

# Resurrection and The Birth of Hope

Without the cross, our hope is superficial;  
it ignores the depth of sin and suffering.

Without the resurrection our hope is brittle;  
it has no response for injustice and death.

Easter says that the most powerful  
and the most loving person in the  
world is for you.

## Acts 17

*(16) While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.*

The result of ceasing to believe in God is **not** that one will believe nothing; **it is** one will believe anything.

- G.K. Chesterton

## Acts 17

*(17) So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.*

## Acts 17

*(18) A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.*

# Beliefs of Epicureans

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There is no plan or purpose.

There is no life after death.

If nature is all that exists - that is, if there is no God and no life of some quite different sort somewhere outside nature, then all of human civilization will die with the death of the sun, and so humanity will turn out to have been an accidental flicker, infinitesimally short in relation to the oceans of dead time which precede and follow it...and there will be no one even to remember it...

- C.S. Lewis

# Beliefs of Stoics

God is an impersonal energy force.

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God is an impersonal energy force.

Your only hope is your strength.

[children will live] in a world made more splendid and lovely than any palace or garden than we know, going on from strength to strength in an ever widening circle of adventure and achievement.

- H.G. Wells, 1922

“A Short History of the World.”

“the human story has...come to an end.”

- H.G. Wells, 1945

## Acts 17

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## **Acts 17:21**

*[All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.]*

## Acts 17

*(19) Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? (20) You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we want to know what they mean."*

## Acts 17

*(22) Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious."*

He is the maker and ruler of the world

## Acts 17

*(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 hands.*

He is the giver of life

## Acts 17

*(25) And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.*

In ancient times people turned to God because they knew they couldn't control their world. But modern man increasingly believes that he can control his world apart from God.

- Yuval Harari

This life was always meant to be transitory, and just part of a larger story. What was important to Christians was to orient one's life towards the larger story, the cosmic story, the story of eternity.

- Kyle Harper

He is the governor of civilization

## Acts 17

*(26) From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.*

## Acts 17

*(27) God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. (28) 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'*

## Acts 17

*(28) we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone-an image made by man's design and skill.*

If you worship a God who never disagrees with you, then you are merely worshiping an idol.

He is the Savior and Judge of all mankind

## Acts 17

*(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. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."*

“It is because we rejected the doctrine of original sin that we on the Left were always being disappointed...”

- C.E.M Joad



## Acts 17

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One of the reasons I believe in Christianity is it is a religion you could not have guessed....it is not the sort of thing anyone would have made up.

- C.S. Lewis