

***Developing a
Biblical Worldview
Acts 17:22-31***

A **worldview** is a set of beliefs, principles, experiences and assumptions that answer the core questions we have. What is *your worldview*? Is it Biblical or is it based on culture, experience, or lies? Now more than ever, Christians need to have a **Biblical worldview**. **How do we develop one?** While there are *many texts that help us*, we turn to *Acts 17*.

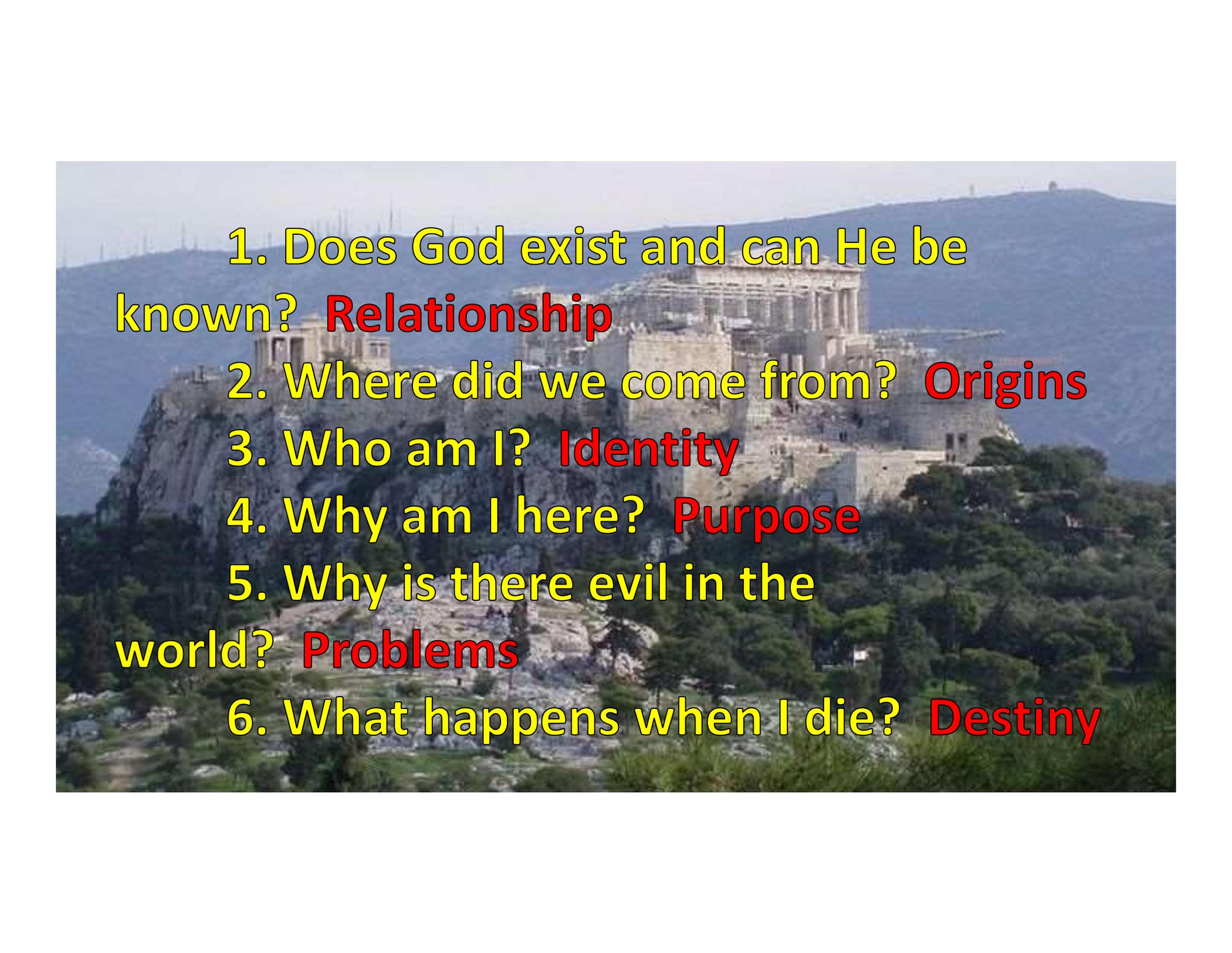
A. Acts 17:1-34 - Context

In Acts 17 Paul proclaimed Christ in **2 different contexts**. In verses 1-9 Paul and others went to the **Synagogue** in Thessalonica. In verses 10-15, they went to Berea and Paul was sent to Athens. Verses 16-21 state Paul was overwhelmed at the **idolatry** and proclaimed Christ. He preaches in verses 22-31 on the **Areopagus**, with results in verses 32-34.

A wide-angle photograph of the Acropolis in Athens, Greece. The Parthenon, a large ancient Greek temple dedicated to the goddess Athena, is the central focus, perched on the rocky peak of the Acropolis. To its left, the Propylaea, the gateway to the Acropolis, is visible. The foreground shows the Mars Hill/Areopagus, a rocky hillside with sparse greenery and a few people walking. The background features a hazy view of the city and distant hills under a clear sky.

Parthenon

Mars Hill/Areopagus



1. Does God exist and can He be known? **Relationship**

2. Where did we come from? **Origins**

3. Who am I? **Identity**

4. Why am I here? **Purpose**

5. Why is there evil in the world? **Problems**

6. What happens when I die? **Destiny**

Acts 17:22-31 - So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23For 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. 24The God who made the world and everything in

it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 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.

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,

27that 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, 28for “‘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.’ 29Being 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. 30The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31because 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.”

B. Acts 17:22-31 - God Exists and Can be Known – Relationship

Paul, in Athens, is *provoked or stirred greatly* in his *spirit*. One ancient philosopher said there were *more gods than men* in Athens. He began in the **Synagogue** and *reasoned* with the **Jews**. He then went to the **public marketplace** and met **Gentile philosophers**: *Epicureans* and *Stoics*.

B. Acts 17:22-31 - God Exists and Can be Known – Relationship

Epicureans believed in many gods, but said the gods were not involved in the world and could only be known through the senses. They sought pleasure and the ending of pain as the *highest goals* in life.

B. Acts 17:22-31 - God Exists and Can be Known – Relationship

Stoics believed in design in nature, which Epicureans denied. They said *logos* defined the structure of the universe and fate defined human life. Calmness and ethical behavior were their goals.

Both held a form of **evolution**.

B. Acts 17:22-31 - God Exists and Can be Known – Relationship

The *philosophers* called him a *babbler*, or “*seed picker*” as one who picks and chooses ideas without a coherent belief system. Some *wanted to know more*, because he preached “foreign divinities (gods)” (17:18). They took him to the Areopagus, or Mars Hill, where people discussed new things...

B. Acts 17:22-31 - God Exists and Can be Known – Relationship

1. 17:24-26a - Creator

God is Creator! He made the world, everything in it and is Lord of heaven and earth. They were *accountable* to Him. *Contrary* to what the philosophers thought, there is 1 God! He is *not like the idols* and is not limited to *man-made temples...*

B. Acts 17:22-31 - God Exists and Can be Known – Relationship

2. 17:26b-29 - Sustainer

God in His *common grace* gives all things to all humanity. God created man in the past and gives *breath* to mankind in the present. He gives *everything needed* to live. God cares for humanity, and the animals...

B. Acts 17:22-31 - God Exists and Can be Known – Relationship

3. 17:30 - Savior

God was patient, overlooking sin, but now commands everyone, everywhere to *repent, and turn to Him!* He is the Savior! *No one else can save you!*

B. Acts 17:22-31 - God Exists and Can be Known – Relationship

4. 17:31 - Adjudicator (*Judge*)

God's *holy love* must judge sin. He has appointed someone – *Jesus*, and a time to judge the world in righteousness, because *God raised Him from the dead!* There is a *day fixed* by Him, when He **WILL** do this...

C. Acts 17:24-26 - God Created All Things – Origins

*...Where did we come from? How did we get here? Alien colonization? Are we the result of random, uncaring evolutionary mutation? Or did **God** purposefully, specifically and creatively design us?*

*...**Our view of origins** answers these all-important questions.*

C. Acts 17:24-26 - God Created All Things – Origins

Evolution is a faith. It is one of the biggest lies pushed onto humanity. Macro-evolution says over billions of years, the universe formed and *millions of years* (which keeps changing), humanity came from slime, mutated into complex organisms, then to apes and then people...

D. Acts 17:25b-28 - Humanity Created by God – Identity

God is the Creator. We must go to *Him* to *find out who we are*. We will not know **who** we are if we do not know **whose** we are. Look at *verse 25b*...

By **knowing Him**, we understand **who we are**.

D. *Acts 17:25b-28* - Humanity Created by God – Identity

God made humanity with intellect, imagination, humor, emotions, the ability to communicate, to be relational, and *originally*, we had the *holiness and righteousness*. We are God's creation. But, something happened in *Genesis 3* - "*The Fall...*"

D. Acts 17:25b-28 - Humanity Created by God – Identity

We were made to reflect and represent the glory of God on earth. Sin disrupted and distorted that. In Christ, we *receive His righteousness* to **reflect** and **represent Him again!** This is our **identity!** In Christ, *we are complete: Colossians 2:10.* You are who God says you are: *His child, loved, holy, set apart, righteous, His slave and more.* **Our identity is based on our relationship with Him...**

E. Acts 17:26-28 - God Created us for Himself – Purpose

...Paul's discussion about God as Creator sets the foundation for the purpose of God's sovereign control over all things in *verse 27a*.

3 things: *seek God, move toward God, and find God...* **God created us for Himself...**

F. Acts 17:29-30 - Sin is the Problem – Problems

God is not like the gold, silver and stone idols *humans make based on their own imagination*. This is the *sin of idolatry*...

There was a time in the past when God “*overlooked*” these things. God did *not immediately judge people for their idolatry, or sin*...

F. Acts 17:29-30 - Sin is the Problem – Problems

...In the beginning, God created everything **very good**. There was no sin, no death, no loss, no natural disasters and no pain. God gave Adam and Eve a choice. Adam *willingly ate* the forbidden fruit: *Romans 5*. That brought **sin** and **death** into this world. That is why there is evil! Adam brought it into this world and because of *our sin*, we commit evil...

**G. Acts 17:31 – Judgment is Coming and
Salvation is only in Jesus – *Destiny***

One question people ask is: *What happens when I die?* Many think they automatically go to heaven. Many think if you do enough good works, you go to heaven. **NO!** It is only by *grace through faith in Christ* alone one can go to heaven...

**G. Acts 17:31 – Judgment is Coming and
Salvation is only in Jesus – Destiny**

There is a *day set by God* where He will **judge** *the world in righteousness* by the *God-Man: Jesus*, whom He has *appointed*. He proven this through the **resurrection of Jesus from the dead!** Those who reject Jesus as Lord will not go to heaven!