### Acts

## Chapter 17

1From there they traveled through From there they traveled through <span class="placename">AmphiPolisFrom there they traveled through <span class="placename">AmphiPolis</span> and Apollonia to From there they traveled through <span class="placename">AmphiPolis</span> and Apollonia to <span class="placename">ThesSalonicaFrom there they traveled through <span class="placename">AmphiPolis</span> and Apollonia to <span class="placename">ThesSalonica</span>, where there was a Jewish synagogue. 2And as it was Paul’s custom, he went inside and reasoned with [the Jews] from the Scriptures for three Sabbaths.  
  
3He opened [the scriptures] and proved that the Anointed One had to suffer and be resurrected from the dead.  
  
Then he said:  
  
 ‘This Jesus whom I’m preaching to you is that Anointed One!’  
  
4And as a result, some of them became believers and associated themselves with Paul and Silas, as did a large number of devout Greeks, many women, and quite a few of the [city’s] leaders.  
  
5However, this made some of the Judeans very jealous, so they formed a mob… They assembled a group of wicked men who’d been hanging around in the market, and these created quite an uproar in the city. So they all went to Jason’s house and demanded to have [Paul and Silas] brought out. 6But when they didn’t find them there, they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the city council, shouting:  
  
 ‘Those men who are creating confusion throughout the whole world are here also… 7And Jason has even welcomed them into his home!  
  
 ‘Yet these people oppose the decrees of Caesar by saying that there’s another king… Someone called Jesus!’  
  
8Well when the councilmen heard the crowd saying this, they became quite agitated 9and they demanded a large bail from Jason and the others, before they’d release them.  
  
10Then that night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas off to Then that night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas off to <span class="placename">BereaThen that night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas off to <span class="placename">Berea</span>.  
  
  
  
Well [upon arriving in Well [upon arriving in <span class="placename">BereaWell [upon arriving in <span class="placename">Berea</span>], they went into the Jewish synagogue. 11And there they found the people to be more noble-minded than those in ThesSalonica, because they eagerly welcomed the word and studied the Scriptures each day to make sure that the things [they were being told] were true.  
  
12So, many of them became believers, as did a number of the prominent Greek women and quite a few of the men.  
  
13However, when the Jews in However, when the Jews in <span class="placename">ThesSalonicaHowever, when the Jews in <span class="placename">ThesSalonica</span> learned that Paul was also preaching the word of God in Berea, they traveled there to incite and agitate the crowds. 14As a result, the brothers immediately sent Paul off all the way to the sea…  
  
However, Silas and Timothy stayed behind. 15Then those who were taking Paul, brought him to Then those who were taking Paul, brought him to <span class="placename">AthensThen those who were taking Paul, brought him to <span class="placename">Athens</span>. And before they returned, he instructed them to send Silas and Timothy to him as soon as possible.  
  
  
  
16Well, while Paul was waiting for them in Well, while Paul was waiting for them in <span class="placename">AthensWell, while Paul was waiting for them in <span class="placename">Athens</span>, he became disgusted to the core when he saw that the city was filled with idols. 17So he started reasoning with the Jews and other worshipers in the synagogue, as well as with anyone that happened to be in the markets each day.  
  
18Then some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers came to hear him, and they started asking each other:  
  
 ‘What’s this seed-picker trying to say?’  
  
And someone told them:  
  
 ‘He seems to be preaching a foreign demon.’  
  
[This was] because he was telling them the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.  
  
19So they grabbed him and took him up to the So they grabbed him and took him up to the <span class="placename">AeroPagusSo they grabbed him and took him up to the <span class="placename">AeroPagus</span>, where they asked him:  
  
 ‘Tell us; what’s this new thing that you’re preaching? 20For we’ve heard that you’ve brought some strange new ideas, and we want to know what they are!’  
  
21(It’s a fact that all (It’s a fact that all <span class="placename">Athenians(It’s a fact that all <span class="placename">Athenians</span> and even foreigners that traveled there had nothing to do other than spend their leisure time telling something new or listening to something new).  
  
22So Paul stood up in the middle of the So Paul stood up in the middle of the <span class="placename">AeroPagusSo Paul stood up in the middle of the <span class="placename">AeroPagus</span> and said:  
  
 ‘Men of Athens,  
  
 ‘I see that you have a greater fear of the demons than do others.  
  
 23‘And as I was going along and noticing all the things that you worship, I found an altar with the inscription: To an unknown God.  
  
 ‘So I’m here to preach to you about something that you don’t know, but already worship!  
  
 24‘For this is the [same] God who made the cosmos and everything in it; and this Lord of the sky and the earth doesn’t live in handmade Temples, 25nor does He need human hands to take care of Him – or anything at all [for that matter] – because He gives life, breath, and everything else to each of us.  
  
 26‘He’s the One who made all the nations of mankind that dwell on the face of the earth from just one man, and He’s the One who determines the times and the boundaries of [when and] where they’d live, 27so that we would each search for God and grope around to find Him… Although He really isn’t very far from any of us.  
  
 28‘For it’s through Him that we have life, and move, and exist… Even as some of your own poets have said:  
  
 ‘We’re His offspring!’  
  
 29‘Therefore, since we’re the offspring of God, we shouldn’t think of this Divine One as being like gold, silver, stone… Or like anything else that some man may have artistically sculpted!  
  
 30‘Yet, God has overlooked such periods of ignorance, and now He’s telling all men everywhere to repent, 31because He’s set a day when He’s going to judge the entire habitation of mankind righteously by a man whom He’s appointed. And He’s also given each of us a reason to believe in this man by resurrecting him from the dead!’  
  
32Well when they heard [him mention] a resurrection of the dead, some started joking about it.  
  
But others said:  
  
 ‘We’ll listen to more about this at some other time!’  
  
33So at that, Paul left them.  
  
34However, some of the men started following him and became believers. This included Dionysius (a judge of the However, some of the men started following him and became believers. This included Dionysius (a judge of the <span class="placename">AeroPagusHowever, some of the men started following him and became believers. This included Dionysius (a judge of the <span class="placename">AeroPagus</span> Supreme Court), a woman named Damaris, and several others.