

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Acts 17: 22-31

22. Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, where Athenians work, rest and play, in a place calleth the Areopagus by many and the Mount of Easy Virtue by others, and said, Right! Can you hear me at the back? Good! Now then, ye men of Athens, and ye women also, and those of you who define not yourselves by gender but by attraction, (no, not you, Thaddeus! What are you doing in Athens by the way?) I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious and given to strange perfumes and divers clothing which is diaphanous and bloweth where the wind wills and revealeth that which should be hidden. Oh yes! For these things have been revealed unto me.
23. For as I passed by pausing only to stare at some and laugh at others, though secretly for fear of offence and a punch in the head, and a blow to my sundry regions, I beheld your devotions and your manner of meetings with embraces and genuflections, I found an altar much bedecked with flowers, various vegetables including courgettes and mangelwurzel, and strange graffiti including some words the like of which I have not read since the Tarsus Tent Fayre, and it beareth this inscription engraved in brass accompanied by the image of a large rabbit, To The Unknown God. This god whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, he, she, it, or Leporidae, declare I unto you, verily. Now pay attention.
24. God that made the world and all things therein, even the strange fish that swim in the seas and the kango-roo which is as yet unknown to you, yea, he is Lord of heaven and earth and dwelleth not in temples made with hands, or any other limbs or organs, which is bad news for architects and stonemasons. Not to mention stained glaziers of windows – did I get that right? – who won't be putting up such for a long while.
25. Neither is God worshipped with men's hands, or women's hands, or the hands of any person, and yea, not even with the feet nor any part of the body. So keep all those bits down and refrain from waving them around religiously. This God needeth not any thing, seeing he giveth to all its life, and breath, and all things, even unto the pimples that appear unwanted on the face or buttocks; for again these things have been revealed unto me, Paul, in the seventh heaven.
26. And He hath made of one blood all nations of men, and women, and even those natives that dwell with sheep in the westernmost parts of Britannia, and in truth all who dwell on all the face of the earth, with or without sheep, and hath determined the times before appointed when they should rise and when they should fall, and the boundaries of their habitation;
27. That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel and grope after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us, which is a blessing given the uncertain nature of travel and public transport:
28. For in truth the reality is that in him we live, and move, and have our being; as one of your own poets have said, The boy stood on the burning deck, though this meaneth nothing to you, but then you were not with me in Cyprus. Yet another of your poets has said more aptly, For we are also his offspring. I can't remember how the rest of it goes.
29. Forasmuch then as we, in the flesh, (stop it, Thaddeus!) are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, lead or pewter, or that Latin-sounding kit of coloured building bricks, graven by art and man's device, even those with unchallenged skills such as Pi Casso.
30. And the times of this ignorance God winked at, yea, and did smirk in his secret places; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent, else they will come acropolis – just my attempt at a joke - and yea Silas, I looketh at you:

31. Because he hath appointed a day, well several actually as it will be a big job, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, and women, and even unto courtesans and gigolos and those tall soldiers of Sparta - and even them that walketh by the docks at night, in that he hath raised him from the dead. I've finished now. Any questions?