

REACHING A CULTURE
THAT HAS
ABANDONED SCRIPTURE



Acts 17:16-34

IDOLATRY at ATHENS

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

PRINCIPLES

1. Be Spiritually Prepared
2. Take Initiative



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| 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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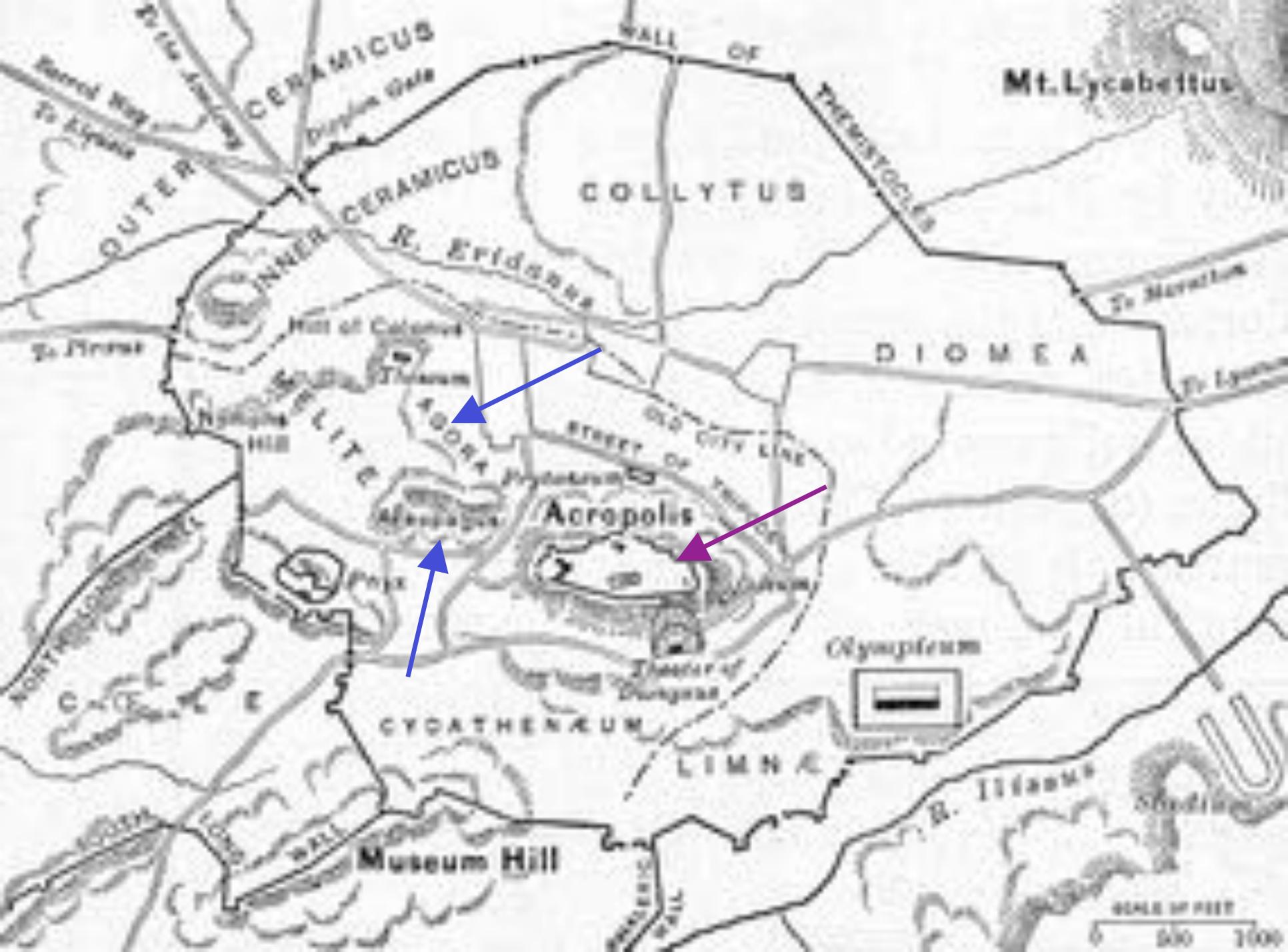
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Parthenon

ησους &
αναστασις

17:19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming?”







**Areopagus
from Acropolis**

Agora



17:19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming?”

17:20 “For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean.”

17:21 (Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.)

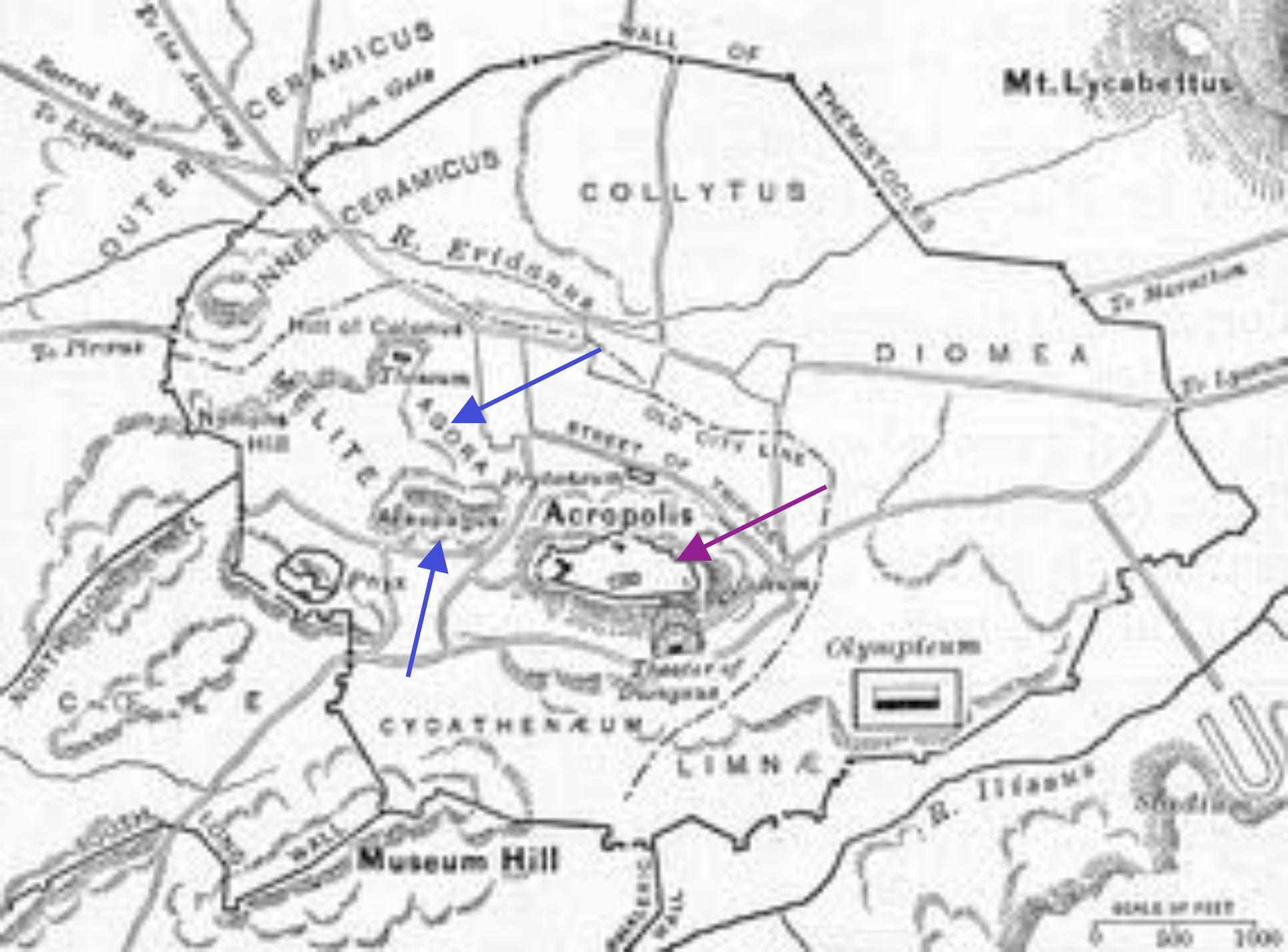
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| 3. Illumination of Paul | 17:22-31 |
| a. Ideology | 17:22-23 |

17:22 So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects.



**Areopagus
from Acropolis**



Mt. Lycabettus

CERAMICUS
Diphys Gate

COLLYTUS

DIOMEA

CYATHENAEUM

LIMNAE

Acropolis

Olympium

Museum Hill

SCALE IN FEET
0 500 1000

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17:23 “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.

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WORLDVIEWS

How you view the world around you and How you live life as a result.

Your Worldview determines how you live.

WORLDVIEWS



“... a conceptual system by which we consciously or unconsciously place or fit everything we believe & by which we interpret & judge reality.”

RH Nash

WORLDVIEW ELEMENTS

- **God - Theology**
- **Ultimate Reality - Metaphysics**
- **Knowledge - Epistemology**
- **Ethics - Morality**
- **Humankind - Anthropology**
- **Destiny - Eschatology**

WORLDVIEWS

Unbeliever

polytheistic

God

material realm

Ultimate Reality

reason

Knowledge

relativism

Ethics

good

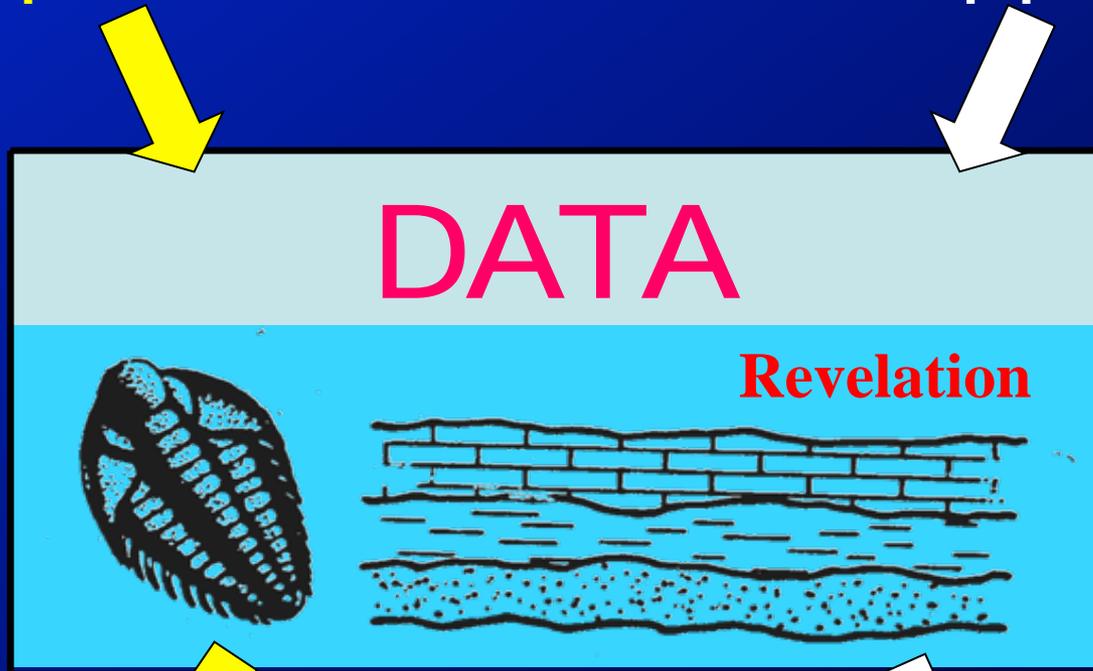
Humankind

varies

Destiny

Presupposition A

Presupposition B



Interpretation A

Interpretation B

PHILOSOPHERS

1st Century

21st Century

Epicureans

Materialism

Naturalism

Hedonism

Entertainment

(Happiness)

(Sensualism)

Stoics

Self-sufficient

Humanism

Pantheism

New Age

DEFICIENCY

- 1. Faulty understanding of meaning
of Existence - polytheistic**
- 2. Limitations of Knowledge -
unknown god**

17:23 “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.

DEFICIENCY

- 1. Faulty understanding of meaning of Existence - polytheistic**
- 2. Limitations of Knowledge - unknown god**
- 3. Weakness of human Intellect - ignorance**

PRINCIPLES

A night-time photograph of a city, likely Athens, Greece, featuring the Parthenon on the Acropolis hill. The scene is illuminated by warm city lights, with the white marble of the Parthenon standing out against the dark night sky. The foreground shows a dark, silhouetted cityscape with some lights reflecting on a surface.

- 1. Be Spiritually Prepared**
- 2. Take Initiative**
- 3. Analyze Worldview**

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| a. Ideology | 17:22-23 |
| b. Instruction | 17:24-29 |

17:24-25 “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 ...