

chapters

13a *I've Been Everywhere*

13b *The Old Rugged Cross*

14 *Eye of the Tiger*

15a *Amazing Grace*

16 *Free at Last*

17 *How Great Thou Art*

18 *Together*

19 *Motives*

20-21 *Commit*

22 *Witness*

26 *Respond*

27 *Trust*

Acts of the Apostles

October 13, 2024

Acts 17:23-31 – I even found an altar ... to an UNKNOWN GOD.... I am going to proclaim to you. **“The God who made the world ... Lord of heaven & earth....**

³¹ For he has set a DAY when he will judge the world.... He has given proof of this ... by raising him from the dead.”



Reconstruction of the Acropolis of Athens, Greece, 1846 by Leo von Klenze (1784-1864)



Remnants of Parthenon on top of Acropolis in Athens, Greece

Paul's Missionary Journeys

	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Summary</i>
Sept 1	13a	<i>I've Been Everywhere</i>	Paul to Paphos on Cyprus & Sorcerer Elymus
Sept 8	13b	<i>The Old Rugged Cross</i>	Paul Gains Ear of Whole City of Pisidian Antioch
Sept 15	14	<i>Eye of the Tiger</i>	Paul & Barnabas Divide Iconium, Flee to Lystra & Derbe, – Beaten in Lystra, Flee to Derbe then <i>RETURN</i>
Sept 22	15a	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	Paul & Barnabas to Jerusalem for 1st Church Council
Sept 29	15-16	<i>The Wanderer</i>	Paul, Silas, & Timothy Thru Macedonia to Philippi
Oct 6	16	<i>Free at Last</i>	Paul & Crew to Phrygia, Troas, Philippi, Convert Lydia, Paul Frees Slave Girl, Beaten, Jailed, Free to Lydia's Home
Oct 13	17	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	Paul & Silas Thessalonica, Berea, Athens' Areopagus
Oct 20	18	<i>Together</i>	Paul to Corinth, Meets Aquila & Priscilla, to Ephesus
Oct 27	19	<i>Motives</i>	Paul in Ephesus w Big Miracles – Riot x “The Way”
Nov 3	20-21	<i>Commit</i>	Paul Hunted Thru Greece, Ephesus, to Jerusalem
Nov 10	22-24	<i>Witness</i>	Paul—Roman Citizen, Sanhedrin, to Governor Felix
Nov 17	25-26	<i>Respond</i>	Paul to Festus, Then Paul's Words Impress Agrippa
Nov 24	27-28	<i>Trust</i>	Paul's Storm-Rocking Trip to Rome

Paul comes to the Athens and debates upon Mars Hill ... with the most intellectually astute of the First Century

Our Church

God Gives in Great Surplus

Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887), compiled by unknown congregant, *Life Thoughts* (1858; 333 pp.), 243-244.

www.Google.com/books/edition/Life_Thoughts/ANYQAAAAYAAJ

GOD is a being who gives everything but punishment in over measure.

The whole divine character & administration ... is of a being of munificence, of abundance and superabundance.

“Enough” is a measuring word — a sufficiency & no more;

“Enough” is about economy, not profusion.

God never deals in this way.



Our Church

God Gives in Great Surplus

Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887), compiled by unknown congregant, *Life Thoughts* (1858; 333 pp.), 243-244.

www.Google.com/books/edition/Life_Thoughts/ANYQAAAAYAAJ

God never deals in this way.

With him there is always a magnificent overplus.

**The remotest corner of the globe
is full of wonder & beauty.**

**The laziest bank in the world, away from towns,
where no artists do congregate,
upon which no farm laps,
where no vines hang their cooling clusters,
nor flowers spring,
nor grass invites the browsing herd,**



Our Church

God Gives in Great Surplus

Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887), compiled by unknown congregant, *Life Thoughts* (1858; 333 pp.), 243-244.

www.Google.com/books/edition/Life_Thoughts/ANYQAAAAYAAJ

nor grass invites the browsing herd,
is yet spotted & patched with
moss of such exquisite beauty,
that the painter who in all his life should produce
one such thing would be a master in art &
immortal in fame....

God's *least* thought is more prolific
than man's greatest abundance.

Acts 17 – Paul to the wisest of the 1st Century



Book of Acts – the Early Church

1 Intro – Theophilus, Appearances, Ascension

2-12 Peter – Church from Jerusalem to Antioch

2-7 Jerusalem – Peter, John, Ananias & Sapphira, Stephen

8 Samaria – Paul persecutes, Philip, Simon

9 Conversion of Paul

10-12 Conversion of Cornelius, Peter vision of sheets



13-28 Paul – Church from Antioch to Rome

13 – 14 1st Missionary Journey – Saul/Paul & Barnabas

15:1-35 1st Church Council in Jerusalem

15:36 – 18:22 2nd Missionary Journey of Paul

18:23 – 21:16 3rd Missionary Journey of Paul

21:17 – 23 Paul to Jerusalem

24 – 26 Paul to Caesarea ... 27-28 Paul to Rome

You are **HERE**



13:1 – 14:28 Paul's *FIRST* Missionary Journey

13:1-12 Cyprus 14:1-7 Iconium

13:13-52 Pisidia Antioch 14:8-28 Lystra, Derbe, to Antioch

15:1-35 Jerusalem & First Church Council

15:36 – 18:22 Paul's *SECOND* Missionary Journey

15:36 – 16:10 Antioch to Troas

16:11-40 Troas to Philippi

17:1-34 Philippi to Thessalonica to Athens

18:1-22 Athens to Corinth

18:23 – 21:16 Paul's *THIRD* Missionary Journey

18:23 – 19:41 Ephesian Pentecost

20:1 – 21:16 Macedonia to Troas, Athens, Corinth, return

21:17 – 28:31 Paul in Route to & in Rome

21:17 – 23:35 In Jerusalem

24:1 – 26:32 In Caesarea

27:1 – 28:15 Voyage to Rome

28:16-31 Ministry in Rome



Parthenon

**Areopagus
Aries Hill
Mars Hill**



**Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)**

**Reconstruction of
the Acropolis of
Athens, Greece, 1846
by Leo von Klenze
(1784-1864)**

Soon ... Apostle Paul enters Athens

Seat of the most intellectual culture of the Ancient World

Greek ... language of the greatest book—the New Testament

Art & architecture more confounding than the Pyramids

Its philosophers founded “philosophy”

Its playwrights still move today

**Major force in & origin of
Western Thought**

Even studied by

U.S. Founding Fathers ...



**Reconstruction of the Acropolis, 1846
by Leo von Klenze (1784-1864)**

Philosophy ... is ... study of the **NATURE** of
Existence ~ Knowledge ~ Values ~ Reason ~ Mind
Virtues ~ Good/Evil ~ Language ~ Ethics

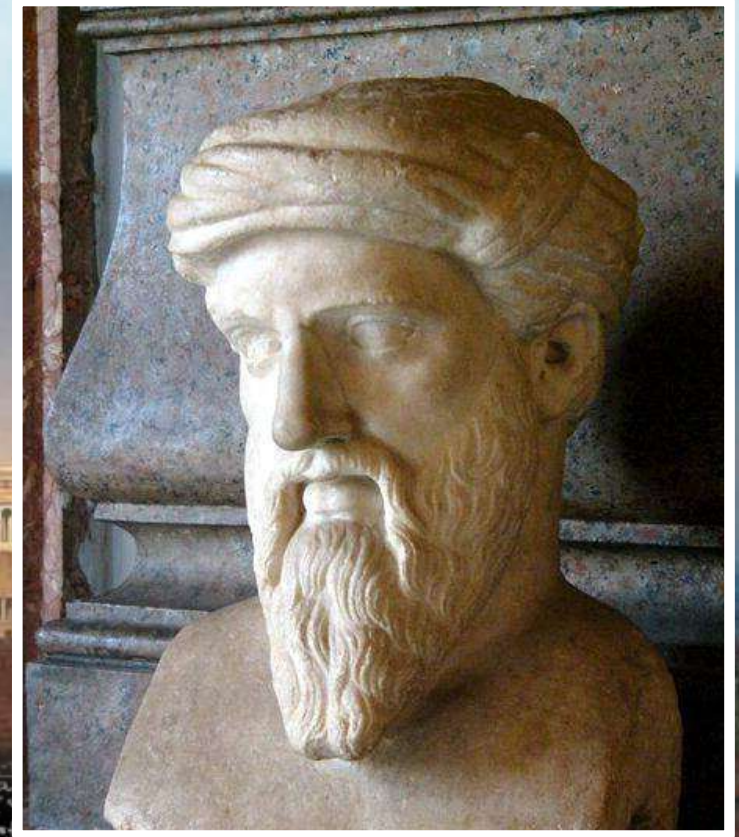
Philosophy from Greek

Philo & Sophia = Love of Wisdom

Probably coined by
Greek Philosopher

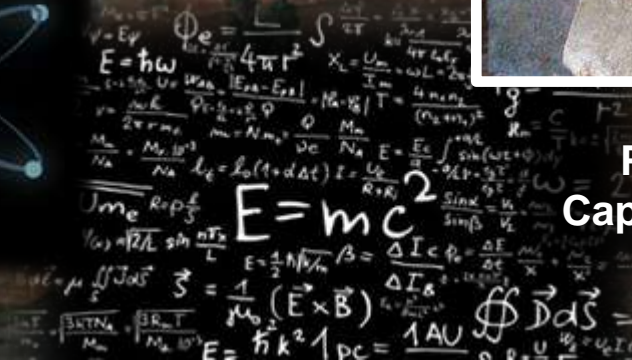
Pythagoras (c. 570–495 B.C.)

Who made discoveries in
Math, Science, Music



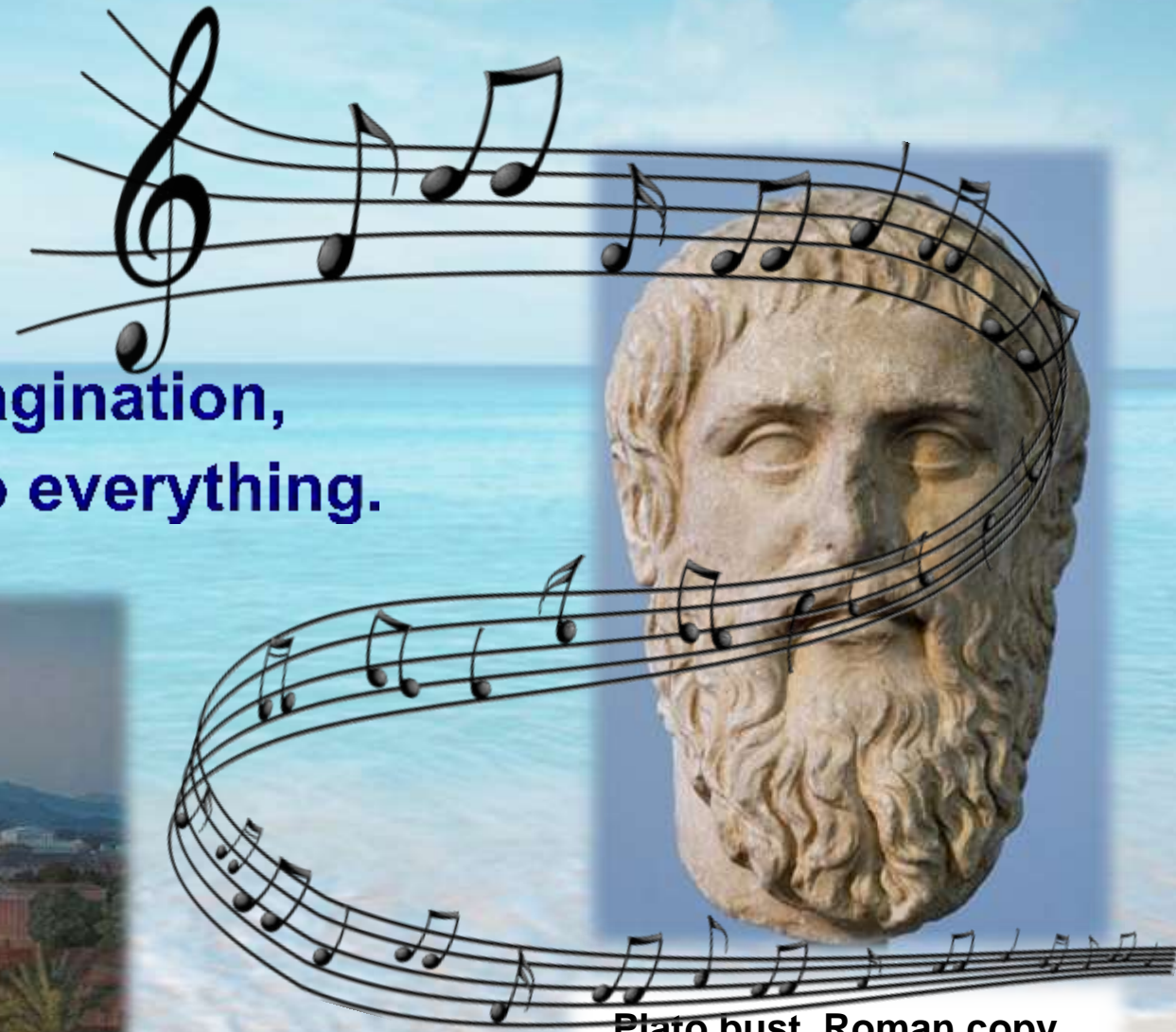
Pythagoras of Samos
Capitoline Museums, Rome

Reconstruction of the Acropolis, 1846
by Leo von Klenze (1784-1864)



**Plato, 427-347 B.C. – a quote
founder of the Academy at Athens**

**Music is a moral law.
It gives soul to the universe,
wings to the mind, flight to the imagination,
and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.**



**Plato bust, Roman copy
of bust by Silanion
for Academia in Athens
c. 370 B.C.**



**Reconstruction of
the Acropolis, 1846
by Leo von Klenze (1784-1864)**

Theme
**Salvation through Christ Alone,
To know the One True God**

Acts 17 Paul's 2nd Missionary: Philippi to Athens – 4th Leg

- 17:1-14 Paul, Silas, Timothy trek thru Thessalonica to Berea**
- 17:15-21 Paul sent Alone to Athens**
- 17:22-23 Unknown God – “To the Unknown God”**
- 17:24-29 Known Creator – Not Gold ... God Made World**
- 17:30-31 Judgment by the Son – Resurrection Proof**
- 17:32-34 Split Decision – Some Sneered ... Some Believed**



Key Verse Acts – 17:13

**For he has set a DAY when he will
judge the world with justice by
the man he has appointed.**

**He has given PROOF of this to everyone
by raising him from the dead.**



Alternate Title #1

Greece—Land of the

Known

Unknowns



New Briefing on Feb. 12, 2002 made
“Knowing Known Knowns” famous

Question on evidence of Iraq supplying
weapons of Mass Destruction to terrorists

U.S. Secretary of Defense
Donald Rumsfeld answered:

Reports that say that something hasn't
happened are always interesting to me,
because as we **KNOW**, there are

Known Knowns;

there are things we KNOW we KNOW.

All Caps Mine



U.S. Secretary of Defense
Donald Rumsfeld
February 12, 2002



Donald Rumsfeld continued:

We also **KNOW** there are

Known Unknowns;

that is to say we **KNOW** there are
some things we do not **KNOW**.

But there are also

Unknown Unknowns

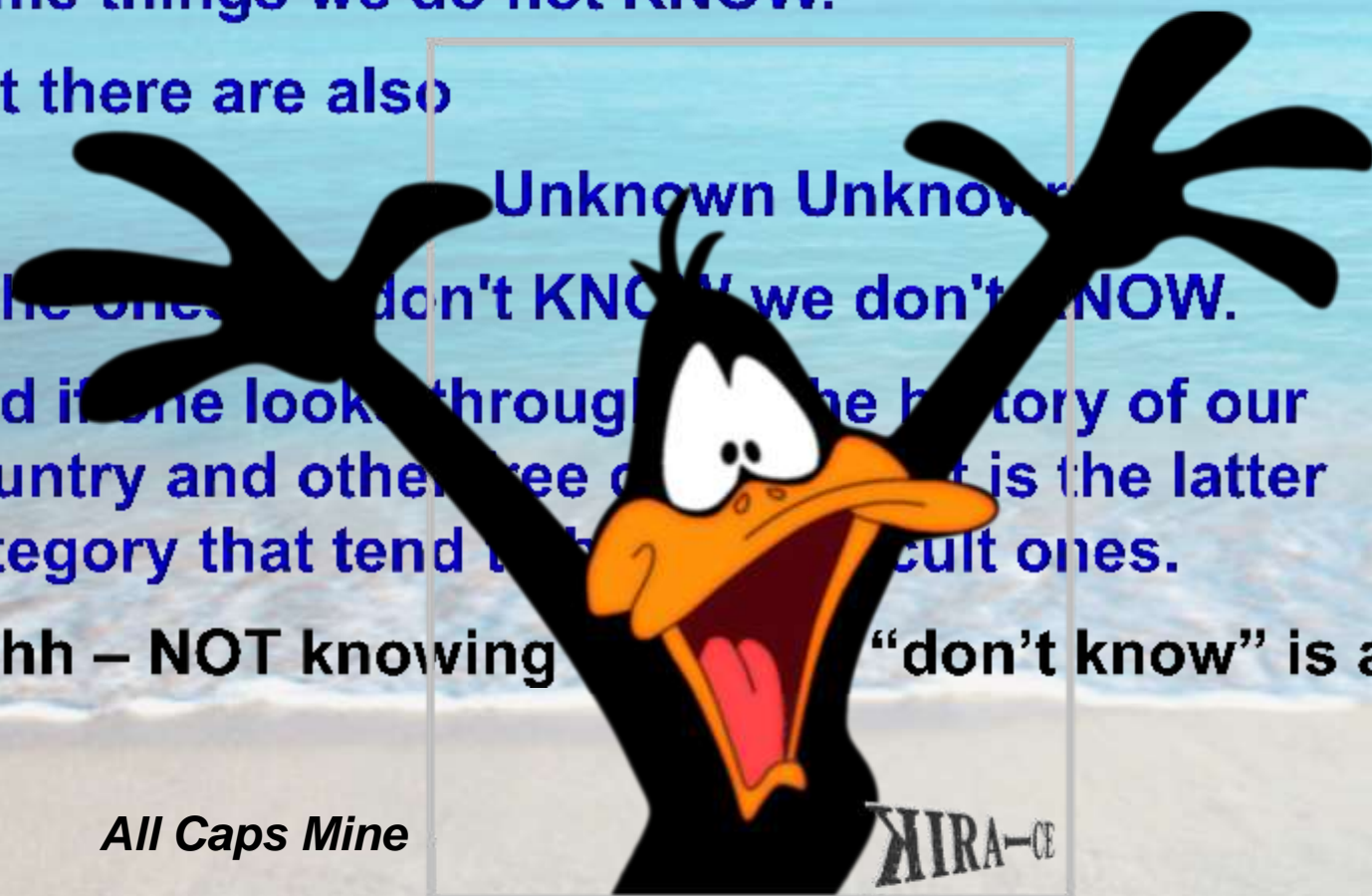
—the ones we **don't KNOW** we **don't KNOW**.

And if one looks through the history of our
country and other, one sees that it is the latter
category that tends to be the most difficult ones.

Ahhh – **NOT** knowing “**don't know**” is a problem



U.S. Secretary of Defense
Donald Rumsfeld
February 12, 2002



All Caps Mine

MIRA-CE



Yeah ... so there are

Known Knowns

Known Unknowns

Unknown Unknowns

Known Unknowns = risks you're aware of
like cancelled flights that **MIGHT** happen

Unknown Unknowns = risks that could come
from situations so out of this world that
they never occur to you.

You think KNOWING that is strange ...

Rumsfeld did **NOT** invent the terms.

WHAT?



U.S. Secretary of Defense
Donald Rumsfeld
February 12, 2002

You're gonna

Love This

Or NOT

Originated from the **Johari Window** (1955)

Developed by the Psychologists Joseph Luft (1916–2014)
& Harrington Ingham (1916–1995)

Technique helps people understand their

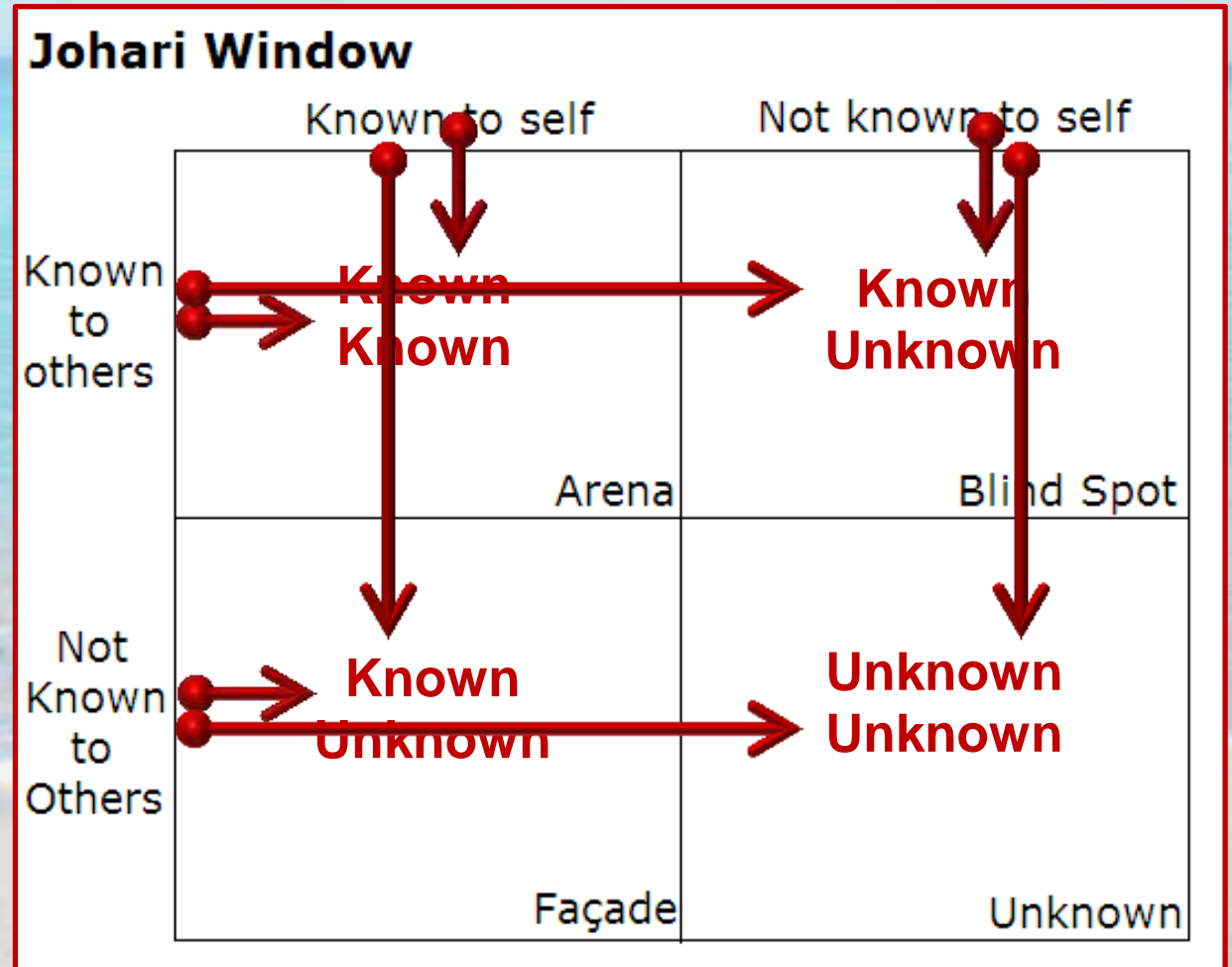
Relationship

1. with **Themselves**
2. with **Others**

Notice **Known Known**

Now **Known Unknown**

Lastly, **Unknown Unknown**



Now ... you **know** what I **KNOW** ...

Same thing you **KNOW**
that is entirely too many

GNOMES

KNOWN GNOMES
and

UNKNOWN GNOMES

Lot of

Knownsense



Alternate Title #1

Greece—Land of the

Known

Unknowns



Alternate Title #2

Heavenly Home of Secure Knowns



Alternate Title #3

**Heaven—Land of
No Unknowns
and
Homely Knowns**



**Greece
Hellás**

**4th leg of
Paul's 2nd Journey**

**From Philippi
to Thessalonica
to Athens**

**perhaps about 350 Miles
NOW HALF way into 2nd Journey**



**17:1-14 Paul, Silas, Timothy
thru Thessalonica to Berea**

Verses 1-2, Paul & Co. to Thessalonica ...

Paul visits synagogue 3 Sabbath days

***PROVING* the Messiah had to suffer & rise**

**² “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you
is the Messiah,” he said.**

Verse 4, Large number joined Paul and Silas

- ✓ **Jews ~ God-fearing Greeks ... *and***
- ✓ **quite a few prominent women**



**Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)**

**17:1-14 Paul, Silas, Timothy
thru Thessalonica to Berea**

**5 But other Jews were jealous;
so they rounded up some bad characters
from the marketplace, formed a mob and
started a riot in the city.**

- **Lynch Mob RUNS to Jason's house**
- **Lynch Mob RUNS to City Hall**

**6 "These men who have caused trouble
all over the world have now come here"...**

Crowd & City Officials: "thrown into turmoil."



**Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)**

**17:1-14 Paul, Silas, Timothy
thru Thessalonica to Berea**

Jason, et al, Post Bond ...

then this marvelous verse

**¹⁰ As soon as it was night, the believers
sent Paul and Silas away to Berea.
On arriving there,
they went to the Jewish synagogue.**

Just CANNOT shut down the Apostle Paul!

**¹¹ Now the Berean Jews were of more noble
character than those in Thessalonica ...**



**Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)**

How Great Thou Art

Swedish poem by Carl Gustav Boberg
(1859–1940) in Sweden in 1885

Trans. into German, then Russian, then a hymn.

Trans. Into English by English missionary
by Stuart Wesley Keen Hine (1899-1989)



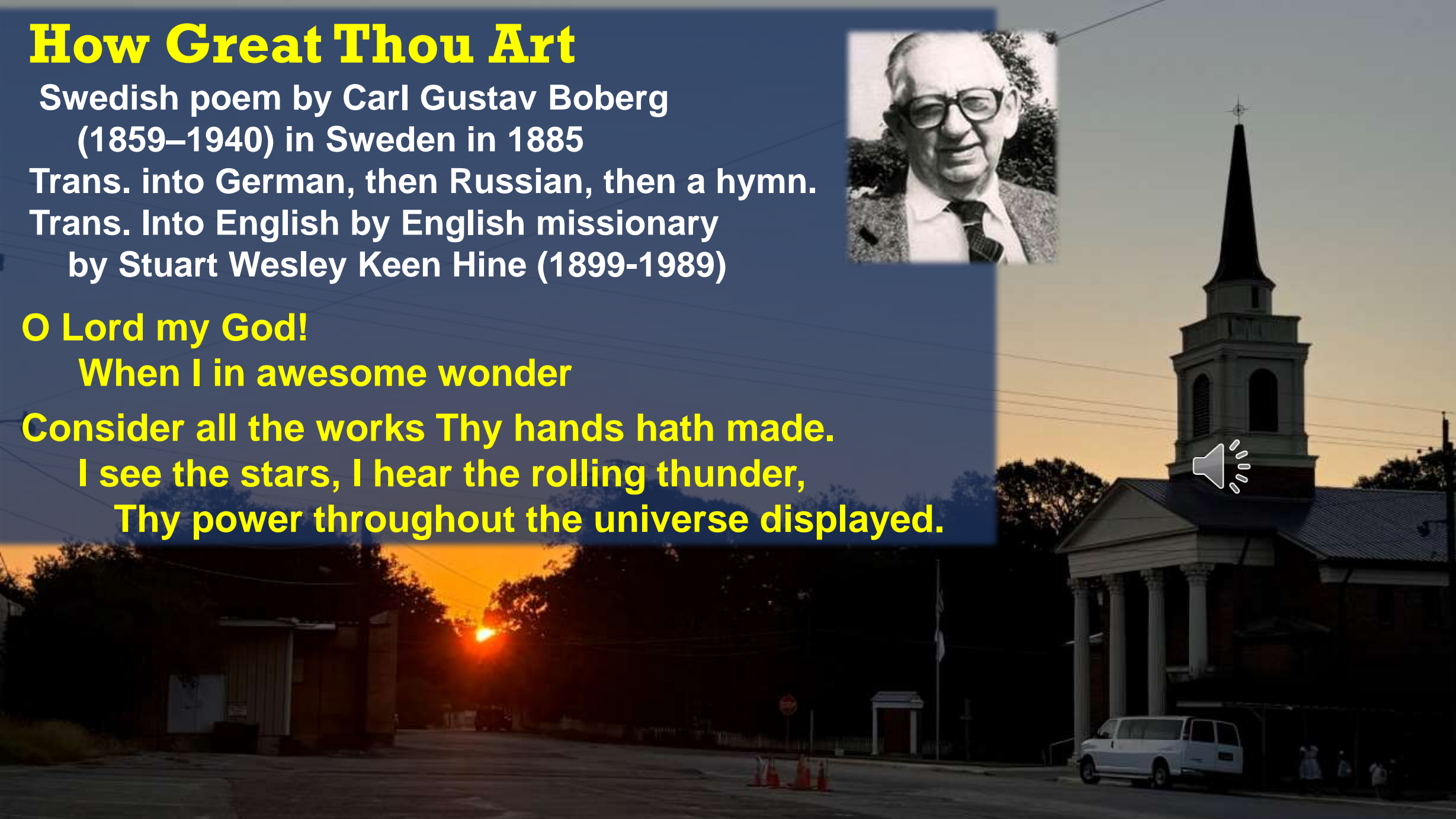
O Lord my God!

When I in awesome wonder

Consider all the works Thy hands hath made.

I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,

Thy power throughout the universe displayed.



**17:1-14 Paul, Silas, Timothy
thru Thessalonica to Berea**

**¹² As a result, many of them believed,
as did also a number of
prominent Greek women and
many Greek men....**

13, Lynch Mob Jews in Thessalonica

Go to Berea ... to cause riots there too

**¹⁴ Believers immediately sent
Paul to the coast,
but Silas and Timothy stayed at Berea.**



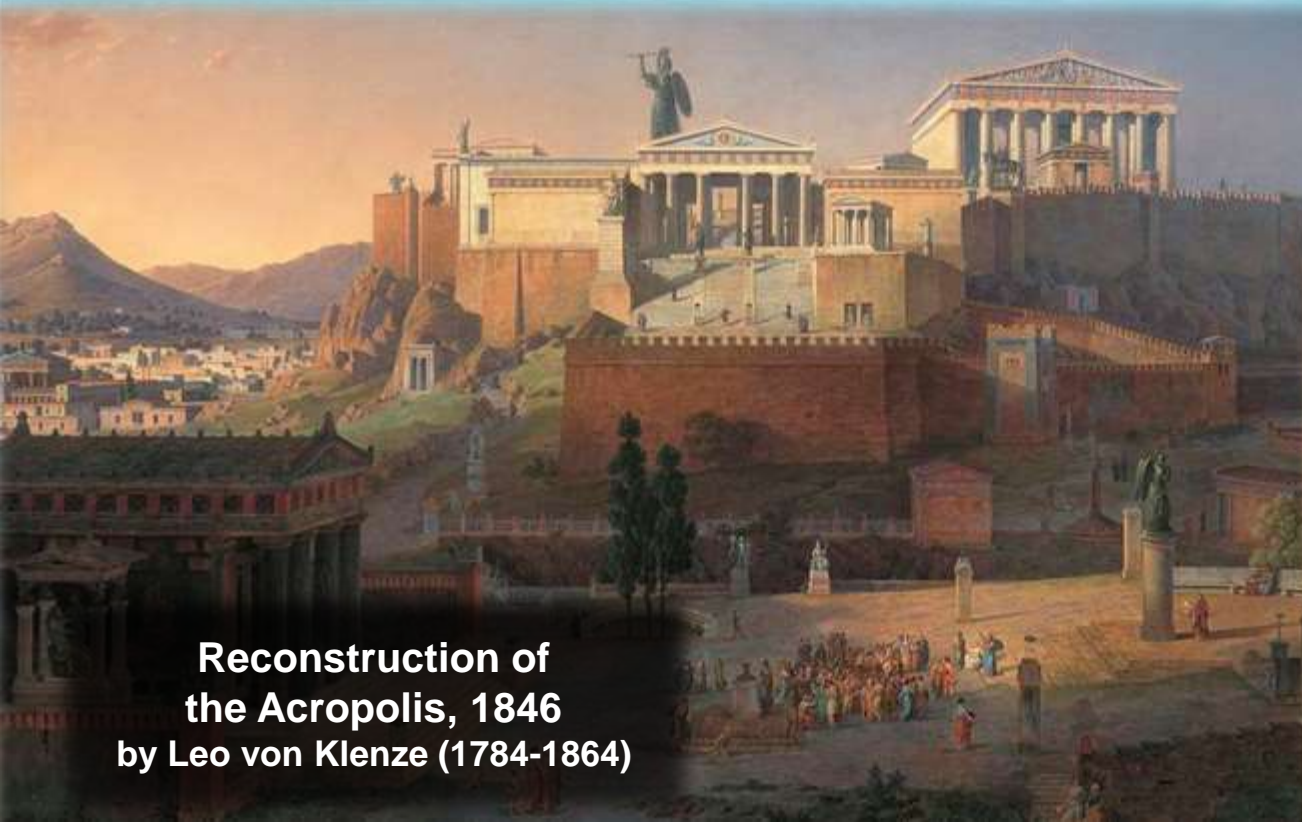
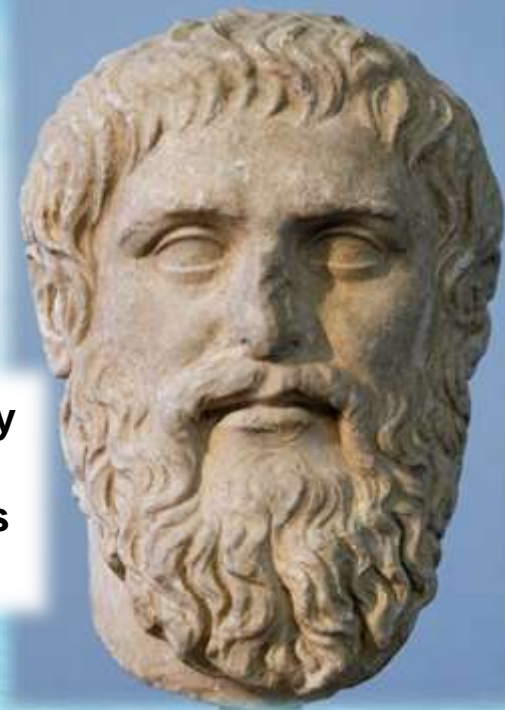
**Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)**

Plato, 427-347 B.C. – a quote
founder of the Academy at Athens

**Be kind, for everyone you meet
is fighting a hard battle.**

Also attributed to Philo of Alexandria

Plato bust, Roman copy
of bust by Silanion
for Academia in Athens
c. 370 B.C.



Reconstruction of
the Acropolis, 1846
by Leo von Klenze (1784-1864)



Acts 17 Paul, Silas, Timothy

From Philippi

To Thessalonica

To Berea

Maybe 150+ miles

Quarterly Map CUT

To Thessalonica

To Berea ... then

Sails the beautiful

Aegean to Athens

Trouble ALL the way



17:15-21 Paul sent Alone to Athens

15, Paul is escorted to Athens ...

Silas and Timothy to join him later ...

16, While waiting ... Paul greatly distressed

City was full of idols

Guess where Paul goes!

Yeah ... to the synagogue ... AND to the

“marketplace day by day”

That is where Dr. Luke NAMES philosophers



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

17:15-21 Paul sent Alone to Athens

18, Epicurean and Stoic philosophers

debate Paul

“What is this babbler trying to say?”

“He seems to be advocating foreign gods.”

Epicurean and Stoic Philosophers

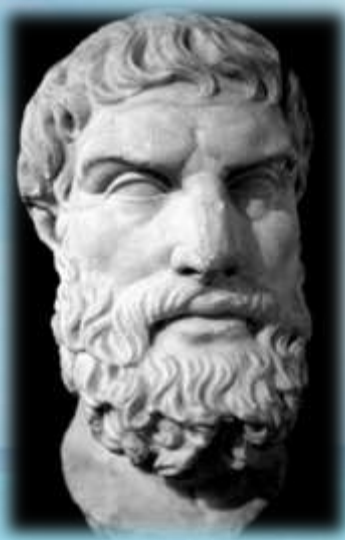
Have been philosophizing for 250 years!

**Ever since the Golden Age of Greece & Athens
c. 500-300 followed by Plato & Aristotle**

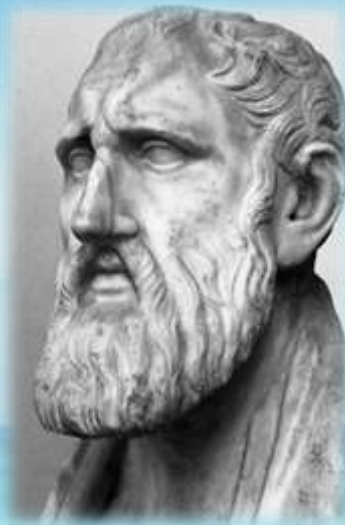


**Plato
427-347 B.C.**

**Aristotle
384-322 B.C.**



Epicurus
341-270 B.C.
Founder of
Epicureanism



Zeno of Citium
334-262 B.C.
Founder of
Stoicism



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

Epicurean Philosophers

- ✓ Gods not concerned with human affairs
- ✓ Die—nothing, back to atoms
- ✓ Live to Avoid Pain
- ✓ Pleasure OKAY ... *yeehaw*
- ✓ Pleasure sometimes seen as Hedonism

Stoic Philosophers

- ✓ Logos/Reason created world ... all in world
- ✓ Virtue—Live in Harmony
- ✓ Each had spark of Logos
- ✓ Die—Spark goes back to Logos
- ✓ Believed in Immortality of the

Soul

Epicurean and Stoic philosophers
confused at what they hear ... what?

¹⁸ Paul was preaching the good news
about Jesus and the resurrection.

Verse 19, they lead Paul to the
“meeting of the Areopagus”

BTW—meets on the Areopagus—Council & Place
Greek “**Areios Pagos**” is “**Hill of Ares**” – God of War

Verses 19-20, Epicurean & Stoic Philosophers

They WANT to know more!

These leaders take Paul to the Athens

***sorta* Supreme Court**

Ancient Areopagus Council



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

17:15-21 Paul sent Alone to Athens

**Verse 21 ... Dr. Luke informs us of their
Greek culture ... and large Leisure Class**

²¹ All the Athenians

**and the foreigners who lived there
spent their time doing nothing but
talking about & listening to the latest ideas**

Athens ... some 400 years AFTER its

Golden Age

Some 300 years AFTER Alexander the Great



**Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)**

17:22-23 Unknown God – “To the Unknown”

So at the HEART of Greek culture

Midst of the MOST educated of the era

²² Paul then stood up in the meeting
of the Areopagus and said:

“People of Athens! I see that in
every way you are very religious.”

Athens ... the Areopagus ... place of meeting

Just below the Acropolis & Temple to Athena

Greek language & culture originated here ...

since Alexander has spread over the **KNOWN** world



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

Paul ... Jew of Jews ... most educated and
BEST defender in the entire Christian Church
Paul NOW begins to **REASON** with the

World experts in **REASON**

Best Intellects of the World

versus

Best Intellect of the Church

Not Quite Fair to Athens



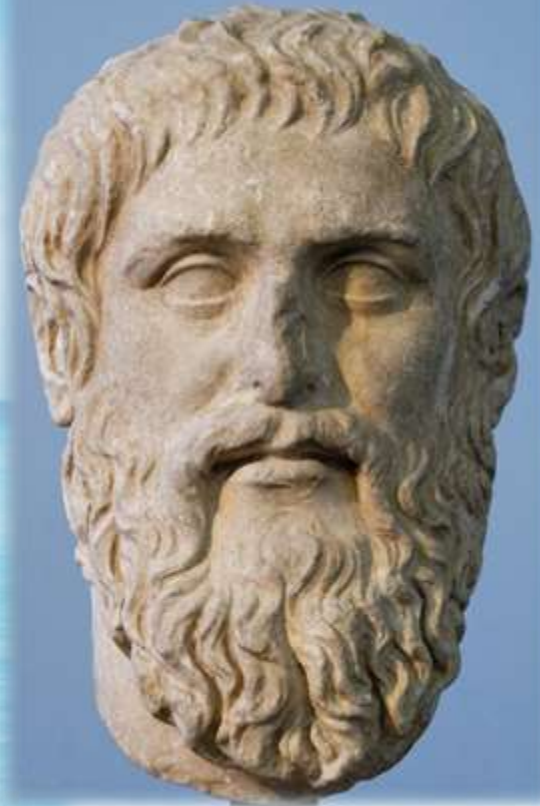
The Thinker (Le Penseur) bronze sculpture
by Auguste Rodin (1840-1917)



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

Plato, 427-347 B.C. – a quote
founder of the Academy at Athens

**The price good men pay
for indifference to public affairs
is to be ruled by evil men.**



Plato bust, Roman copy
of bust by Silanion
for Academia in Athens
c. 370 B.C.



Reconstruction of
the Acropolis, 1846
by Leo von Klenze (1784-1864)



Paul in the Great Athens

Some DEBATES are a pleasure

Here ... Expert on Christianity

Apostle Paul ... addresses the
Harvard & Yale PhDs of the day

Takes them from where they are

To the foot of the Cross ... more

And, doubtlessly, we have here

Short Story



How Great Thou Art

Swedish poem by Carl Gustav Boberg
(1859–1940) in Sweden in 1885

*Few record the
middle stanzas*

When through the woods
and forest glades I wander

And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;

When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur

And hear the brook &

feel the gentle breeze



**Paul at the Areopagus
in the Great Athens**

Star of Athens?

**The Acropolis crowned with
Stunning Parthenon**

**Parthenon ... the
Temple to Athena**

**Exquisite Masterpiece of
Art, Engineering, Perspective**



**Acropolis of Athens viewed
from the Hill of Ares
or Areopagus
or Mars Hill**



25 DAYS OF GETAWAYS

Smithsonian  **175**
CHANNEL

Parthenon ...
in the Great Athens
Pericles ushered in the
Golden Age of Greece
500-300 B.C.

Rebuilt what Persians
had destroyed

Architect Ictinus

Phidias—Greatest Sculpture

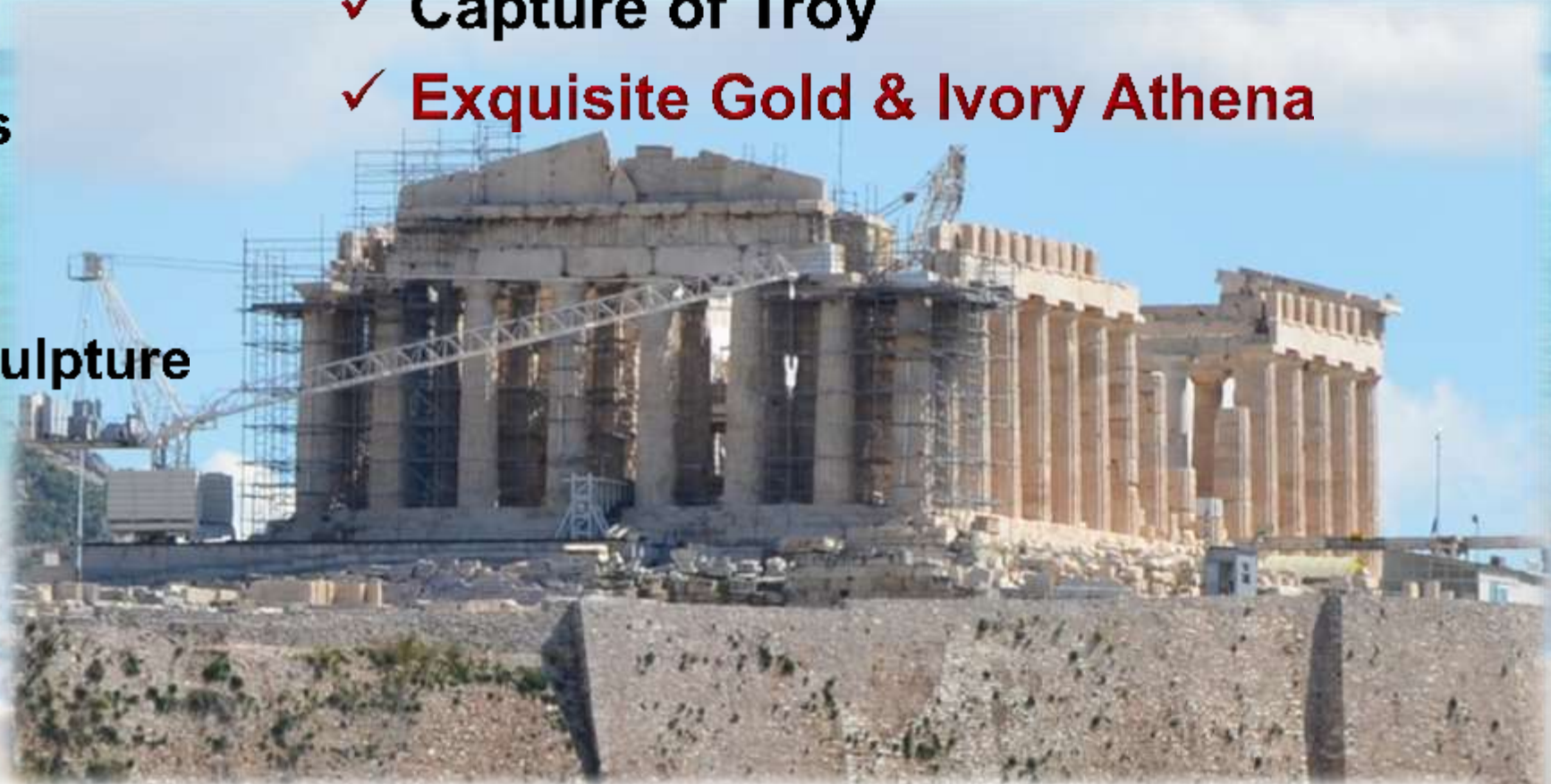
UNMATCHED Beauty

Around walls ... carved in
✓ **Gold, Ivory, White Marble**

✓ **Gods & Goddesses**

✓ **Capture of Troy**

✓ **Exquisite Gold & Ivory Athena**



Parthenon on the Acropolis of Athens viewed from the Hill of the Muses

Golden Age of Greece
1st Stage is the
Age of Pericles

Pericles, 495-429 B.C.

**He meant as much to Greece as
Washington did to the U.S.A.**

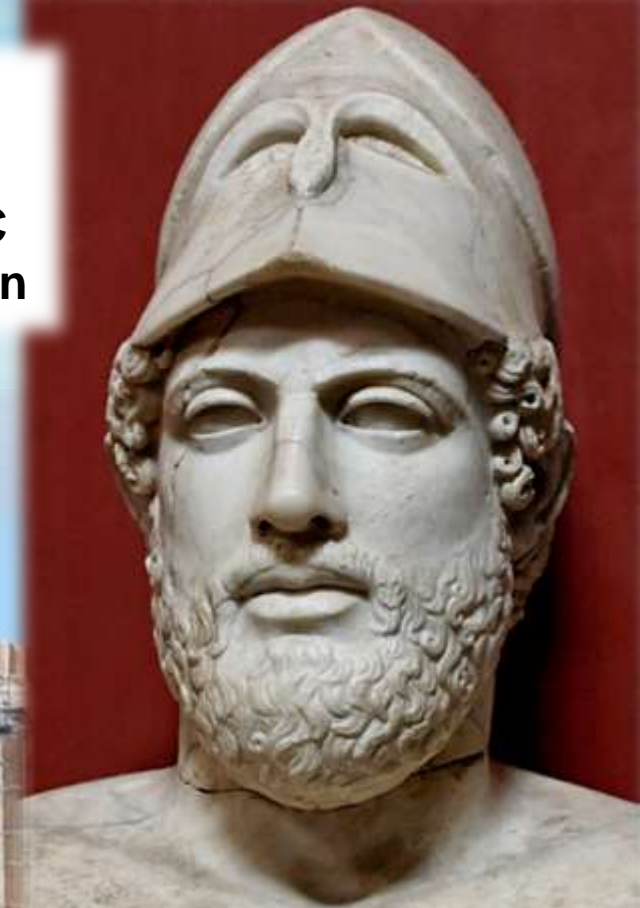
Built Acropolis & Temple

**Ushered in great works
of Art & Literature**

Unmatched Statesmanship



Bust of Pericles
Roman copy of
Greek original from c. 430 BC
Museo Pio-Clementino, Vatican



**Parthenon on the Acropolis of Athens viewed from the Mars Hill
or Hill of the Muses or the Areopagus**

Parthenon ... used as a treasury
Nashville, Tennessee, celebrate
their 1897 centennial
plaster replaces marble
serves at Nashville's Art
Museum with 63 paintings of
19th & 20th century
American artists donated
by James M. Cowan



Acropolis of Athens viewed from the Hill of the Muses

Parthenon in center of Athens

Pinnacle of Greek Art

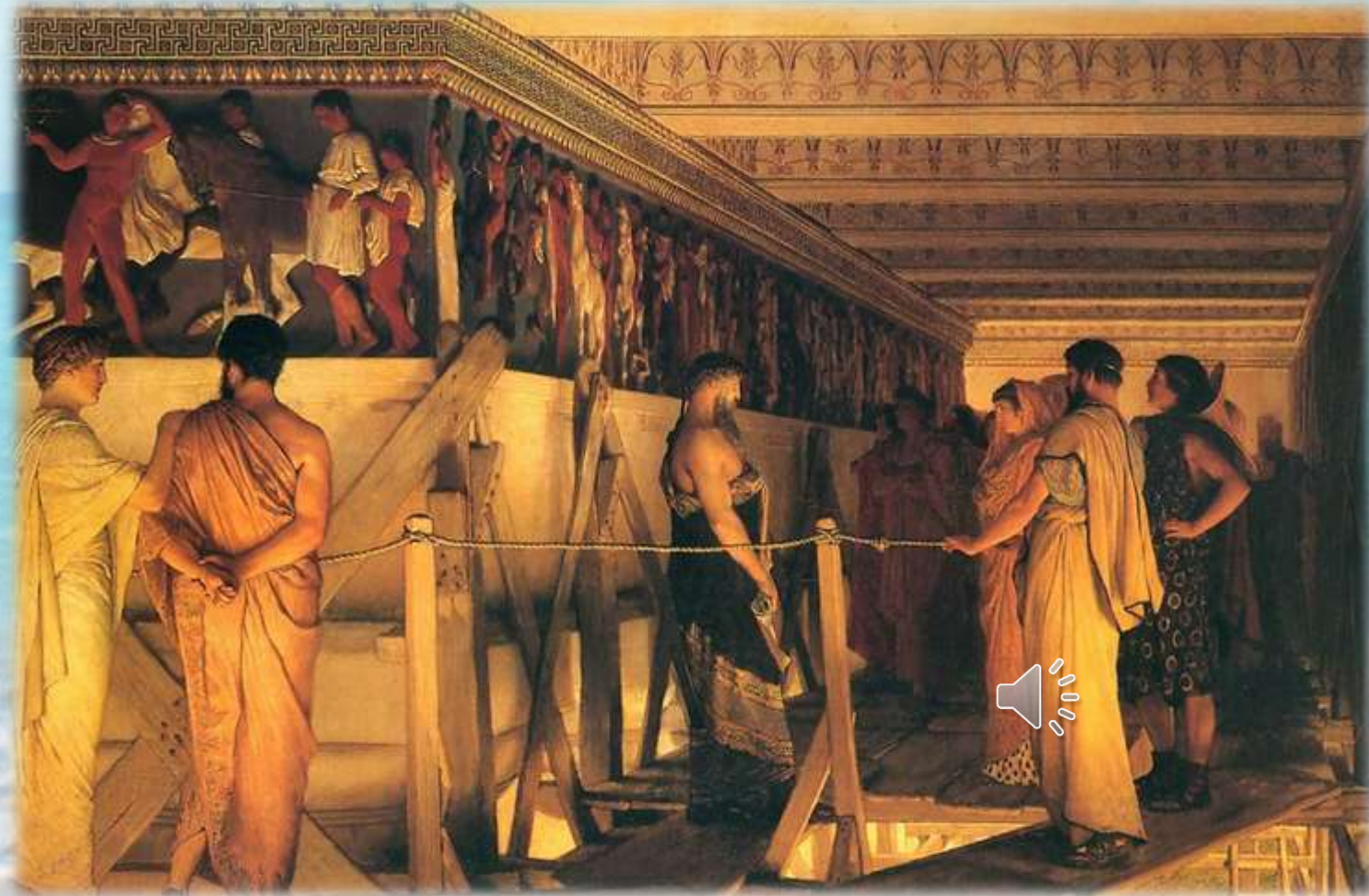
Converted to church
in 5th Century A.D.

Ottomans turned into a
mosque in 1460s

1687 ... Ottoman
ammunition dump
inside was ignited

Kaboommm ...

So Sad



Phidias Showing the Frieze of the Parthenon to his Friends,
1868 painting by Lawrence Alma-Tadema

Paul at the Areopagus

a *Place* & a *Council*

This Rock & they met Here

Areios Pagos = Areopagus

Ares = Greek God of War

Mars = Roman God of War

Hill of Ares Rock or **Mars Hill**

Areopagus is a **Ruling Council**

Advisors to the KING,

a Supreme Court

Areopagus Council dates to the 600s B.C.

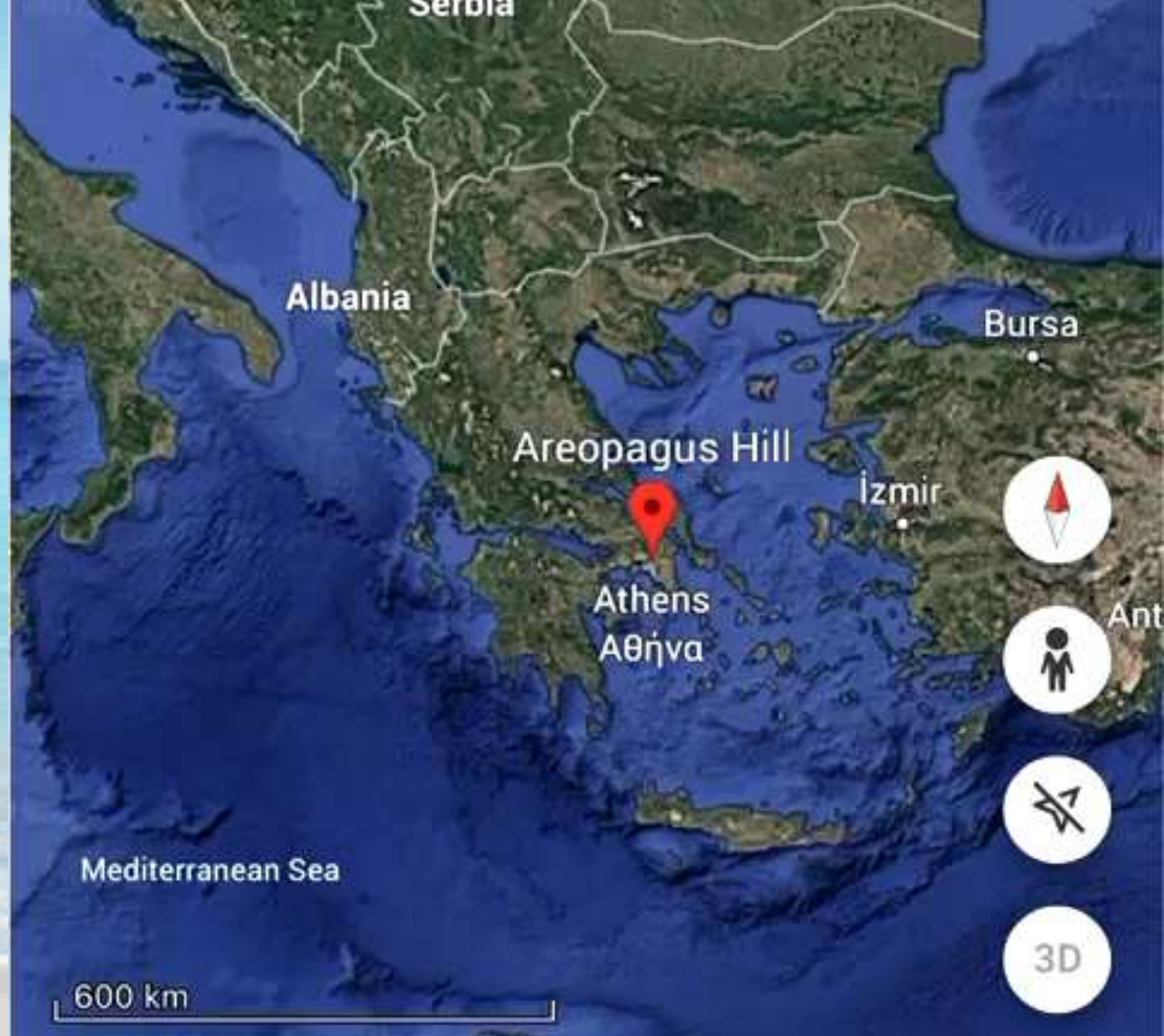


Areopagus Hill viewed
from the Acropolis
that is,
viewed from Parthenon



Areopagus Hill viewed from the Acropolis, upon which sits the great Parthenon

Here is view from Google Earth



Paul at the Areopagus

Ares Rock – Mars Hill

On this Rock

Paul gives one his ...

BEST sermons to

Some of the WORLD's

Smartest, Best Trained,

Most Curious, Talented



**Areopagus Hill viewed from the Acropolis
that is, viewed from Parthenon**

Intellectuals of the Era – Ancient Areopagus



17:22-23 Unknown God – “To the Unknown”

An unnamed man, a visitor at the Parthenon
LOOKING down ... saw group of men & Paul
could NOT hear what they were saying
Paul ... standing on this ROCK, *continued*

²³ For as I walked around and
looked carefully at your

objects of worship, I even found
an altar with this inscription:

TO AN UNKNOWN GOD

**Yes, Greeks had their
Known Unknowns**

Areopagus Hill viewed from the Acropolis
that is, viewed from Parthenon



17:22-23 Unknown God – “To the Unknown”

Paul ... continues with **BOLD CONFIDENCE**

Paul, inspired by God & at this time the best educated & most articulate Christian on earth

So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

Oh ... capture the scene

Maybe this tune?

Little Rock
Alright



**School of Athens, c. 1511
by Raphael (1483-1520)**

**One of most famous
frescoes of the
Italian Renaissance**

**Raphael commissioned
to decorate in the
Apostolic Palace
in the Vatican**

Detail is extraordinary



Painted INTO it the Great Greek Philosophers

Raphael's School of Athens – here are *SOME* of the names

www.Hellenicaworld.com/Greece/Science/en/SchoolAthens.html

1. Zeno of Citium
2. Epicurus
3. **Unknown:** two women from previous work
4. Boethius or Anaximander?
5. Averroes
6. Pythagoras
7. Alcibiades or Alexander the Great?
8. Antisthenes or Xenophon?
9. Hypatia or Fornarina as a personification of Love
10. Aeschines
11. Parmenides or Nicomachus?
12. Socrates
13. Heraclitus

14. Plato

15. Aristotle

16. Diogenes of Sinope

17. Plotinus?

18. Euclid or Archimedes

19. Strabo or Zoroaster?

20. Ptolemy

21. Protogenes



Looking
closer



Looking closer

Aristotle

Socrates

Plato

Pythagoras

Euclid



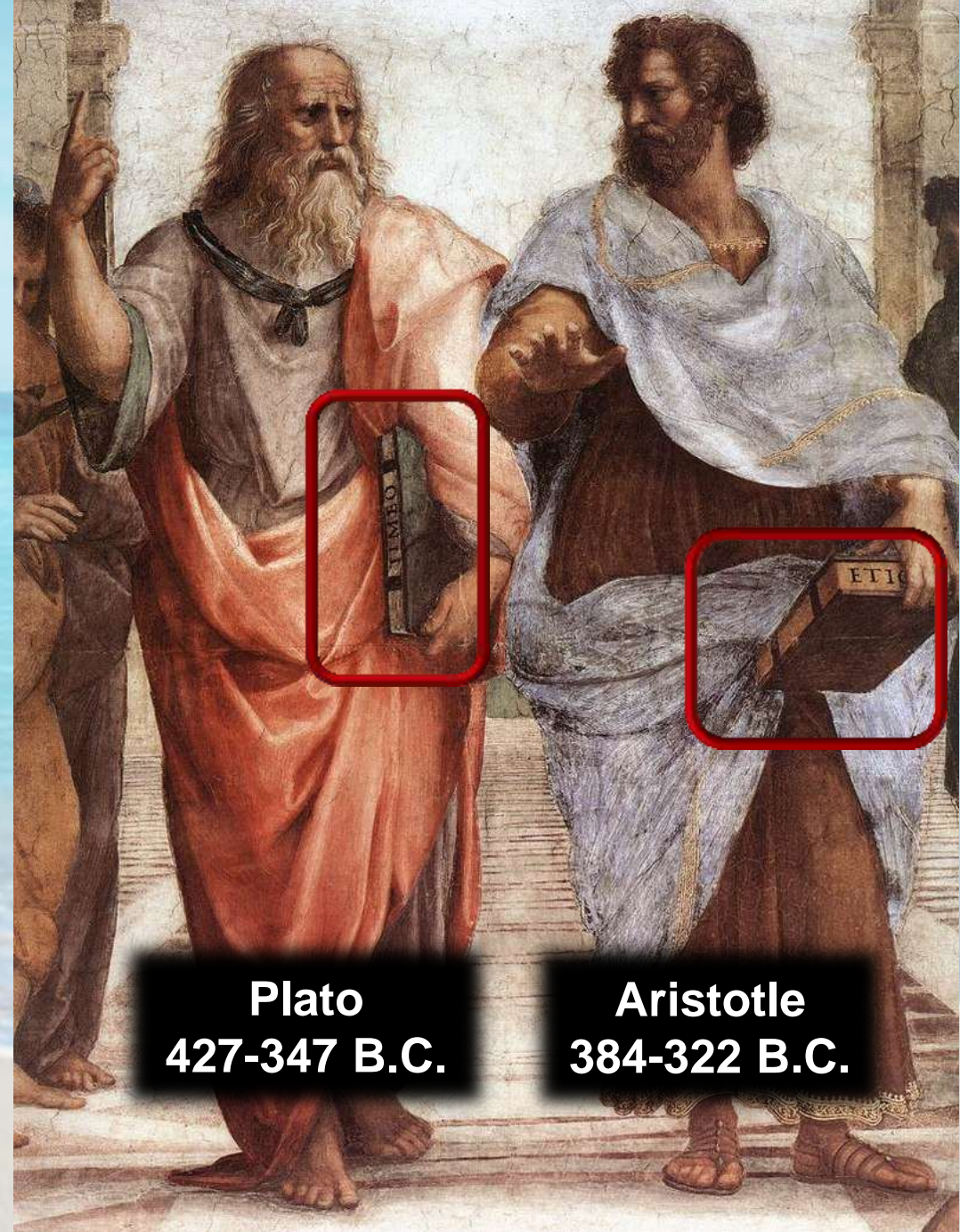
Raphael used the face of
Leonardo Da Vinci for Plato

Plato holds copy of his *Timaeus*

- ✓ Dialogue w Socrates, Timaeus, & two others on the universe
- ✓ 4 elements **Earth, Air, Fire, Water**
- ✓ Creation of world by a “Being”

Aristotle holds a copy of his
Nichomachean Ethics

- ✓ 10 “books” like chapters
- ✓ Great Masterpiece of philosophy
- ✓ Nature of the Virtue, Happiness,
- ✓ Sets of Moral Virtues explained



Plato
427-347 B.C.

Aristotle
384-322 B.C.

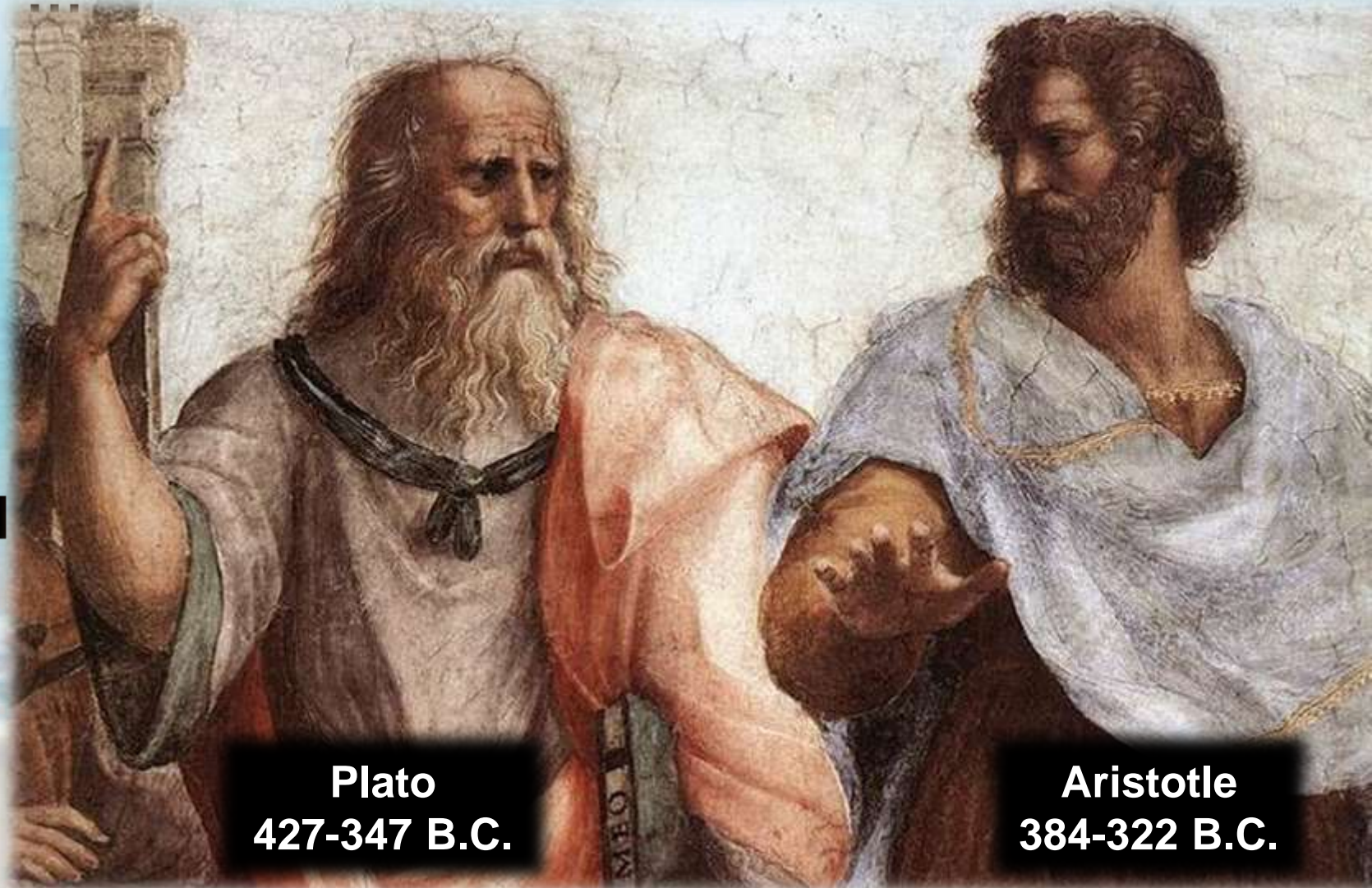
Now look at their **RIGHT HANDS**

Plato Gestures upward to the ethereal realm of his eternal Forms.
FORMS, you ask? ...

For Plato, Forms,
such as BEAUTY

are more real
than any objects
that imitate them

Aristotle Gestures
his hand downward
concreteness of his
philosophy



Plato
427-347 B.C.

Aristotle
384-322 B.C.

At the close of the Golden Age of Greece – 500-300 B.C.

Greek Philosophers have inspired for millennia & still do today

Aristotle taught Alexander the Great ... who spread

**Greek Language
& Culture all over**

**200 B.C. the O.T. is
Trans. into Greek**

A.D. 50 ...

**Apostle Paul knew
Hebrew & Greek**

There Paul was

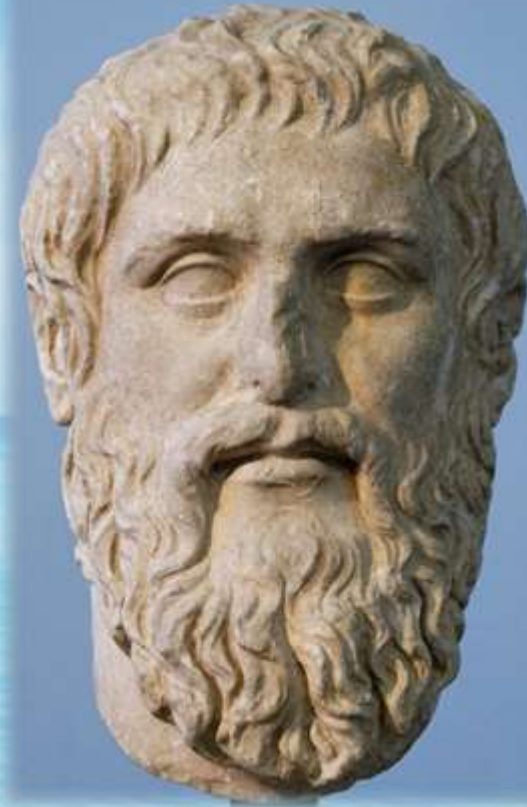


**Plato
427-347 B.C.**

**Aristotle
384-322 B.C.**

**Plato, 427-347 B.C. – a quote
founder of the Academy at Athens**

**We can easily forgive a child
who is afraid of the dark;
the real tragedy of life is when
men are afraid of the light.**



**Plato bust, Roman copy
of bust by Silanion
for Academia in Athens
c. 370 B.C.**



**Reconstruction of
the Acropolis, 1846
by Leo von Klenze (1784-1864)**

**17:24-29 Known Creator –
Not Gold, God Made World**

Paul continues, with a confident *FIRE*

24 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands.

25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.



**Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)**

**26 From one man he made all the nations,
that they should inhabit the whole earth;
and he marked out their appointed times
in history & the boundaries of their lands.**

**27 God did this so that they would seek him
and perhaps reach out for him
and find him, though
he is not far from any one of us.**

Then Dr. Apostle Paul pulls a fast one

Paul quotes from their own philosophers



**Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)**

Quoting from Epimenides 6th B.C.
both Plato & Aristotle quote & revere him

²⁸ 'For in him we live and move
and have our being.'

Then from Greek poet Aratus, c. 315–245 B.C.
from near Paul's home in Tarsus in Cilicia

As some of your own poets have said,
'We are his offspring.'

From there, Paul **REASONS** and
carries them further into the **TRUTH**



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

How Great Thou Art

Swedish poem by Carl Gustav Boberg
(1859–1940) in Sweden in 1885

When Christ shall come
with shout of acclamation
And take me home,
what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim,
my God, how great Thou art!



Masterfully ... Paul says,

²⁹ “Therefore *SINCE* we are God’s offspring,
we should not think that the
divine being is like gold or silver or stone—
an image made by human design and skill.

Now you can IMAGINE Paul’s eyes darting
up to the magnificent **Parthenon**
... Idols everywhere ...

Mt. Olympus seen in the distance
God of Paul ... God in Christ

No HUMAN can Design

Areopagus Hill



**17:30-31 Judgment by the Son –
Resurrection Proof**

**³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance,
but now he commands all people
everywhere to repent.**

**³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge
the world with justice
by the man he has appointed.**

**Greeks are masters of rhetoric
Art of speaking persuasively**



Paul goes straight to the heart of Christianity

31 He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

Oh, if only Dr. Luke had been there ...

If only Dr. Luke had a recorder ...

What was the WHOLE message?

Did Paul speak for an HOUR?

Longer ... shorter ... Half the DAY?

only God Knows ...



17:32-34 Some Sneered ... Some Believed
Paul likely knew what would happen next.

32 When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said,
“We want to hear you again on this subject.”

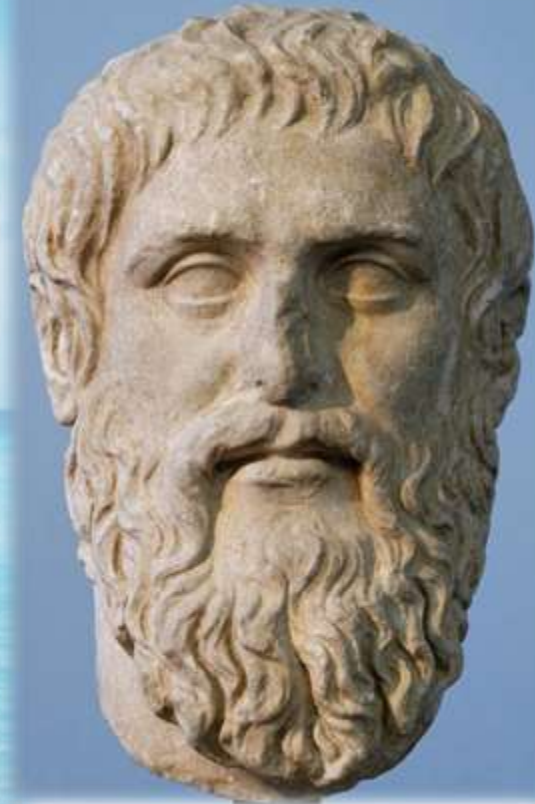
33 At that, Paul left the Council.

Paul ... Knows when to HOLD'em
Knows when to FOLD'em



**Plato, 427-347 B.C. – a quote
founder of the Academy at Athens**

**At the touch of love
everyone becomes a poet.**



**Plato bust, Roman copy
of bust by Silanion
for Academia in Athens
c. 370 B.C.**



**Reconstruction of
the Acropolis, 1846
by Leo von Klenze (1784-1864)**

Concluding the monumental Acts 17

³⁴ **Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.**

Christianity has now reached the

Pinnacle 1st Century Academia



Conclusion is CLEAR ...

Intellectual REASON ...
as important as it is ... **IS NOT ALL**

Christianity is **NOT** *Anchored* in REASON

Christianity is wholly, magnificently a

- ✓ TRUTH - wholly Reasonable yet
NOT subject to Reason alone
- ✓ TRUTH - the benchmark to start Reason
- ✓ TRUTH - allows life to have Reason
- ✓ TRUTH - for which Heaven is Reason's END



Conclusion is CLEAR ...

Christianity is not only REASONABLE

As TRUTH, it's what makes life itself REASONABLE

Christianity is NOT anchored *simply* in REASON

Christianity is **ANCHORED** in **REVELATION**

GREATEST TRUTH of Christianity is also the

HEART of Christianity—i.e., the **TRUTH** of the

**Resurrection
of Christ**



How Great Thou Art

Swedish poem by Carl Gustav Boberg
(1859–1940) in Sweden in 1885

Then sings my soul,
my Saviour God, to Thee:
How great Thou art,
How great Thou art!

