

ACTS

CHAPTER 17

- Acts 16, Paul and Sila arrested in Philippi
- What is causing such an outrage against Paul in these towns he's visiting?
- Acts 17, Paul, Timothy & Sila are on the road, Luke probably with them
- Still in Macedonia
- 90 miles from Philippi to Thessalonica



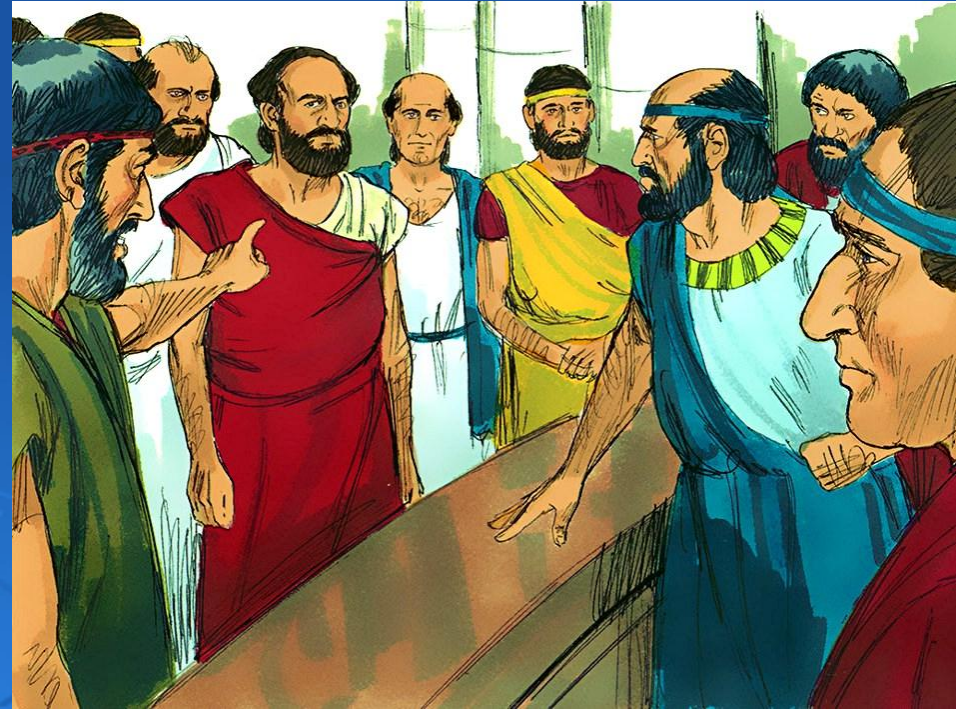
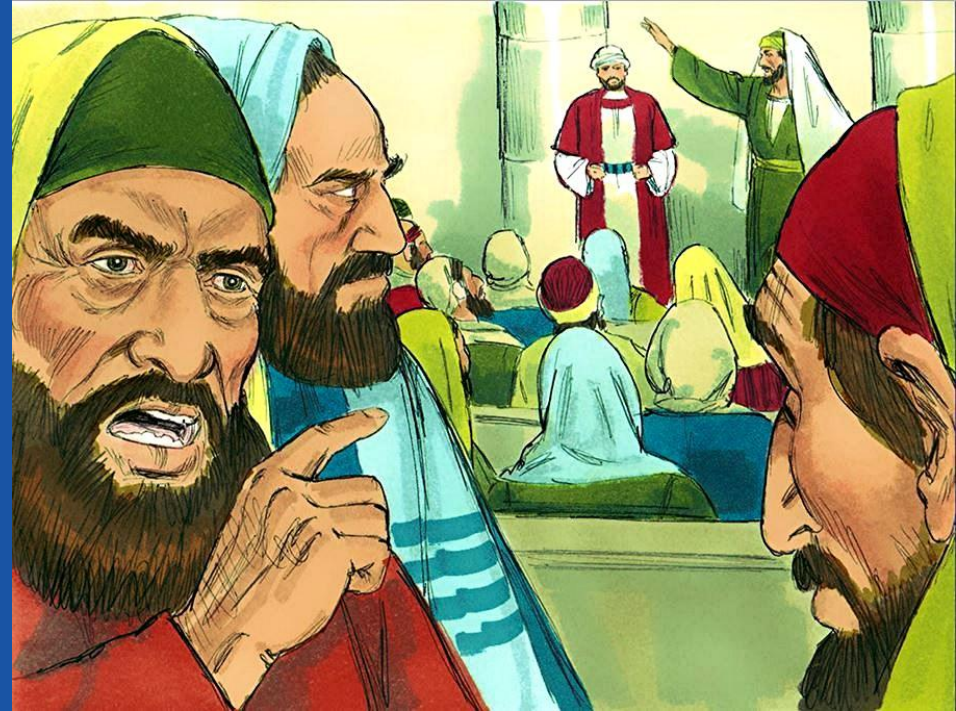
PAUL IN THE THESSALONICA SYNAGOGUE



- Paul went to a city's synagogue because
 - 1) he was an observant Jew,
 - 2) to find hospitality
- Stayed in Thessalonica for 3 Sabbaths
- *Drash* means searching
- Exegetical Bible study
- When at a synagogue he would argue his viewpoint using Scripture
- But when dealing with pagan gentiles, he did not use Scripture
- At synagogue his goal was to persuade them that Yeshua was the Messiah

TROUBLE IN THESSALONICA

- Jews who didn't accept the Gospel turned against Paul and incited a riot
- Jason, a Believing Jew, showed hospitality to Paul and the disciples
- Mob came to Jason's house, but disciples weren't there
- Politarchs = high level Magistrates



ROMAN RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE



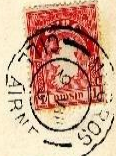
- Everyone free to worship their own gods
- BUT.....no dissent, no civil disturbances, no political tolerance
- Jews stayed true to their religion and identity
- Jews were NOT tolerant towards pagan religions
- Jews generally did NOT assimilate into Greek/Roman lifestyle
- Different morals, different lifestyles, visibly distinct and separate
- Similar to reaction against Muslims in Europe and America

PAUL AND HIS DISCIPLES REPRESENT A PROBLEM



- Paul doesn't just bother the gentiles, he upsets the Jews, too!
- Gentiles didn't know what the issue was that he upset the Jews
- Mobs upset the Romans
- Romans upset the local politicians
- Local politicians blamed the Jews
- This was NOT about religion, this was about political and civil unrest
- "Yeshua as King" looked and sounded like sedition

Paul's Letter to the
Philippians



Paul's Letter to the
Church at Thessalonica
I Thessalonians



Paul's Letter to the
Church at Corinth
Corinthians



- Names of cities where Paul established Believing congregations connect to NT Books of the same name
- In 1st Thessalonians Paul is writing to explain his abrupt departure

TRUTH SEEKERS OF BEREIA

- In Berea, Paul goes to the synagogue
- Bereans more receptive to the Gospel
- Vs. 11 ***“they....examined the scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”***
- The Gold Standard by which all is to be measured is God’s Word
- Thessalonian Jews came to Berea to make trouble for Paul

Blessing at
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MACEDONIA

Thessalonica

Berea

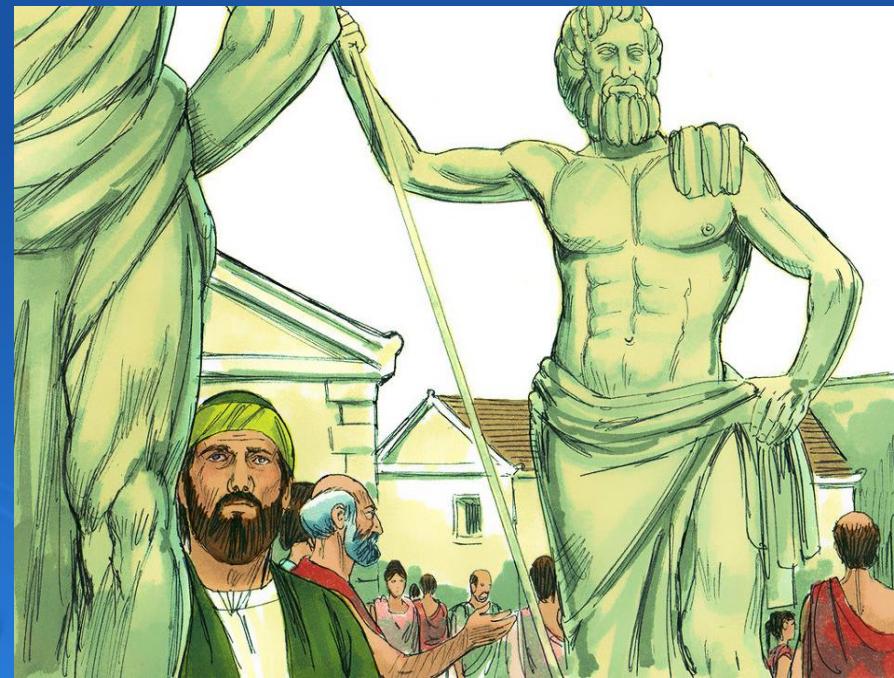
Aegean Sea



PAUL GOES TO ATHENS



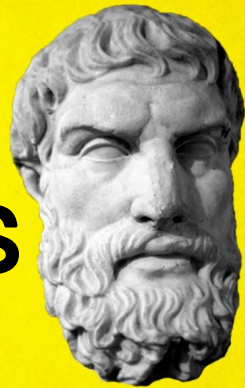
- Athens: the birthplace of Democracy and seat of Intellectualism
- Athens was a myriad of idols
- Talmud says most pious Jews wouldn't touch coins with an image on them, or walk through city gates with welcome idols
- Paul was greatly troubled by what he saw
- The more we pray and study God's Word, the harder it is to ignore the wickedness of this world
- Paul's reaction: Preach the Gospel !





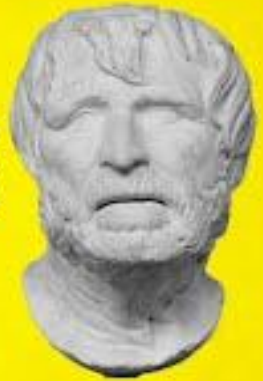
- As Humanism increases, Godliness decreases
- As Intellectualism is sought after, Wisdom is shunned
- Paul reasoned with the Athenians in the synagogue
- Epicurean and Stoic philosophers thought Paul to be a babbler
- The two groups were rivals, having generally opposite worldviews

THE EPICUREANS



- Soul is material, not ethereal
- Soul dies at death
- Life's aim = pleasure
- No all powerful god
- Universe was created spontaneously and by chance
- Gods exist but do not intervene in the affairs of humans
- Had no regard for Greek and Roman gods and god systems

THE STOICS



- God is "The Force"
- God is an embodiment of the Universe
- Soul is ethereal; at death soul loses individuality and joins the God Force
- A passionless existence
- Harmony with nature
- Reason and enlightenment the only reasons to exist
- Life is a never ending search for knowledge