

# Lesson 5A

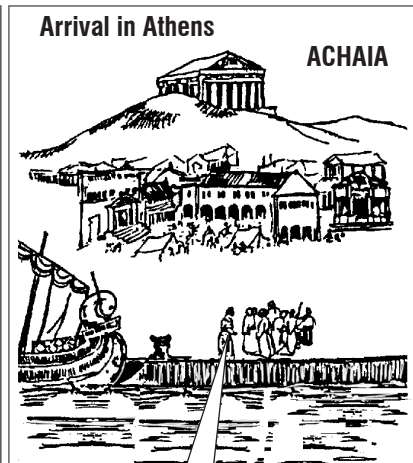
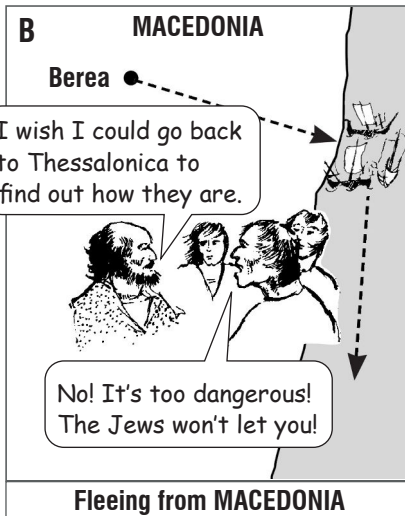
## Berea: Journey to Athens

(Acts 17:10–15; 1 Thessalonians 3)

1. In this lesson we are going to see Paul's visit to Berea, and the two especially good things for which we can remember the Bereans:

- a) their daily study of the Scriptures. Letter \_\_\_\_\_
- b) their accompanying Paul in his flight to Athens. Letter \_\_\_\_\_

Study the pictures below and then write the letter of the appropriate picture by each phrase above.



When you get back to Berea, ask Silas and Timothy to come as soon as possible. Oh! and tell Timothy to come via Thessalonica to bring news.

### **A. The Bereans study the Scriptures daily**

Read Acts 17:10–12, and compare with Picture “A” in Frame 1.

2. You will remember that Luke and Timothy had stayed behind to help the new Christians in a) \_\_\_\_\_. So when Paul arrived in Berea he was only accompanied by b) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:10). However, we can see from Acts 17:14 that by the time Paul left Berea not only Silas was with him but also c) \_\_\_\_\_, who had obviously followed them on from d) \_\_\_\_\_.
3. As usual, when they arrived in Berea, they went straight to the a) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:10). Here the Jews were different in Berea from those in Thessalonica, being of more b) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:11). In order to find out if what Paul had said was true they examined the c) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:11). They were so much in earnest that they did this d) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:11). As a result many of them e) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:12).
4. Now turn back to page 10. The picture that represents Paul’s time in Berea is Picture \_\_\_\_\_.

### **B. The Bereans accompany Paul in his escape to Athens**

Read Acts 17:13–15 and compare with Picture “B” in Frame 1.

5. Once again Paul had to flee for his life, leaving Berea when unbelieving a) \_\_\_\_\_, who had followed him from b) \_\_\_\_\_, began stirring up trouble.
6. Paul’s two companions, a) \_\_\_\_\_ and b) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:14), stayed on in c) \_\_\_\_\_ for a time. However Paul left, accompanied by some of the new Christians from the church in d) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:15).
7. First, they fled to a Macedonian town on the a) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:14) where they could take a boat to the great city of b) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:15) in the province of c) \_\_\_\_\_; Paul was still accompanied by the Christians from d) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:15).
8. Now here we must turn to Paul’s letters to fill in the picture. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17–20. From these verses we can see that while Paul was waiting on the Macedonian coast, he hadn’t wanted to go on to

Athens, but rather to go back to see the church in a) \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thess. 2:17–18). However this had been impossible because he had been stopped from doing so by b) \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thess. 2:18). This we don't learn from Luke's account in the Acts, but by comparing what Paul says in his first letter to the c) \_\_\_\_\_.

9. When Paul says that “Satan stopped them” from returning to Thessalonica, he is probably referring to the fierce opposition of the unbelieving Jews in \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:13) that Luke speaks about in the Acts. Once again see how closely Paul and Luke agree.
10. So as Paul was unable to return to the church in Thessalonica, he took a ship to the city of a) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:15), in the province of Achaia. Thus, Paul arrived in this renowned city, the capital of ancient Greece and the onetime centre of Greek art and culture, still accompanied by the Christians from the new church in b) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:15) in the province of Macedonia. Thus Paul passed into a new province.
11. Look carefully at the following map and illustrating pictures: read thoughtfully the two passages from 1 Thessalonians which tell us a lot more about what happened.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17–20 where Paul describes his thoughts on the Thessalonians while waiting on the Macedonian coast with his Berean friends.

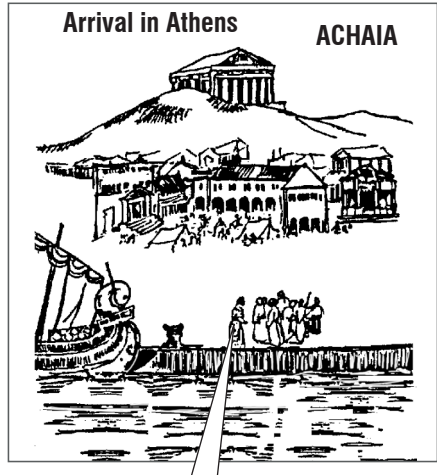
I wish I could go back to Thessalonica to find out how they are.

No! It's too dangerous! The Jews won't let you!





Read 1 Thessalonians Chapter 3, where Paul describes his thoughts on the Thessalonians after he arrived in Athens with his Berean friends.



When you get back to Berea, ask Silas and Timothy to come as soon as possible. Oh! and tell Timothy to come via Thessalonica to bring news.

**To Think About**

Paul's deep concern for the new Christians in Thessalonica.

Do you share this concern for new Christians?

- a) What did Paul do about it?
- b) What more could you do along these lines?

12. Now do Test 5A before completing Lesson 5B.