

Act 17:30 The times of ignorance God overlooked,
but now he commands all people everywhere to
repent,

The times before full knowledge of God came in
Jesus Christ. Paul uses the very word for their
ignorance (*agnoountes*) employed in Acts 17:23.

Act 17:23 For as I passed by, and beheld your
devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO
THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye
ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

God does not speak of the Law of Moses, but of the ignorance of the pagans to whom Paul spoke.

Act 17:24-29 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. ...

(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, (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’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ (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.

God did not concern Himself with the pagan nations and their lack of knowledge of Him prior to the coming of Jesus.

Rom 3:1 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? (2) Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. (3) What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?

With no one to guide them all men sought God!

True of every tribe and nation on earth – they
have all pondered the existence of God.

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Rom 1:18-32 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

(19) For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. (20) For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. (21) For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (22) Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. (ESV)

ASV perceived NIV NAS seen – We do not “see” God in His creation, but we do recognize (apprehend) His hand at work.

Ps 19.1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

The utter magnificence of the heavens, the earth the creatures that abide are of such complexity, they could not have occurred by random chance.

The foolishness of such conjecture is seen whenever random chance is calculated.

The human body alone has an estimated 19,000-20,000 human protein-coding genes each having about 27,000 base pairs.

The human genome contains approximately 3 billion of these base pairs, which reside in the 23 pairs of chromosomes within the nucleus of all our cells. Each chromosome contains hundreds to thousands of genes, which carry the instructions for making proteins.

This entire genome has been sequenced with about 1% error but nothing about it is random. Every code is important and changes result in incorrect formation – “mutations” – which can change the functioning of the body.

(23) and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. (24) Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, (25) because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. (26) For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;



Ganesha,
Madhya
Pradesh, c.
750, India

The Black
Madonna -
Catholic Church.

Fox sculpture in
Fushimi Inari-
taisha shrine

The gods of men

(27) and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. (28)

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done ... (32) Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.



Athena was born
from Zeus's
forehead, fully
formed and
armored



Hades (Pluto)
& Cerberus



Artemis --
"Diana of
Versailles"

The gods Paul saw.

In 1996 Bill Clinton signed the “Defense of Marriage Act.”

In 2012 Obama came out in favor of gay marriage when 54% of Americans opposed it. Now 32% of Americans oppose it.

Within 6 months Hillary Clinton followed suit where she formerly opposed it.

In 2016, 62% of Americans support gay marriage. 71% of those under 35 support gay marriage.

By inspiration, Paul said such was ignorance –

Act 17:29-31 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.”

Act 17:32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.”

This question has always been foremost in men’s minds – especially as they approach the hour of death.

In an interview with his longtime atheist friend, Eugenio Scalfari, Pope Francis said (3/29/18), "They are not punished, those who repent obtain the forgiveness of God and enter the rank of souls who contemplate him, but those who do not repent and cannot therefore be forgiven disappear. There is no hell, there is the disappearance of sinful souls."

The Roman Catholic Church has vigorously denied that was what he said. At this point, he remains silent.

What does the Bible say about the fate of those who do not believe and obey God's word today?

2Th 1:5 This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— (6) since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, (7) and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels (8) in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (9) They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,

You may wish that the Pope was right, but he wasn't (again) and you stand in danger if you trust in the ignorance men rather than God.

Will you not obey Him today?

Mat 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

