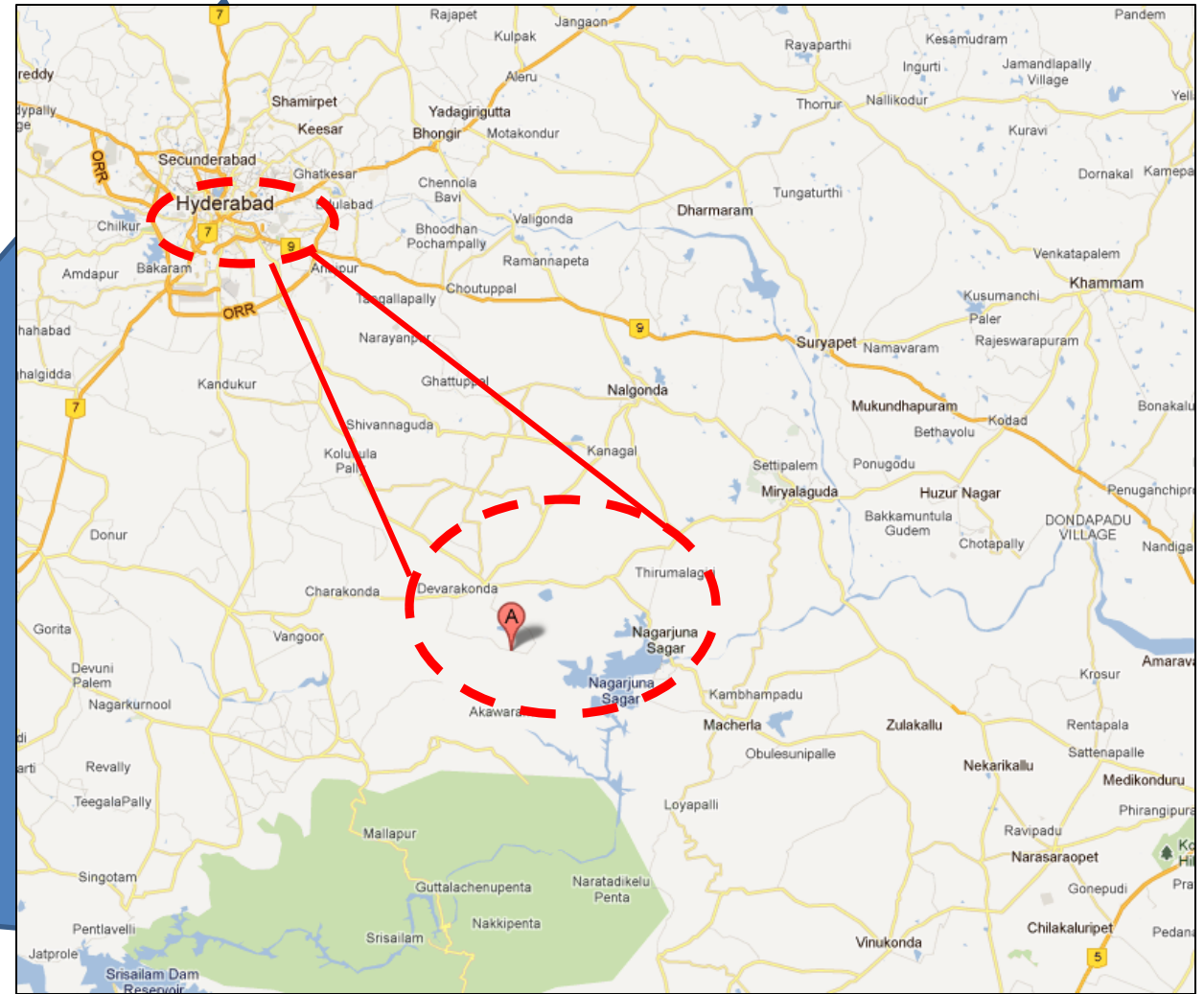




Witnessing to Athens

Acts 17:16-34





Witnessing to Athens

Acts 17:16-34

Secular Humanism Answers

- Who am I? Cosmic Accident
- Why am I here? Consume & Enjoy
- What is wrong? Lack of knowledge, bad government
- How can it be made right? More knowledge, better government



Witnessing to Athens

Acts 17:16-34

From Berea to Athens — Paul

 Paul Silas and Timothy's route from Berea to Athens



Witnessing to Athens

Acts 17:16-34

What did Paul see?

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that **the city was full of idols.**

First-century Athens, Greece, as it appeared during the time of Paul. The view is from the northwest of the Agora (market, business, and civic center) of the lower city, which is in the foreground. The Acropolis (upper city) with the famous Parthenon, dedicated to the goddess Athena, is in the background. The Aeropagus (Mars Hill) where Paul addressed the citizens of Athens is at right.



What did Paul see?

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that **the city was full of idols.**

What did Paul feel?

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, **his spirit was provoked** within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.

To be an *Acts 29* witness we must...

Deepen our passion for the glory of God and our compassion for the good of God's glory for people.

What did Paul do & say?

¹⁷ So he **reasoned** in the synagogues with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.

What did Paul do & say?

¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also **conversed** with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was **preaching Jesus and the resurrection**.

¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

Look for common ground

²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

Frames a Biblical Worldview

God the Creator of All things

²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,

God the Sustainer of Life

²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

God who transcends yet is knowable

²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,

God who transcends yet is knowable

²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for “ ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “ ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

Reveals the problem & the remedy

²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

Reveals the problem & the remedy

³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Responses will vary

³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, **some mocked**. But **others said**, “We will hear you again about this.” ³³ So Paul went out from their midst. ³⁴ **But some men joined him and believed**, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

