



# THE BIRTH OF A NATION

***ACTS 17:26-28***

## ACTS 17:22-31 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

22 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.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, [a]

25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

26 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,

## ACTS 17:22-31 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

27 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,  
28 for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’;[b] as even some of your own poets have said,” For we are indeed his offspring.’[c]  
29 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.  
30 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.”

# BACKGROUND

Act 17 was an account of Paul's second missionary journey from Thessalonica to Berea and then to Athens.



# ANALYSIS OF THE TEXT

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

***RELIGION IS A WORLDWIDE PHILOSOPHY AND HARDLY WILL YOU FIND ANY NATION THAT IS NOT RELIGIOUS TODAY.***



# ANALYSIS OF THE TEXT

23 “For as I passed along and observed  
the objects of your worship”

***THE OBSESSION OF A NATION, COMMUNITY, FAMILY  
OUTSIDE GOD TELLS US THE OBJECT OF THEIR WORSHIP.***



# ANALYSIS OF THE TEXT

16 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.

***IDOLATRY IN ATHENS WAS A BURDEN FOR BRO PAUL; HE WASN'T CARRIED AWAY BY THE GLAMOUR IN ATHENS WAS LOOKING FOR THE REIGN OF GOD AMONG THE PEOPLE.***



# GOD'S MAKING AND PURPOSE FOR A NATION

## The Birth of a Nation

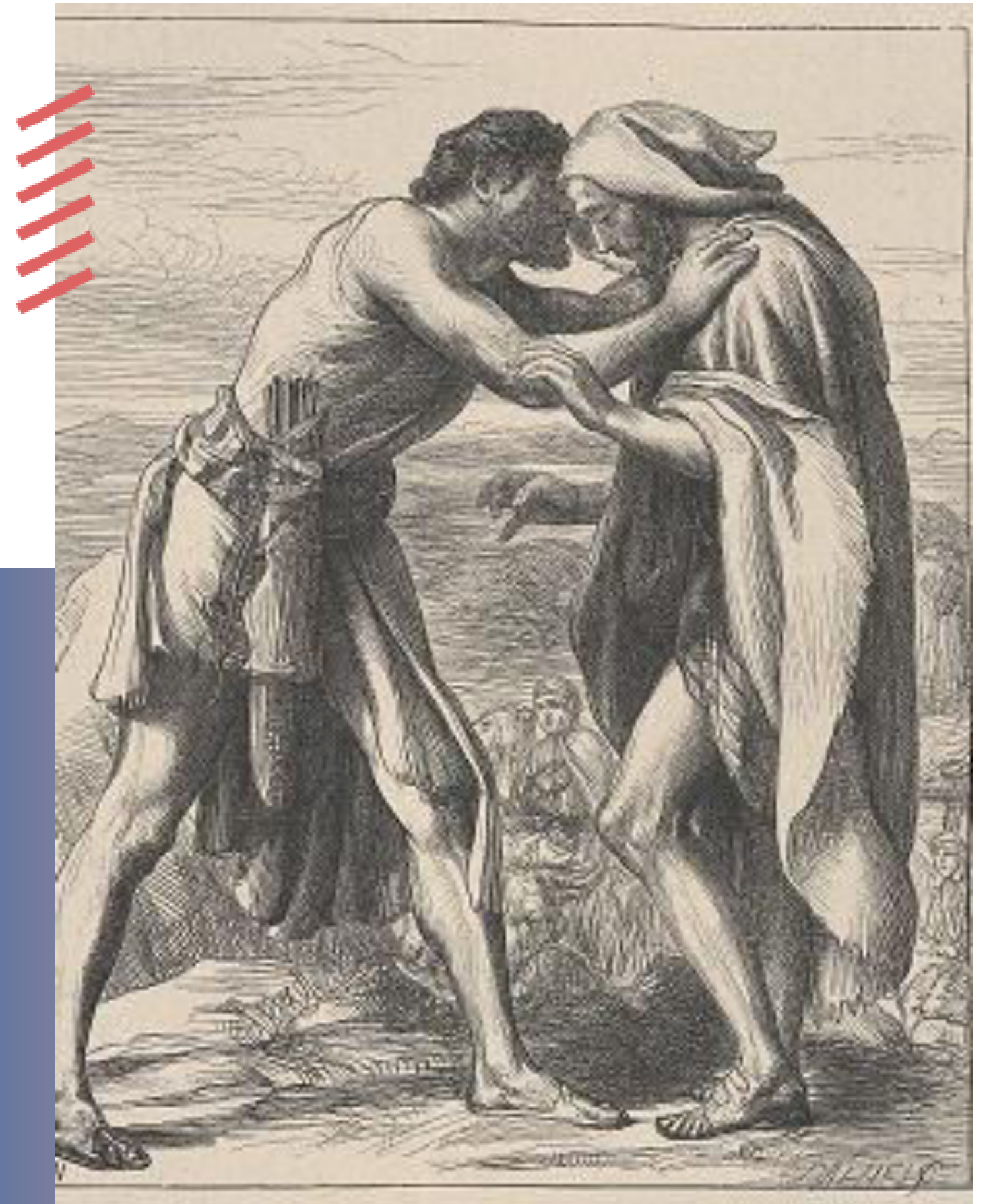
The word 'birth' could mean the beginning or origin of a person, some group of persons or a thing.





# GENESIS 25:23 ESV

Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you[c] shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.





# PSALM 33:12-15 ESV

**12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!**

**13 The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; 14 from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, 15 he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds.**

# ACTS 17:26-28

26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'<sup>[a]</sup> As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'<sup>[b]</sup>



‘The **God who made the world** and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man” 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything (VS24–25)  
26 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.





- \* No nation is self-made without God. vs 24
- \* God determines the natural resources, land mass/boundaries of each nation. vs 24–26
- \* We are all traced to Adam, no matter our colour or race. vs 26 – There is no racism with God
- \* He is the Lord of the heaven and the earth–  
The Prime minister of the whole world  
(Psalm 72:11–13)



- \* God want all nations to turn away from their idolatry and seek him: Vs 26–28**
- \* God’s intention for every nation or people is not to worship their resources but their maker. Vs 29**
- \* The way forward for every nation and people is repentance towards God. Vs 30**
- \* God has fixed a date to judge every nation, person by Jesus Christ – This will be the most impartial judgment of all times. Vs 31, Rev 20:11**

# LOOKING FORWARD TO A BETTER NATION:



Since the fall of man (Adam), the world has not returned to normalcy as it used to be but God made a provision in the last Adam (Christ Jesus) to rescue us from the corruption of the first Adam, to live in his new Kingdom controlled by the law of the Spirit, awaiting the new Jerusalem.



## **1 CORINTHIANS 15: 45-49 ESV**

**45 Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.**

**46 But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual.**

**47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.**

**48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.**

**49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.**



## ROMANS 5:17-19

17 FOR IF, BECAUSE OF ONE MAN'S TRESPASS, DEATH REIGNED THROUGH THAT ONE MAN, MUCH MORE WILL THOSE WHO RECEIVE THE ABUNDANCE OF GRACE AND THE FREE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS REIGN IN LIFE THROUGH THE ONE MAN JESUS CHRIST.

18 THEREFORE, AS ONE TRESPASS LED TO CONDEMNATION FOR ALL MEN, SO ONE ACT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS LEADS TO JUSTIFICATION AND LIFE FOR ALL MEN.

19 FOR AS BY THE ONE MAN'S DISOBEDIENCE THE MANY WERE MADE SINNERS, SO BY THE ONE MAN'S OBEDIENCE THE MANY WILL BE MADE RIGHTEOUS.

# **CONCLUSION:**

**THE KEY WORD IN OUR TEXT IS THAT GOD IS IN THE PICTURE OF EVERY NATION'S ORIGIN, BOUNDARIES, PROVISIONS, AND HE DOESN'T WANT US TO WORSHIP HIS CREATION BUT HIM, HE HIS LONGING FOR OUR REPENTANCE SO THAT WE CAN BE PART OF THE NEW NATION COMING.**



## **HEBREWS 11: 8-16**

**8 BY FAITH ABRAHAM OBEYED WHEN HE WAS CALLED TO GO OUT TO A PLACE THAT HE WAS TO RECEIVE AS AN INHERITANCE. AND HE WENT OUT, NOT KNOWING WHERE HE WAS GOING.**

**9 BY FAITH HE WENT TO LIVE IN THE LAND OF PROMISE, AS IN A FOREIGN LAND, LIVING IN TENTS WITH ISAAC AND JACOB, HEIRS WITH HIM OF THE SAME PROMISE.**

**10 FOR HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CITY THAT HAS FOUNDATIONS, WHOSE DESIGNER AND BUILDER IS GOD.**

**11 BY FAITH SARAH HERSELF RECEIVED POWER TO CONCEIVE, EVEN WHEN SHE WAS PAST THE AGE, SINCE SHE CONSIDERED HIM FAITHFUL WHO HAD PROMISED.**

*put your*  
**FAITH IN**  
**ACTION**

## **HEBREWS 11: 8-16**

**12 THEREFORE FROM ONE MAN, AND HIM AS GOOD AS DEAD, WERE BORN DESCENDANTS AS MANY AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN AND AS MANY AS THE INNUMERABLE GRAINS OF SAND BY THE SEASHORE.**

**13 THESE ALL DIED IN FAITH, NOT HAVING RECEIVED THE THINGS PROMISED, BUT HAVING SEEN THEM AND GREETED THEM FROM AFAR, AND HAVING ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY WERE STRANGERS AND EXILES ON THE EARTH.**

**14 FOR PEOPLE WHO SPEAK THUS MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THEY ARE SEEKING A HOMELAND.**

*put your*  
**FAITH IN**  
*to*  
**ACTION**

**HEBREWS 11: 8-16**

**15 IF THEY HAD BEEN THINKING OF THAT LAND FROM WHICH THEY HAD GONE OUT, THEY WOULD HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN.**

**16 BUT AS IT IS, THEY DESIRE A BETTER COUNTRY, THAT IS, A HEAVENLY ONE. THEREFORE, GOD IS NOT ASHAMED TO BE CALLED THEIR GOD, FOR HE HAS PREPARED FOR THEM A CITY.**