

~AREOPAGUS (106)

(Ar-e-op'a-gus) [Hill of Ares, Mars Hill]

- A hill to the Northwest of the towering Athenian Acropolis, separated from it by a shallow valley. This rather narrow, barren ridge of limestone is 113 meters (370 feet) high, and the Acropolis to its Southeast rises another 43 meters (141 feet) higher. The approach to Mars Hill is gentle from the North, on the South it is abrupt.
- Crowning this hill at one time were Grecian altars, temple sanctuaries, statues, and the open-air supreme court of the **Areopagus**. Today all of this is gone, and only a few of the bench-like seats carved in the rock remain.
- On one of the apostle Paul's visits to Athens, certain Athenians laid hold of him and led him to the **Areopagus**, saying; Can we get to know what this new teaching is which is spoken by you? For you are introducing some things that are strange to our ears.
- So they laid hold of him and led him to the **Areopagus**, saying, Can we get to know what this new teaching is which is spoken by you? (**Acts of Apostles 17:19**)
- For you are introducing some things that are strange to our ears. Therefore we desire to get to know what these things purport to be. (**Acts of Apostles 17:20**)
- In reply Paul carefully laid one solid fact upon another, building up as he went along, a logical, persuasive, and convincing argument. Paul did not complete his speech, for when they heard of a resurrection of the dead mockers began to jeer.
- However, by the time this interruption came, the apostle had succeeded in splitting his audience three ways in their opinions. While some mocked, and some said they would hear more later, others became believers, among whom also were Dionysius, a judge of the court of the **Areopagus**, and a woman named Damaris, and others besides them.
- Paul now stood in the midst of the **Areopagus** and said; Men of Athens, I behold that in all things you seem to be more given to the fear of the deities than others are. (**Acts of Apostles 17:22**)

- For instance, while passing along and carefully observing your objects of veneration I also found an altar on which had been inscribed, **To an Unknown God**. Therefore what you are unknowingly giving godly devotion to, this I am publishing to you. (**Acts of Apostles 17:23**)
- The God that made the world and all the things in it, being, as this One is, Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in handmade temples. (**Acts of Apostles 17:24**)
- Neither is he attended to by human hands as if he needed anything, because he himself gives to all persons life and breath and all things. (**Acts of Apostles 17:25**)
- And he made out of one man every nation of men, to dwell upon the entire surface of the earth, and he decreed the appointed times and the set limits of the dwelling of men. (**Acts of Apostles 17:26**)
- For them to seek God, if they might grope for him and really find him, although, in fact, he is not far off from each one of us. (**Acts of Apostles 17:27**)
- For by him we have life and move and exist, even as certain one's of the poets among you have said; For we are also his progeny. (**Acts of Apostles 17:28**)
- Seeing, therefore, that we are the progeny of God, we ought not to imagine that the Divine Being is like gold or silver or stone, like something sculptured by the art and contrivance of man. (**Acts of Apostles 17:29**)
- True, God has overlooked the times of such ignorance, yet now he is telling mankind that they should all everywhere repent. (**Acts of Apostles 17:30**)
- Because he has set a day in which he purposes to judge the inhabited earth in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and he has furnished a guarantee to all men in that he has resurrected him from the dead. (**Acts of Apostles 17:31**)
- Well, when they heard of a resurrection of the dead, some began to mock, while others said; We will hear you about this even

another time. (**Acts of Apostles 17:32**)

- Thus Paul went out from their midst. (**Acts of Apostles 17:33**)
- But some men joined themselves to him and became believers, among whom also were Dionysius, a judge of the court of the **Areopagus**, and a woman named Damaris, and others besides them. (**Acts of Apostles 17:34**)
- Today a bronze plaque on Mars Hill commemorating the event contains this speech of the apostle Paul. It cannot be stated for a certainty that Paul spoke on that occasion before the court of the **Areopagus**, but he did have at least one member of that noted court in his audience.