

FBC
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
SUBANG JAYA

GAMMA24

GAMMA
SERIES

ACTS

THE GOSPEL
ON THE MOVE



STUDY 13

PAUL PREACHES AT THE AEROPHAGUS

Acts 17



ITALY

MACEDONIA

Black Sea

PONTUS

Philippian jailor

Opposition from Jews

Lydia converted

Rome
Three Taverns

Forum of Appius
Puteoli

Thessalonica

Troas

BITHYNIA

GALATIA

CAPPADOCIA

Sermon Aeropagus Acts 17

Acts 16

Timothy recruited

Corinth ministry Acts 18

Rhegium

Syracuse

CHALCIS

Athens

Ephesus

Laodicea

Lystra

Antioch

Melita (Malta)

Cnidus

Rhodes

Cyprus

Salamis

Paphos

Sidon

Tyre

PHOENICIA

SYRIA

Damascus

Ptolemais

Samaria

Jerusalem

2ND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Mediterranean Sea

Cyrene

Alexandria

EGYPT



KEY	
	First Journey
	Second Journey

Acts 17:16 (ESV) 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





God fearing Gentiles..recognized God but not fully committed to Judaism

Acts 17:17-19 (ESV) 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. 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.

WORLD VIEW





Agora

The image shows a scene of ancient stone ruins. In the background, there are several walls and structures made of large, rectangular stone blocks. Some of the blocks are stacked in a way that suggests they were part of a larger building. The foreground is dominated by a large, flat area of ground covered with smaller, irregular stones and patches of green grass and small red flowers. The overall scene is one of historical significance and archaeological interest.

Center of culture

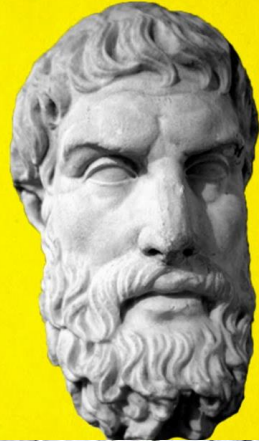
News
Commerce
Programs

GOSPEL FOR PAGANS



Building a bridge

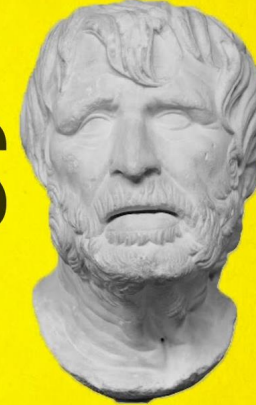
EPICURUS



Modify your expectations -desires

Don't worry about God or death or pain
Focus on enjoying good things

THE STOICS



Modify your response to events

Focus on how you react to events
Wisdom , courage ,self control

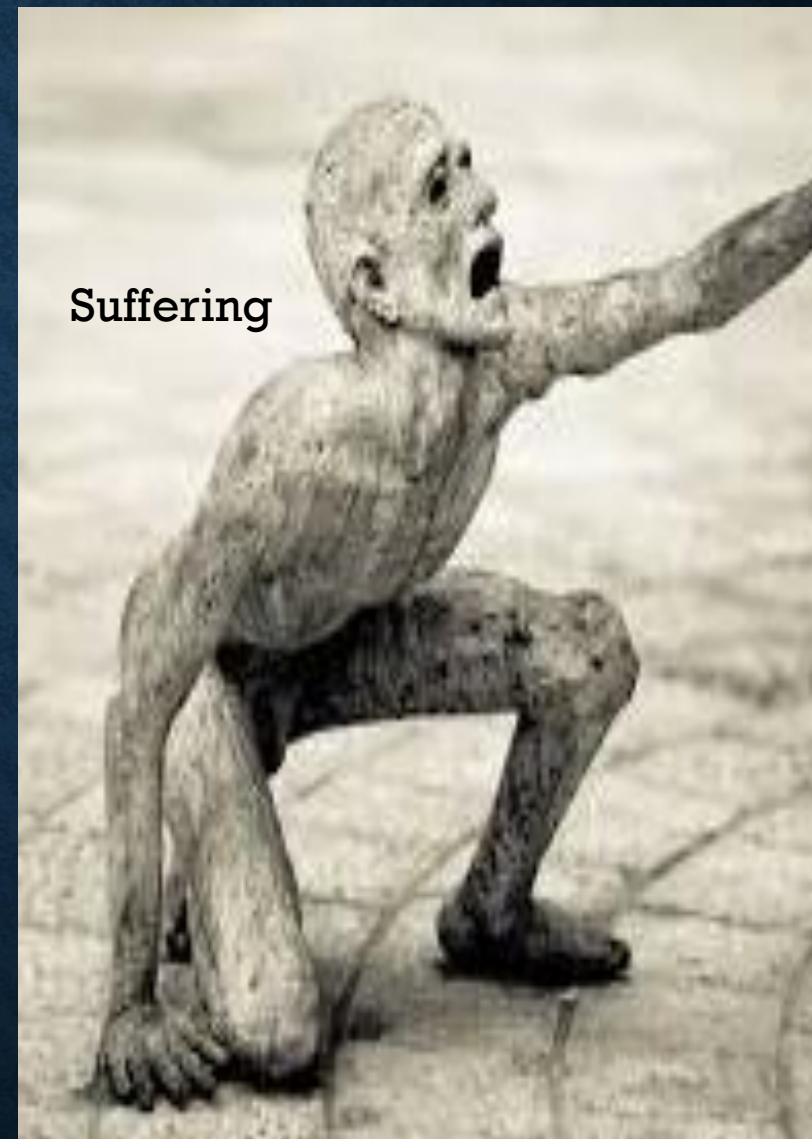
CULTURE ADDRESSES SOCIETIES ASPIRATIONS



Happiness



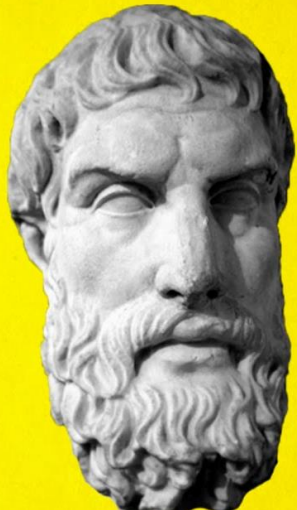
Death



Suffering



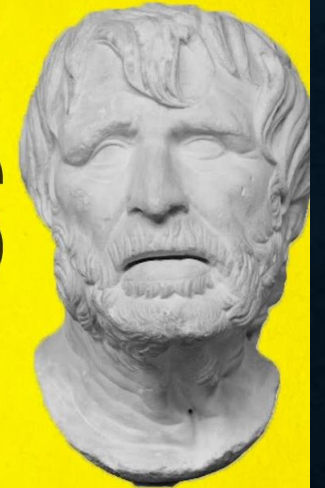
EPICURUS



Pluralists

Modify your expectations -desires

THE STOICS



Moral absolutes..virtue

Modify your response to events

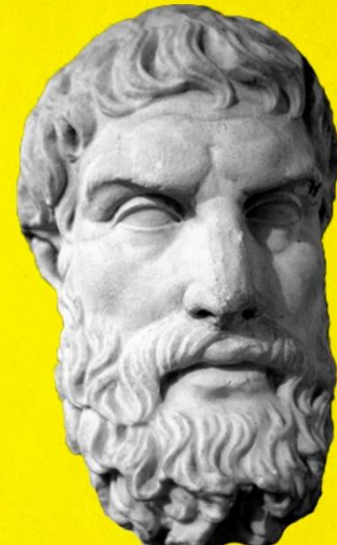
MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO BE HAPPY -HEDONISM

Highest good for an individual is to attain a state of tranquility and freedom from fear,
Achieved -Cultivation of knowledge, friendship, and the pursuit of simple pleasures

God is nothing to fear

Death is nothing to worry about

EPICURUS



**It is easy to acquire
good things in life**

**It is easy to endure the
terrible things in life**

DEATH IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT

No Soul no worries
about eternal
punishment



Death can't affect
the living or the
dead

Not logical to
lament the loss
of future
happiness after
death

Suffering is
therefore
mercifully limited

DEATH

Emptiness



Emptiness

Life before birth

Birth

Life

Death

Life Beyond Death

NATURAL AND NECESSARY DESIRES



Learn to enjoy simple pleasures in life(Hedonism)
Food , water , shelter, friends (natural and necessary
desires)

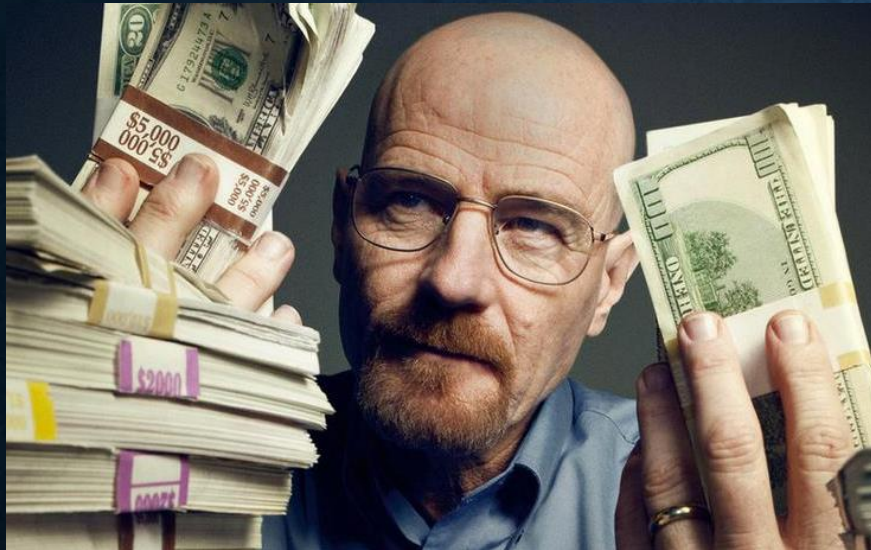
3. IT IS EASY TO ACQUIRE GOOD THINGS IN LIFE (CONTROL DESIRES)

Learning to enjoy simple pleasure accentuates the little luxuries of life natural and unnecessary desires





UNNATURAL AND UNNECESSARY DESIRES



Better to eliminate a desire rather than working hard to satisfy it
These desires are infinite and never will be satisfied

UNNATURAL AND UNNECESSARY DESIRES



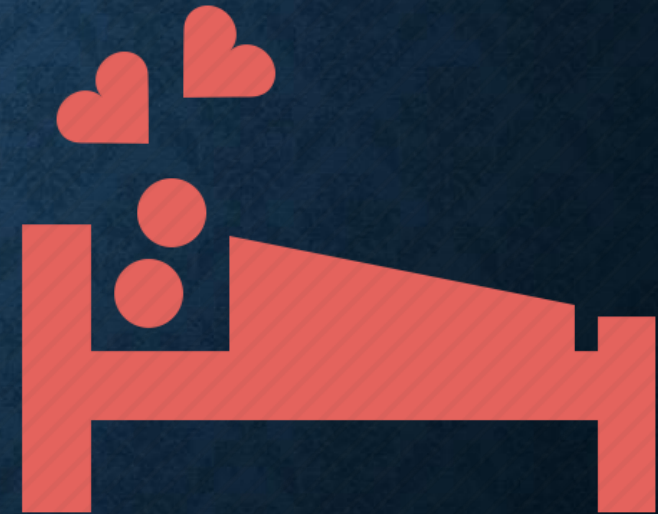
Better to eliminate a desire rather than working hard to satisfy it
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NATURAL AND UNNECESSARY

Sex is natural and unnecessary

Sex with anyone is good for
pleasure

Love is not good as created
unnatural desire



Young people in China fed up with relentless work demands and a slowing economy are 'naked quitting'

ABC news 18/8/24



996 CULTURE



4. IT IS EASY TO ENDURE THE TERRIBLE THINGS IN LIFE

Acute pain is sharp but short



Chronic pain is long but dull



If all pain is too intense
–suicide to limit the
pain



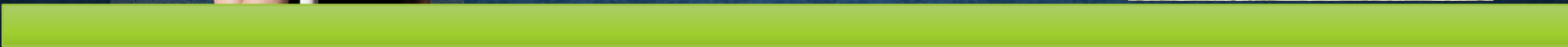
DAVID GOODALL



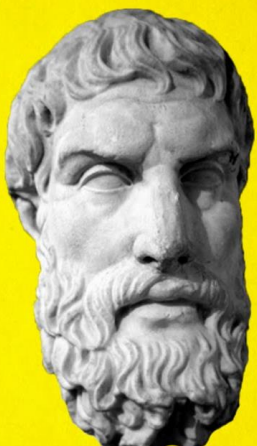
DAVID GOODALL

- "My life has been out in the field (working), but I can't go out in the field now,"
- "At my age, I get up in the morning. I eat breakfast. And then I just sit until lunchtime. Then I have a bit of lunch and just sit. What's the use of that?"

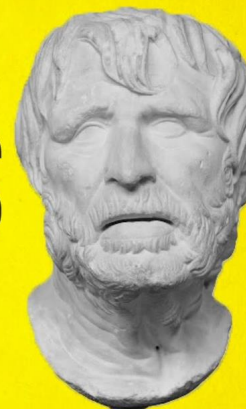




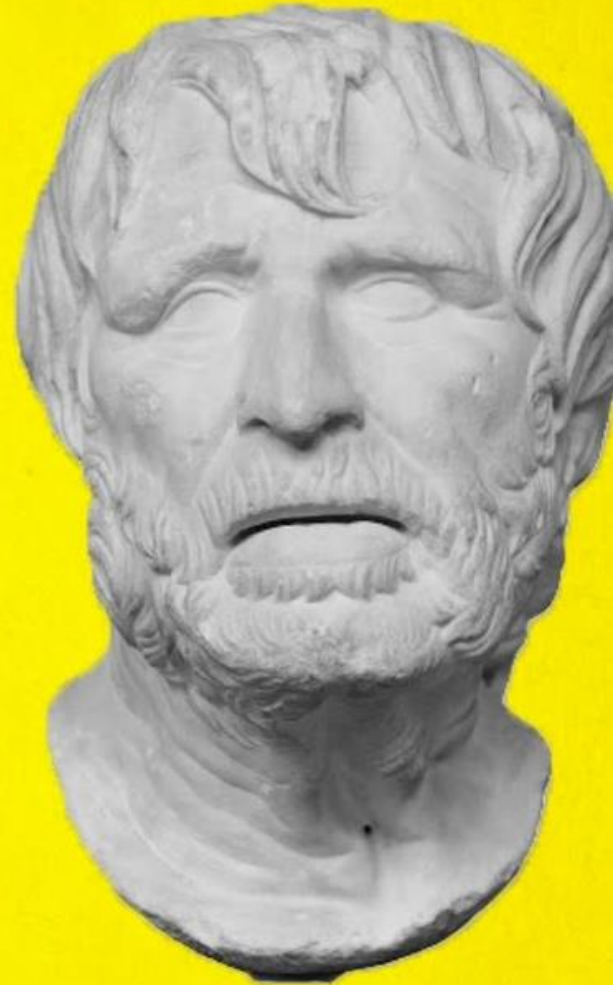
EPICURUS



THE STOICS



THE STOICS

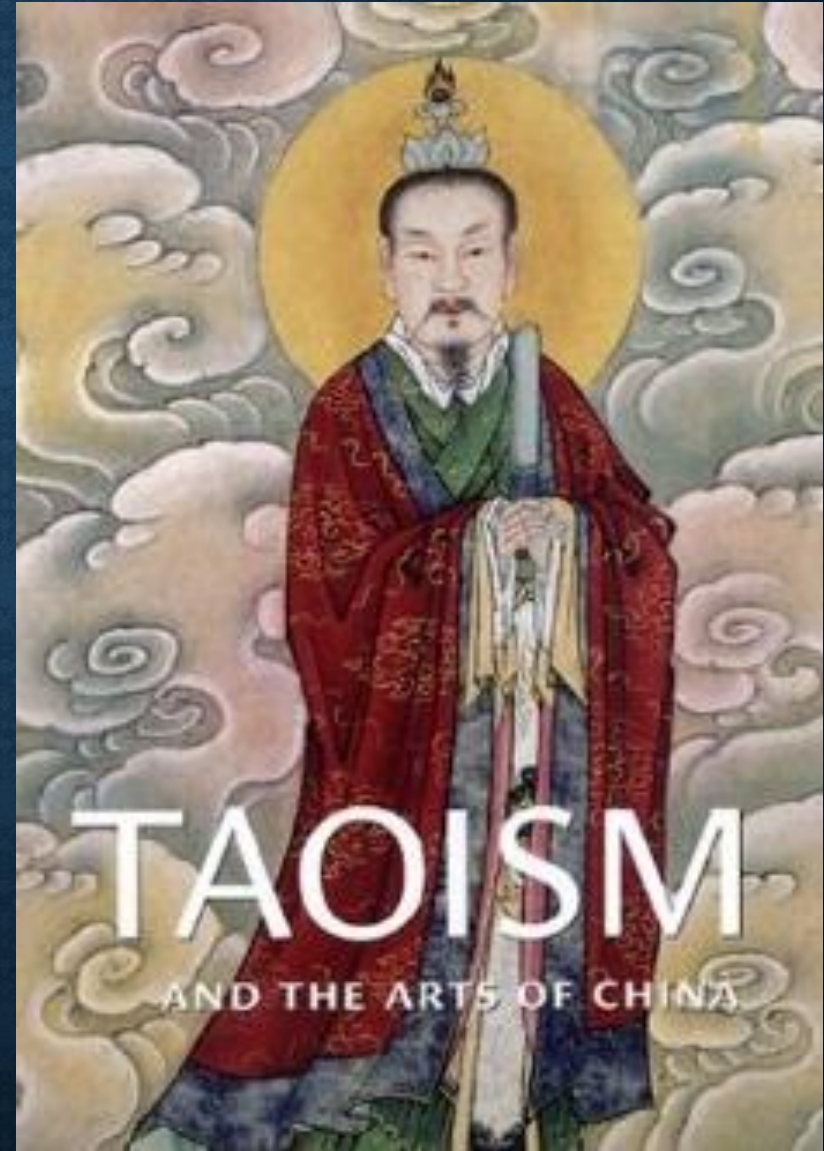


Be strong to adverse events

TAKE JOY IN PHILOSOPHICAL CONVERSATIONS



CONTEMPORARY EQUIVALENTS



UNIVERSAL DIVINE PRINCIPLE



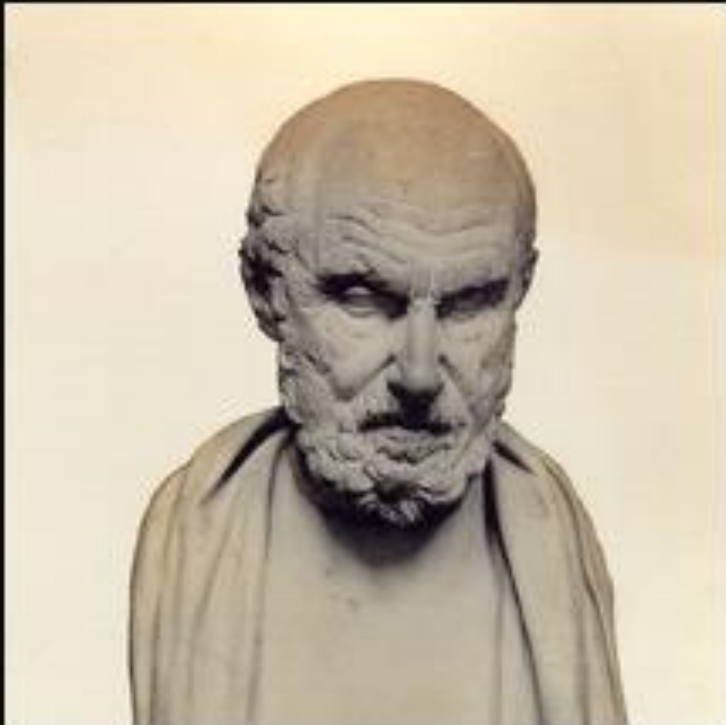
The logo for the video game "Star Wars: The Force Unleashed" is centered on a dark blue background. At the top is a metallic, blue, stylized number "III". Below it, the words "STAR WARS" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font with a white outline and a blue glow. The word "THE" is positioned to the left of the word "FORCE", which is rendered in a large, metallic, blue, stylized font with a glowing blue energy effect in the center of the letter 'O'. Below "FORCE" is the word "UNLEASHED" in a smaller, metallic, blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom is another metallic, blue, stylized number "III".

STAR WARS[®]

THE **FORCE**

UNLEASHED[™]

GOD IS IN THE FABRIC OF THE UNIVERSE



The universe itself is God and
the universal outpouring of its
soul

~ Chrysippus

PREDETERMINISM

FATE

destiny:

Change our inner attitudes

life

SOMETHINGS ARE UP TO US AND SOMETHINGS ARE NOT UP TO US (EPICTETUS)

Things beyond control

Actions and
opinions of
others
Reputation
Health
Wealth



Things in our control

Opinions
Moral judgments
Beliefs
Desires
Goals

MISERY--SLAVERY

Things beyond control

Actions and opinions of others

Reputation

Health

Wealth



HAPPINESS



Things in our control

Opinions

Moral judgments

Beliefs

Desires

Goals



Happiness

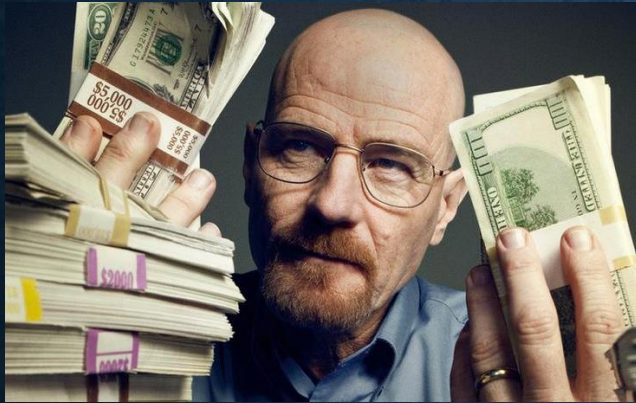
Misery



MAN HAS
BEAUTIFUL WIFE

STOIC INDIFFERENCE NON ATTACHMENT

He will not seek for them



If they come he will enjoy them
if they are taken away he will
not miss them



STOIC VIRTUE

- Wisdom
- Courage,
- Justice,
- Self-control



MARCUS AURELIUS



Live a good life. If there are gods and they are just they will not care how devout you have been but will welcome you based on the virtues you have lived by. If there are gods, and they are unjust you should not want worship them

If there are no gods you will be gone but would have lived a noble life that will live on in the memories of your loved ones



ITS ALL EPHEMERAL

“Alexander the Great and his mule driver both died and the same thing happened to both.”-

WEAKNESSES OF GREEK (WESTERN AND EASTERN PHILOSOPHIES)

- Impoverished life
- Passivity to evil ..accomodate evil
- Ignore source of evil accept it
- Determinism --fatalism

WEAKNESSES OF GREEK (WESTERN AND EASTERN PHILOSOPHIES)

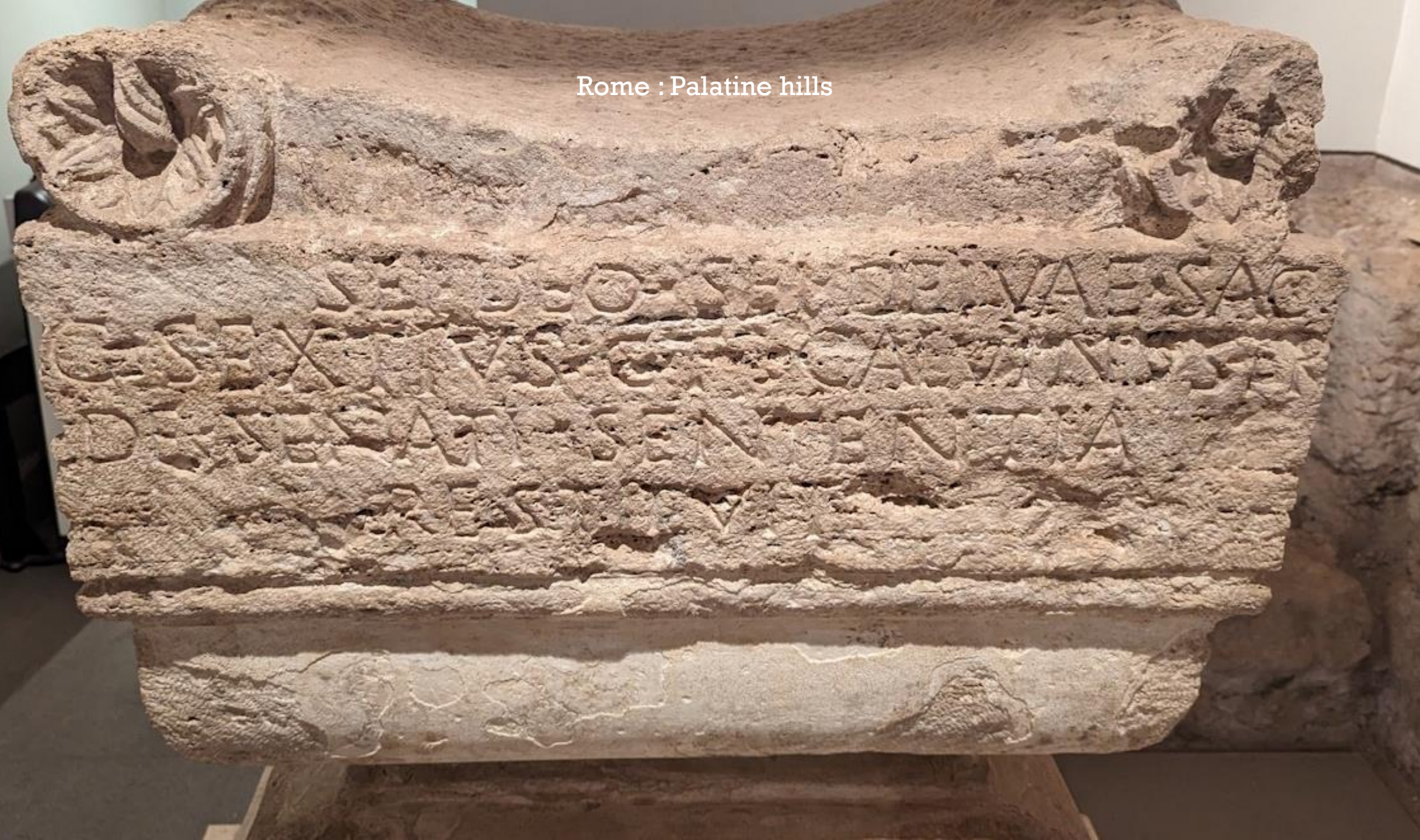
- Absence of Hope
- Absence of intense love
- Absence of solid eternal future

FINDS COMMON GROUND

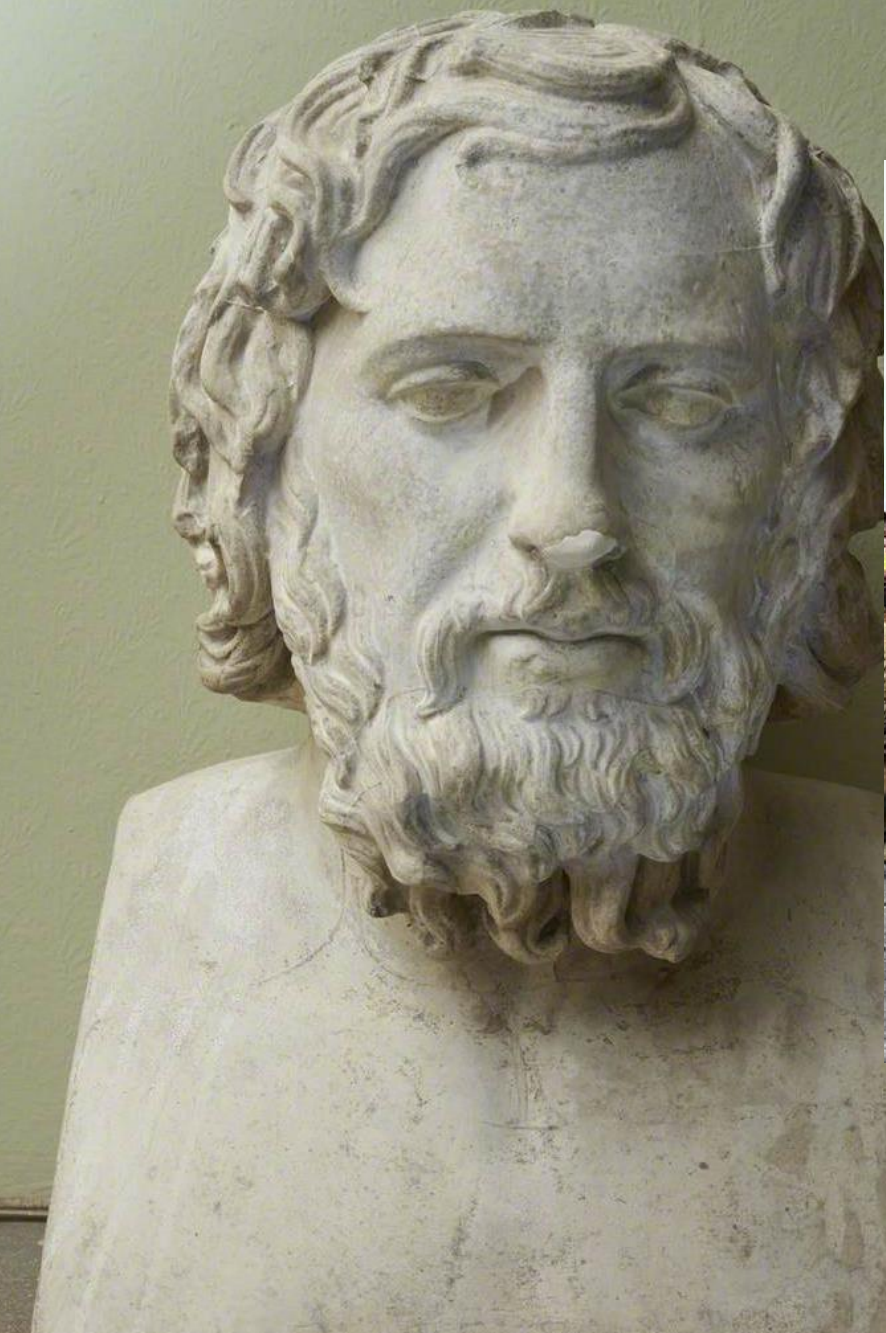
Acts 17:22 (ESV) So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.

Acts 17:2 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: To the unknown god.'

Rome : Palatine hills



GREAT PLAGUE IN ROME

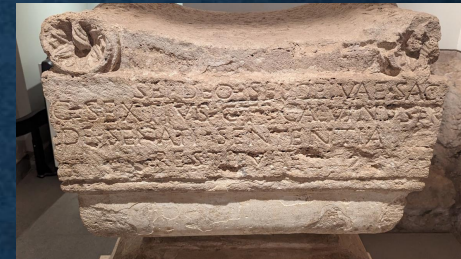


GOSPEL PRESENTATION DEPENDS ON WORLD VIEW

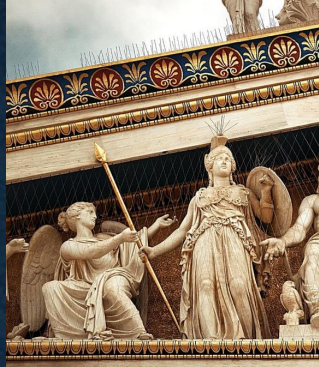
One God

Chose Israel
Davidic King
Messiah fulfilment
of prophesy
Death for our sins
Resurrection

Unknown God



**Life giving
Creator
God**



Acts 17:24-25 The God

being Lord of heaven and

does not live in temples

human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself

gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

Supreme being not logical that he needed anything from man

GOD'S DESIRE AND PURPOSE FOR MAN

God made man ..human obligation and purpose

Acts 17:26-27 (ESV) 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, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him.

Natural desire to have a relationship which is why the Greeks had many altars

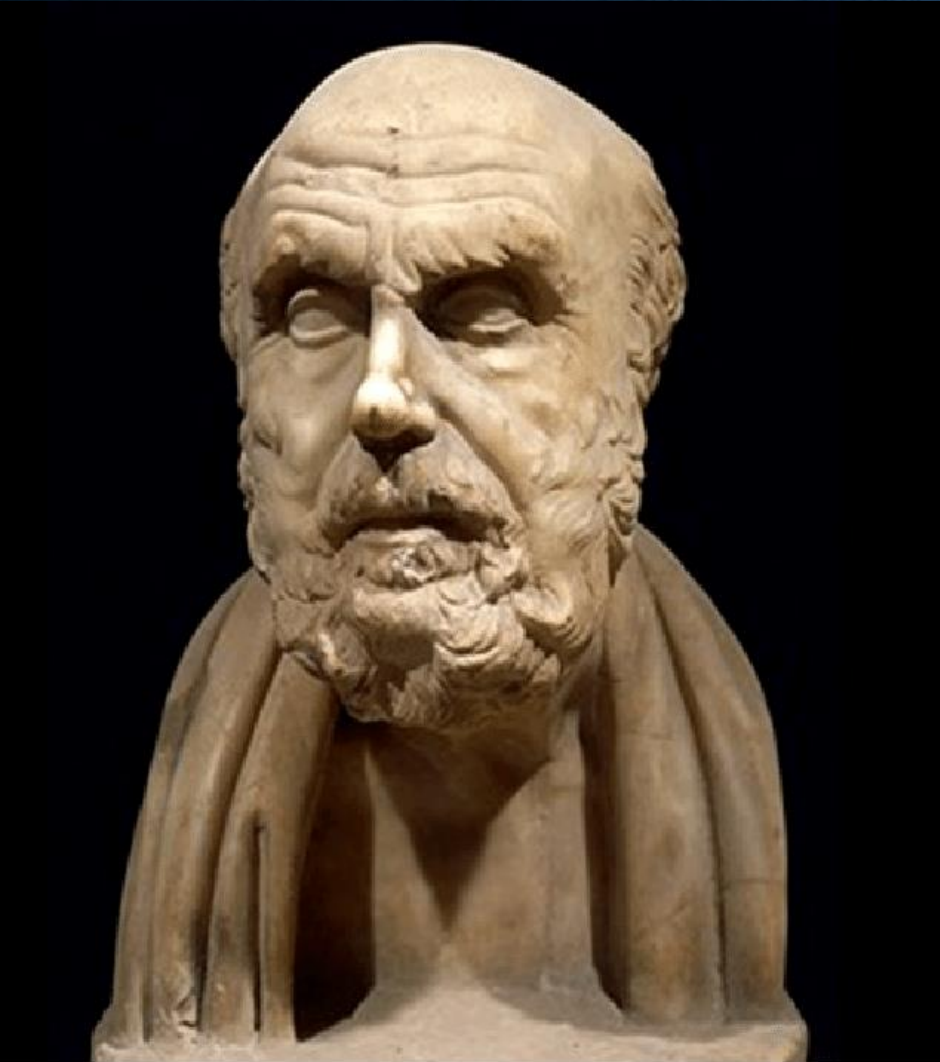
He is not really a foreign God He is already here

Acts 17:27-28 (ESV) Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for

““In him we live and move and have our being”;

Stoics would have understood it in terms of how humans exist in god Paul used this to mean humans created by God are both dependant on God and close to Him

ARASTUS OF SOLI BC 300



- as even some of your own poets have said,
- “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

Paul integrates the “ignorant” knowledge of the poets into the truth of revelation

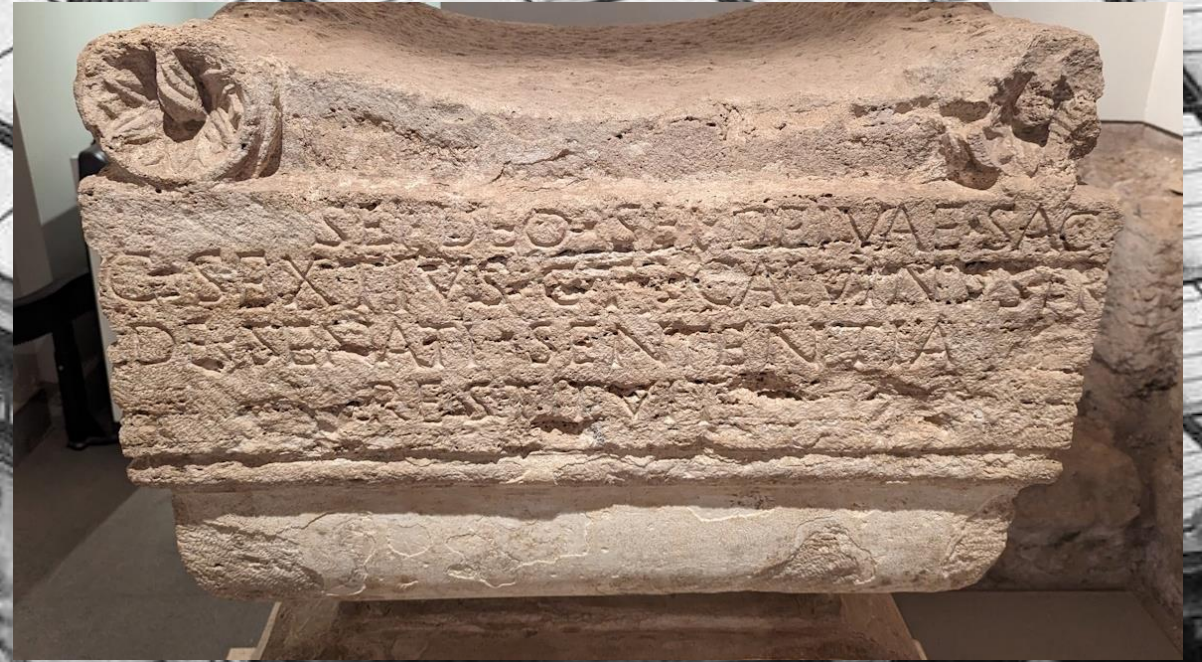
Acts 17:29-30 (ESV) Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

Must not confuse God with images or idols
Humans are brought into existence by God for they cannot create their own gods

Despite the fact that God made all men to seek and find Him
They have instead produced images that they worship, imagining that
they represent the divine reality.

Acts 17:30-31 (ESV) 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.”

Multiplicity of gods and the altar to the unknown god is plain evidence of their ignorance but they are still culpable
God has so far left unpunished in his mercy



The right of Creator of heaven and earth..created men for a specific purpose, All men Gentiles and Jews in Synagogues because He is no longer the unknown God

Left unpunished so far in his mercy

Acts 17:30-31 (ESV) The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and will provide assurance to all by raising him from the dead.

In their culture once a court date set it was inevitable unless some drastic intervention

God overlooked,

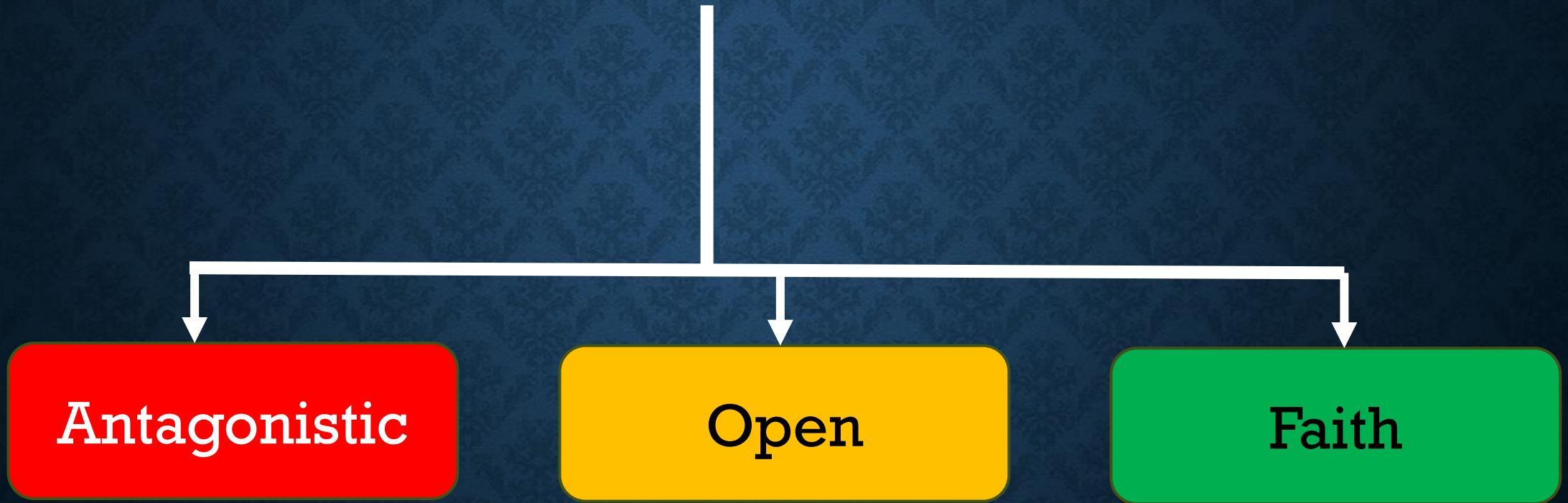
Call to repentance means their ignorance of the true God which they acknowledge as the unknown god establishes their guilt

Paul now proclaims the reality of the Creator God of heaven and earth Everyone will be held to account

CONCLUSION

Acts 17:32-34 (ESV) 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.

RANGE OF RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL



**LESSONS FROM PAULS PRESENTATION
OF THE GOSPEL TO THE GREEKS**

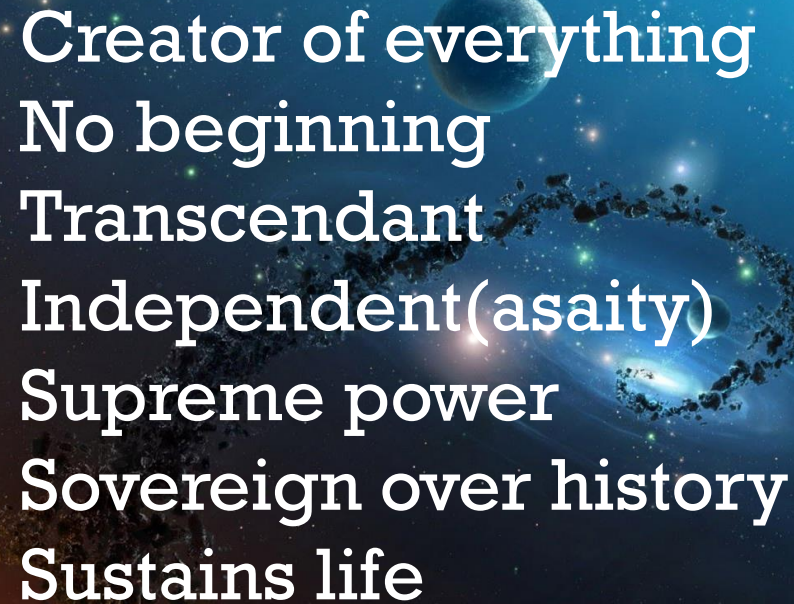
1. FIND COMMON GROUND



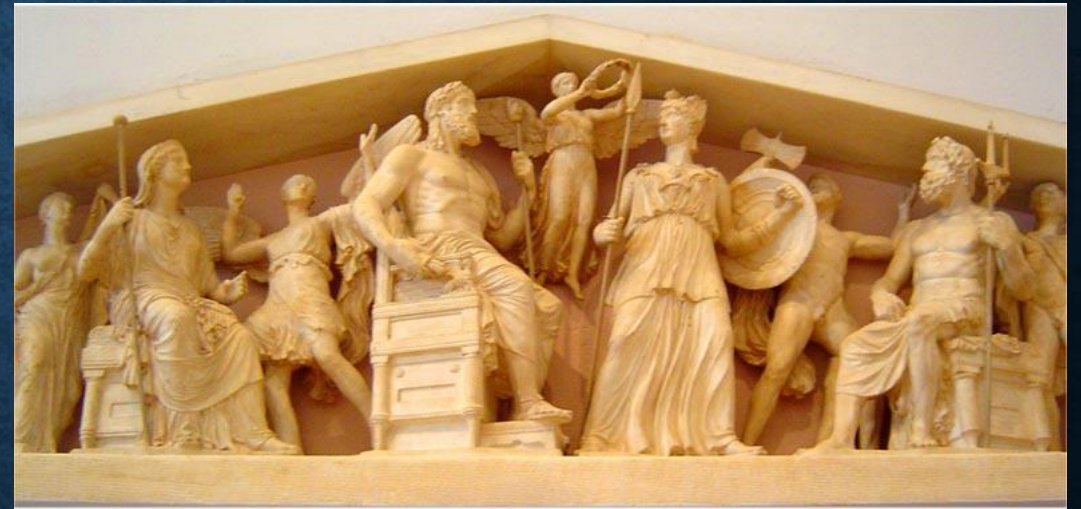
Acts 17:22-23 (ESV) So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: To the unknown god.’

2. ESTABLISH THE CONTRAST WITH GREEK GODS

Born out of chaos
Mate and reproduce children
Battles, jealousy, capricious

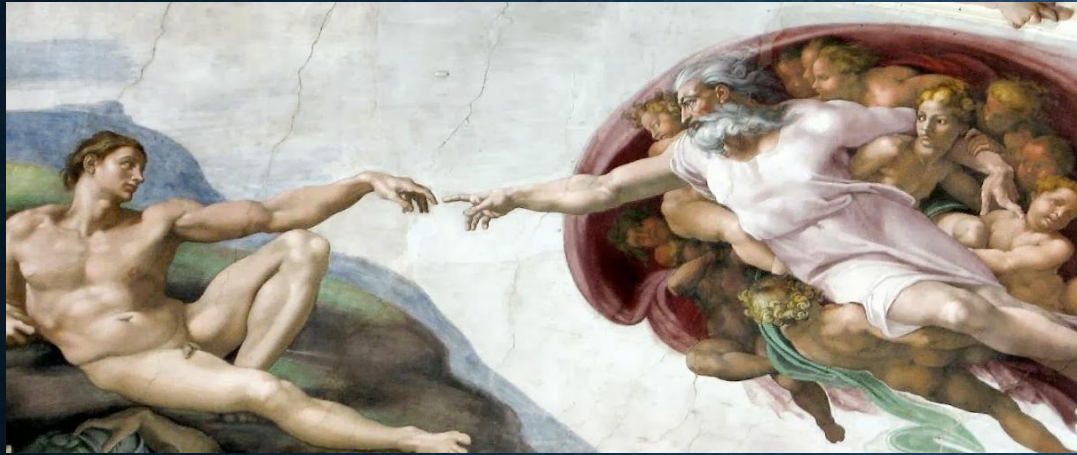


Creator of everything
No beginning
Transcendant
Independent (as a deity)
Supreme power
Sovereign over history
Sustains life



Just like us –projections of us
But more power

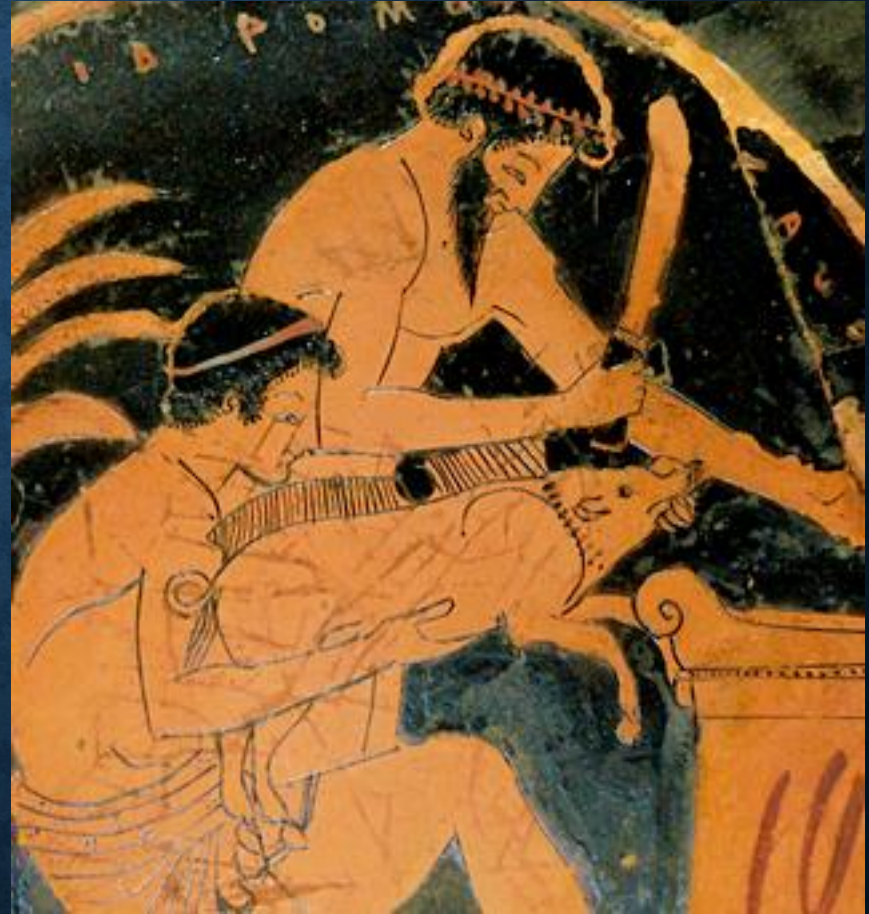
PAUL'S GOD



(ESV) 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,

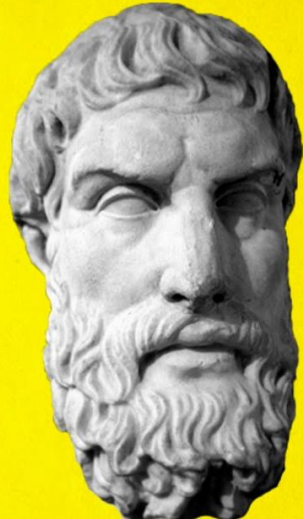
Created by God for intimate fellowship

FEARED THESE GODS NOT ADORE THEM



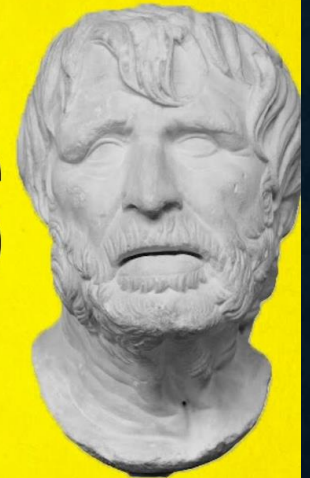
**PROBLEM WITH PHILOSOPHY IT CAN'T FULFILL
DEEPEST LONGINGS OF HUMAN HEART**

EPICURUS



Empty pleasure

THE STOICS



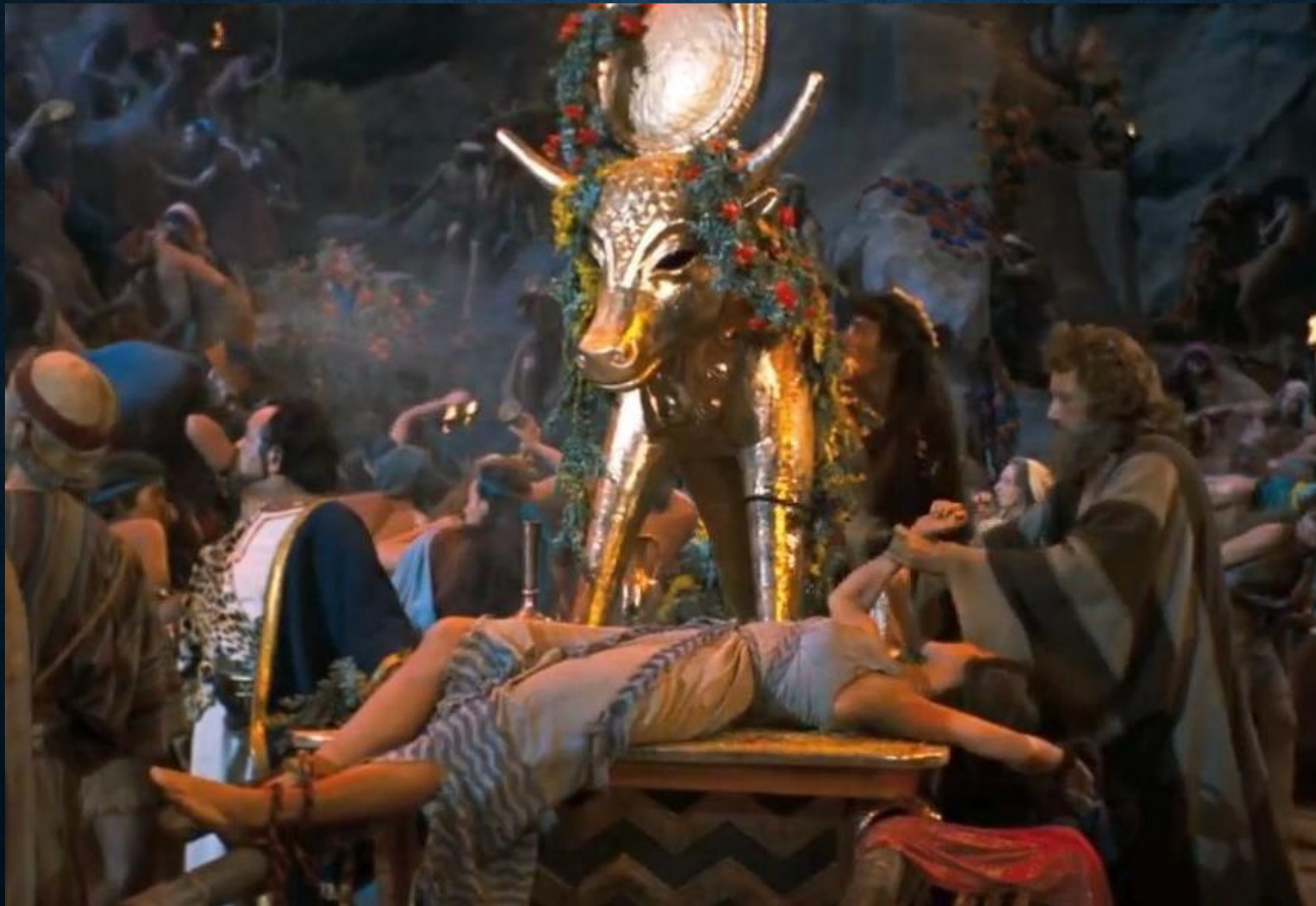
Cold-Impersonal

**THE MORAL ABSOLUTE IS A PERSON AND THE
WAY TO GET THEM IS A RELATIONSHIP**



3. A PERSONAL BUT HUGE GOD CANNOT BE WORSHIPPED BY IDOLS

Acts 17:29 (ESV) 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.



Own Greek poets ..so great He holds us every moment of life
You can already know and sense Him.

YOU ALREADY KNOW HE IS THERE

Acts 17:27-28 (ESV) Yet he is actually not far from
each one of us, 28 for

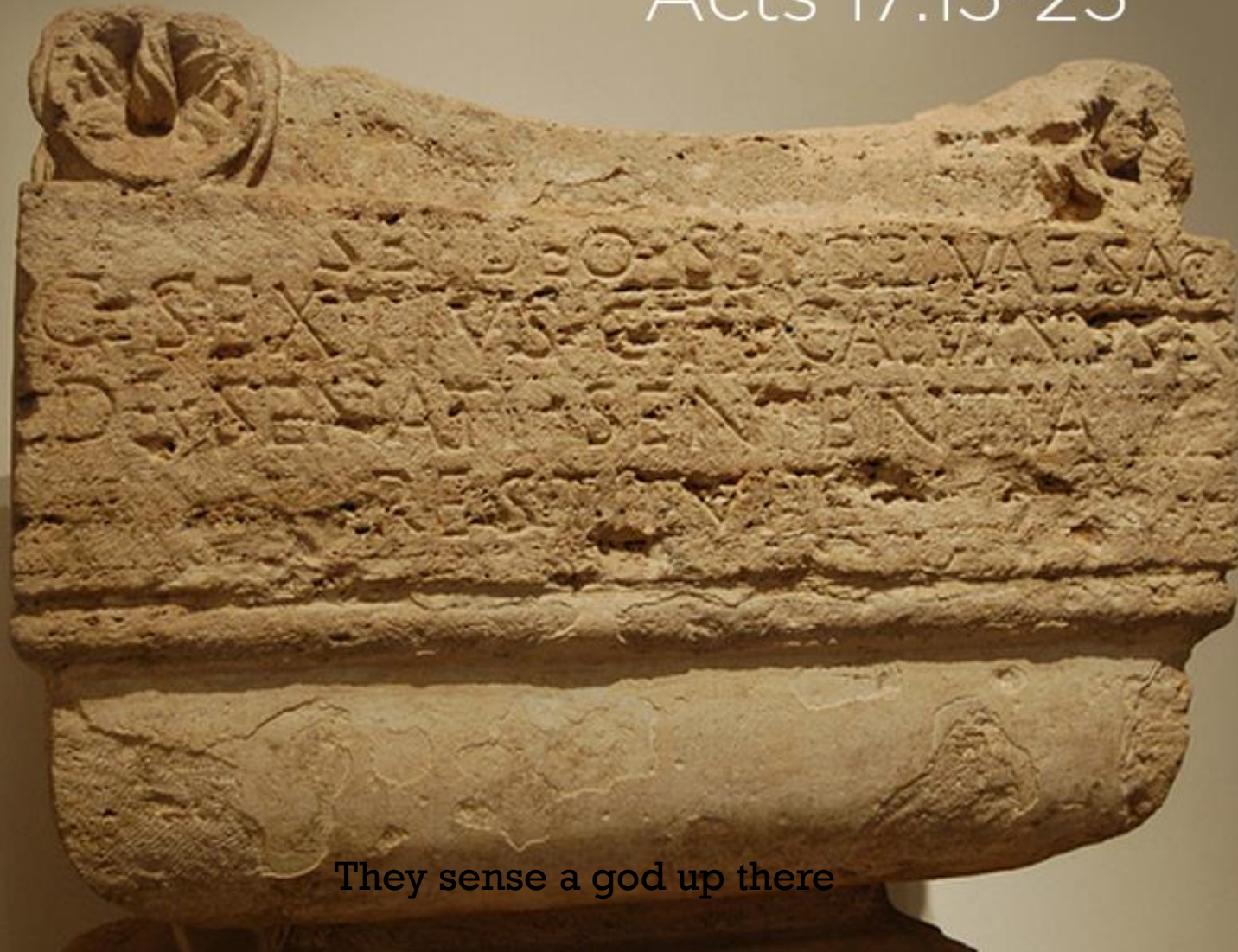
““In him we live and move and have our being’;

as even some of your own poets have said,

““For we are indeed his offspring.’

The Unknown God

Acts 17:13-23



They sense a god up there

4. OBLIGATIONS TO THIS GOD

Acts 17:30-31 (ESV) 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;

MORALITY AS THE PROOF OF GOD

Moral Feelings

Can be derived as a survival tool

Moral
obligations

Evidence of universal God

GOSPEL CHALLENGE--JUDGMENT

Repentance is response

Righteousness is demanded

overlooked, but now he cannot

Judgement is end event

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."

Resurrection is proof

RESURRECTION PROMISES A PERSONAL FUTURE



Can hug and feel

What good is there to say future is personal if you are not here to enjoy it?