
Scripture Slides 1 & 2

Acts 17:22-34**Paul Addresses the Areopagus**

22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 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. 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, 28 for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;

as even some of your own poets have said,

“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

29 Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. 30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” 33 So Paul went out from their midst. 34 But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Slide 3: Let’s look at where we’re at geographically in this text.

- Athens was the intellectual center of ancient Greece—a city buzzing with ideas, philosophy, and debate.
- Two major schools of thought dominated the scene: the Epicureans, and the Stoics.
- In this environment stood the Areopagus.
- Paul was no stranger to this culture as he was from the city of Tarsus.
- Tarsus was one of three major hubs in the Roman Empire known for being a center of education.

- When Paul arrived, he didn't start with the Old Testament – he adapted his approach.
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Slide 4: Observations

1. **Recognize God is**
 2. **Recognize Who He is**
 3. **Recognize What He says**
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Slide 5: Observation 1 - Recognize God is

EXP vv22-23

22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 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.

Slide 6: The cosmological and teleological arguments

- The **cosmological argument** states that there must be one initial cause that **effects** the other causes effected in creation.
- The **teleological argument** states that after the initial **cause** by Elohim, it is Elohim who is the **Great Designer** of all things.

Slide 7: Application 1 - Everyone believes in something.

References:

- Psalm 14:1
 - 2 Timothy 4:3-4
 - Matthew 16:26
 - Romans 1:18-23
 - Deuteronomy 4:35
 - Psalm 9:10
 - Jeremiah 9:24
 - Jeremiah 24:7
 - John 17:3
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Slide 8: Observation 2 - Recognize Who He is

v24 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, 28 for 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are indeed his offspring.' 29 Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

Slide 9: 5 characteristics of Who He is

1. **Creator**
 2. **Ruler**
 3. **Giver**
 4. **Controller**
 5. **Revealer**
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Slide 10: God is CREATOR

v24a "he God who made the world and everything in it"

References (OT): Genesis 1:1, Nehemiah 9:6, Isaiah 45:18, Jeremiah 10:12

References (NT): Romans 11:36, John 1:3, Colossians 1:16, Hebrews 11:3, Revelation 4:11

Slide 11: God is RULER

V24b "being Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made by man"

References: 1 Kings 8:27, Isaiah 66:1, Psalm 115:3, Jeremiah 23:24

Slide 12: God is GIVER

v25 “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,

References: Ephesians 2:14–15, Genesis 2:7

Slide 13: God is CONTROLLER

v26b, “having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,”

References: Job 12:23, Romans 13:1, Psalm 74:17, Luke 21:24, Revelation 17:17

Slide 14: God is REVEALER

v27 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, 28 for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ 29 Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

References: Genesis 1:26–27

God is Creator, Ruler, Giver, Controller & Revealer

Slide 15: Application 2 - Wisdom is Greater than Knowledge

1. Do you have the wisdom to fear God who can take away body and soul?
2. Do you have the wisdom to trust in the fact that God rules you?
3. Do you have the wisdom to believe that all things from God (even the things that are painful) are good gifts from God?
4. Do you have the wisdom to use His Mighty Word to be your chief rule and guide to your faith and practice?
5. Do you have the wisdom to obey all that He has commanded you?

See 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Slide 16: Observation 3 - Recognize What He Said

30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to **repent**, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Slide 17: This is what God says about himself:

- He would come from the line of **David** (References: 2 Samuel 7; Isaiah 9; Jeremiah 23)
 - He would be born in **Bethlehem** (Reference: Micah 5)
 - He would come as a **suffering servant** (Reference: Isaiah 52–53)
 - He would also be a **conquering King** (References: Isaiah 11; Daniel 7; Zechariah 9)
 - He would bring a **new covenant** (Reference: Jeremiah 31)
 - He would be **preceded** by a forerunner (References: Isaiah 40; Malachi 3–4)
 - He would **bring salvation to the nations** (References: Isaiah 42; Isaiah 49)
 - He would perform **signs and miracles** (Reference: Isaiah 35)
 - He would enter **Jerusalem humbly** (Reference: Zechariah 9)
 - He would be **betrayed and rejected** (References: Psalm 22; Zechariah 11; Isaiah 53)
 - He would be **resurrected** / not abandoned to decay (Reference: Psalm 16)
 - He would bring the **Spirit of God** (Reference: Isaiah 11; Isaiah 61)
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Slide 18: Application 3 - Hunger & Thirst for Righteousness

We must be a people who trust in the **wisdom** of God.

All of us believe in something – we believe in what we place our trust in the most. We place our trust in our country, our government, our jobs, our families – yet Jesus who is Lord says – “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.”
