

## 17. Athens and beyond... (Acts 17:16 to 18:4)





Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as **Athens**, and after receiving a command for **Silas** and **Timothy** to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

(Acts 17:15)



# The Acropolis in Athens

## The Parthenon

### The Propylaea

### The Erechtheion





## ATHENS

### Pliny the Elder (23-79 AD)

*The city of Athens surpasses all others in **beauty and grandeur**.*

*The Acropolis ... **leaves one in awe** of the creative genius of its builders.*

### Strabo (64 BC-24 AD)

*Athens, the cradle of civilization, is a sight to behold.*

*Its streets are lined with magnificent buildings, each a work of art in itself.*

*The Parthenon, with its intricate marble sculptures and flawless proportions....*

### Plutarch (46-120 AD)

*Athens is a living museum of art.*

*...where **beauty and history** intertwine in perfect harmony.*



## Pliny the Younger (61-113 AD)

*"I had heard much of the beauty of Athens, but when I saw it with my own eyes, I found it far surpassed my expectations. The temples, statues, and public buildings, all display a taste and splendor beyond imagination."*

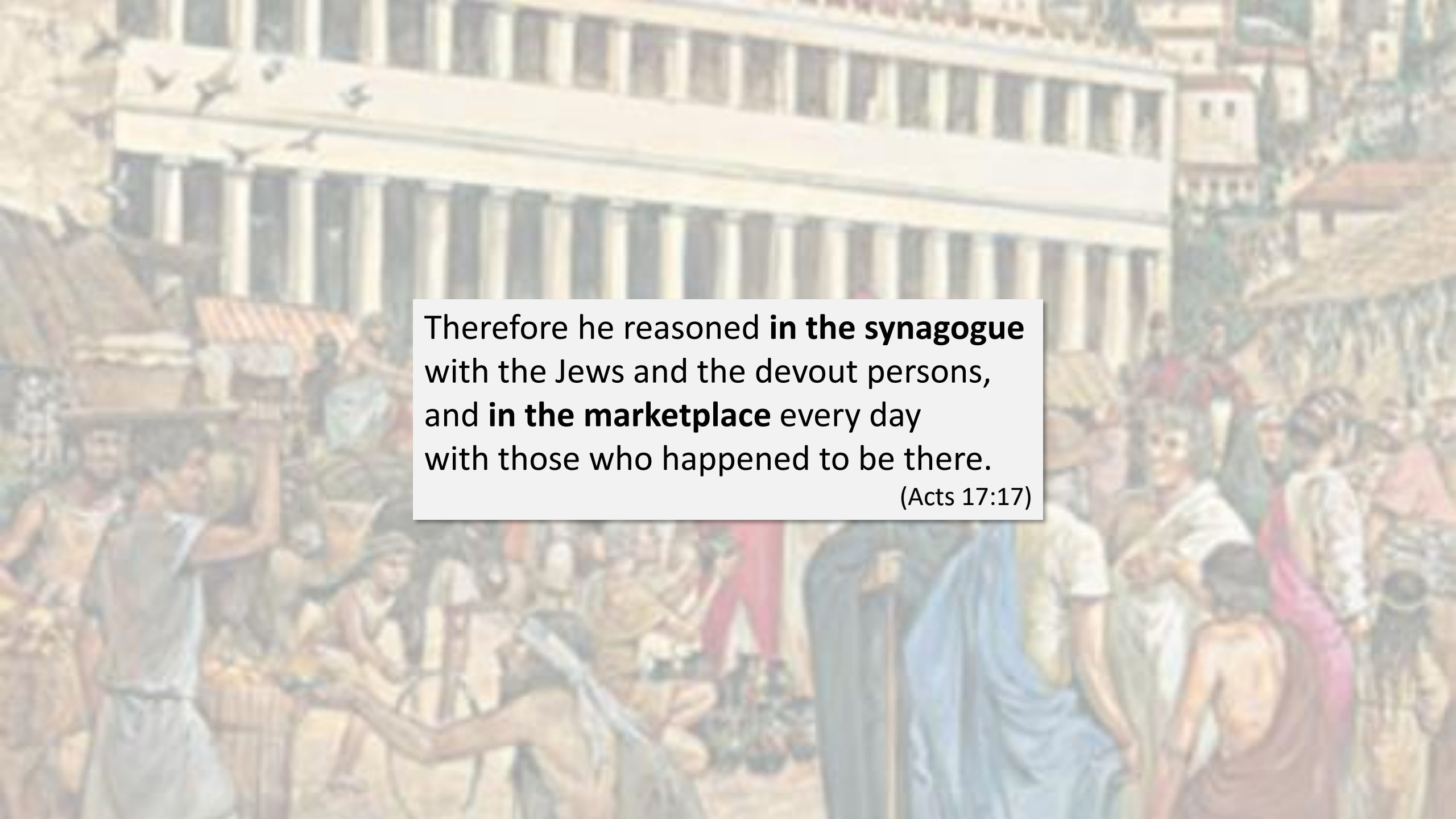


## Paul the Apostle

Silas and Timothy

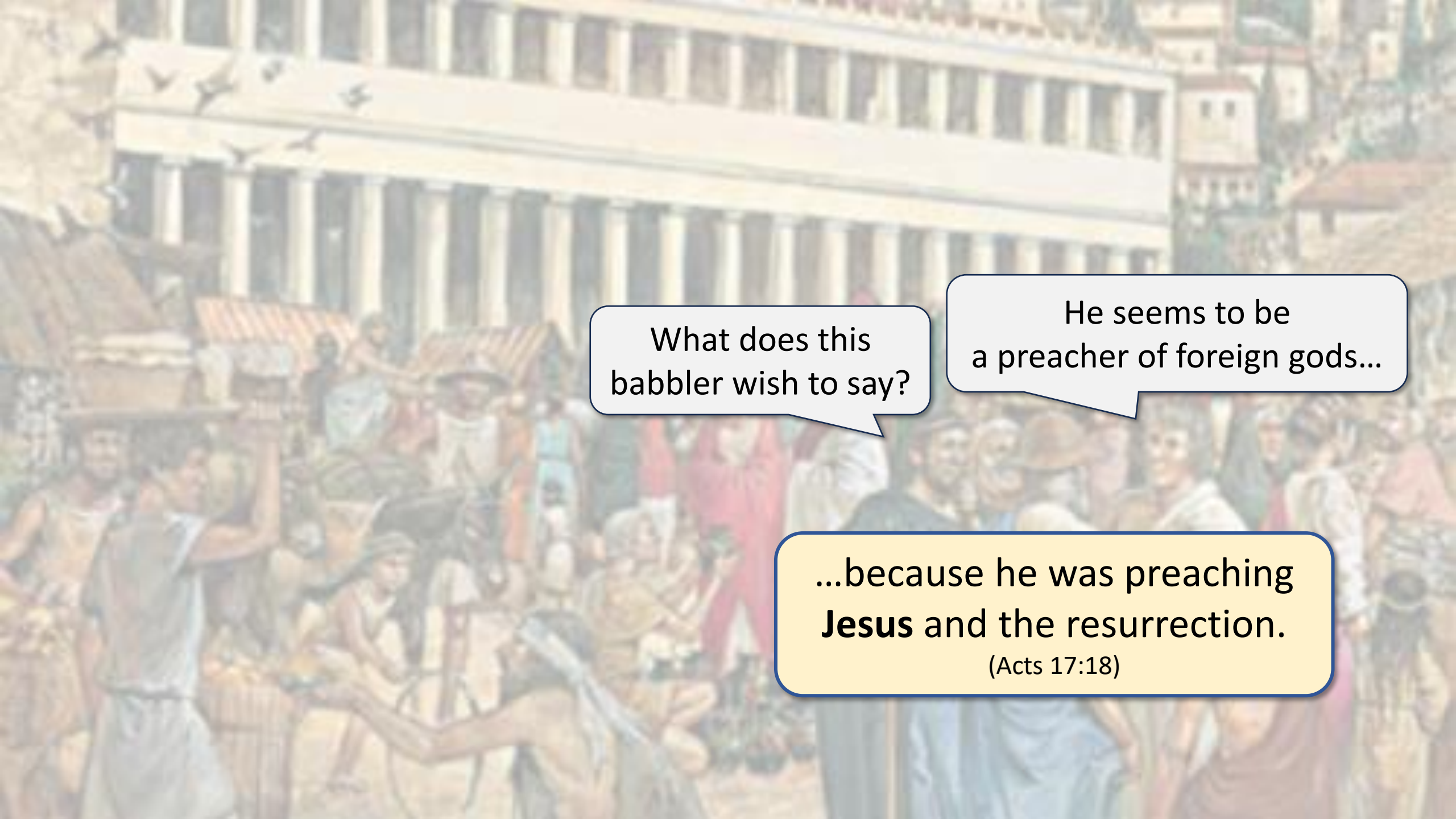
Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, **his spirit was provoked within him** as he saw that **the city was full of idols.**

(Acts 17:16)



Therefore he reasoned **in the synagogue**  
with the Jews and the devout persons,  
and **in the marketplace** every day  
with those who happened to be there.

(Acts 17:17)



What does this  
babbler wish to say?

He seems to be  
a preacher of foreign gods...

...because he was preaching  
**Jesus** and the resurrection.

(Acts 17:18)



The Epicurean and  
Stoic philosophers



And they took him and brought him to **the Areopagus...**  
(Acts 17:19)







They took him and brought him to **the Areopagus...**



*May we know what **this new teaching** is that you are presenting?  
For you bring some strange things to our ears.  
We wish to know therefore what these things mean.*

The Epicurean and  
Stoic philosophers

Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there  
would spend their time in nothing  
except telling or hearing something new.

(See Acts 17:19-21)

# Paul speaks to the philosophers of Athens



- He first found common ground.
- He then declared God to be:
  - The **creator** of the world
  - The **sustainer** of the world
  - The **judge** of the world
- He then told of Jesus, the Lord and Saviour



*Men of Athens,  
I perceive that in every way you are very religious.  
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.*

*(Acts 17:22-23)*



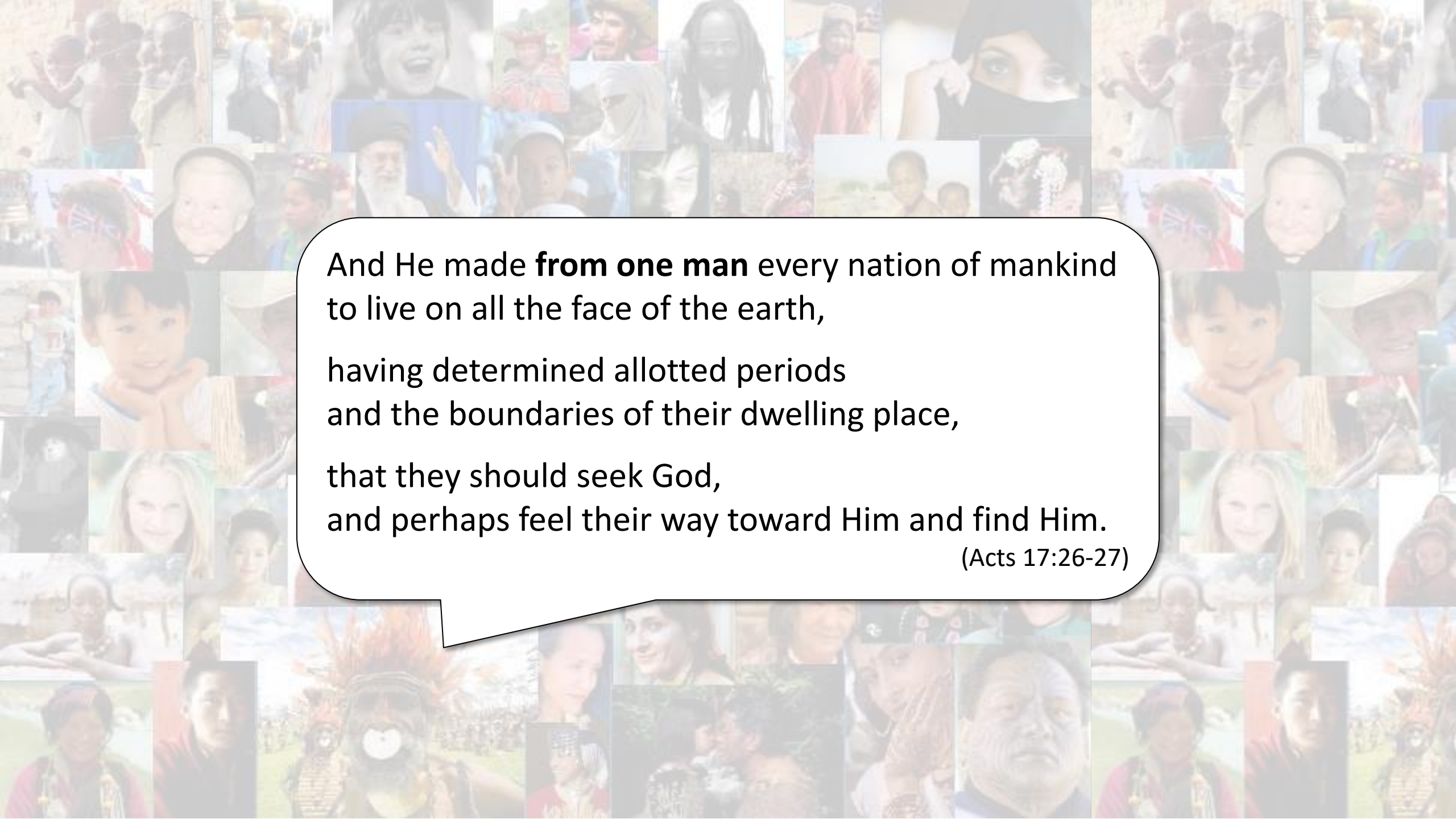
An altar dedicated to the Unknown God found in 1820 on the Palatine Hill of Rome.

***God, who made the world and everything in it,  
since He is Lord of heaven and earth,  
does not dwell in temples made with hands.***

***Nor is He worshiped with men's hands,  
as though He needed anything,  
since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.***

(Acts 17:24-25)

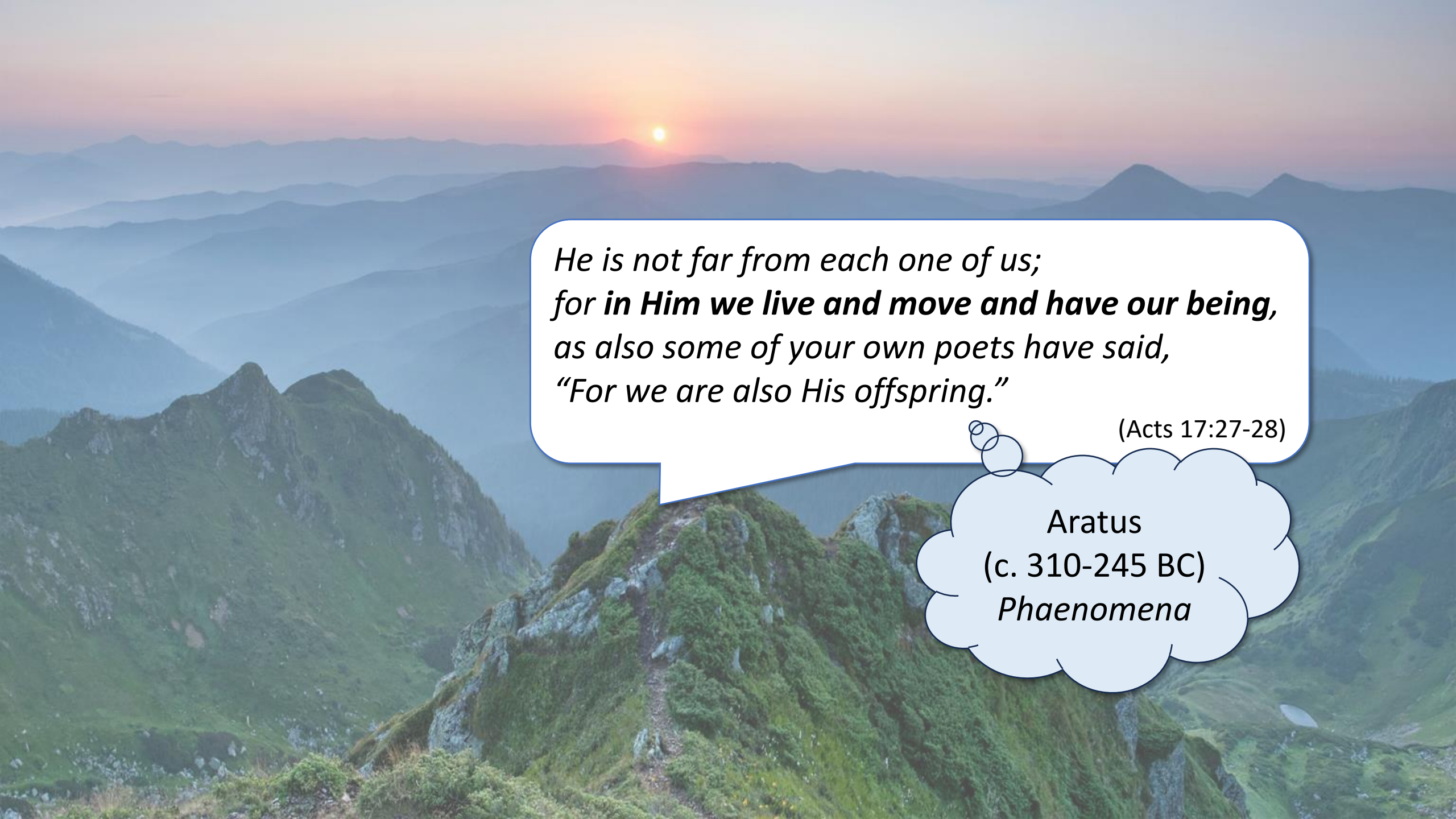




And He made **from one man** every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him.

(Acts 17:26-27)





*He is not far from each one of us;  
for **in Him we live and move and have our being**,  
as also some of your own poets have said,  
“For we are also His offspring.”*

(Acts 17:27-28)

Aratus  
(c. 310-245 BC)  
*Phaenomena*

The city was  
full of idols...

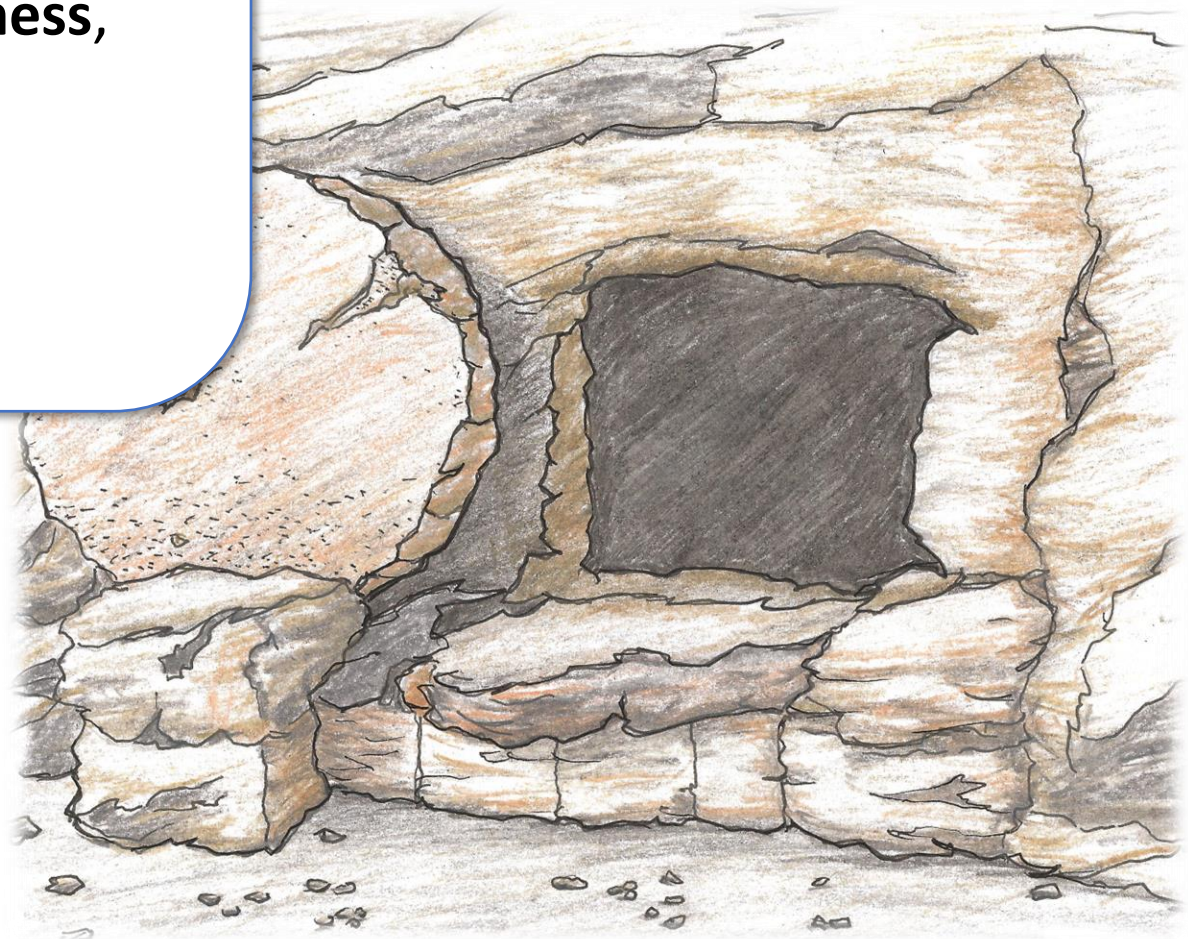
So since we are God's offspring,  
we should not think the deity is like gold or silver or stone,  
an image made by human skill and imagination.

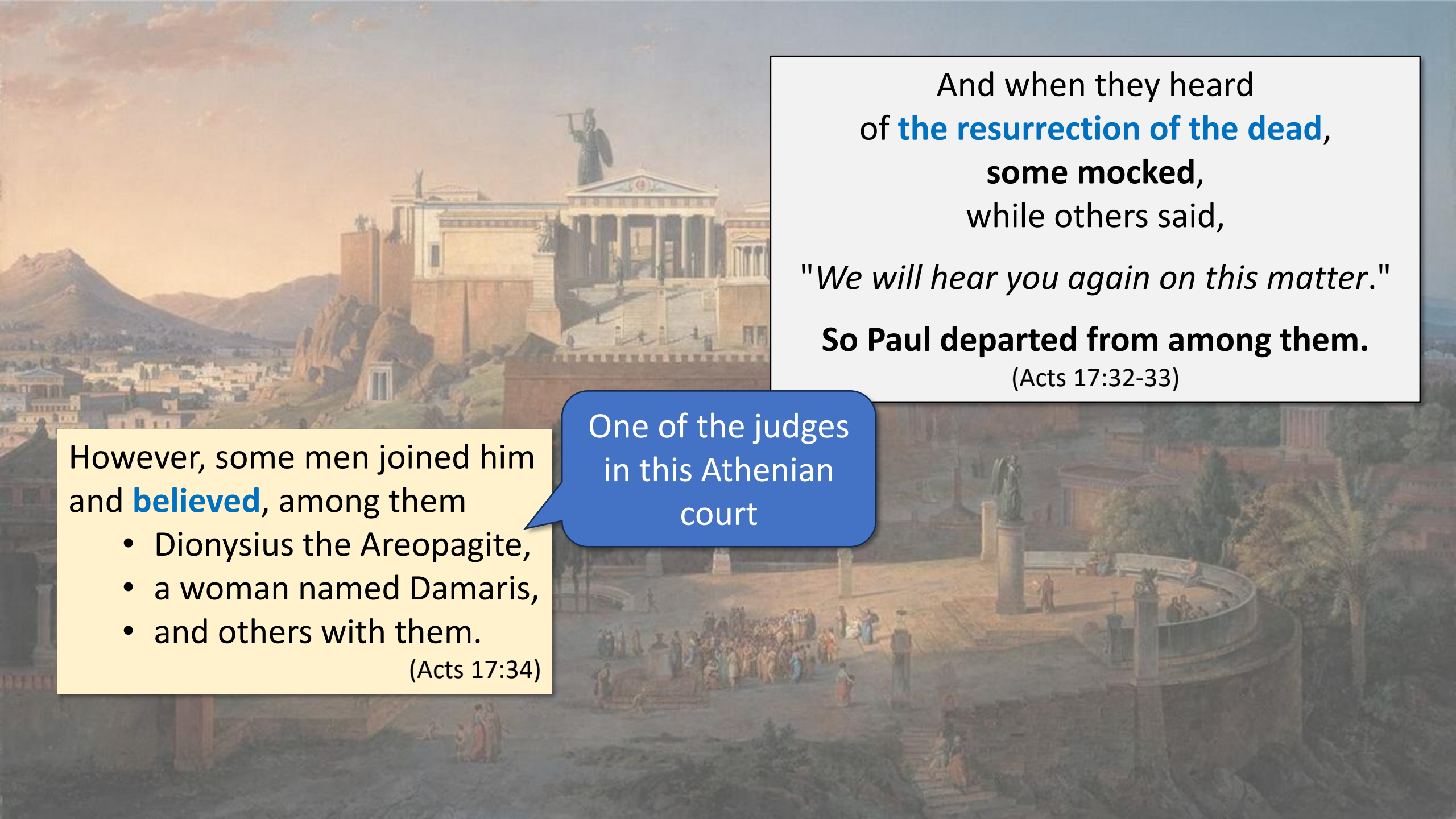
(Acts 17:29)



Therefore,  
although God has overlooked such times of ignorance,  
**He now commands all people everywhere to repent,**  
because He has set a day on which  
**He is going to judge the world in righteousness,**  
by a Man whom He designated,  
having provided proof to everyone  
**by raising Him from the dead.**

(Acts 17:30-31)





And when they heard  
of **the resurrection of the dead**,  
**some mocked**,  
while others said,  
*"We will hear you again on this matter."*  
**So Paul departed from among them.**  
(Acts 17:32-33)

However, some men joined him  
and **believed**, among them

- Dionysius the Areopagite,
- a woman named Damaris,
- and others with them.

(Acts 17:34)

One of the judges  
in this Athenian  
court

After these things Paul departed from **Athens** and went to **Corinth**.

And he found a certain Jew named **Aquila**, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife **Priscilla** (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them.

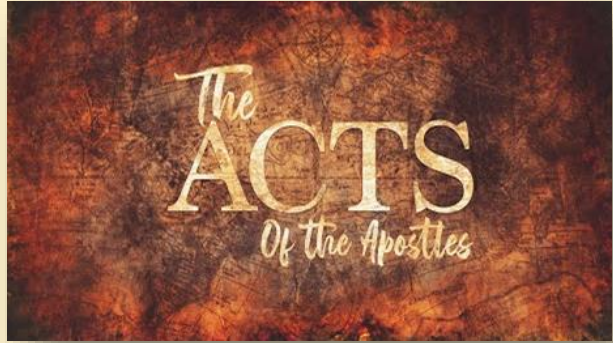
Claudius issued an edict expelling the Jews from Rome in 49 AD. They were allowed to return to Rome after his death in 54 AD.

So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were **tentmakers**.

And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, seeking to persuade both Jews and Greeks.

(Acts 18:1-4)





**Next: The second journey: Corinth and back...**