

- Acts 17:22 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.
- 23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.
- 24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;
- 25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; 26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on
- all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;
- 27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:
- 28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

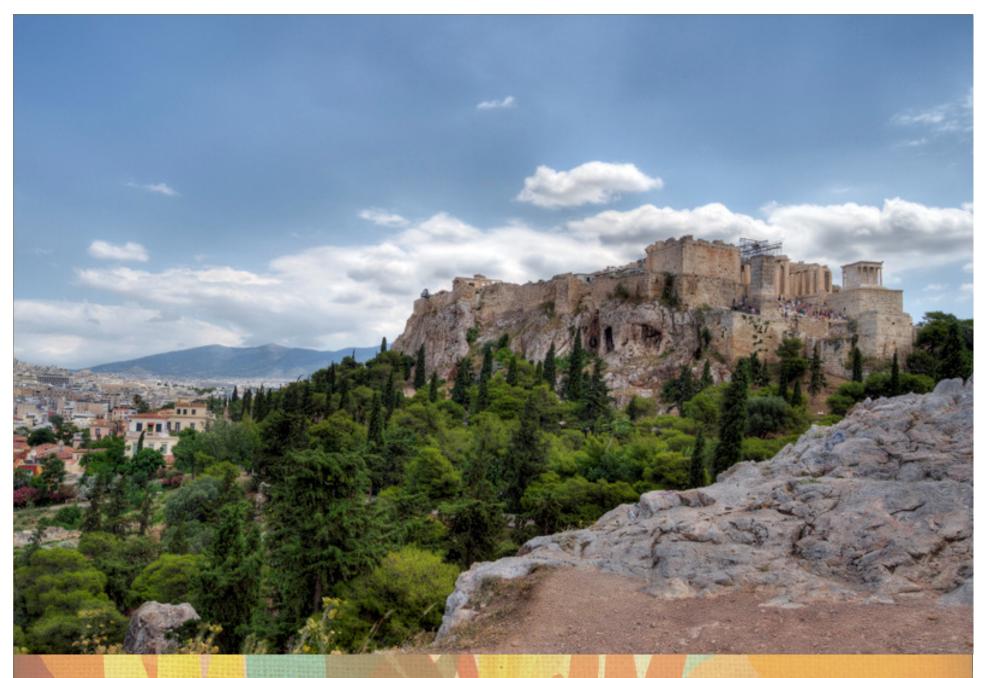
#### I. THE ORGANIZATION II. THE OPERATION III. THE OPERATIVES: THE FOUNDING EMPHASIS - SIMON, IV. THE OPERATIVES: THE FORWARDING EMPHASIS - STEPHEN, V. THE OPERATIVES: THE FOUNDATIONAL EMPHASIS – SAUL/PAUL THE PIONEER, 13:1-21:26 A. The First Missionary Journey: Exploration, 13:1-15:35 B. The Second Missionary Journey: Expansion, 15:36-18:23a 1. The Fitting Proposal for Expanding the Work, 15:36-40 2. The Fruitful Progress in Expanding the Work, 15:41-16:40 3. The Familiar Problems When Expanding the Work, 17:1-18:18 a. The Problem of Social Practice, (see 16:16-22) b. The Problem of Religious Prejudice, 17:1-10a c. The Problem of Organized Persecution, 17:10b-14 d. The Problem of Intellectual Pride, 17:15-34 (1) Paul Provoked in Spirit, 17:15-21 (a) Paul Alone on the Streets of Athens, 17:15-16 i. The Intimidating Effect of the City's Boasted Intellectualism, 17:15 ii. The Intimidating Effect of the City's Bankrupt Intellectualism, 17:16 (b) Paul Alone in the Synagogue of Athens, 17:17a (c) Paul Alone on the Square at Athens, 17:17b (d) Paul Alone on the Summit of Athens, 17:18-20 i. The Great Intellectual Philosophies of Athens, Their Intellectual Chains, 17:18 Their Beliefs, 17:18a Their Blindness, 17:18b Their Intellectual Challenge, 17:19-20 e. The Great Intellectual Philandering of Athens, 17:21



Col. 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

- (2) Paul Preaching to Scoffers, 17:22-34
  - (a) The Logical Sequence of His Message, 17:22-31
    - i. Its Logical Beginning, 17:22-23
- I am Appalled at Your Ignorance, 17:22-23a "Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. 23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD..."

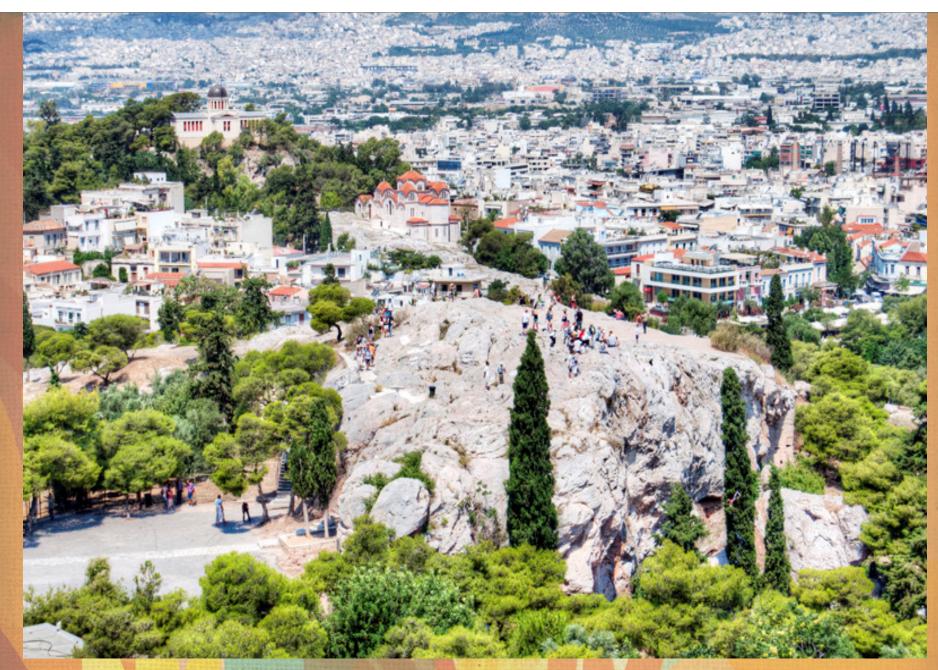




**Athens Acropolis from Mars Hill - Athens Greece** 



City of Athens Aerial from Mars Hill - Athens Greece



Athens Greece Tours Mars Hill <a href="http://www.greecetravelphotos.com/athens.html">http://www.greecetravelphotos.com/athens.html</a>

Original Word: δεισιδαίμων

Transliteration: deisidaimonesteros

Definition: respectful of what is divine; religious, perhaps,

superstitious (the usual meaning).

deisidaimonésteros (from deidō, "to dread" and daimōn, "a deity") – properly, religious (superstitious) fear, driven by a confused concept of God – producing "sincere" but very misdirected religion. Indeed, this is the mark of heathenism.

https://biblehub.com/greek/1174.htm

1 Cor. 9:22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

Original Word: σέβασμα Transliteration: sebasma

Definition: an object of worship or veneration. (devotions)

sébasma – devotion shown to a deity, especially in relation to religious objects of worship. <a href="https://biblehub.com/greek/4574.htm">https://biblehub.com/greek/4574.htm</a>

2 Thess. 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

**Original Word:** ἄγνωστος **Transliteration:** agnóstos

Definition: unknown, unknowable.

https://biblehub.com/greek/57.htm

 I am Appealing to Your Intelligence, 17:23b ...Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you."

Original Word: ἀγνοέω

Transliteration: agnoeó

Definition: I do not know, am ignorant of (a person, thing, or fact),

sometimes with the idea of willful ignorance.

https://biblehub.com/greek/50.htm

Original Word: εὐσεβέω Transliteration: eusebeó

Definition: I am dutiful, pious, show piety towards, worship.

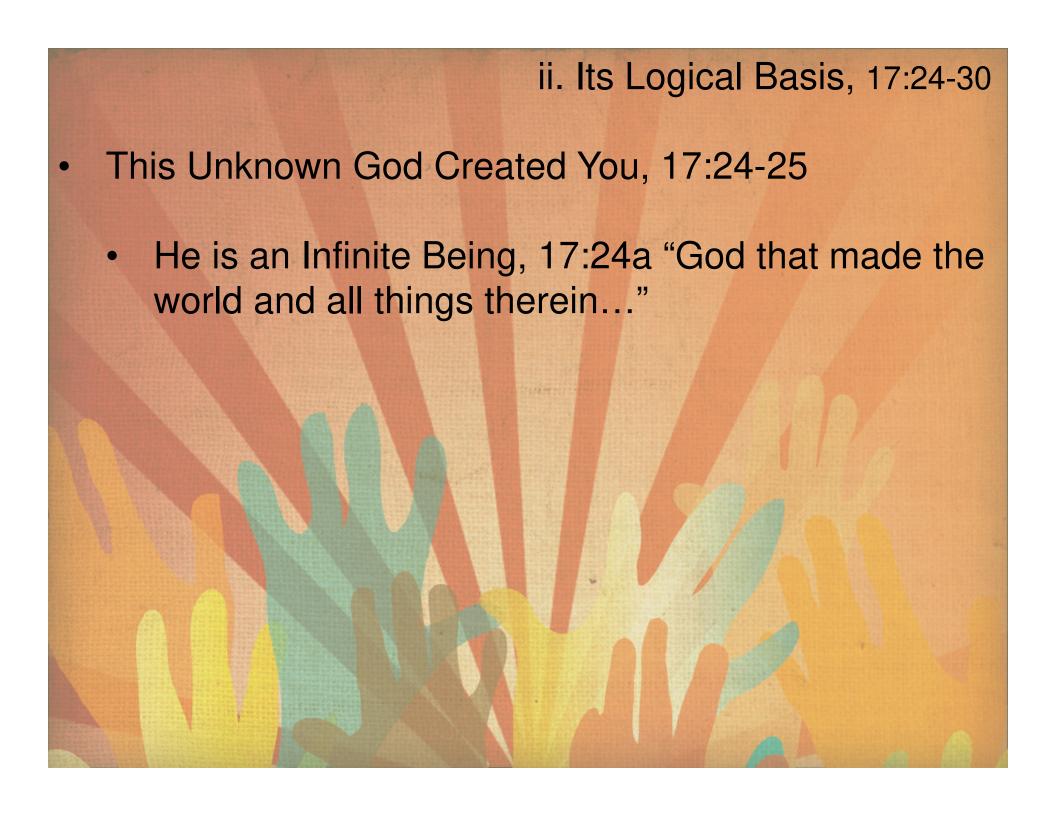
eusebéō (from eusebés) – pay homage (to revere) https://biblehub.com/greek/2151.htm

1 Tim. 5:4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.

Rom. 2:14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.



### **New International Version**

and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

### **New American Standard Bible**

and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;

## **Holman Christian Standard Bible**

and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things.

# **King James Bible**

And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

https://biblehub.com/ephesians/3-9.htm

Eph. 3:9 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

• He is an Independent Being, 17:24b-25 "...seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; 25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;"

Col. 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

- This Unknown God Controls You, 17:26
  - As to Race, He has Determined the Brotherhood of the Nations, 17:26a "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth..."
  - As to Place, He has Determined the Boundary of the Nations, 17:26b "...and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;"
- This Unknown God Convicts You, 17:27-29
  - He Underlines what they Had Already Felt, 17:27

Acts 17:27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

**Original Word:** ζητέω **Transliteration:** zéteó

Definition: I seek, search for, desire, require, demand.

zētéō – properly, to seek by *inquiring*; to investigate to reach a *binding* (*terminal*) resolution; to search, "getting to the bottom of a matter."

https://biblehub.com/greek/2212.htm

Original Word: ψηλαφάω

Transliteration: psélaphaó

Definition: I feel, touch, handle; I feel after, grope for.

psēlapháō – properly, touch lightly, "feel after" to discover (personally investigate). https://biblehub.com/greek/5584.htm

Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

Heb. 12:18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,

1 Jn. 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

He Underlines what they Had Almost Found, 17:28

Acts 17:28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.



Jas 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.