

**Acts 16: 25-40**

**ACTS 17**

Lenny D'Ambrosia

## 8. What happened when Paul and Silas were praying and singing praises to God?

### Acts 16: 25-30

- 25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;
- 26 and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.
- 27 When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.
- 28 But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!"
- 29 And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas,
- 30 and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

# 9. Describe the conversion of the jailer?

Acts 16: 31-34

31 They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house.

33 And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household.

34 And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.

# 10. Why were the chief magistrates afraid of Paul?

Acts 16: 36-40

- 36 And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, “The chief magistrates have sent to release you. Therefore, come out now and go in peace.”
- 37 But Paul said to them, “They have beaten us in public without trial, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly?” No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out.”
- 38 The policemen reported these words to the chief magistrates. They were afraid when they heard that they were Romans,
- 39 and they came and appealed to them, and when they had brought them out, they kept begging them to leave the city.
- 40 They went out of the prison and entered *the house of* Lydia, and when they saw the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

# Chapter 17

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1. Paul shares the Gospel with the Thessalonians (Acts 17: 1-9).
2. Paul shares the Gospel with the Bereans (Acts 17: 10-15).
3. Paul shares the Gospel with the Jews in the synagogue in Athens and the God-fearing Gentiles in the market place (Acts 17: 16-21).
4. Paul preaches a sermon on Mars Hill in the Areopagus (Acts 17: 22-34).





# The Egnatian Way







Macedonia

**Amphilpolis**

Philippi

Neapolis

Istanbul

Black Sea

Thessalonica

Samothrace

Berea

Alexandria

Troas

Greece

Turkey

Delphi

Aegean Sea

Athens

Smyrna

Corinth

HolyLandPhotos.org



# The Greek city of Amphipolis Minecraft Map





GREECE

Thessalonica



Philippi

Amphipolis  
(Amhipolis)

Neapolis (Kavala)

Apollonia

Paul's route from Philippi  
to Thessalonica  
about 85 miles (138 km)

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Aegean Sea



# Ruins in Apollonia – [historyhit.com](http://historyhit.com)





Arch of Galerius in Thessalonica – world history.org (Dan Diffendale[cc by ny-sa])





1. What was Paul's message to the Thessalonians and what was their reaction?

## Acts 17: 1-4

- 1 Now when they had traveled through **Amphipolis and Apollonia**, they came to **Thessalonica**, where there was a **synagogue of the Jews**.
- 2 And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures,
- 3 **explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ."**
- 4 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the **God-fearing Greeks** and a number of the leading women.

## 2. Who was Jason and what happened to him in Thessalonica?

### Acts 17: 5-9

- 5 But the Jews, becoming **jealous** and taking along some wicked men from the market place, **formed a mob** and **set the city in an uproar**; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people.
- 6 When they did not find them, they **began dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities**, shouting, “These men who have upset the world have come here also;
- 7 and Jason has welcomed them, and **they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.**”
- 8 They stirred up the crowd and the city authorities who heard these things.
- 9 And when **they had received a pledge from Jason and the others, they released them.**



Edessa

Pella

Thessalonica

Berea

Dion

Mount Olympus +

0 10 20 30 mi

0 10 20 30 40 50 km



# Berea ancient city wall



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### 3. How did the Bereans receive the word of God?

## Acts 17: 10-12

- 10 The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the **Jews**.
- 11 Now these were **more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica**, for **they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.**
- 12 Therefore **many of them believed**, along with **a number of prominent Greek women and men.**



#### 4. Who stirred up the crowds in Berea against Paul and why?

### Acts 17: 13

13 But when the Jews of Thessalonica found out that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Berea also, they came there as well, agitating and stirring up the crowds.

Jews of Thessalonica

The word of God had been  
proclaimed by Paul

5. How did some of the brethren assist Paul in escaping trouble in Berea?

## Acts 17: 14-15

14 Then immediately the brethren sent Paul out to go as far as the sea; and Silas and Timothy remained there.

15 Now those who escorted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they left.

**Escorted Paul by sailing to Athens**

Thessalonica

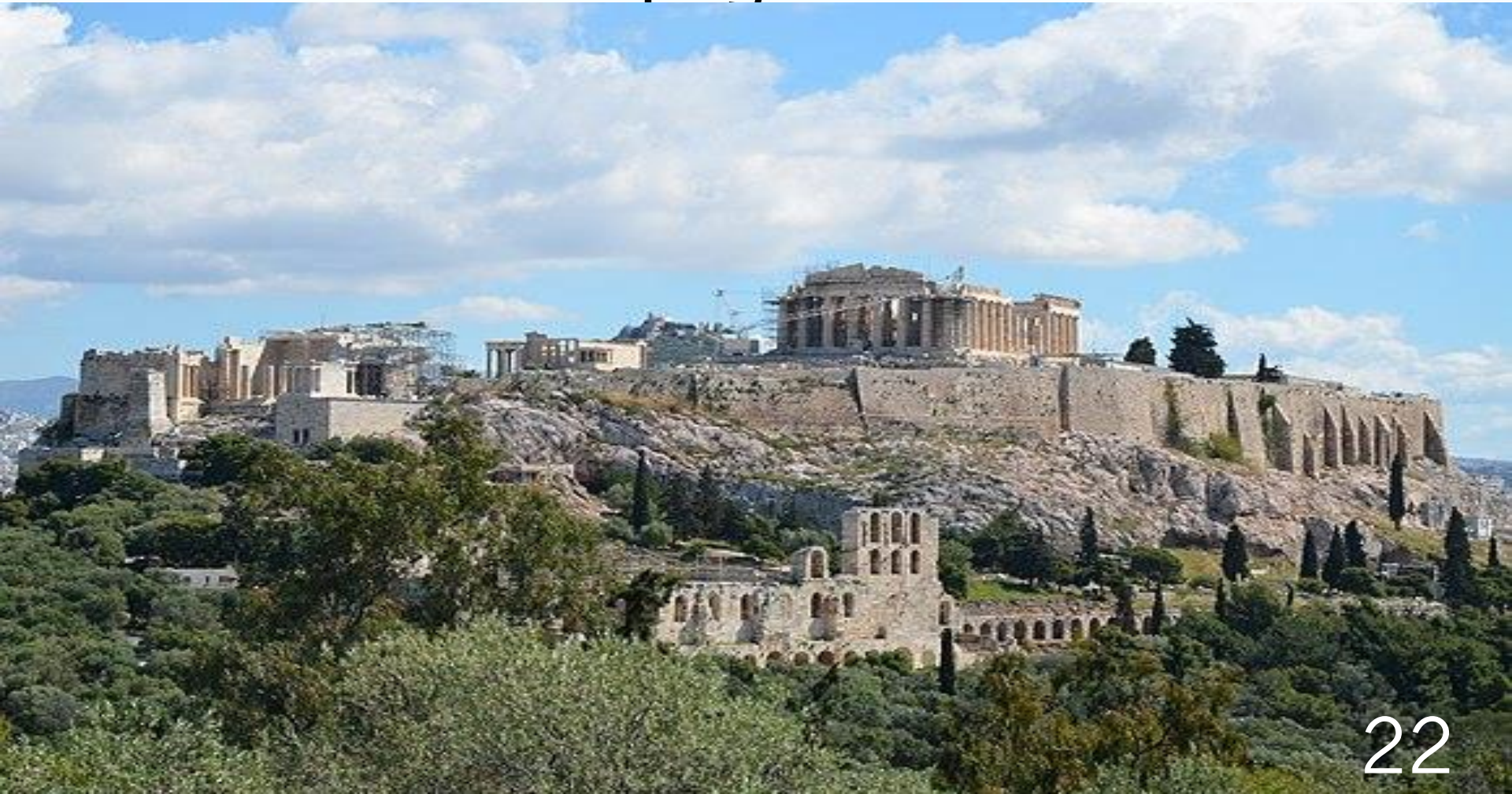
Berea

Corinth

Athens



# The Areopagus in Athens





6. What provoked Paul's Spirit in Athens and how did he react?

## Acts 17: 16-17

16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was observing the city full of idols.

17 So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present.



7. What did some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers say concerning Paul?

## **Acts 17: 18-21**

18 And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. Some were saying, “What would this idle babbler wish to say?” Others, “He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming?”

20 “For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean.”

21 (Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.)

8. How did Paul address the “Men of Athens” at the Areopagus?

## Acts 17: 22-23

22 So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects.

23 “For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.

# 9. Detail the sermon on Mars Hill.

## Acts 17: 24-31

- 24** “The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;
- 25** nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things;
- 26** and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,
- 27** that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;
- 28** for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His children.’

## 9. Detail the sermon on Mars Hill.

**Acts 17: 25-31 cont.**

**29** “Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.

**30** “Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent,

**31** because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

## 9. Detail the sermon on Mars Hill.

- A. God is the Creator (Acts 17: 24).
- B. God is the Sustainer of life (Acts 17: 25).
- C. God is the Ruler of the nations (Acts 17: 26).
- D. God is knowable (Acts 17: 27).
- E. God is the Father of humanity (Acts 17: 28–29).
- F. God is both Judge and Rescuer (Acts 17: 30–31).



10. How did Paul's audience respond to his sermon on Mars Hill?

## Acts 17: 32-34

32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, "We shall hear you again concerning this."

33 So Paul went out of 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.

11. Could you put yourself in Paul's shoes and elaborate on your response?

Paul's example teaches me to be ready to defend and to be prepared to proclaim the Gospel to those who need of salvation.

## **1 Peter 3: 15**

**15** but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

What can we learn from Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey up to this point?

1. We see that God can bring good results even out of a "sharp disagreement" (Acts 15: 39); Barnabas and Paul split up and went different directions, meaning the gospel was shared in new places.
2. Paul chose to have Timothy circumcised in Lystra even though circumcision is not a requirement for salvation.
  - 2a. Through that act, Paul exemplifies to us the importance of showing consideration to the community with whom we are trying to share the gospel.

What can we learn from Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey up to this point?

3. Paul, Silas, and Timothy finally listened to the Holy Spirit and only went where He allowed, setting an example for us to be dependent on God's direction in our lives.

4. Lydia played a vital role in growing the church in the cities in which she lived, showing that God values women and desires to have them help in growing His kingdom.

**What can we learn from Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey up to this point?**

5. The jailer and his household heard the Gospel message and believed.

6. Paul proclaimed the Gospel in the cities he visited. There were Jews who did not want to hear the message and wanted to discredit Paul.

7. Even when Paul was alone in Athens, he boldly preached the Gospel to the Athenians.