

Immigrants: Problem or Providence? Acts 17:26-28

Context: Paul in Athens proclaiming the truth about the Living God and the truth about humankind.

- v. 24 God is creator of all
- v. 25 God is sustainer and without needs

I. God opposes ethnic pride, v.26a

Ethnos = nation; all originate from Adam. Cf. Gen.10, Malachi 2:10

No superiority, either by nature or morality

God is not partial, Acts 10:34, 35

II. God providentially rules the history and movements of the nations, v.26b

1. Rise and fall of nations, Daniel 4:25,35; Luke 1:52

2. Boundaries/placement of the nations, e.g. Abraham, Jewish Diaspora

III. God purposes that the nations seek him, v.27

Cf. Jer.29:10-14; Ezekiel 33:11; Heb.11:6

Although all have obligation, none have natural ability, cf. Romans 1:19-23

Our response? Keep in mind Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Revelation 5:9; 7:9