

## Fact Sheet for **“How Big Is Your God?”** **Acts 17:16-34**

Pastor Bob Singer  
01/12/2014

ESV <sup>16</sup> 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.

Greece had hit its pinnacle in the fifth and fourth centuries B.C., but its glory was fading in Paul's day. Even Athens, the center of the Greek culture, was past its bloom.

Its art was a reflection of its worship... idolatry. The Greek Gods included Aphrodite, Apollo, Ares, Artemis, Athena, Demeter, Dionysus, Hades, Hephaestus, Hera, Hermes, Hestia, Poseidon, and Zeus (as well as many others).

<sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> 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.

Epicurus believed that what he called "pleasure" is the greatest good, but the way to attain such pleasure is to live modestly and to gain knowledge of the workings of the world and the limits of one's desires.

The Stoics taught that destructive emotions resulted from errors in judgment, and that a person of "moral and intellectual perfection" would not suffer such emotions.

<sup>19</sup> And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?"

The Areopagus was Romanized to "Mars' hill" after Mars, the Roman God of War.

<sup>20</sup> For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." <sup>21</sup> Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup> ¶ So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.

It is very clear that here "religious" does not = "right with God."

<sup>23a</sup> For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' <sup>23b</sup> What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup> 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, <sup>27</sup> 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,

“The God who made the world and everything in it”

Pause and think for a minute about the God of the Bible and creation. *These four passages were written by different human authors – Gen 1:1; Jn 1:1-3; Col 1:15-17; Heb 11:1-3.*

Earth's diameter – 12,756 km., sun's diameter – 1,392,000 km.

How big is your God?

Do your prayers reflect this?

How big would a map of the earth have to be for you to pinpoint yourself on it?

“he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth”

This includes Eve, and is absolutely incongruent with Evolution

<sup>28</sup> 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.”** <sup>29</sup> ¶ **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.**

Consider these passages on idols – Is 46:6; Jer 10:3-6.

<sup>30</sup> **The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,**  
<sup>31</sup> **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.”**

There is a fixed day of judgment – Revelation

See 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

<sup>32</sup> ¶ **Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.”**

Who was God drawing? (Jn 6:37, 39, 44)

<sup>33</sup> **So Paul went out from their midst.** <sup>34</sup> **But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.**

Your God Is too Small, J.B. Phillips

How big is your God? How small are you in comparison? Will your view of God change your choices? Will your view of God change your prayers?