

Understand your Bible

Suggested notes

Acts 17

Background to the chapter

The first-century apostle Paul preaches in Thessalonica, Berea and Athens, cities in Greece. He tells them about the promised special person, whom the Jews called the Christ.

What we will see in this chapter:

- The identity of the promised special person
- What the apostle Paul tells us about God and his plan for us, involving this special person

1 Read the chapter

2 Questions to help us in our understanding of this chapter. Look at the chapter verses in your Bible and use the questions to help you make your notes. The map in section 4 shows you where Paul went.

Chapter verses	Questions (to help with your notes)	Suggested notes
1 to 3	1. What did Paul tell his hearers in Thessalonica?	He told his hearers that Jesus was “the Christ” – the special person who suffered, died and was raised from the dead.
4 to 9	2. How did some Jews react?	Some Jews didn't like the message and stirred up trouble.
10 to 12	3. What was notable about the Jews at Berea (Berea)?	Jews at Berea (Berea) checked that the *Scriptures supported Paul's message. * the Old Testament
13	4. How did some Jews react?	The Jews again caused trouble.
14 to 21	5. What happened when Paul went to Athens? <i>Text note: The Areopagus was a court in Athens used for public debate and holding trials.</i>	Paul preached at Athens and was invited to give his message at the Areopagus.
22 to 26	6. What did Paul tell the Athenians about God?	He told them that the living God made and sustained all life.

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Chapter verses	Questions	Suggested notes
27 to 30	7. What did Paul say they should do?	They needed to seek him and find him and then repent.
31 to 34	8. What did he tell them God's plans were for the world?	A day has been set for the world to be judged by God's special promised person. He has confirmed his appointment of Jesus by raising him from the dead.

3 Related theme from v 27: *Seeking and finding God.*

Have a look at this selection of verses about seeking and finding God. Make a note of the main point(s) in the verse(s).

Verse(s)	Main point(s)
2 Chronicles 30 v 9	Hezekiah told the Israelites that God would be gracious and merciful if they turned to him.
Psalms 9 v 10	God will not forsake those who seek and trust him.
Psalms 53 v 2	God is looking for those who will seek Him.
Isaiah 55 v 6 and 7	If we seek the LORD by forsaking ungodly ways, he will have mercy and forgive us.
Hebrews 11 v 6	God rewards those who believe him and seek him.

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4 Map of Paul's second journey (to present day Turkey and Greece)

