


REACHING A CULTURE
THAT HAS
ABANDONED SCRIPTURE



Acts 17:16-34

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CULTURE ABANDONS SCRIPTURE?

- **Loses its Biblical Worldview**
- **Loses its Moral Foundation**
- **Has no Basis for Right or Wrong**
- **Invites God's Judgment**



Athens
Acropolis

IDOLATRY at ATHENS

1. Introduction -	Context
2nd Missionary Journey	15:36-18:22
1) Providence in Ministry	15:36-16:10



**Lystra -
Ministry of
Discipleship**

Act 15:36, 16:1, 4-5

Troas **(16:6-10)**

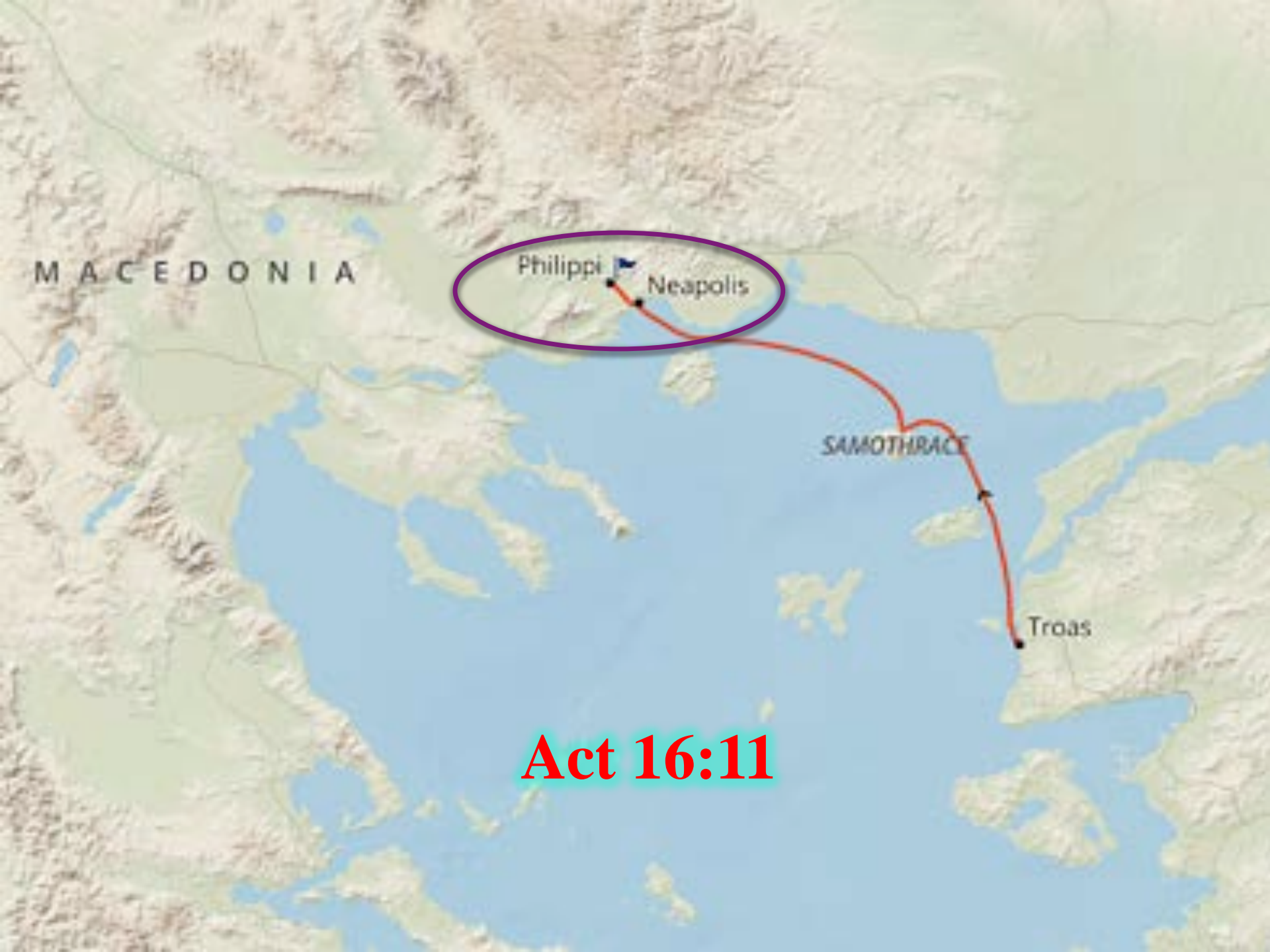
**Ministry in
Power of HS**





IDOLATRY at ATHENS

1. Introduction -	Context
2nd Missionary Journey	15:36-18:22
1) Providence in Ministry	15:36-16:10
2) Macedonian Ministry	16:11-17:16
a) Conversions at Philippi	16:11-40



MACEDONIA

Philippi

Neapolis

SAMOTHRACE

Troas

Act 16:11

**Neapolis
(16:11)**





Philippi (16:12-14) Forum

Ministry to
Jewish women



Forum North End





**Ministry to
Gentile majority**

(Act 16:23-24)

Philippi Theater

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1) Providence in Ministry	15:36-16:10
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a) Conversions at Philippi	16:11-40
b) Controversy at Thessalonica	17:1-9
c) Contemplation at Berea	17:10-15



MACEDONIA

Philippi

Amphipolis

Thessalonica Apollonia

Berea

Mount Olympus

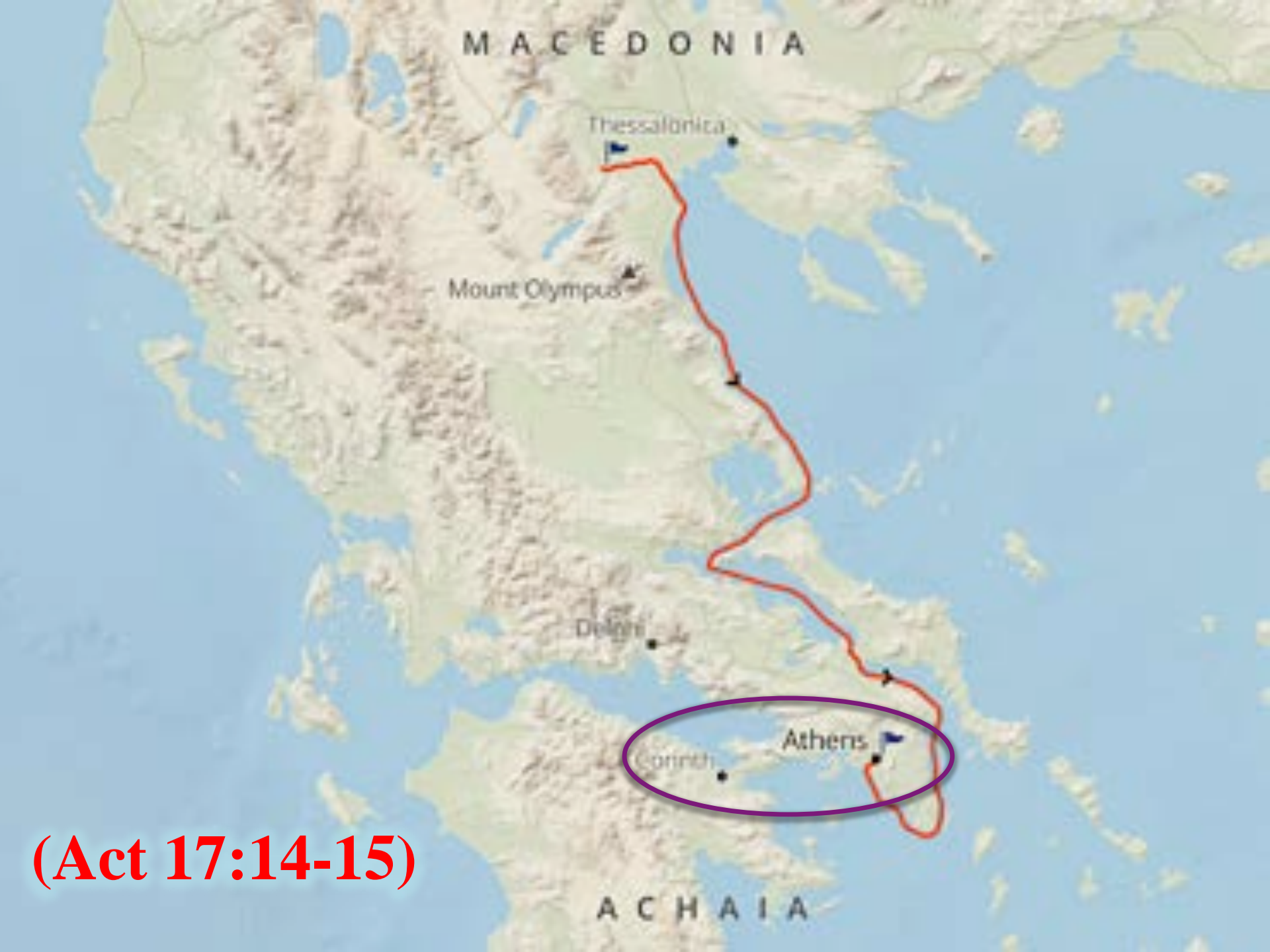
(Act 17:1, 10)



**Ministry to
Jews in Synagogue**

**Thessalonica (17:1-3)
Forum with Arches**





M A C E D O N I A

Thessalonica

Mount Olympus

Delphi

Corinth

Athens

A C H A I A

(Act 17:14-15)

IDOLATRY at ATHENS

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1) Providence in Ministry	15:36-16:10
2) Macedonian Ministry	16:11-17:16
a) Conversions at Philippi	16:11-40
b) Controversy at Thessalonica	17:1-9
c) Contemplation at Berea	17:10-15
3) Achaian Ministry	17:16-18:17

IDOLATRY at ATHENS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Introduction - | Context |
| 2. Inquiries of Intellectuals | 17:16-21 |
| a. Initiative of Paul | 17:16-17 |

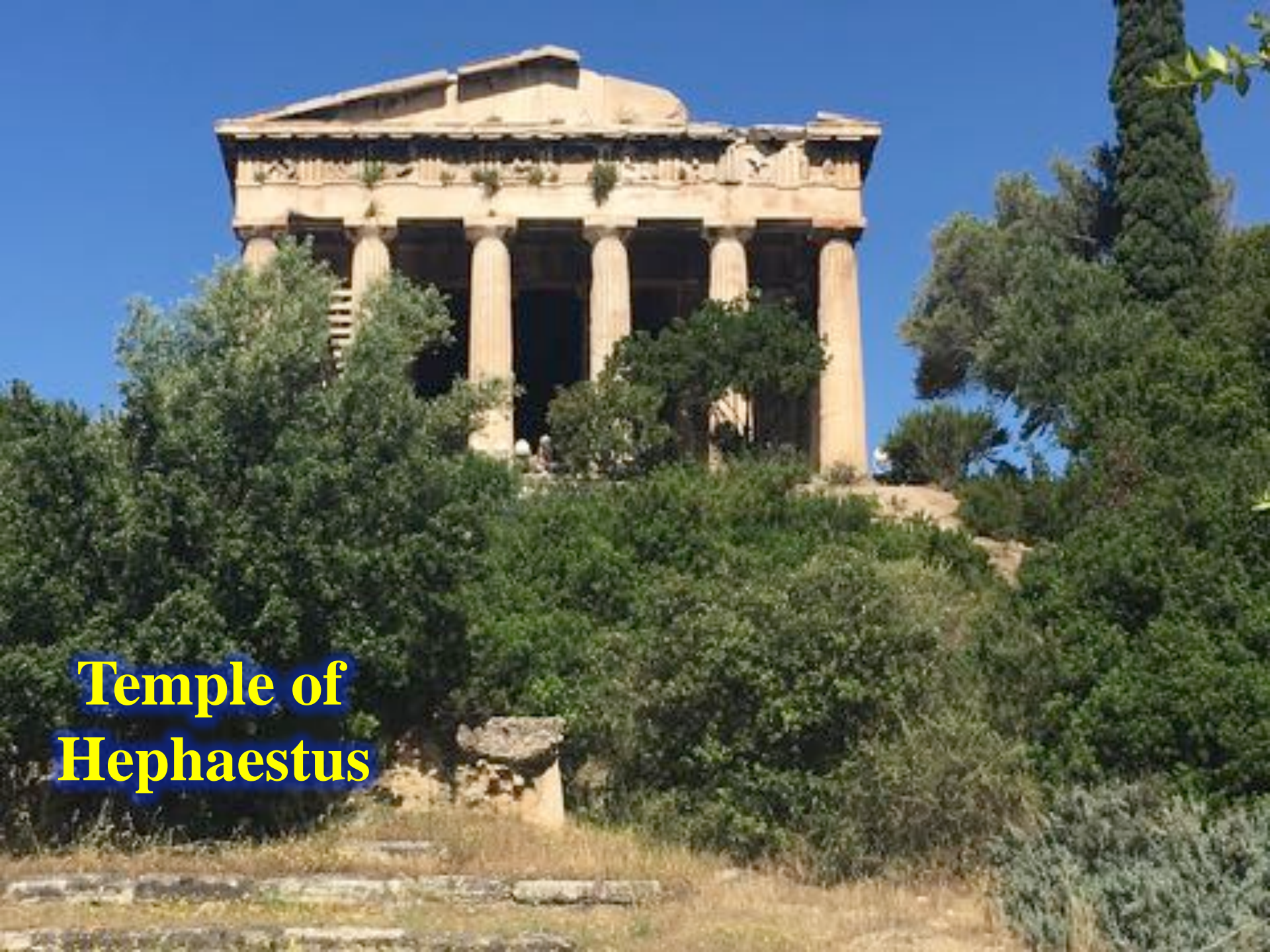
17:16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was observing the city full of idols.

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**παροξυνω - urge on, stimulate
or become irritated, angry**

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**Temple of
Hephaestus**



Temple of Zeus



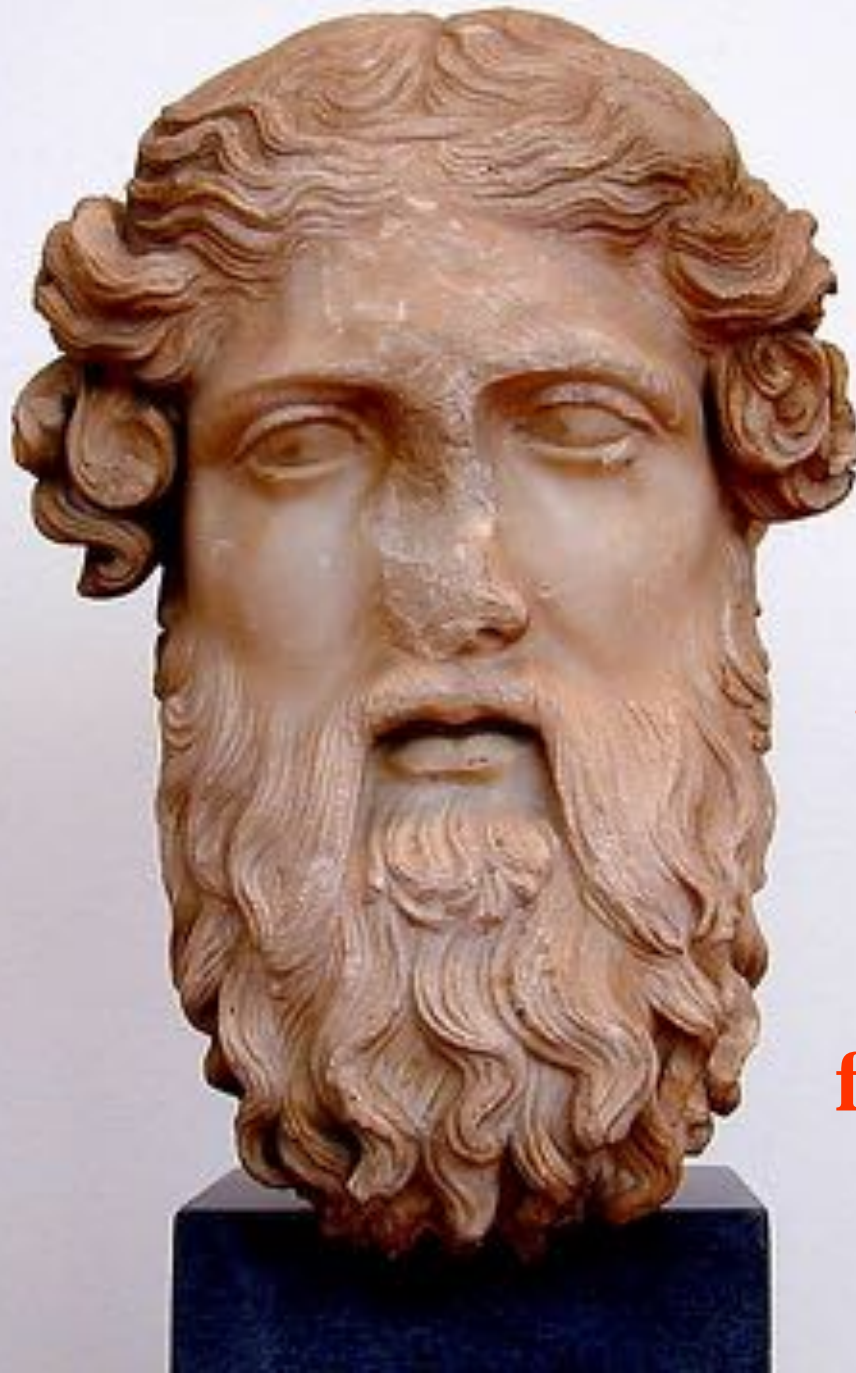
Zeus
2nd c BC





Theater of Dionysius





Dionysius
god of wine,
vegetation,
pleasure &
festivity
from Piraeus
1st c AD

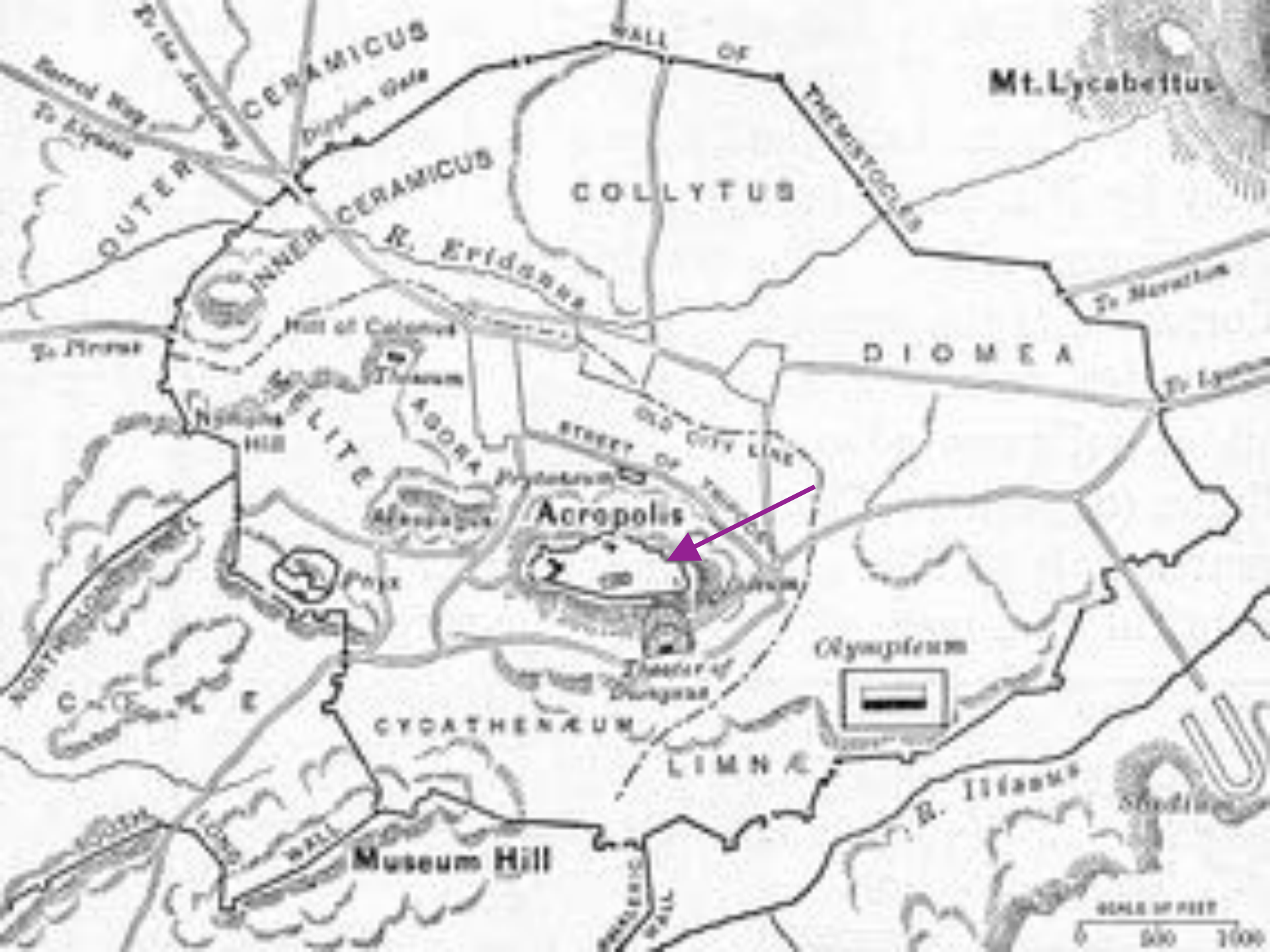


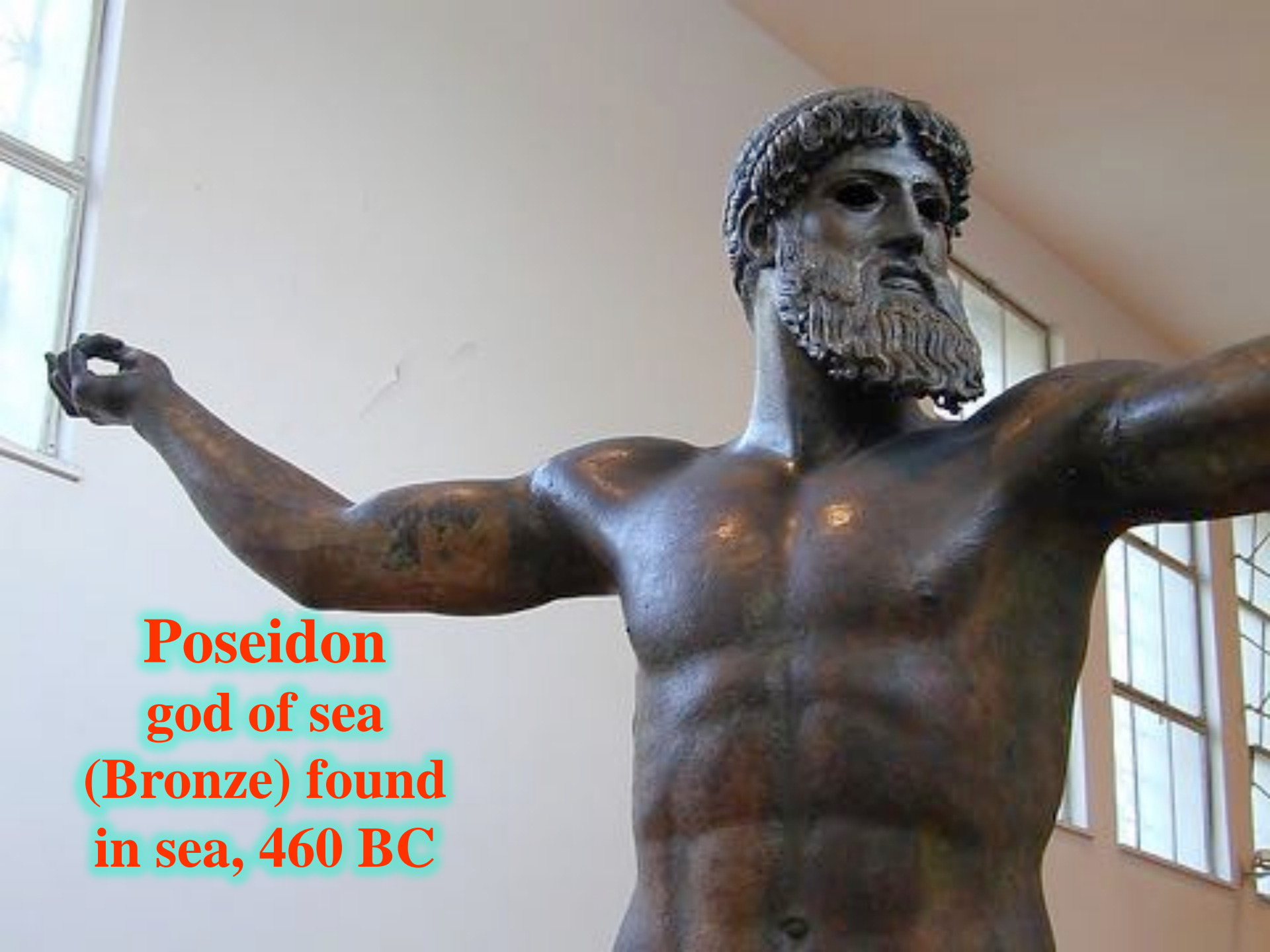
Athens Parthenon



**Athena of
the Dynx**
2nd c AD copy







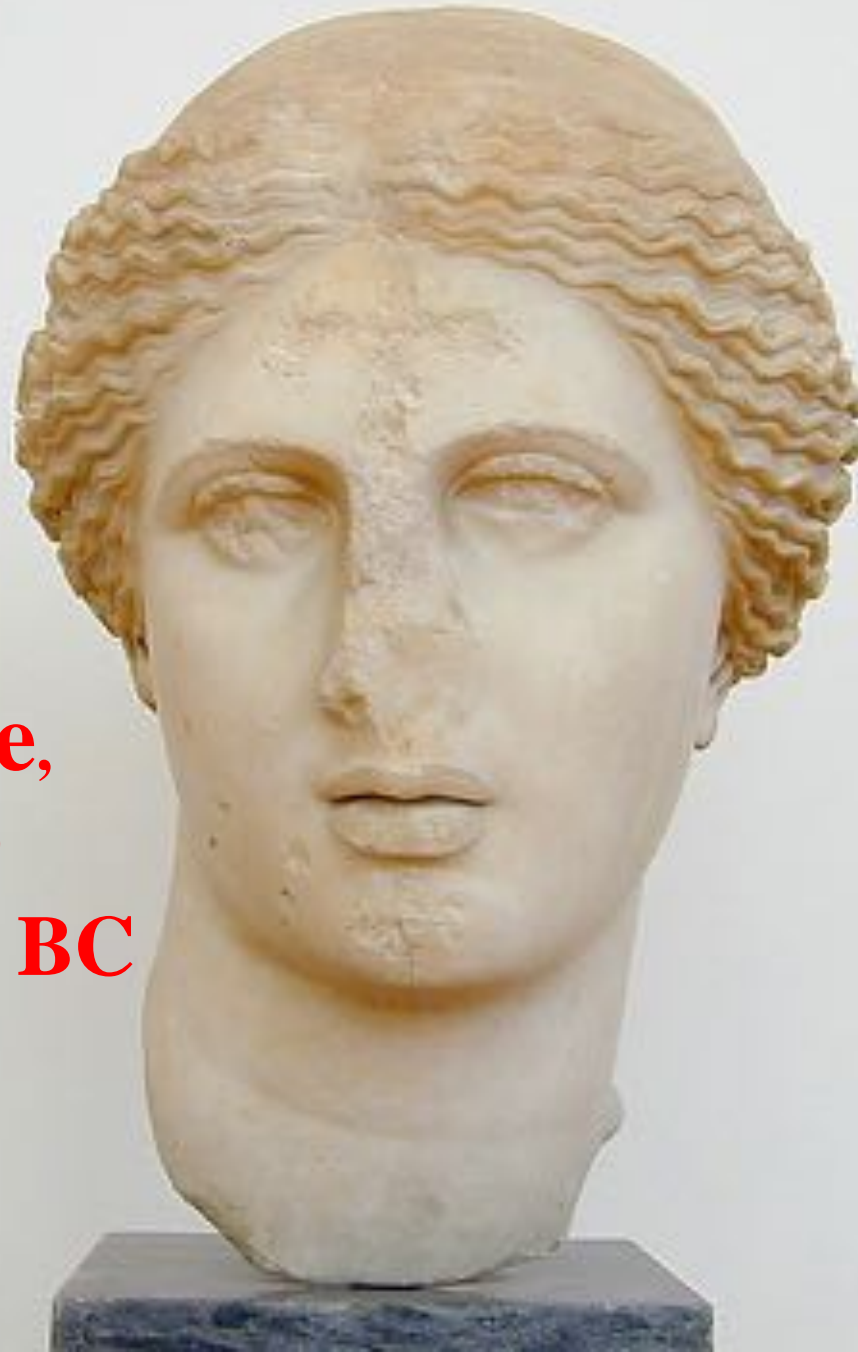
Poseidon
god of sea
(Bronze) found
in sea, 460 BC

Erechtheion Temple





**Aphrodite,
2nd c AD
copy of 4th c BC**





Artemis of Delos
2nd c BC copy of 4th
c original

**“In Athens it is easier to find a god
than a man”**

Petronius



Athens Temple of Zeus

PRINCIPLES

1. Be Spiritually Prepared



17:17 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.

διαλεγομαι -

discuss, reason

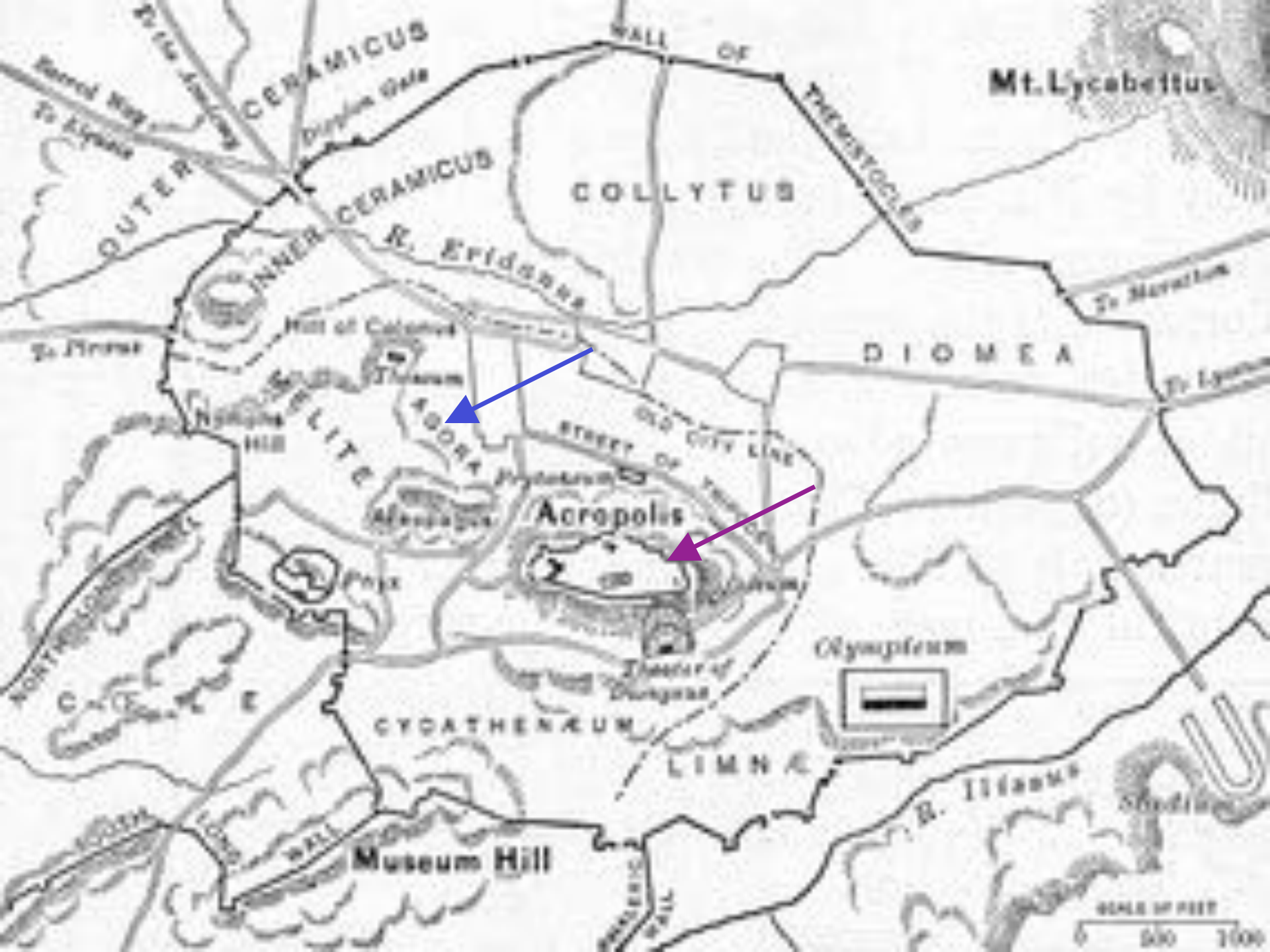
17:2, 18:4, 8-9, 19



**Athens Agora
entrance**

**17:17 So he was reasoning in the
synagogue with the Jews and the
God-fearing Gentiles, and in the
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Mt. Lycabettus

CERAMICUS
Diphys Gate

COLLYTUS

DIOMEA

Acropolis

Glycysfeum

Museum Hill

SCALE IN FEET
0 500 1000



Agora





**Stoa of Attalos
reconstructed**



**Temple of
Hephaestus**

Agora



Agora

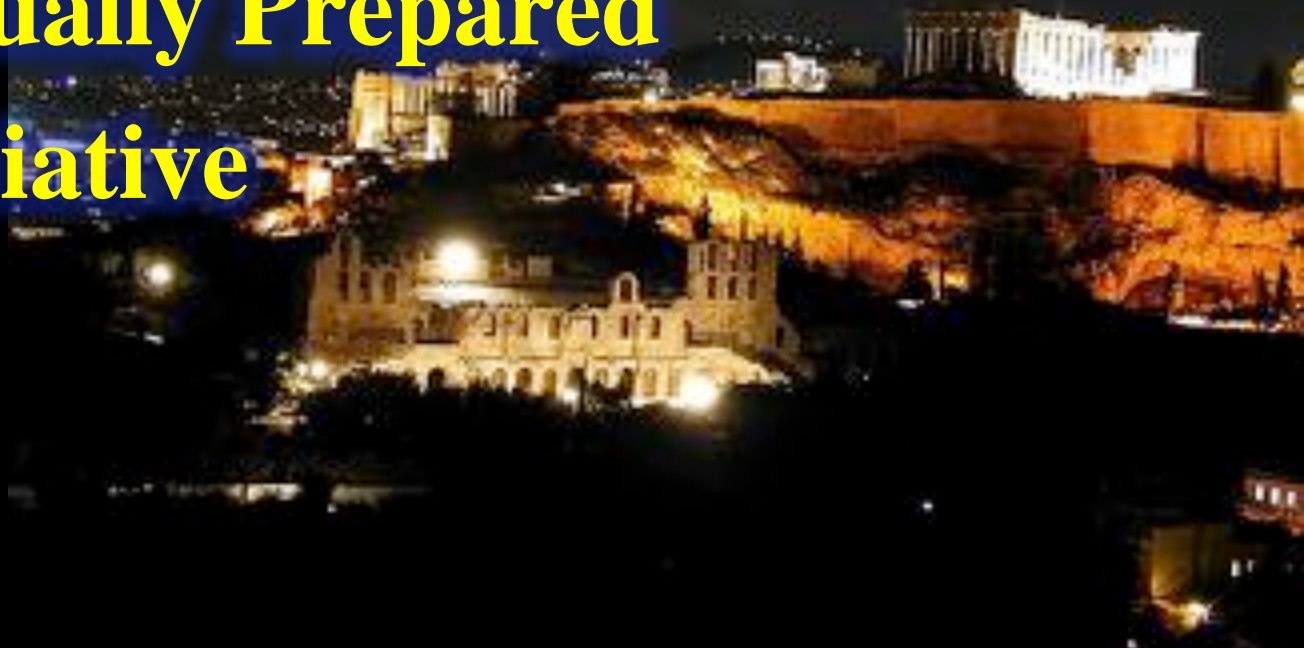




**17:17 So he was reasoning in the
synagogue with the Jews and the
God-fearing Gentiles, and in the
market place every day with
those who happened to be
present.**

PRINCIPLES

1. Be Spiritually Prepared
2. Take Initiative



IDOLATRY at ATHENS

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Introduction - | Context |
| 2. Inquiries of Intellectuals | 17:16-21 |
| a. Initiative of Paul | 17:16-17 |
| b. Interest of Philosophers | 17:18-21 |

17:18 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.



Epicurus
(341–270 BC
followed Aristotle)

**believed that
philosophy
could liberate
one from fears
of death & the
supernatural**

PHILOSOPHERS

1st Century

Epicureans **Materialism**

Hedonism

(Happiness)

Stoics

Self-sufficient

Pantheism

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