

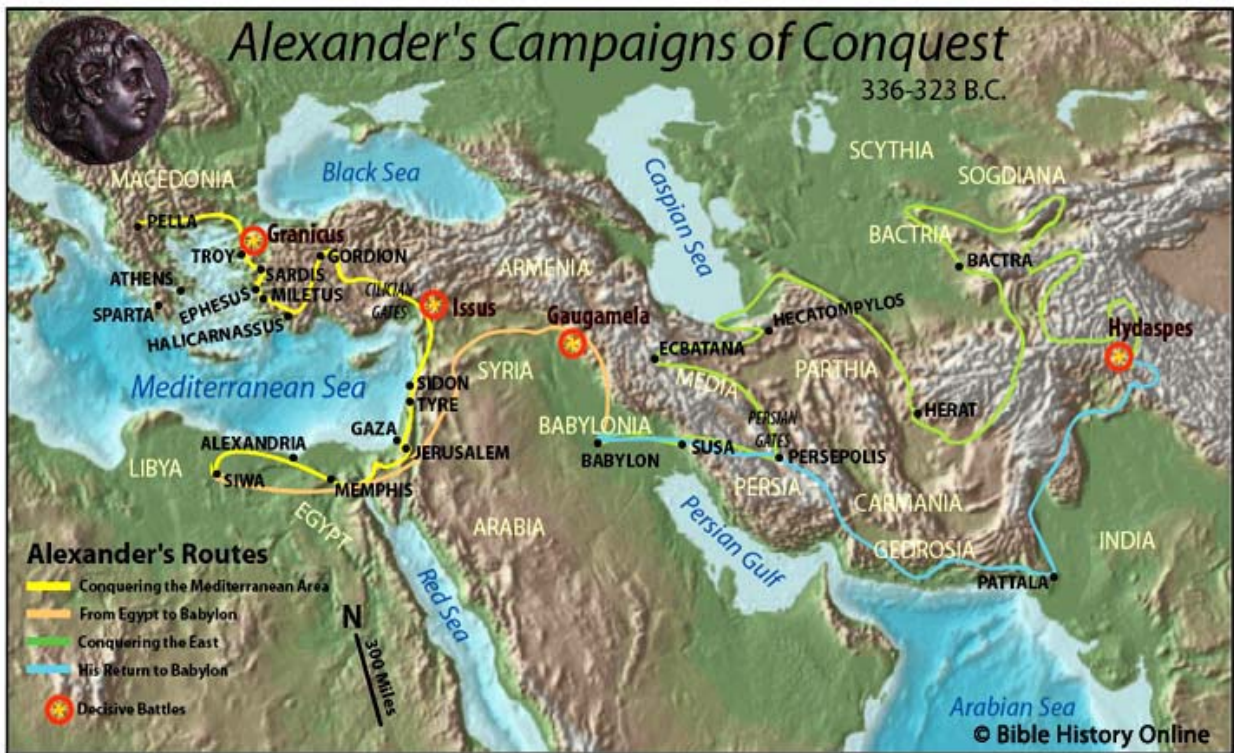
The Hellenistic Way

‘Way of Life’ Philosophies
Around the **Greco** ~ Roman World

4th century BCE *to the* **4th** century CE



ALEXANDER the **GREAT**
His Conquests Spread Hellenism



“THE HELLENISTIC WAY”

CHRONOLOGY: 4th c. BCE — 4th c. CE

GEOGRAPHY: Alexandrian, then **Roman** Empires

Athenian glory declined and all the Greek city-states eventually fell under Macedonian rule. We generally call this era: “**Hellenistic**” or “**Greco-Roman**.” “Hellenism” (*Hellen* is the Greek word for Greek) refers to the dominance of Greek Language and Culture. You know that CULTURE includes: Trade, Art, Architecture, Athletics, Customs, Morals, Religion, Family, Citizenship, Education, and of course Philosophy!

No one is more responsible for the far-reaching “cosmo-politan” spread of Hellenism than...

Alexander III (356—323 BCE) **the Great** - The world-conqueror whom Aristotle had personally tutored.

It is said that Alexander, whose military campaigns reached all the way to Afghanistan and India, would send specimens to Aristotle for the Lyceum! Alexander may have been a gay murderous megalomaniac, but he impacted history like few ever have and he created some socio-economic cohesion that stretched from Gibraltar to the Punjab.

By the 2nd c. BCE, the **Romans** were gaining ascendancy, and by 29 BCE, Octavian was declared Augustus Caesar. Romans were great at law, administration and building roads, *etc.* but they didn’t match the Greeks for imagining and thinking, so they mostly adopted & adapted Greek gods and philosophies.

You could say that the Romans were “carriers” of Hellenistic Religions and Philosophies. Now consider this carefully...

It is tremendously important for us to study this era, for right into its highly cultured but pagan midst came the nascent Jewish Messianic Witness Community. Which *eventually* Gentilized and became a religion: Official “**Christianity**”! As it spread, it shed its true Jewish roots. In the 2nd - 3rd centuries, as it DEFENDED itself to the pagan authorities, it also DEFINED itself on **Hellenistic** rather than **Hebraic** foundations.

By the 4th century, Christianity became the imperial religion and was decidedly “Romanesque.”

Another reason to gain deeper understanding of this era is that it has been prophetically compared to our own day! The Greco-Roman world was *rampantly religious* (Paganism *is* a religion) and it was highly **SYNCRETISTIC**. In that syncretistic mix you’d find everything from **A** to **Z**: Ancestor Veneration, Astrology, Emperor Worship, Fertility Cults, Gnosticism, Hellenized Judaism (*a la* Philo of Alexandria, c.20 BCE—50 CE) Jewish Monotheism, Mystery Cults, Mystical Platonism, and Zoroastrianism! That’s a worldview jumble! A clear gospel proclamation was needed then and it sure is needed now!

The Last Church before Messiah returns will have to reconnect to the true roots of the First Church.
Syncretism is not an option.

[Can you think of a *better* reason to study the history of philosophy and worldviews critically?]

The social-political situation changed so much from the Athenian Age to the Post-Aristotelian Greco-Roman Age, that people were **anxious** and needed new philosophies. When the noble city-states are crushed, why strive for “virtuous rational citizenship” therein? Plato’s Academy and Aristotle’s Lyceum were still around, but they appealed only to the elite. Face it, average folks do *not* opt for the arduous dialectic that ascends to pure rational acclamation of the Forms, *nor* do they choose a life of *pure philosophical contemplation* that IS the happy *goal of the soul*!

There were all those religious cults in which to indulge, but what if you wanted something rational? Who would come along and steer a calm course through the stress and mess, still strive for wisdom, but make it comforting?

Who can offer natural self-fulfillment in a philosophy that’s healing & appealing? *Hmmm...how about...*

EPICUREANISM: The Founder was, of course, the gentle **Epicurus** (341—270 BCE)

Just when the world needed something new, along comes the young Epicurus, arriving in Athens the year Alexander the Great died. He saw that political activism was useless, and he thought Platonism was out-dated, overly theoretical and irrelevant. (Don’t you like him already?)

Picture Epicurus as: a self-taught guru-evangelist with a new ‘nature gospel’ who started a unique commune for Hellenistic hippies. “The Garden” was a multi-racial, multi-class, co-ed, happy kind of place. The sign over the entrance even insisted:

☺ “THOU SHALT BE HAPPY HERE FOR HAPPINESS IS ESTEEMED THE HIGHEST GOOD”

Aristotle had equated happiness with contemplation as an *end in itself*, but Epicurus said that contemplation was only a *means to an end*—for the sake of Maximizing Pleasure and Minimizing Pain and Fear. To Epicurus, philosophy should be *therapeutic*! People need consolation not contemplation! To Epicurus, happiness is pleasure and pleasure is the absence of pain. His distinctions between *Natural* desires and *Vain* desires are very instructive!

See how his philosophy was gentle, moderate, and aimed at the “life of repose” or the unobtrusive life. Picture Epicurus relaxing in his hammock, chatting serenely with some friends. **Only later** did Epicureans become selfish & vain, and only later did “*Epicurean*” come to mean delighting in gastronomic gluttony or become synonymous with *hedonistic*!

STOICISM: The founder was Zeno of Cyprus (334–262 BCE)

Stoicism (after *STOA* – the painted porticos of buildings which served as public lecture halls!) was a very enduring and successful Hellenistic “way of life” philosophy. Lasting for hundreds of years, it didn’t actually end as much as it simply became diffused into the general worldview. Thus its impact is huge. Some scholars say it had influence upon that *other* “philosophy” of this era — ‘Christianity.’ So what *did* Stoics believe? What was Stoicism?

It might best be described as “**Logos-Fire Rational Pantheism.**” Like Epicureanism, Stoicism began with a belief that reality is basically material (matter/atoms in a void) but this matter is ALIVE! The creative **Logos Fire** (*Logos Spermatikos*) pervades all things...is the source of all things...connects all things...gives order to all things. This was **Ultimate Reality** to a Stoic, thus “Divine Reality,” whether they preferred to call it: World Soul or Providence or Fate or Nature or Cosmic Reason, or even **Zeus!**

And since this all-pervading Nature was alive and divine, Stoicism can be called ‘pantheistic.’ Humans, as microcosms, have a spark of the divine macrocosm and so should live accordingly. If *Nature* is rational, orderly, indifferent, and impersonal...likewise *we* should strive to be! We can’t change Nature, so we should conform to it. A Stoic ‘*gospel tract*’ might read:

“The Logos-ordained & indwelled Universal Order
(call it whatever you like)
has a wonderful (or not) pre-determined Plan for your life
and you must resign to it unemotionally.”

(Even today when we say someone is “stoic,” we mean that they are aloof, rather cool and rational, *not* passionate!)

The most famous Stoics were:

Seneca (4–65 CE) the Roman statesman, and orator. He tutored Emperor Nero, who made him commit suicide.

Epictetus (50–138 CE) the freed slave who became a great teacher. His notion of God as more personal than “Fate” and his lectures on morality and self-control make some scholars think that maybe Christians influenced him!

Marcus Aurelius (121–180 CE) who has been called the “last good Emperor,” and was perhaps something like Plato had in mind for a Ruling Philosopher! And the Roman Empire was not easy to rule at this time, with earthquakes, plagues, civil upheavals, and barbarian invasions! Aurelius would need all the stoic qualities of prudence and temperance. He sought stoic inner peace and tranquility right in the midst of terrible disasters. Unlike philosophers who wrote for publication, Aurelius penned his thoughts in a private diary of soul that was the first of its kind and has become a literary classic: *Meditations*.

How did Christians fare under this good, soulful, Emperor? In *Meditations* he honors those souls who are ready to die when the time comes rather than cling to life. But, he says, ‘this is praiseworthy only when it is the result of Reason, and NOT of obstinacy as is the case with Christians.’ He gave orders for Christians to be martyred.

NEO-PLATONISM: The founder of Neo-Platonism as a quasi-religious school was **Plotinus** (205–270 CE)

Due to Plato’s “other-worldliness” there was always the tendency to focus on the Platonic “Good” *religiously!* Plotinus taught that the “**Good**” was the Absolute “**One**” and this being could *not* be reached by rational methods or be described by normal discourse. Neo-Platonism’s ontology (Theory of Being) was multi-leveled but “gooooy!” Or *oooozy*...as the **ONE** (Absolute Being) oooozes and emanates Being down to lower realms.

As in all kinds of Mysticism, the ultimate goal is to experience ecstatic Union with the **One** (Divine Ultimate Being). The Neo-Platonic *way of life* was “preparatory.” It was to prepare for that Union by ascetic virtuous living now. But the ultimate union is achieved only by dying. And you’d probably have to be reincarnated and die again!

Plotinus intended his philosophy to refute the materialism of the Epicureans, counter the rationalism of the Stoics, and comfort people amidst their misery in a vast but crumbling empire. Neo-Platonism gave Christians some serious rivalry. And it won’t surprise you to know that it influenced them too! One Bishop (of Cyrene) used it to explain the trinity, and Catholics have used its multi-level metaphysics to justify their clerical hierarchy! Some used it to try and refute Gnostic *dualism* only to lean toward *monism!* Augustine’s view of evil as a privation of good is rather Neo-Platonic. Neo-Platonism influenced theology all the way through the Medieval era and lasted as an identifiable philosophical school well into the 18th and 19th centuries. We haven’t seen the last of it. Oh no.

A crucial **WV Connection** you can be thinking about is:

ANY WV that has as an answer to Q1: ‘The Ultimate Being is beyond all rational distinction and can be reached only by mystical union’ will lead *away* from Biblical Theism and straight *into* New Age spirituality.

Wherever we see a “goeey” ontology or failure to make distinctions...mystical Platonism is still “Neo”!

EXTRA: ACADEMIC SKEPTICISM

One significant Hellenistic school of thought *not* mentioned in the textbook (until its revival in the Renaissance) is **SKEPTICISM** (Gk-*skepsis*—enquiry, questioning). Skepticism was more than a negative attitude toward objective reality like the Sophists had. It was an actual academic position which repudiated Stoic certainty and took a different approach to complacency! Skeptic epistemology said that since all knowledge is based on senses, certainty about reality is impossible. Moreover—the goal of human life is quietude and tranquility (*ATARAXIA*) which can only be achieved by suspending belief. The purpose of philosophy is to argue for the suspension of judgment about ‘reality’ and to learn how to be happy with the ‘appearances’ (to take ‘em as they come!)

Leading SKEPTICS: Pyrrho (360–270 BCE) Carneades (213–129 BCE) Sextus Empiricus (175–225 CE)

SUM UP THE HELLENISTIC WAY:

Something that Epicureans, Stoics, Skeptics, and pretty much all Hellenistic philosophies had in common was their deeper purposes: The amelioration of human pain and stress...and the assurance of human happiness...amidst all the instabilities and uncertainties of life. [*Ataraxia* = the absence of worry] [*Eudaimonia* = human flourishing, well-being]

It is instructive to note that these rather inward-turning, “*self-help-style*” philosophies began as reactions *to* or results *of* the socio-political environment *RATHER* than as intellectual and moral forces for change and betterment.

Which kinds of philosophies will we find in later eras?

A good **WV-Connection** question to ponder: Which kinds of ‘philosophies’ are being promoted **today**?

THE INFLUENCE TRAIL: 🏛️ (Just a few examples!)

Carrying on the work of Aristotle, aided by the interest of Alexander...the “**science**” done in the Hellenistic Era provided the *generally accepted natural worldview* that lasted all the way to the Scientific Revolution. (16th, 17th c)

[e.g.— Euclid, Archimedes & Aristarchus (3rd c. BCE), and especially **Ptolemy** (2nd c. CE)]

In the 16th century, all the writings of Sextus Empiricus were republished. Can you think **WHY** at *that* time? Come tell me.

Karl Marx’s doctoral dissertation was on EPICURUS! Could it be that later “Commune-ist” ideologues implemented some naturalistic social theories but with a lack of humane-ness that would have horrified Epicurus?

CONNECTION TO WORLDVIEW AND BIBLICAL STUDIES:

For this section we have a special discussion of the contact and common ground between early Christian belief and some Hellenistic philosophies, especially **Stoicism**.

Some questions to be pondering:

Do all humans by nature desire to know ‘The Good’? Know ‘GOD’? Know the *Biblical* GOD?

What do people usually mean when they talk about ‘God’? What Qs might you ask to find out?

Does ‘kinship’ to God belong to all humanity by nature?

How does the Biblical concept of the **LOGOS** compare with the Platonists’ and the Stoics’ ideas?

Suggest some present day examples of making “Altars to UNKNOWN GODS”?

Do you happen to know what the **earliest recorded exchange** between Hellenistic Philosophies and the Gospel was?



CONNECTION TO BIBLICAL STUDIES

The earliest recorded exchange between Hellenistic Worldviews and “The Gospel” was Paul’s bold address before the “Court of *AREOPAGUS*.” [from the “Hill of Ares” near the Athenian Acropolis. This “court” had been the Council of ancient city-state days, but now met in the Agora and functioned as a philosophical-religious forum...like a review board for new ideas!]

Read **Acts 17:16–34** and discuss in detail. Question: Paul actually quoted from pagan poets and philosophers. *Did he compromise* the distinctiveness of the Gospel and its Hebraic-Biblical Worldview foundation? Since we know that later Christian “Apologists” *did* blend Biblical Revelation with Greek Metaphysics, it may be instructive to examine this intriguing exchange.

Legend has it that Paul and Seneca had an epistolary relationship, but whether *that* is true or not, Paul *was* conversant with Hellenistic literature. He had been exceptionally well-trained in rabbinic thought under the great Gamaliel, and never forsook his Hebraic heritage, as Christians usually assume. But as the apostle to the gentile world, he would have to understand Hellenistic thinking. It is interesting to note that the School of Gamaliel was one that *did* allow study of Greek Philosophy!

By the first century, Athenian glory and intellectual prestige had already faded and even its own leaders criticized it for its “faddishness” but it was (and still is) an impressive city. Paul, however, being steeped in Scriptures that forbade graven images, grieved at seeing idols everywhere. [v.16]

As with all Greco-Roman cities, the center of life was the agora (market). And here we find Paul interacting with “casual passersby” (those who happened to be there!) [v.17] Let’s pick up here: [NIV]

18 A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to dispute with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babblers trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

It is amusing that “babbler” connoted someone who, like a seed-picking bird, loiters around the marketplace and gathers up little crumbs of learning only to spit them out undigested! More seriously, the hearers thought he was proclaiming strange alien deities...ones *not* on their approved list!

19 Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? **20** You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears and we want to know what they mean.” **21** (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

So, these lovers of religious novelty invite Paul to expound on his strange doctrines. Then Paul stands tall and exclaims bombastically, “You ignorant, iniquitous, idolatrous, self-inflated, pagans and homosexual swine...you are all going to Hell unless you join the church!” Oops, no...let’s see what he really said:

22 Paul then stood up...and said: “Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious.”

The NEB renders this ‘compliment’ -- “uncommonly scrupulous as to religious concerns.” As we have seen, Athenians were very “high-minded” and proud of it! Jewish historian Josephus called them “the most religious of all the Greeks.”

23 “For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: **TO AN UNKNOWN GOD**...

So far, no archeological evidence of such an altar has been unearthed in Athens, although a partially destroyed one found in Pergamum might have the words “unknown gods.” However, there are other literary sources that mention altars to unknown gods, especially an account by Diogenes Laertius (200—250 CE) who was referring to a sacrifice made by Epimenides (6th c. BCE) *in* Athens. In a rampantly polytheistic culture, people liked to cover all their bases when it came to pleasing the divinities!

23 ...Now what you worship as something unknown, I am going to proclaim to you.”

Since ‘unknown’ and ‘known’ are opposites...this may be the fulcrum of Paul’s proclamation. He has immediately found a point of contact and proceeds to lift up the Lord of Creation. But it is interesting to follow the process! Try to get a feel for when the crowd begins to squirm!

24 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands.”

The higher pagans would agree that our shrines do not hold God. Euripides said: “No house built by craftsmen could enclose the divine form within its walls.” So far the council isn’t having a problem.

25 “And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.”

Stoics saw their divine Logos as the source of all life. Even Epicureans have remarked, “The Divine Being has no need of anything men can give.”

26 “From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth...”

Stoics liked to think “universally” and see themselves as “citizens of the world...still no problem.

...and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.”

Hmmm, allotted times and set boundaries?? Stoics certainly liked Order and Providence, but they believed in endless cycles. And Epicureans believed in chance-swerving atoms-beneath all things.

The council might have begun to stir, but Paul holds their attention:

27 “God did this so men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him...”

A God who likes being sought and found, hmm, the council is listening...Paul eases them somewhat:

...though he is not far from each one of us.”

Stoics would like that. Their divine being was totally immanent...that’s very ‘close’!

What is Paul doing? Making all ideas of ‘God’ seem compatible?! Now he even quotes their own sages!

28 “ ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ ”

That famous quote, found on banners hanging in many churches & Christian Science Reading Rooms, is from Epimenides of Crete. “They fashioned a tomb for thee, O Holy and High One, The Cretans, always liars, evil beasts and idle bellies. But Thou art not dead; for ever Thou art risen and alive. For in Thee we live, move, and have our being.” -- *Cretica* ~ 600 BCE [See also Titus 1:12]

28 “As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ ”

This quote is from Aratus (315—240 BCE) who was a friend of Zeno the founder of Stoicism. The concept of the world springing forth into being from ‘God’ could be found around the ancient world. Has Paul said anything yet that these high-minded pagans find objectionable?

29 “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man’s design and skill.”

It never hurts to remind the baser idolaters the error of their ways!

30 “In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.”

31 “For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”

OH NO!! Repent? A set JUDGMENT? A RESURRECTED God-Man??? Unacceptable! Greeks abhorred the idea of bodily resurrection. The god Apollo, on the very occasion of the founding of the Court of Areopagus by the goddess Athena, proclaimed:

“But when the earth has drunk up a man’s blood, once he is dead there is no anastasis (resurrection.)”

(~ Aeschylus)

32 When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.”

33 At that, Paul left the Council.

34 A few men became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was **Dionysius**, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

Although some scoffed, others had apparently heard enough of interest to pursue it further. Still others became believers. The councilman Dionysius who ‘became a follower’ is alleged *by tradition* to have become the Bishop of Athens and was even eventually martyred. Later, in the 6th century, a Syrian author wrote a lot of mystical works synthesizing Christianity with **Neo-Platonism**. They were attributed to Dionysius of Acts 17 fame.

“**Dionysius the Pseudo-Areopagite**” was very influential in Medieval *Catholicism*. Come tell me **why**, d’ya think.

Again, since we know that “synthesizing” & “syncretizing” Biblical truth with alien metaphysical systems began rather early in Church history, and it continues to this day...it is worth a look at Paul’s “points of departure” as well as his “points of contact.” We must know very distinctly what the issues are today. The character of our Holy God is being compromised, blurred, diluted and accommodated to a degree that should grieve our spirits and awaken our minds. His Name is being profaned. Let’s be so clear about Who He is that we hallow His name in all the earth!

WE ARE HIS OFFSPRING?

“THE IDEA OF GOD IS ENGRAVED ON OUR MINDS.”

Who said that? Both **Cicero** and John **Calvin**! Could they have meant the same thing...the same ‘God’?

Stoic Pantheism:

We are his offspring—because the world exists in God.

We have a spark of divinity in us by nature.

“God is one in the same with Reason, Fate or Zeus. He is called by many names.” - Zeno

The universe itself is God.

Our highest goal is to let the divine logos within us rule & subdue our passions and thus live in harmony with the universal order.

Be as indifferent about yourself as you are about others.

Be not attached to things.

Be detached.

Fatalism

“We are chained to fate, all life is bondage.” - Seneca

Death is natural. It is better to die well than to live badly. Suicide is okay.

There is no personal immortality. Our divine nature will rejoin the eternal “fire” or divine essence.

Christian Theism:

We are his offspring because he created us, and wants to be our Father.

We were created for relationship with God.

God has told us his name. We do not ‘define’ God, He defines us.

The universe was created by God out of nothing.

Our highest goal is to love God with all we are and love our neighbors as ourselves. Hallow God’s name in all of life...with joy!

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Praise God for His provisions. Be stewards.

Work for social justice.

Free will.

In Christ we are truly free.

Death will be destroyed. Life is sacred.

God will judge the world with justice. In Christ we can live with God forever.

In conclusion, Paul certainly did not “compromise” or accommodate the gospel in Athens. Although he found common ground with the Stoics and got a ‘hearing’...he proclaimed something that no philosophy can offer. All things are examined in LIGHT of the Person, the Life, Death and Resurrection, and Coming Judgment of Jesus the Messiah—The Living God. Only through Him may we become children of God. What about the ‘truth’ that ALL humans have a divine spark of God imprinted within them?

“**For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God, nor gave thanks to Him.**” Romans 1:21

THE QUIZ FOR THIS ERA IS A “**WHO SAID IT?**”? (OR ‘**MIGHT HAVE?**’?)

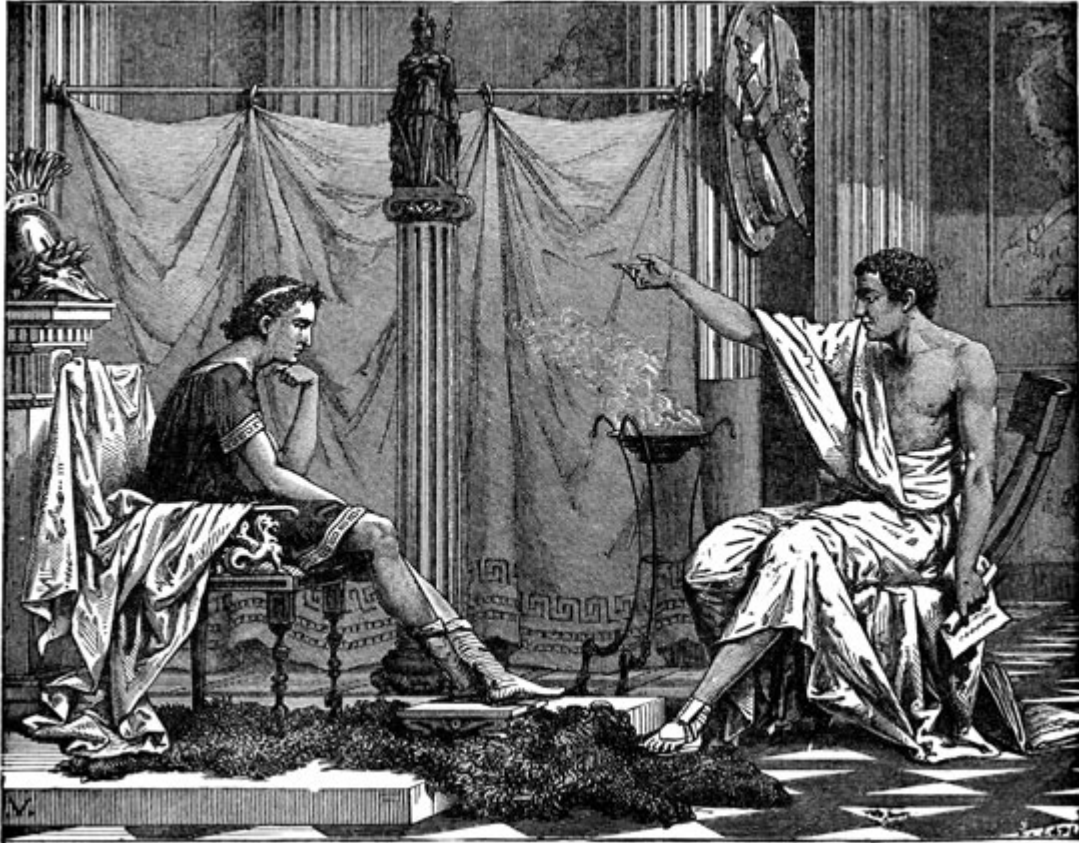
Read the quotable quotes below and figure out whether they were written/uttered by a/an:

A. *Epicurean* B. Stoic C. Skeptic D. *Neo-Platonist*

1. ___ ‘I am meditating on the One, the highest reality, and ignoring my body...so I refuse to bathe.’
2. ___ Ended sentences with... “so it seems to me at the moment,”
3. ___ “Some practice law, others study logic, here you practice how to suffer...and die.”
4. ___ “Pleasure is the beginning and end of the blessed life...the first and natural Good.”
5. ___ “While we are no doubt able to say what each object appears to be, we are incapable of explaining what it is in reality. For we shall have to believe either *all* men or *some*. But if we believe *all*, we would be attempting the impossible as we would be accepting contradictions; and if we believe *some*, how would we know *whose* opinions to endorse?”
6. ___ “Vain is the word of a philosopher which does not heal...there is no profit in philosophy if it does not expel the suffering of the mind.”
7. ___ “Wish things to be only as they are.” “Men are not disturbed by things but by the view they take of things.”
8. ___ “The inexhaustible light streams from the super-abundance of divine perfection and fades into the inexhaustible void.”
9. ___ “If the same things appear different owing to the variety of animals, we shall be able to state our own impressions of the real object, but as to its essential nature we shall suspend judgment.”
10. ___ “It is not possible for one to be rid of his fears if he does not understand the nature of the universe.”
11. ___ “All things are implicated with one another and the bond is holy. There is one universe made of all things, one God who pervades all things...one common Logos in all intelligent things, and one truth.”
12. ___ ‘The One is ineffable...pure light...like a candle that ungrudgingly gives off its light but never is extinguished.’
13. ___ “Within the true essence of god, which is beyond all being and distinction, there I already existed. I willed myself. I knew myself. There I wished to create the man I am...I am my own cause according to my eternal being...”
14. ___ “I am a part of the whole, which is governed by nature. Nothing is injurious to the part if it is advantageous to the whole. I shall be content with everything that happens.”
15. ___ “Our terrors and darkness of mind must be dispelled not by the sunshine’s rays, but by insight into nature.”
16. ___ The existence of the physical universe, and of history, is the result of sin.
17. ___ “If you live right, once is enough!” (“Faith in immortality was born out of the greed of unsatisfied people who make unwise use of the time nature allotted...for the wise man, one life suffices, and a stupid man would not know what to do with an eternity!”)
18. ___ What is Ultimate Reality like? **IF** it is an Invincible Order—Why resist it? **IF** it is a Benevolent Providence—Make yourself worthy of it. **IF** it is all a purposeless confusion—Be content that in such a tempest, you have your Reason. Thus—Be calm, dignified and self-sufficient whether Ultimate Reality is Perfect or Chaotic. Finally, your **spark** will end along with the universe, as it began, in **Fire.**’

(Now that’s the ultimate “Death with Dignity!”)

HOW DID YOU DO ON THE QUIZ?



HERE'S AN EASY BONUS Q FOR YOU:
TO WHICH HELLENISTIC PHILOSOPHY DOES
THIS SYMBOL BELONG?

