

## Acts 17

King James Version (KJV)

**17** Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: (Paul's epistles to the Thessalonians were written to these people in later days)

<sup>2</sup>And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, (He taught scripture; not made up "sermons" about what happened with Lydia or what a great "prophet" he is. That's pretty much all the teachings you'll get from modern day preachers. Paul was a true disciple of Jesus and stayed loyal to God's Word)

(If you go to church every Sunday to hear a sermon, God sees no value in this. We were told to learn His Word chapter by chapter, verse by verse, and to do it)

<sup>3</sup>Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ. (To defeat death– the devil; Satan will die for his part in the murdering of Jesus Christ. He is called death in the Old Testament)

<sup>4</sup>And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few. (Many people believed the teaching and became Christians. People instinctively know it when they hear the truth)

<sup>5</sup>But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. (The scriptures, that Paul is teaching, are drawing people away from these false preachers. They formed a mob to lynch them. This is typical Kenite behavior – intimidation first and then murder if necessary)

<sup>6</sup>And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, these that have turned the world upside down are come hither also; (They were intimidating people to turn in Paul and Silas; some religious community. Jesus said – you will know them by their actions)

<sup>7</sup> Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus. (Paul never said Jesus was king of this world; in fact, Jesus taught – render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's)

(Christians were no threat to the Romans. The Romans saw Christianity as a silly superstition. They were a threat to these Kenites <masquerading as priests> who were running the synagogue and getting rich off of the peoples' tithes and donations. These men were not descendants of Aaron and rightful priests. The church had been corrupted centuries before Jesus came)

<sup>8</sup> And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things. (They didn't want trouble from the Romans)

<sup>9</sup> And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go. (They let them get out on bail. The Romans thought Christianity and Judaism were just superstition)

<sup>10</sup> And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. (Paul never hid from those corrupt priests. He taught in the synagogue boldly)

<sup>11</sup> These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. (They were checking Paul out, in the scriptures to be sure that he was teaching the truth; as we should with any preacher)

<sup>12</sup> Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few. (Many people became Christians)

<sup>13</sup> But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people. (The Jews were Paul's biggest antagonists; not the Romans. They wanted the Word of God stopped so they could continue making money)

<sup>14</sup> And then immediately the brethren sent away Paul to go as it were to the sea: but Silas and Timotheus abode there still. (They must have been after Paul, so Silas and Timothy remained there to continue teaching the people)

<sup>15</sup> And they that conducted Paul brought him unto Athens: and receiving a commandment unto Silas and Timotheus for to come to him with all speed, they departed. (Paul wanted their help to convert people in Athens to Christianity. Athens was ripe with heathenism, atheism and witchcraft)

<sup>16</sup> Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. (Teaching the Word of God was sorely needed here in Athens. Yet they were some of the best educated people in the world. Even today, so-called intellectuals make the best atheists. Their ego gets the best of them)

<sup>17</sup> Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him. (disputed= reasoned- better translation) (Paul debated with them to get them to see a new point of view. He didn't force anyone to convert)

<sup>18</sup> Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection. (Philosophers have always been the "preachers" of atheism and debate; today they are usually "higher critics" who will tell you that the Bible is not true, but rather just stories to set an example for us)

(babbler = picker – like a bird that picks when it eats. They claimed that Paul was picking and choosing here and there to establish some new doctrine. Paul was teaching right from the Bible and from the teachings of Jesus)

(Epicureans believed – live for today, there is no life after death; Stoics ran with the old Jewish teachings before Jesus fulfilled the blood ordinances. They practiced traditions of men that had been added to the organized religion over the centuries. They didn't believe that Jesus was God with us, and that with repentance, sins are forgiven)

<sup>19</sup> And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is? (Areopagus- Mars hill) (This was a place to debate philosophies and religions. They yapped all day long with each other, but never resolved anything)

<sup>20</sup> For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean.

<sup>21</sup> (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)  
(They did nothing but debate every new religion that appeared on the scene. Never going anywhere or amounting to anything)

<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.  
(Christianity is not a religion; it is a reality. Christ lived, died resurrected and did many miracles. The disciples saw it all first hand as did many people that were there)

<sup>23</sup> For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. (They even had an "unknown God" to cover all their bases. These were the beginning of – all religions are worthy. This will be antichrist's message when he appears on Earth)

<sup>24</sup> God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;  
(To the heathen or the atheists, Yahoveh could be the "unknown God")

<sup>25</sup> Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; (God doesn't need anything from us. All He wants is our love as He loves us)

<sup>26</sup> And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; (blood – was added – should be "dust"; It is NOT in any of the manuscripts. Of one, in the Greek, means dust or clay or earth – All peoples in the flesh, are made of the earth, as is our food. The races are different from each other, but we are all of the same organic material – DNA, etc... The people that try to destroy individuality are the racists. We all have our own blood lines that are our heritage)

(God set bounds for all the races to live on their own land with their people. The politically correct would call this racist and against multiculturalism. The truth isn't racist. All people deserve to live freely, in their own cultures and traditions, with God's blessings. God loves all races and peoples equally – See Genesis)

<sup>27</sup> That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: (God is close to us, but He expects us to invite Him in and to live righteously in His grace. If we seek Him, He will answer)

<sup>28</sup> For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. (offspring = genos<Greek> - we are of the same kind)

<sup>29</sup> Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. (offspring = genos<Greek> - we are of the same kind) (If you've seen Jesus, you've seen the Father) (God is not some rock, stick or other idol)

<sup>30</sup> And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: (God overlooked ignorance in the past, but after the resurrection of Jesus, HE calls all to believe and repent. It is time for heathenism and atheism to end)

<sup>31</sup> Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. (Jesus Christ- Emanuel- God with us. This should be proof to anyone that Jesus is God with us)

<sup>32</sup> And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter. (The truth is absolute, not relative. It always causes division between those that believe and those that don't)

<sup>33</sup> So Paul departed from among them. (God doesn't force people to become Christians. It is up to the individual)

(By contrast – the muslims force people to join every day – join us or die. Islam is the religion of the devil. Jesus said – you will know them by their actions, not by their words)

<sup>34</sup> Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them. (Some of them had their spiritual eyes open)