

THE god CAPITAL OF THE WORLD!

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INTRODUCTION

A. TEXT: Acts 17:22,23.

B. SETTING:

1.

Quickly Paul's journey...Philippi; Thessalonica; Beroea then Athens.

2. Success in Thessalonica, church established...see the two letters.

3. Beroea...even more noble...searched the scriptures....

C. Then to Athens:

1. Intellectual center of the world.

2. Also might be thought of as the "god" capital of the world.

3. All who came brought and shared their god.

4. What a great place to come with the message of Christ???

D. In a place where there were altars every where to all of the gods...Even to "an unknown god"...How would Paul bring the message of the true God and Of Salvation for mankind to these people?

THE UNKNOWN GOD

A. *"Ye men of Athens, in all things I perceive that ye are very religious. For as I passed along, and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD." V. 22,23.*

B. THE god CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.

1. Many altars

2. No way of our knowing the number.

3. But we are aware of their desire to recognize the many.

C. What is meant by: **"The unknown god"?**

1. Maybe they were afraid they would overlook and therefore offend one.

2. Or maybe felt there was one they did not understand. Etc.

D. For Sure....WAS UNKNOWN TO THEM. This is the one that Paul is going to declare unto them.

CREATOR OF ALL

A. *"The God that made the world and all things therein, he, being Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is he served by men's hands, as though he needed anything." v. 24,25.*

1. Made all things

2. Lord of Heaven and earth

3. Dwells not in temples

4. Not served by men's hand...Does not have to depend on man.

B. The maker of nations.

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WITHIN THE REACH OF ALL

- A. *"though he is not far from each one of us; for in him we live, and move, and have our being:" v. 27,28.*
 - B. Pagan man always has had the problem of how to reach their god.
 - 1. Many different things tried.
 - 2. Ending in self destruction...human sacrifice...which even they recognized might or might not work.
 - 3. Contest on Mt. Carmel.
 - C. IN HIM WE LIVE, MOVE, AND HAVE OUR BEING.
 - D. "We are His offspring" or creation..children.
 - E. Cast away these idols and worship the true God.
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Gives Salvation To All

- A. *"Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and device of man. The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent: inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." vs. 29-31.*
 - B. THE DAYS OF IGNORANCE ARE OVER.
 - 1. God "overlooked" or looked beyond.
 - 2. We have now reached that time to which God looked.
 - 3. God has revealed...and we are without excuse.
 - C. Men now are to repent and turn to Christ.
 - 1. Titus 2:11
 - 2. The day and time which God has appointed.
 - D. THE FINAL JUDGMENT.
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CONCLUSION

- A. WILL MAN'S RESPONSE today be any different from the response of that day. V. 32. READ.
 - 1. Some rejected.
 - 2. Some procrastinated
 - 3. Some believed.
 - B. Someone has observed that here...the god capital of the world is the only place Paul failed...
 - 1. Failed from the standpoint we never hear any more about it.
 - 2. No letter to the church at Athens...Nothing to indicate success there.
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