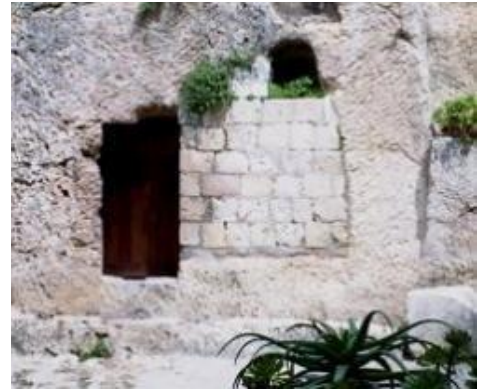




Introduction

A tomb in Jerusalem. Jesus Christ rose from the dead from a similar tomb.

The apostle Paul tells his hearers about Jesus Christ - the special person whom God raised from the dead. Paul encourages the Athenians to get to know the God of the Bible and become involved in his plan.



Questions

1. What is the name of the special person who Paul says is the "the Christ"?
2. What was notable about how the Bereans (Bereans) read the Scriptures?
3. What idea caused the men of Athens to mock Paul?



Summary Points

- **v 1 to 9** Paul preaches in Thessalonica (see map), telling his hearers that Jesus is "the Christ" – the special person who suffered, died and was raised from the dead (see theme). Some Jews don't like the message and stir up trouble
- **v 10 to 13** Paul then preaches to the Jews at Berea (Berea – see map) who check that the Old Testament supports Paul's message. The Jews again cause trouble
- **v 14 to 21** Paul preaches at Athens (see map) and is invited to give his message at the Areopagus
- **v 22 to 34** He tells them:
 - the living God made and sustains all life
 - God wants men to seek him (see theme) and find him and then repent
 - a day is set for the world to be judged by God's special promised person (Jesus)
 - He has confirmed his appointment of Jesus by raising him from the dead

Timeline AD 30 (see below)



Themes / Information

Titles of Jesus - the Christ

The word Christ means anointed. In Biblical times, special people such as kings were anointed as a sign of their appointment. So Christ means someone appointed for a special purpose. Other themes show what the Bible tells us this special person will do. A selection of verses showing that Jesus is the special person referred to as the Christ (the Messiah).

At the start of his Gospel, Matthew tells us that Jesus is the Christ:

Matthew 1 verse 16



The apostle Peter says that he believes that Jesus is the Christ:

Matthew 16 verse 16

Shepherds are told that Jesus is the Christ when he is born:

Luke 2 verse 11

A Samaritan woman says that she is expecting the Messiah also called Christ. Jesus confirms that he is the Christ:

John 4 verses 25 and 26

The apostle Peter says that the suffering of the Christ predicted by the prophets has happened:

Acts 3 verse 18

When Paul is on trial, as part of his defence, he says that the suffering of the Christ is part of his message:

Acts 26 verse 23

Seeking and finding God

Hezekiah told the Israelites that God would be gracious and merciful if they turned to him:

2 Chronicles 30 verse 9

God will not forsake those who seek and trust him:

Psalms 9 verse 10

The psalmist tells us that God is looking for those who will seek him:

Psalms 53 verse 2

The prophet Isaiah says that if we seek the LORD by forsaking ungodly ways, he will have mercy and forgive us:

Isaiah 55 verses 6 and 7

The letter to the Hebrews tells us that God rewards those who believe him and seek him:

Hebrews 11 verse 6

Paul's travels - second journey

Map showing part of Paul's second missionary Journey showing Berea, Thessalonica and Athens.





? Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 3, Q 2: v 11, Q 3 v 32.

Bible timeline

