

# THE BOOK OF ACTS:

## The birth, growth, and progress of the church

Original Author: Luke, Ph.D

Sunday, AD 60 - 62

Sugar Land BC Press

### THE LINK BETWEEN THE GOSPELS & THE NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLES.

CHAPTER 1: The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me, for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem

from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said, "Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry." (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE, AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT'; and 'LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE HIS OFFICE.' Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us—beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." So they



And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. Acts 2:3-4



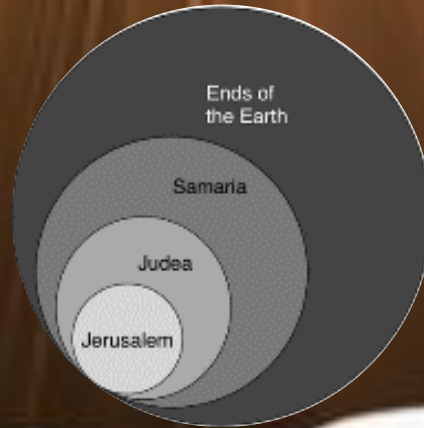
Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

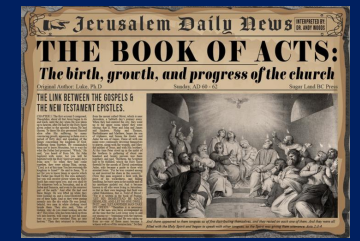
President – Chafer Theological Seminary

## Acts 1:8

“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem (Acts 1-7), and in all Judea and Samaria (Acts 8-12), and even to the remotest part of the earth (Acts 13-28).”

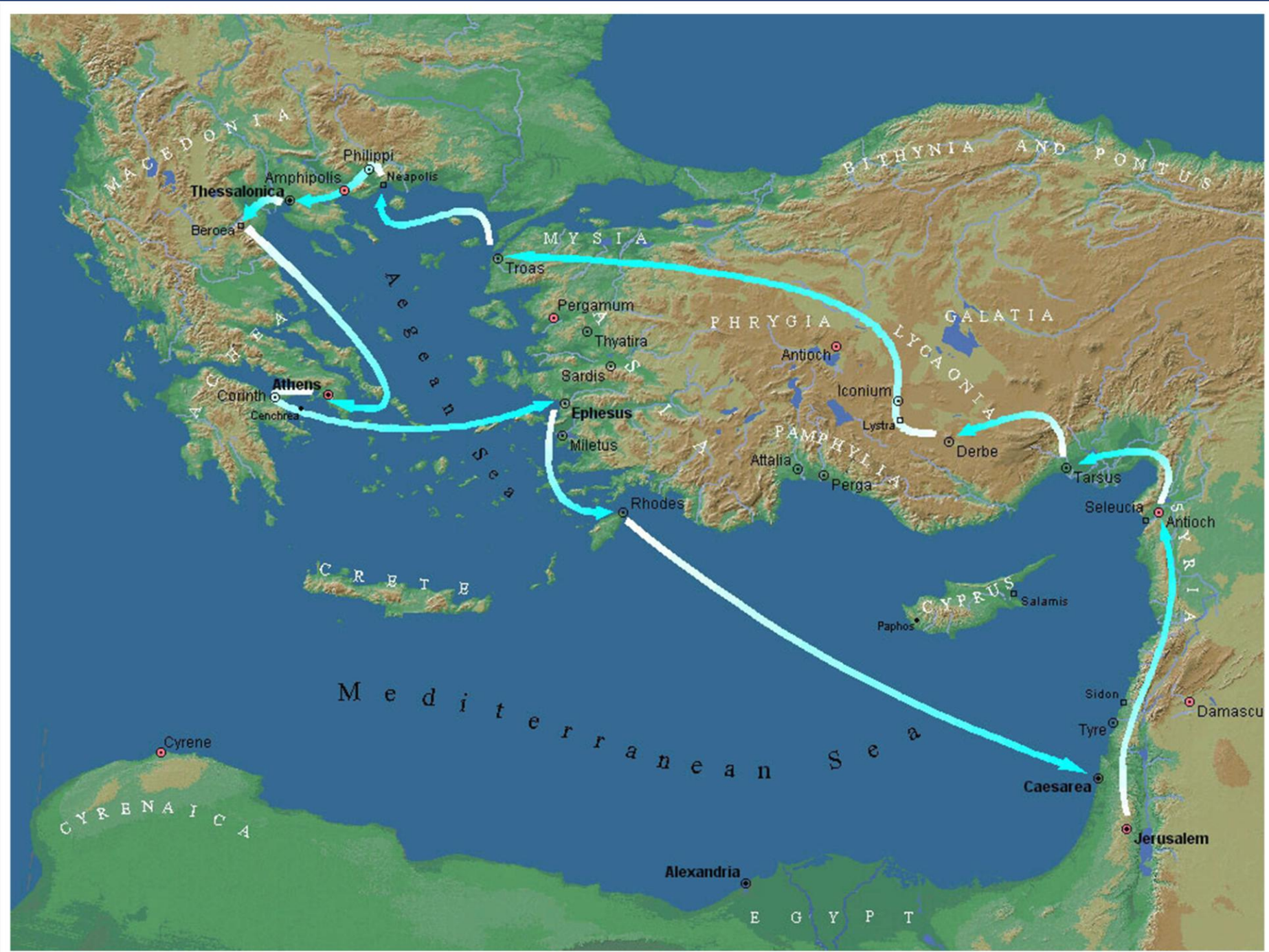


# Structure (Acts 1:8)



- Jerusalem (Acts 1–7)
- Judea and Samaria (Acts 8–12)
- **Remotest part of the earth (Acts 13–28)**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey (Acts 13–14)
  - Jerusalem council (Acts 15:1-35)
  - **2nd missionary journey (Acts 15:36 –18:22)**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey (Acts 18:23–21:17)
  - Trip to Rome (Acts 21:18–28:31)

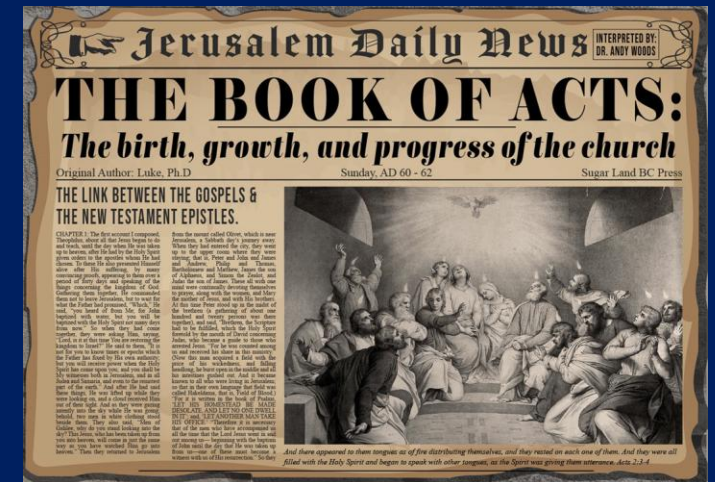




# Acts 15:36–18:22

## 2nd Missionary Journey

- I. Schism between Paul & Barnabas (15:36-41)
- II. Syria & Cilicia ministry (16:1-5)
- III. Macedonian call (16:6-10)
- IV. Philippian ministry (16:11-40)
- V. Thessalonica ministry (17:1-9)
- VI. Berean ministry (17:10-15)
- VII. Athens' ministry (17:16-34)**
- VIII. Corinthian ministry (18:1-18)
- IX. Ephesus' ministry (18:19-21)
- X. Return to Antioch (18:22)



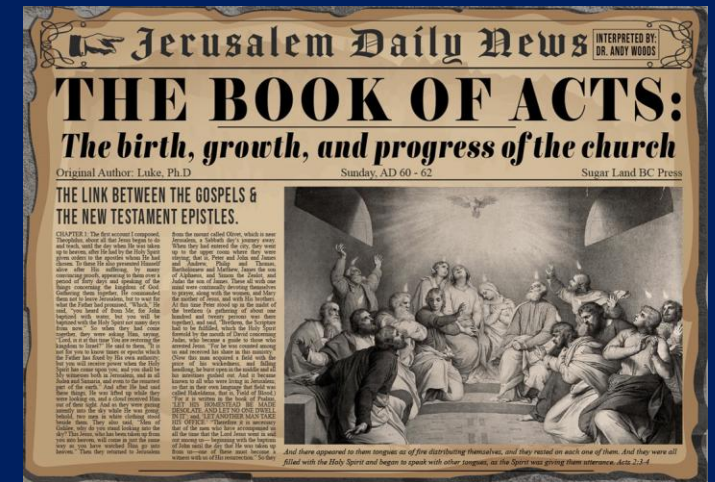
# VII. Athens Ministry

Acts 17:16-34

A. Paul's witness (16-21)

B. Paul's speech (22-31)

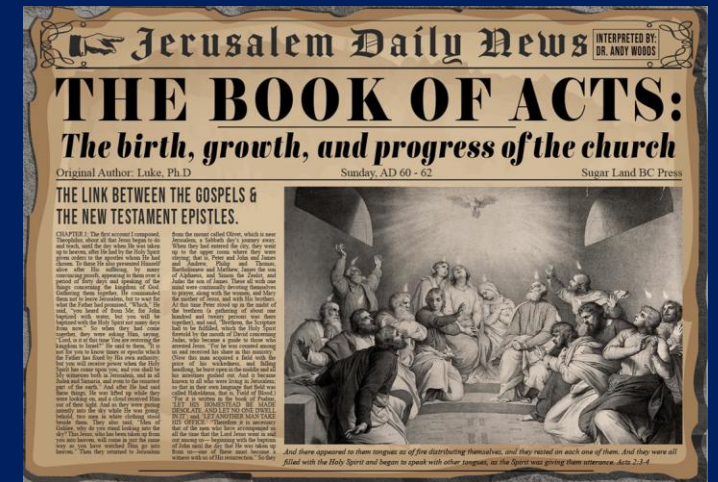
C. Athenians' response (32-34)



# B. Acts 17:22-31

## Paul's Speech

1. Location (22a)
2. Introduction (22b-23a)
3. Unknown God described (23b-28)
4. Man's responsibility (29-31)

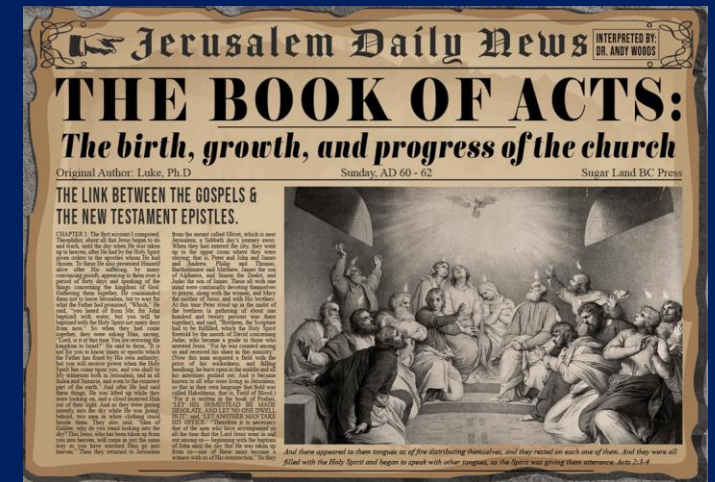


### 3. Acts 17:23b-28

## Unknown God Described

a) Introduction (23b)

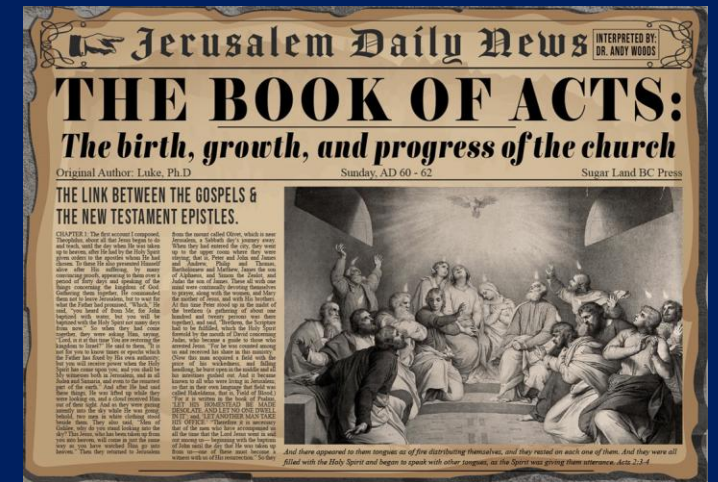
b) Characteristics (24-28)



## b) Acts 17:24-28

### Characteristics

- 1) Creator (24)
- 2) Sufficient (25)
- 3) Humanity's creator (26)
- 4) Purpose: that men might seek Him (27)
- 5) Man's preserver (28)



## Acts 17:1-3

“<sup>1</sup> Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> And according to Paul’s custom, he visited them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.”



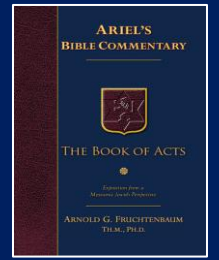
# GENERAL VS. SPECIAL REVELATION

|                | GENERAL                         | SPECIAL                              |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| EXAMPLES       | Nature, conscience<br>(Rom 1–2) | Incarnation, Scripture,<br>miracles  |
| AVAILABILITY   | All                             | Some                                 |
| ACCOMPLISHMENT | Accountability<br>(Rom 1)       | Salvation (Acts 4:12;<br>2 Tim 3:15) |
| FORM           | Non-written / non-verbal        | Written                              |
| QUALITY        | Natural                         | Supernatural,<br>miraculous          |



# Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

*The Book of Acts, 372-73*



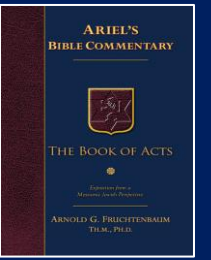
“The fifth characteristic is that God is the Preserver of man (v. 28). Paul pointed to the fact that *in him we live, and move, and have our being*. This was the proof of God’s nearness. Instead of Stoic pantheism, there is real immanence with God. Paul provided an ascending scale, reaching a climax in God:

- We live; therefore, we have life.
- We move; therefore, there is movement.
- We have our being; therefore, there is existence.”



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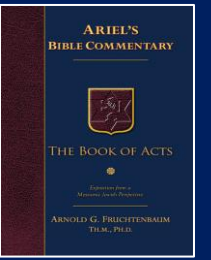
“Then Paul reminded his listeners that some of their own poets have said the same things, among them Aratus of Soli (315-240 B.C.) and the already mentioned Cretan poet Epimenides, who had this to say to the god Zeus:

- They fashioned a tomb for thee, O holy and high one—
- The Cretans, always liars, evil beasts, idle bellies!
- But thou art not dead: though livest and abidest for ever,
- For in thee we live and move and have our being.”



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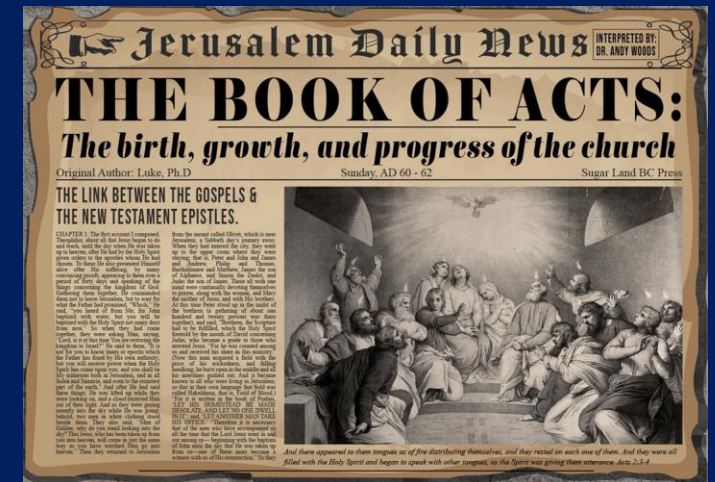


“Paul quoted the same poet in Titus 1:12. Another poet would have been Cleanthes, the son of Phanius of Assos and head of the Stoic School in Athens from 263 to 232 B.C. The Zondervan Illustrated Bible Dictionary notes: ‘His Hymn to Zeus, a surviving poem, contains the words quoted by Paul in his address before the Areopagus Court (Acts 17:28).’ Regarding Zeus, Cleanthes wrote: ‘For we are your offspring.’”

# B. Acts 17:22-31

## Paul's Speech

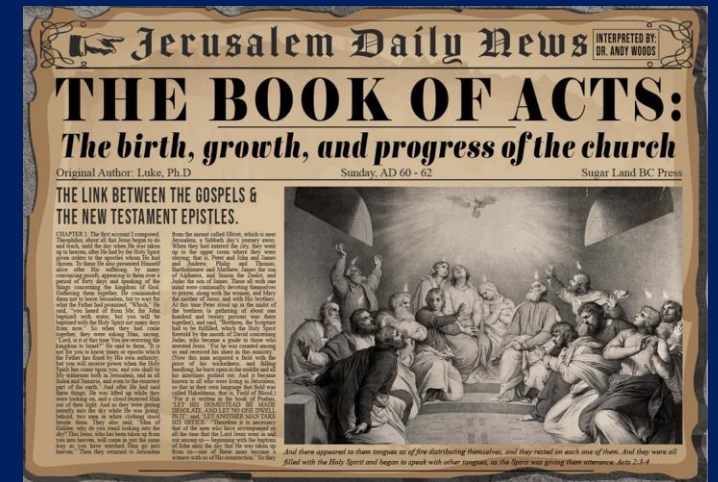
1. Location (22a)
2. Introduction (22b-23a)
3. Unknown God described (23b-28)
4. Man's responsibility (29-31)



# 4. Acts 17:29-31

## Man's Responsibility

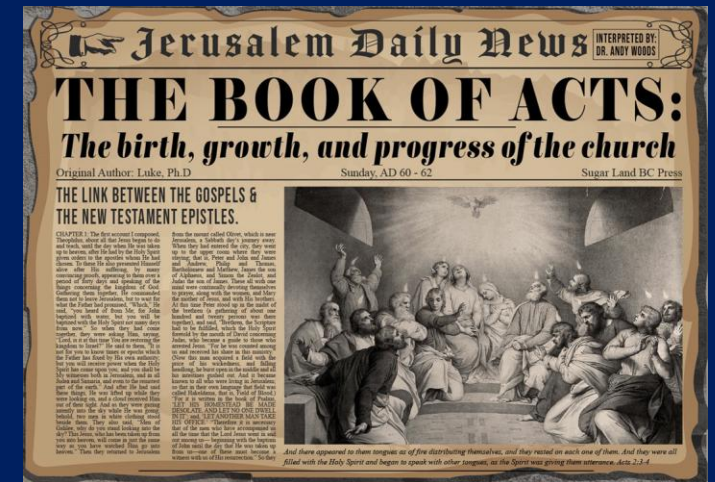
- a) Reject idolatry (29)
- b) Repent (30)
- c) Reason: coming judgment (31)



## 4. Acts 17:29-31

### Man's Responsibility

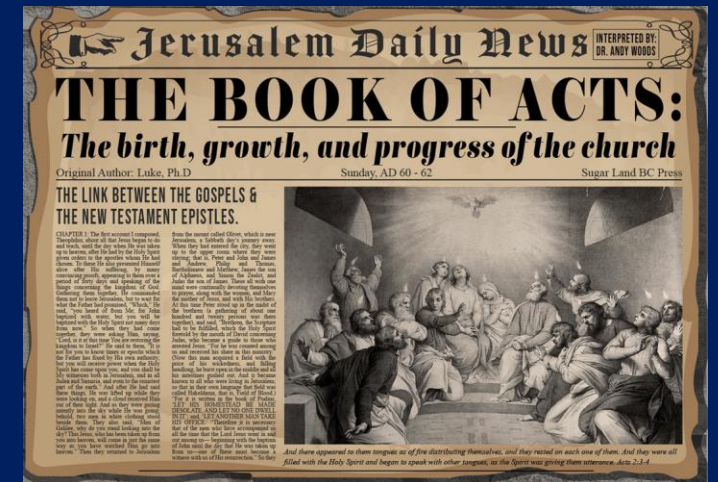
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# 4. Acts 17:29-31

## Man's Responsibility

- a) Reject idolatry (29)
- b) Repent (30)
- c) Reason: coming judgment (31)



## Acts 17:30-31

“<sup>30</sup> Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent [*metanoēō*], <sup>31</sup> 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.”

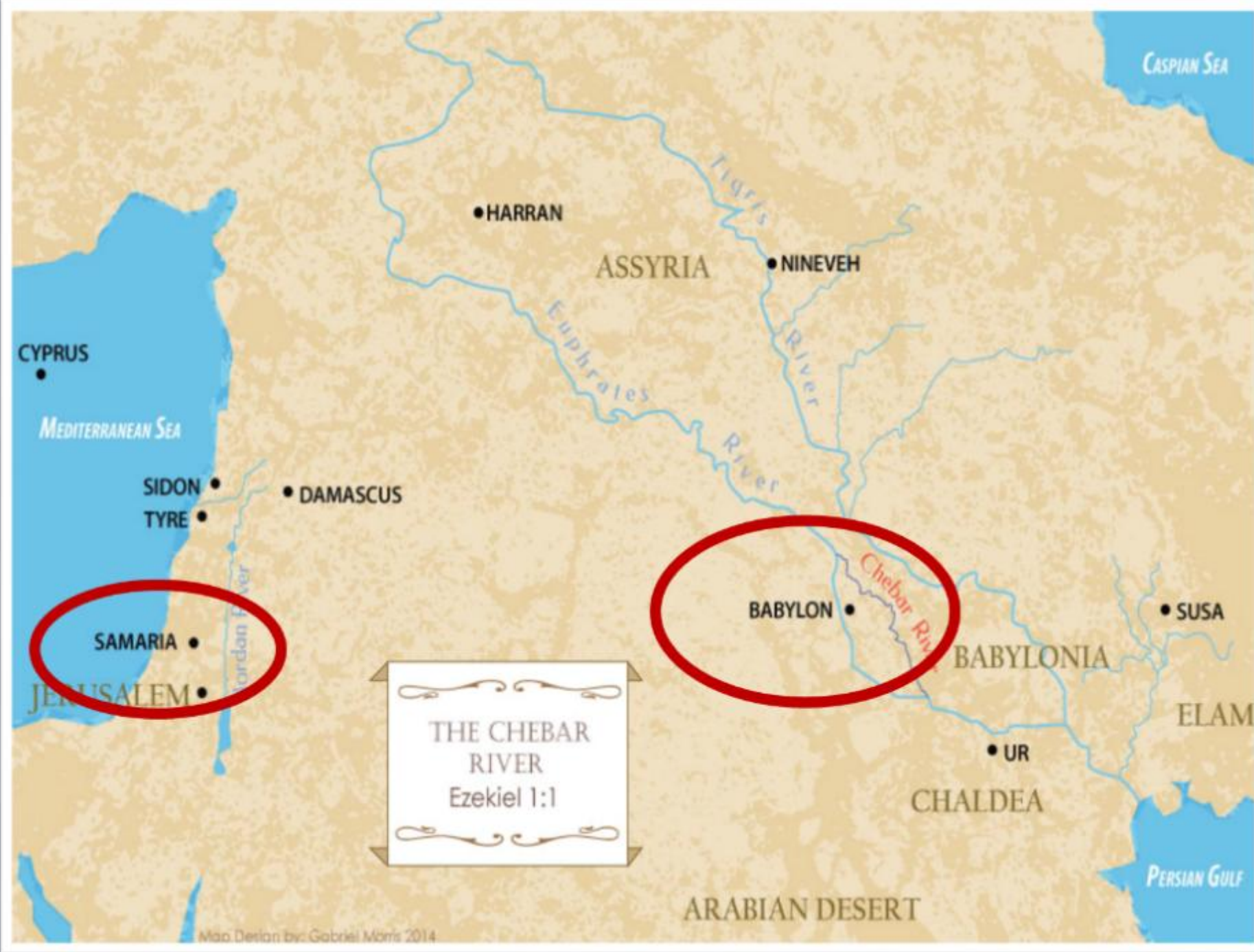




## Lewis Sperry Chafer

vol. 7, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 265-66.

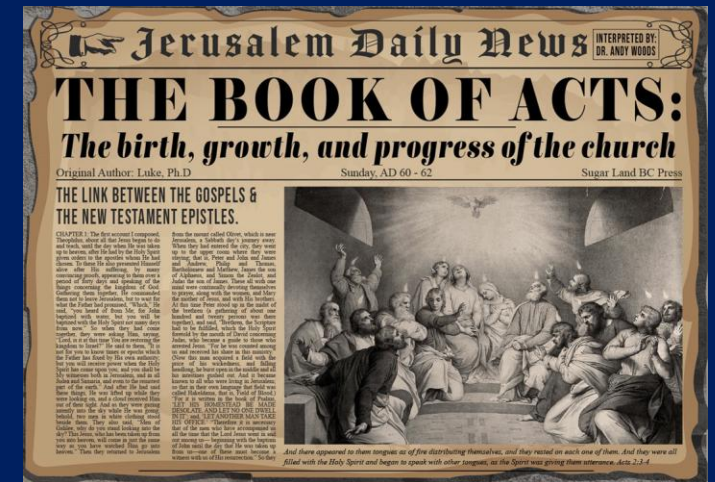
“This vital newness of mind is a part of believing, after all, and therefore it may be and is used as a **synonym** for believing at times (cf. Acts 17:30; 20:21; 26:20; Rom. 2:4; 2Tim. 2:25; 2 Pet. 3:9). Repentance nevertheless cannot be added to believing as a condition of salvation, because upwards of 150 passages of Scripture condition salvation upon believing only (cf. John 3:16; Acts 16:31).”



## 4. Acts 14:15d-17

### God's Attributes

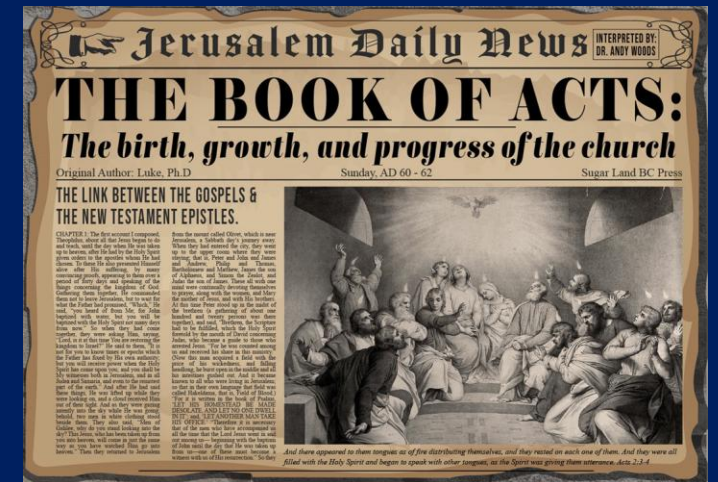
- a) Living (15d)
- b) Creator (15e)
- c) Patient (16)
- d) Revealer (17a)
- e) Good (17b)



# 4. Acts 17:29-31

## Man's Responsibility

- a) Reject idolatry (29)
- b) Repent (30)
- c) Reason: coming judgment (31)

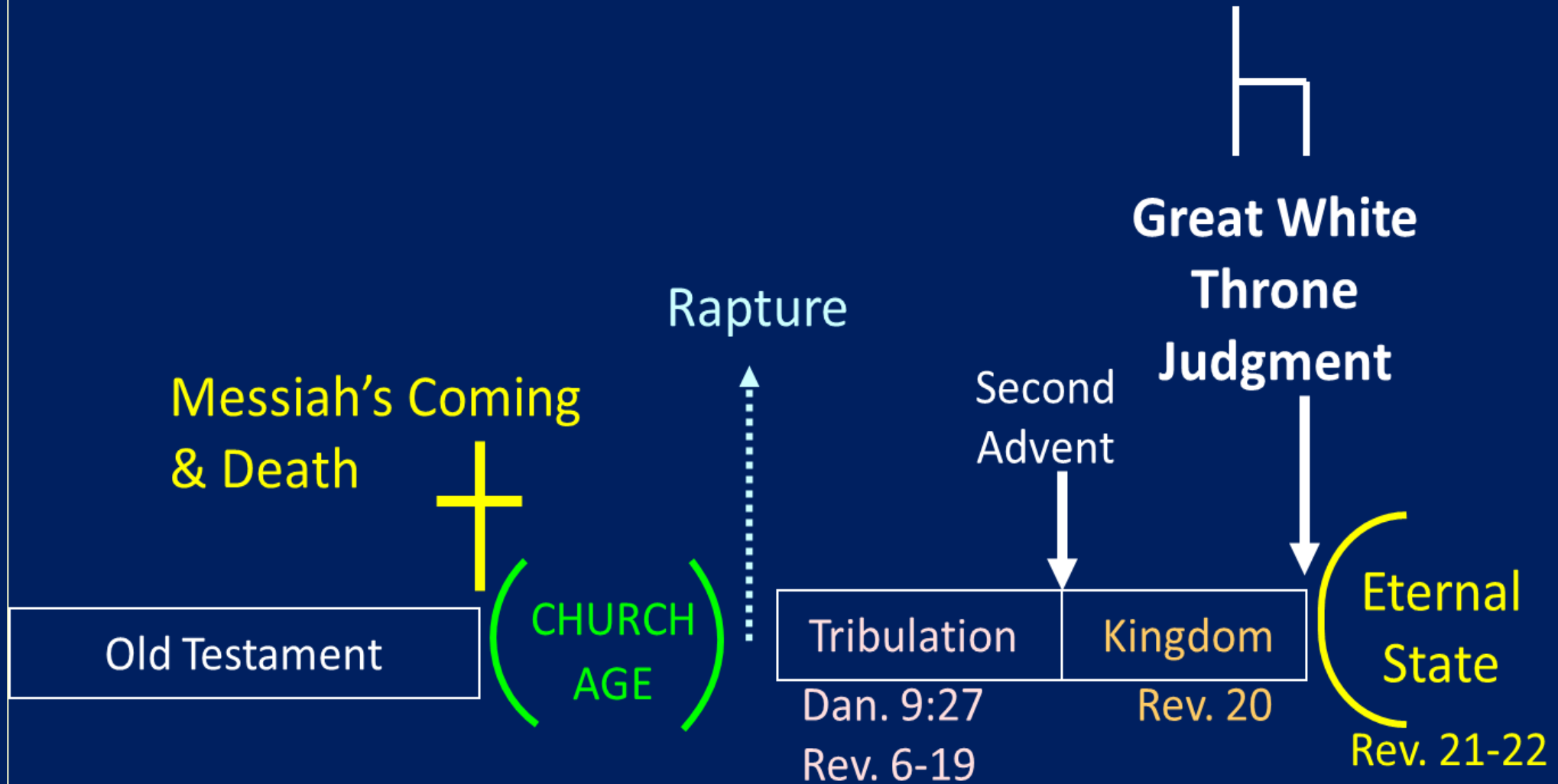


## Acts 17:30-31

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# Prophecy Panorama



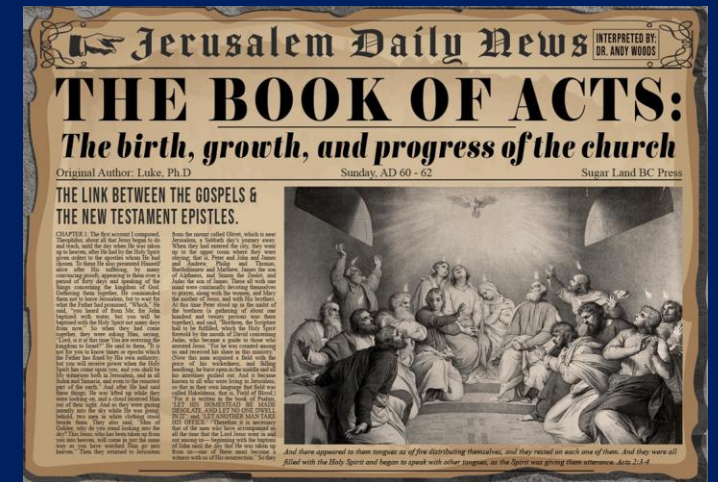
# SCRIPTURE'S FOUR JUDGMENTS

| NAME       | SHEEP AND GOAT                 | JUDGMENT OF THE JEWS         | BEMA SEAT                | GREAT WHITE THRONE               |
|------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| SCRIPTURE  | Matt 25:31-46                  | Ezek 20:33-44                | 1 Cor 3:10-15            | Rev 20:11-15                     |
| PLACE      | Earth, Jerusalem               | Earth, wilderness            | Heaven                   | Earth                            |
| AUDIENCE   | Gentile Tribulation survivors  | Jewish Tribulation survivors | Church Age believers     | All unsaved                      |
| WHEN       | After Tribulation              | After Tribulation            | After rapture            | After Millennium                 |
| PURPOSE    | Saved Gentiles enter kingdom   | Saved Jews enter kingdom     | Reward believers         | Degree of punishment in hell     |
| EVALUATION | Treatment of Christ's brethren | Passing under shepherd's rod | Works taken through fire | Not in the book; judged by books |

# VII. Athens Ministry

Acts 17:16-34

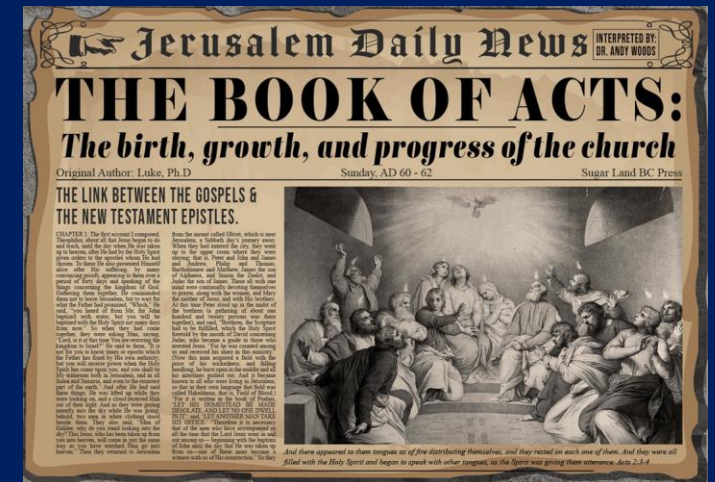
- A. Paul's witness (16-21)
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## C. Acts 17:32-34

### Athenians' Response

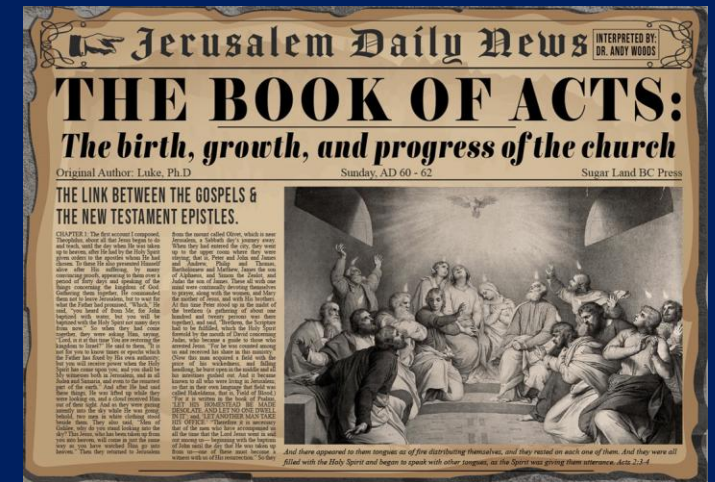
1. Two negative responses (32)
2. Paul's departure (33)
3. Positive response (34)



# C. Acts 17:32-34

## Athenians' Response

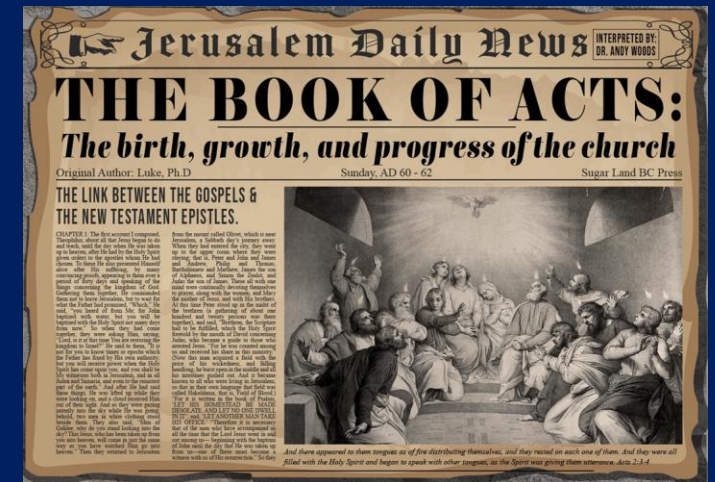
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# 1. Acts 17:32

## Two Negative Responses

- a) Mocking (32a)
- b) Postponement (32b)

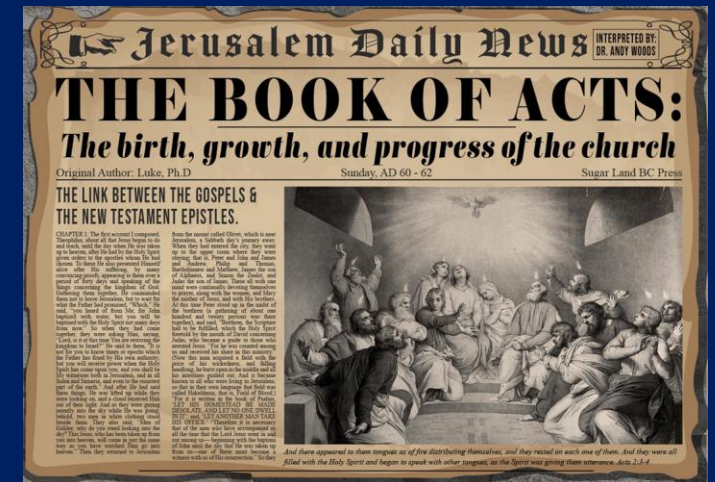


# 1. Acts 17:32

## Two Negative Responses

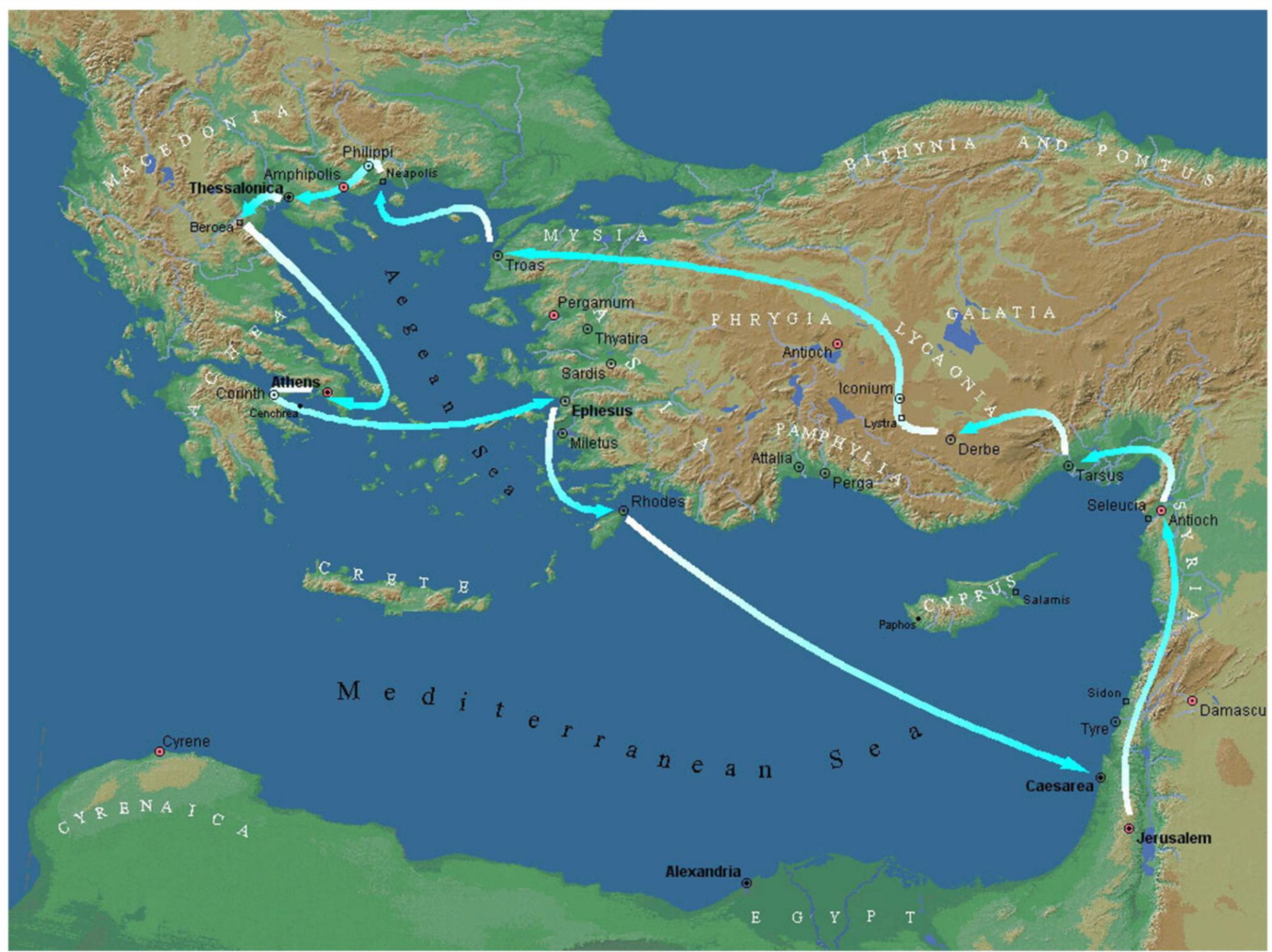
a) Mocking (32a)

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# Every Geographical Location in Acts/Epistles



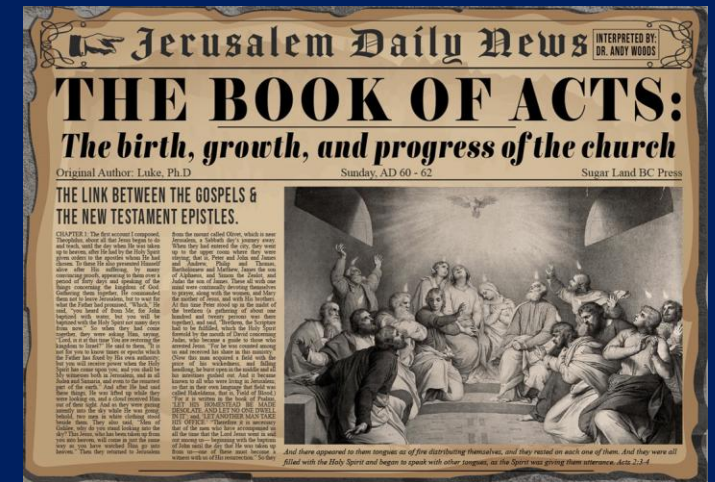


# 1. Acts 17:32

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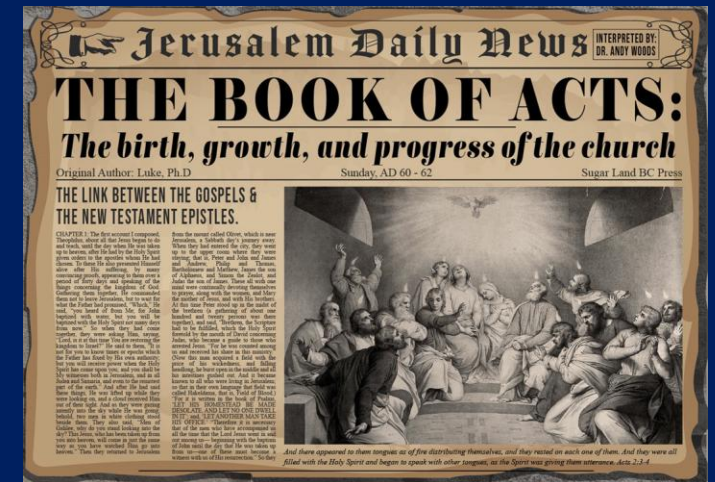
b) Postponement (32b)



# C. Acts 17:32-34

## Athenians' Response

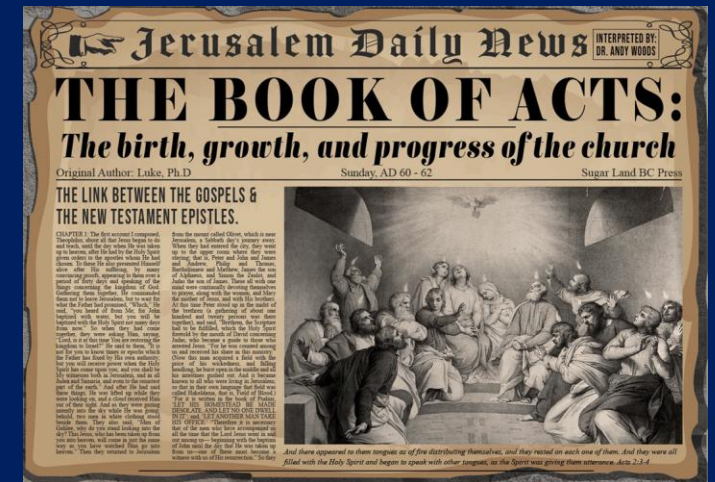
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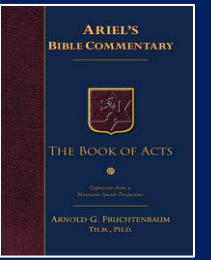
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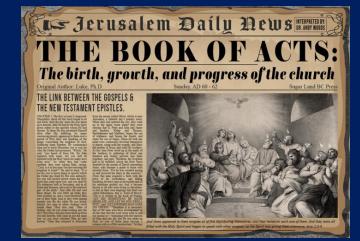
# Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

*The Book of Acts, 374-75*

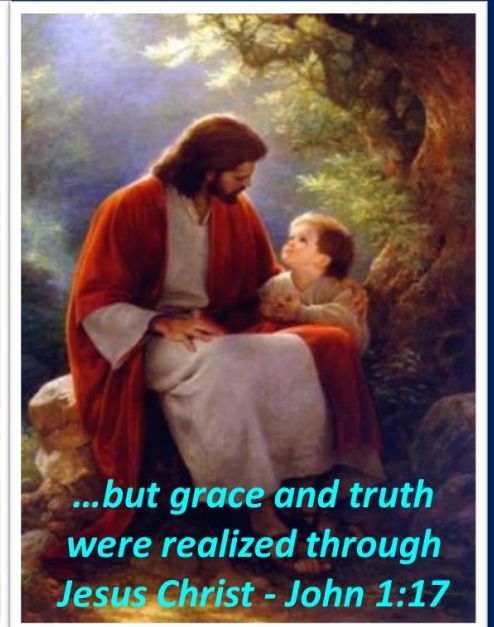


“While no church was planted at this time, some did believe: *Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.* The fact that Dionysius was described as an Areopagite shows that he was a member of the Council of Areopagus. He was convinced and became a believer. According to the fourth-century historian Eusebius, Dionysius became the bishop of the church of Athens and died as a martyr. Also mentioned is Damaris. She was probably an aristocrat, as was Dionysius. There were others, though unnamed, who also believed.”

# Themes



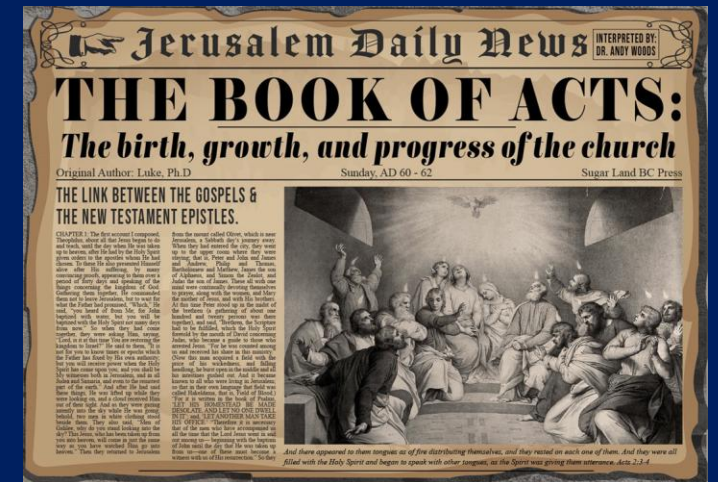
- From Peter to Paul (Gal 2:7-8)
- Universality of the Gospel
- Transitions
- Sovereignty of God (Acts 2:23; 13:48)
- Soteriology (Acts 16:31)



## A. Acts 16:11-15

### Lydia's Conversion

1. Journey to Neapolis (11)
2. Arrival at Philippi (12)
3. Jewish Sabbath meeting (13)
4. Lydia's conversion (14)
5. Results of conversion (15)

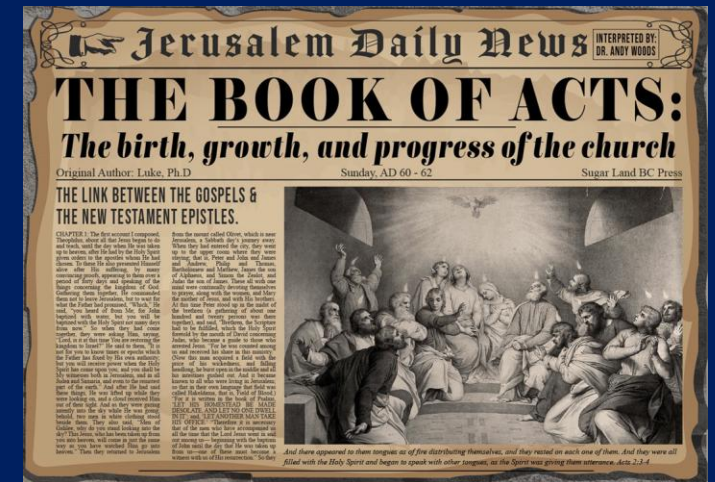


# Conclusion

# VII. Athens Ministry

Acts 17:16-34

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- B. Paul's speech (22-31)
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# Acts 15:36–18:22

## 2nd Missionary Journey

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