



WORKSHEET

Ancient: Episode 5

Challenges of a New Religion

Quote

“One thing I know, that I know nothing. This is the source of my wisdom.”
(Socrates)

Summary

In this episode, we trace the footsteps of Saul of Tarsus as he radically shifted to become the Apostle Paul, a man of extreme courage and faith. We walk the streets of Athens and analyze Greek philosophy, architecture, and culture. We visit the ruins of the Acropolis, the center of Greek pagan worship. We end by following Paul on his journey from Mars Hill to his eventual imprisonment and execution in Rome.

Discussion Questions

1. Describe the importance of philosophy in ancient Greek culture.

2. What was the purpose of the Acropolis in Athens?

3. What architectural techniques did the Greeks utilize in the construction of the Parthenon?

4. Describe why Saul of Tarsus fiercely resisted the belief that Jesus of Nazareth was Israel's true Messiah? Why did he persecute early Christians?

5. Why is Saul's conversion to Christianity significant?

6. Why was Paul able to speak directly to the Areopagus?

7. What is Mars Hill? Why was it important?

8. What was the Apostle Paul's main objective in his travels, and how did he spread his message?

Suggested Reading

Excerpt from Plato's Republic

Side Road

Our modern-day Olympic Games trace their roots directly to ancient Greece. According to historical accounts, the first games were held in 776 BC, dedicated to Zeus and the Olympian gods. The celebration was hosted approximately every four years on the plains of Olympia, with branches of the festival later held at Delphi, Nemea, and Corinth. Only free men from the city-states of Greece who could speak fluent Greek were allowed in the games. Allegedly, women were not permitted to attend the games, because nudity became a tradition of the festivities. Foreigners and slaves were similarly excluded. The Olympic Games originated as foot races, but eventually expanded to include chariot races, discus throwing, javelin throwing, long jumps, and wrestling. Similar to today's modern athletes, ancient athletes invested years of their lives in training for the Olympic Games. Like today, exceptional athletes often became famous throughout the ancient Greek world.