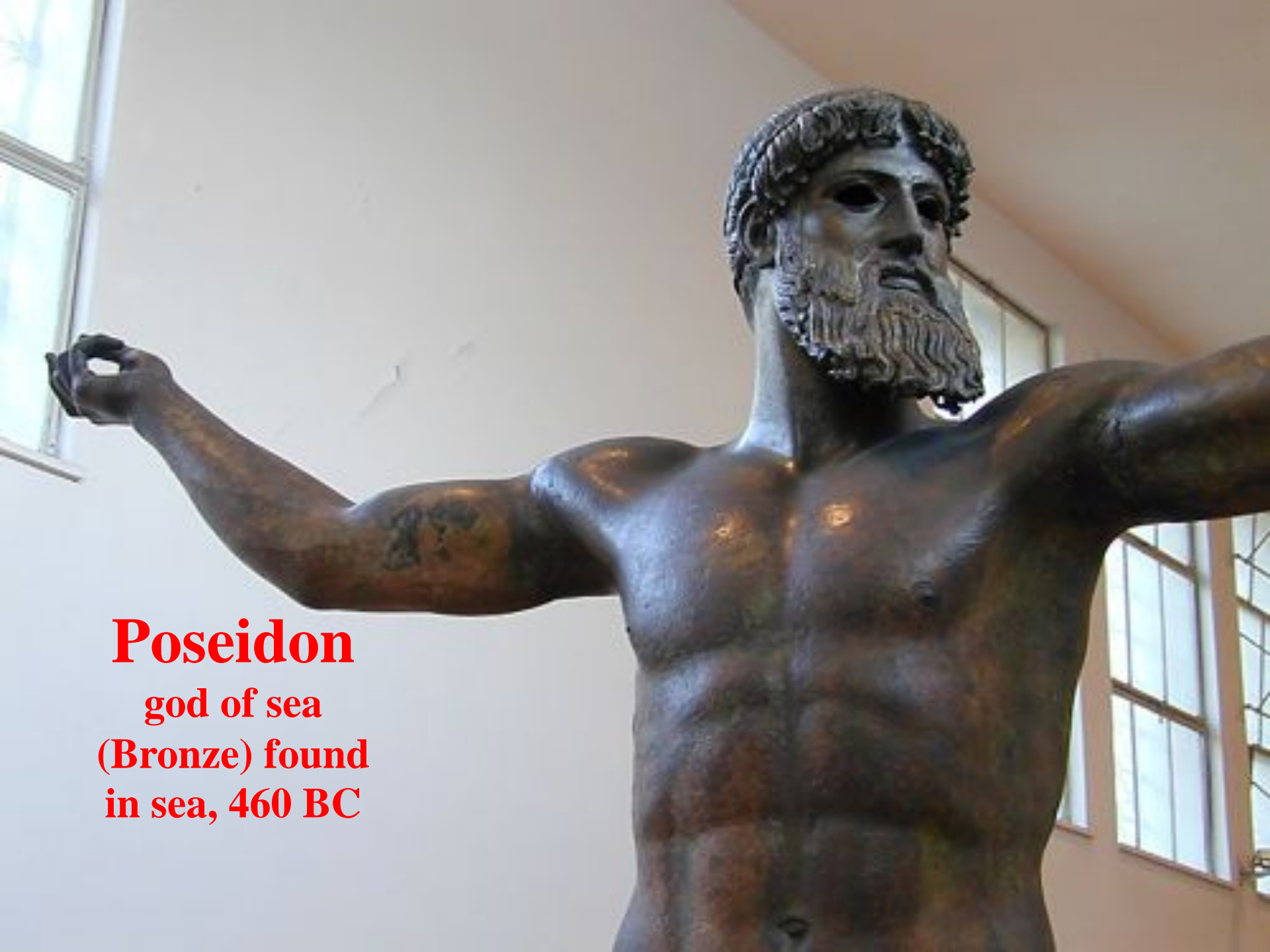


IDOLATRY at ATHENS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Inquiries of Intellectuals | 17:16-21 |
| a. Initiative of Paul | 17:16-17 |



**Παροξυνω - urge on, stimulate
or become irritated, angry**

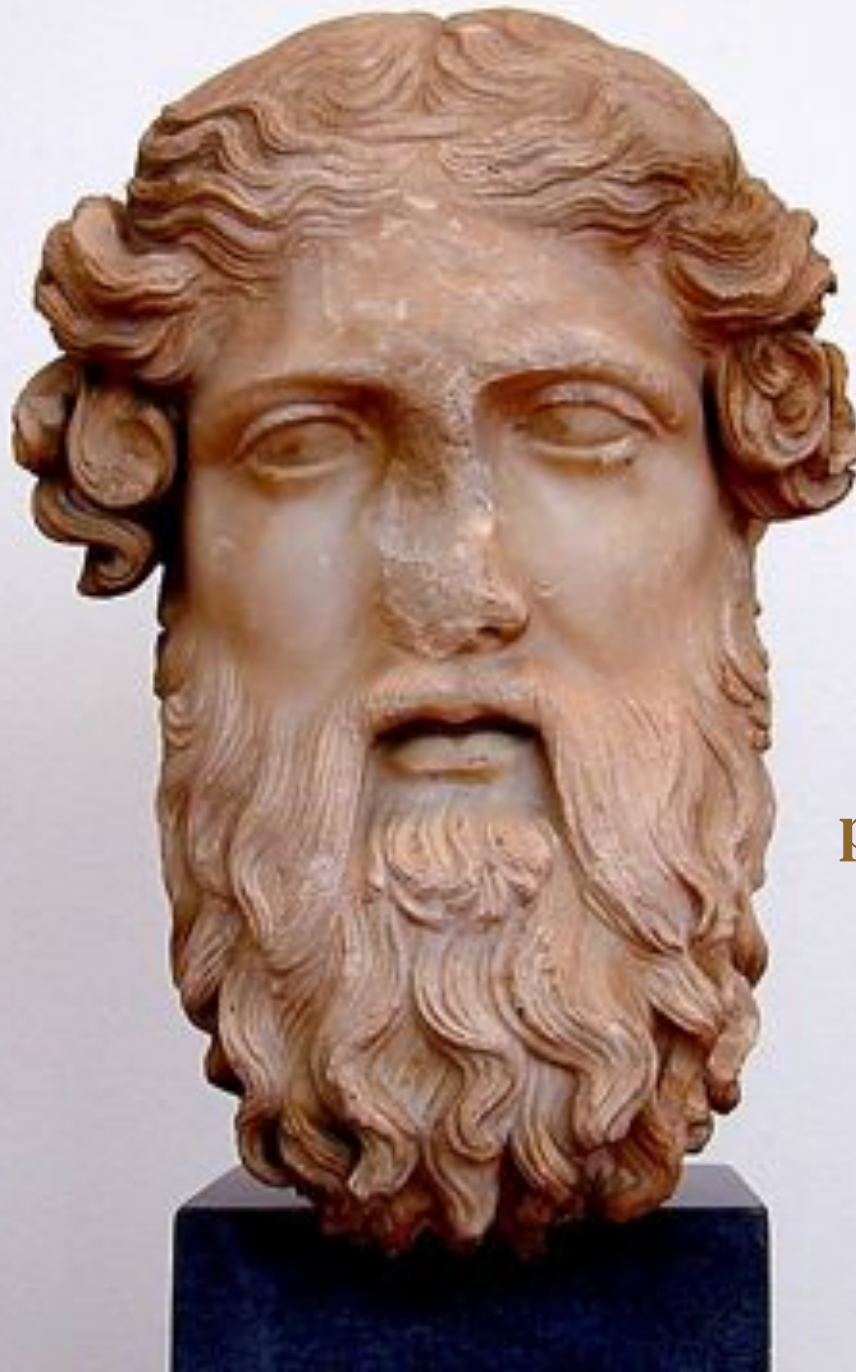


Poseidon
god of sea
(Bronze) found
in sea, 460 BC



Artemis of Delos

2nd c BC copy of 4th c
original

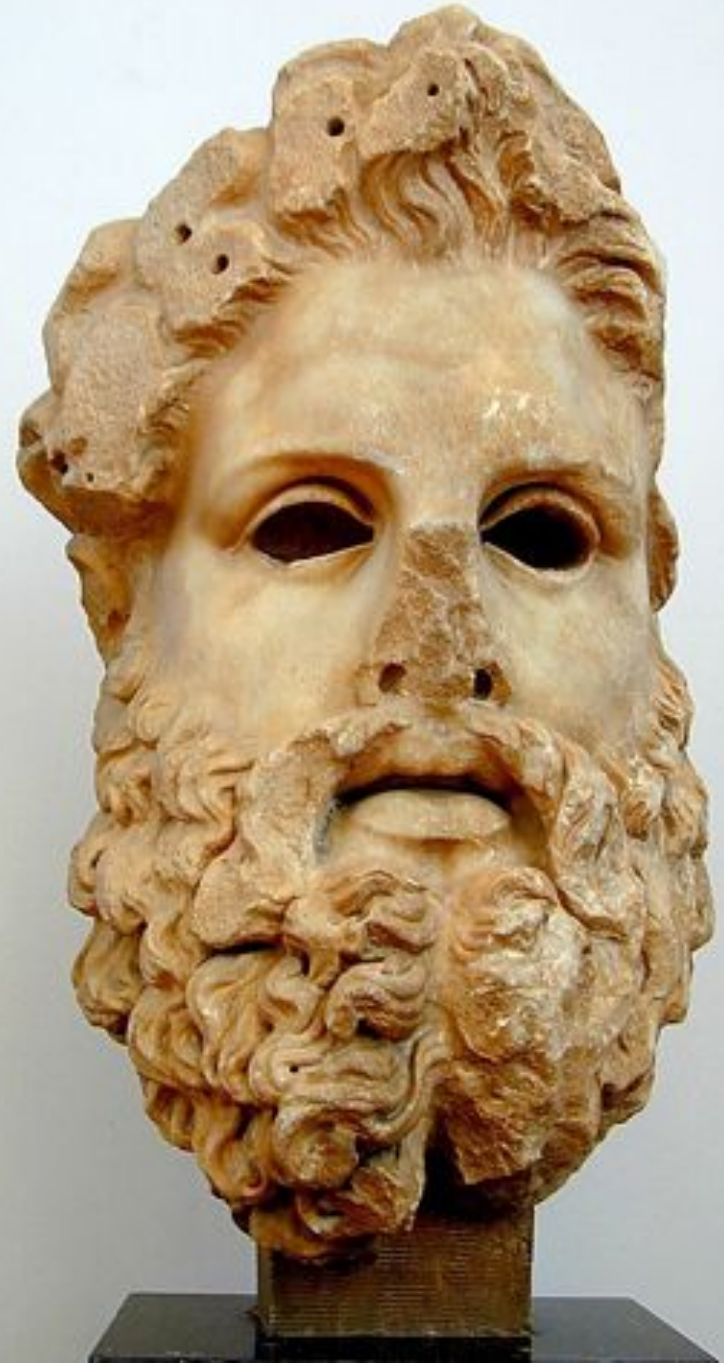


Dionysius
god of wine,
vegetation,
pleasure & festivity
from Piraeus
1st c AD



Temple of Hephaestus

Zeus
2nd c BC





**Athena of
the Dynx**
2nd c AD copy

Aphrodite,
2nd c AD
copy of 4th c BC





Parthenon

**“In Athens it is easier to find a god
than a man”**

Petronius

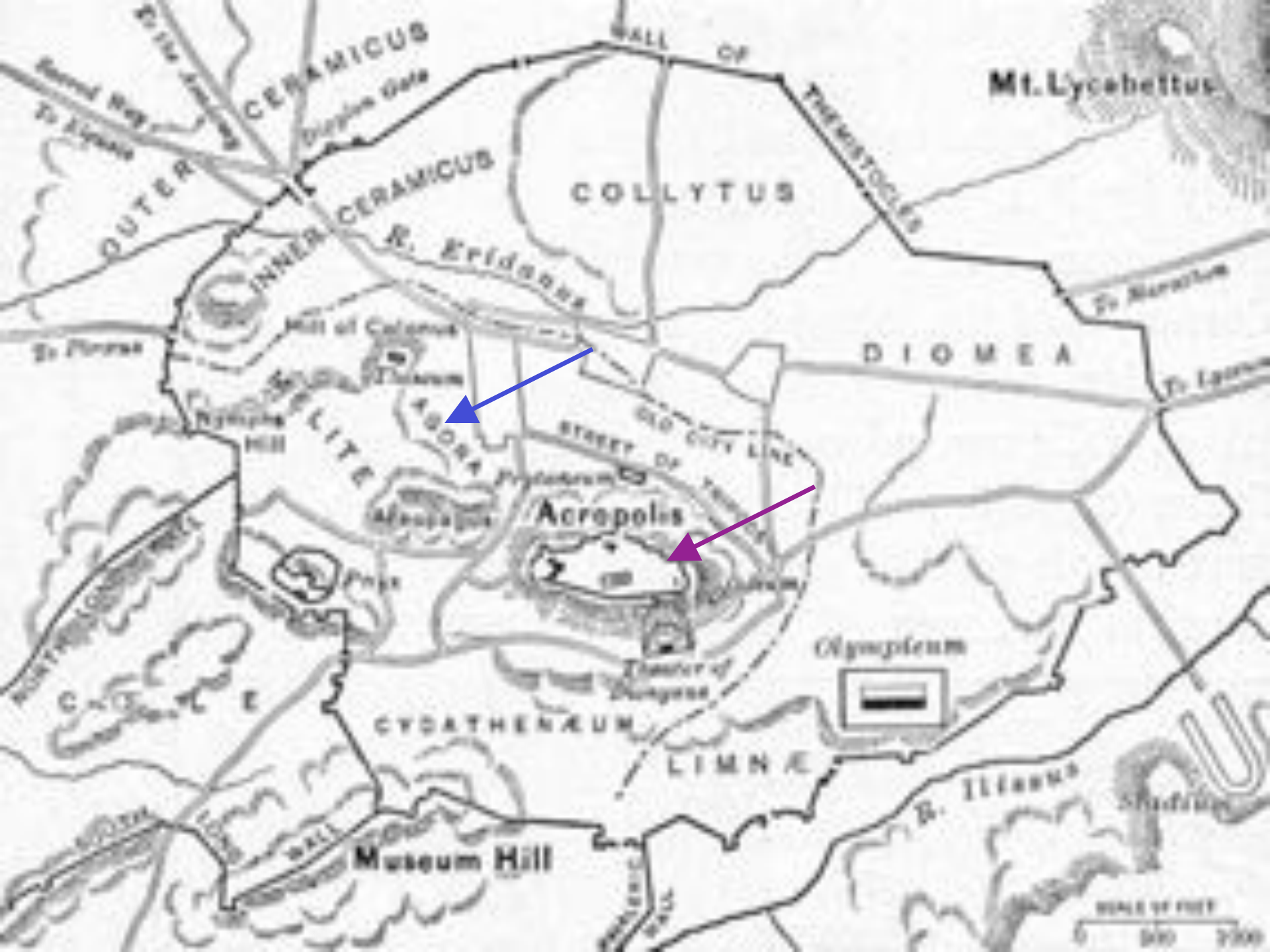


Athens Temple of Zeus

PRINCIPLES

1. Be Spiritually Prepared





Mt. Lycabettus

CERAMICUS
Diplos Gate

COLLYTUS

DIOMEA

INNER CERAMICUS
R. Eridanos

Hill of Colonus

Thesus

North Hill

CITY

Acropolis

Marsyas

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

STREET OF NEW CITY

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

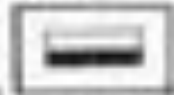
Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Acropolis

Olympieum



Museum Hill

R. Ilissus

SCALE OF FEET
0 500 1000

διαλεγομαι -

discuss, reason

17:2, 18:4, 8-9, 19



**Athens Agora
entrance**

**Stoa of Attalos
reconstructed**





Agora



PRINCIPLES

1. Be Spiritually Prepared
2. Take Initiative



IDOLATRY at ATHENS

- | | |
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Parthenon

ησους &
αναστασις



SCALE OF FEET
0 500 750





**Areopagus
from Acropolis**

Epicurus (341–270 BC)

**believed that
philosophy
could liberate
one from fears
of death & the
supernatural**

PHILOSOPHERS

1st Century

Epicureans **Materialism**
Hedonism

Stoics **Self-sufficient**
Pantheism

IDOLATRY at ATHENS

- | | |
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| b. Interest of Philosophers | 17:18-21 |
| 2. Illumination of Paul | 17:22-31 |
| a. Ideology | 17:22-23 |

WORLDVIEWS

How you view the world
around you and How you live
life as a result.

Your Worldview determines
how you live.

WORLDVIEWS

Unbeliever

polytheistic

material realm

reason

relativism

good

varies

God

Ultimate reality

Knowledge

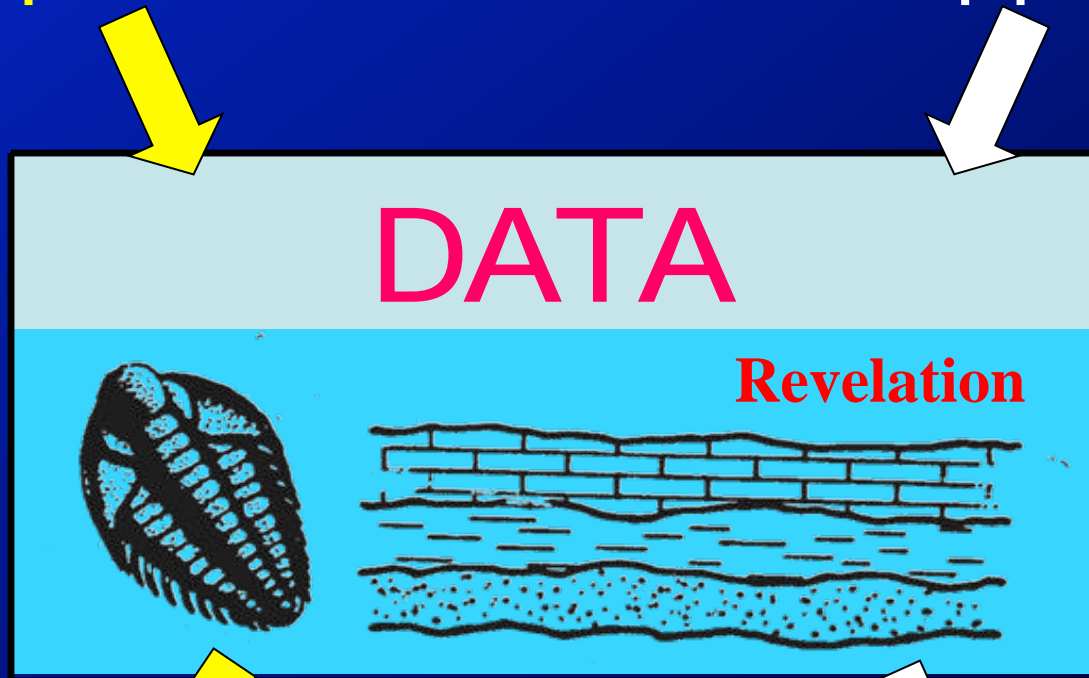
Ethics

Humankind

Destiny

Presupposition A

Presupposition B



Interpretation A

Interpretation B

PHILOSOPHERS

1st Century

21st Century

Epicureans

Materialism

Naturalism

Hedonism

Entertainment

Stoics

Self-sufficient

Humanism

Pantheism

New Age

DEFICIENCY

1. Faulty understanding of meaning of Existence - polytheistic
2. Limitations of Knowledge - unknown god
3. Weakness of human Intellect - ignorance

PRINCIPLES

1. Be Spiritually Prepared
2. Take Initiative
3. Analyze Worldview

IDOLATRY at ATHENS

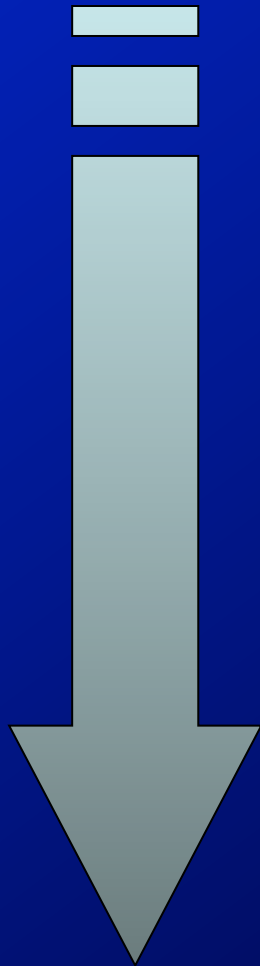
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| a. Ideology | 17:22-23 |
| b. Instruction | 17:24-29 |

An aerial photograph of Athens, Greece, showing the city and the Acropolis. The Acropolis is a large, rocky hill in the foreground, with several tall, thin cypress trees. The city of Athens is visible in the background, with many buildings and a large church with a red dome. The text "Paul's Approach" is overlaid in red, underlined, bold font.

Paul's Approach

- 1. Start from Biblical Worldview**
- 2. God-consciousness - Rom 1**

REVELATION



Realization

Responsibility

Rejection

Rationalization

Reprobation

Replacement

Wrath

PRINCIPLES

1. Be Spiritually Prepared
2. Take Initiative
3. Analyze Worldview
4. Assume God-consciousness

WORLDVIEW

Unbeliever

Believer

polytheistic

God

Personal, Trinity

material realm **Ultimate reality** spiritual realm

reason

Knowledge

revelation

relativism

Ethics

absolutes

good

Humankind

image, fallen

varies

Destiny

Heaven/Hell

PRINCIPLES

1. Be Spiritually Prepared
2. Take Initiative
3. Analyze Worldview
4. Assume God-consciousness
5. Begin from Biblical Worldview

Illumination of Paul

- **Creation**
- **Sovereignty**
- **Omnipresence**
- **Self-Existence**

PHILOSOPHY

- 1. God as Creator is author 26**
- 2. God's Sovereign Plan**
- 3. Linear Concept**

HIS STORY

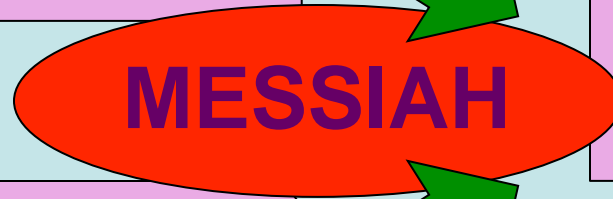
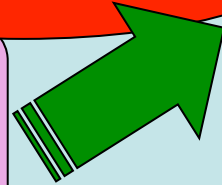
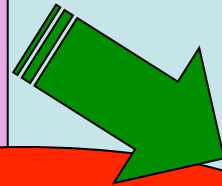
Revelation of His Glory

Israel

MESSIAH

Kingdom

Church



PHILOSOPHY

- 1. God as Creator is author 26**
- 2. God's Sovereign Plan**
- 3. Linear Concept**
- 4. Involves Time & Geography**
- 5. Divine Purpose 27**



**History = Record
of God dealing
with His
Creation**



Athens Odeon

**Purpose of History -
That man may seek Him**

DEFICIENCY

- 1. Faulty understanding of meaning of Existence - polytheistic**
- 2. Limitations of Knowledge - unknown god**
- 3. Weakness of human Intellect - ignorance**
- 4. Inadequate view of History**
- 5. Inconsistency of Worldview**

PRINCIPLES

1. Be Spiritually Prepared
2. Take Initiative
3. Analyze Worldview
4. Assume God-consciousness
5. Begin from Biblical Worldview
6. Refute Worldview

IDOLATRY at ATHENS

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| a. Ideology | 17:22-23 |
| b. Instruction | 17:24-29 |
| c. Implication | 17:30-31 |

Gospel is Power of God unto Salvation



PRINCIPLES

1. Be Spiritually Prepared
2. Take Initiative
3. Analyze Worldview
4. Assume God-consciousness
5. Begin from Biblical Worldview
6. Refute Worldview
7. Present Gospel