

## Building the Bridge Between a Jail Break and a Philosophical Debate

Last Sunday, in the Adventures of the Acts of the Apostles, we found Paul and Silas bound in stocks and locked up in jail, when an earthquake freed them, except they chose to remain with the other prisoners, singing hymns and praising God. God's Salvation offered them freedom, but not in the way we often think. In the end, it was the jailer who was really in a prison of sorts, and it was through Paul and Silas that he experienced freedom through the saving grace of God shared by Paul.

That was in Chapter 16. This morning, Paul has now traveled to Athens, Greece.

If you have ever study Philosophy, you know about famous Greek philosophers, Plato and Aristotle. You might also know about the famous Greek Gods like Apollo, Zeus and if you read Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief, you are aware of Poseidon.

Alexander the Great sought to "Hellenize" the known world. Before the Romans ruled the Middle East, Alexander the Great and the Greeks did. Their influence could still be found in the region. Some scholars believe Jesus might have spoken or at least understood Greek language.

Some would even suggest that Luke, who is writing to a Greek audience, and the author of Acts, birth narrative of Jesus and Mary was influenced by similar stories of the Greek gods giving birth to human children.

So this morning, Luke takes Paul to the heart of Greek culture, philosophy and gods in Athens and before the Areopagus. There he joins in a theological debate on Jesus and the Resurrection.

Let's listen in...