



# Prayer for Peace

- Holy Mary, Queen of Peace, Theotokos! We humbly beg you to interceded for us with your Son, Our Savior.
- The violent nature of your fallen children and the influence of Satan have been with us ever since we left the Garden of Eden. We see it now as war is raging in the Ukraine.
- We pray for the people of the Ukraine and the people of Russia. May they be filled with the Holy Spirit and be consoled.
- We pray for the leaders of Russia to hear the voice of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and act to end this war and the aggression that caused it.
- As we examine our hearts to see our own anger, aggression, and desire to hurt others, help us to heal and to turn away from these sins.
- O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.
- *The Lord will give strength to His people, The Lord will bless his people with peace* ~ Psalm 29 Liturgy of the Hours Morning Prayer March 7 2022

# Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos

- 9th Century Constantinople fell under barbarian attack. The people manned the defenses and prayed.
- The attackers—pre-Christian Russians known for their great brutality—descended with a fleet that threatened to overwhelm the defenses. The first assaults went badly for the city.
- **During one of the lulls in the fighting the people of the city gathered for prayer inside the Church of the Virgin where the veil of the Virgin Mary was kept and venerated.**
- While prayers were being sung in the church, a holy man of God, the Blessed Andrew, saw the Theotokos in a vision. As she was carrying her veil, she stretched it out over the city and over all the people defending it. Beneath her protection, the people of the city could take refuge.
- When the veil that the Theotokos was carrying was dipped in the waters of the port, a heavy storm began to brew. The attacking Russians were allowed to see the vision of the Theotokos. They were seriously disturbed by seeing the vision and the by dramatic change in the weather. And were either scared off or perished in the storm.
- The people of Constantinople believed that the Lord, through the prayers of His Mother, had saved their city. Today, Orthodox Christians still remember this event. The Russians, particularly, have a deep love for the feast.

# THE GREEK EMPIRE

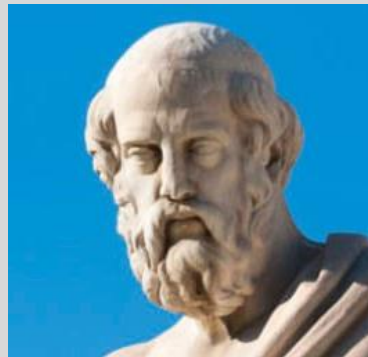
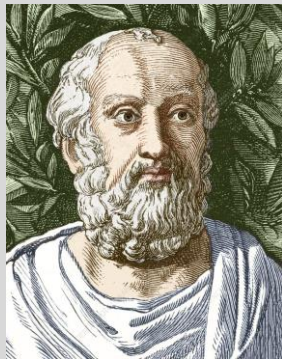
Ancient Greece to Late-Hellenistic Period



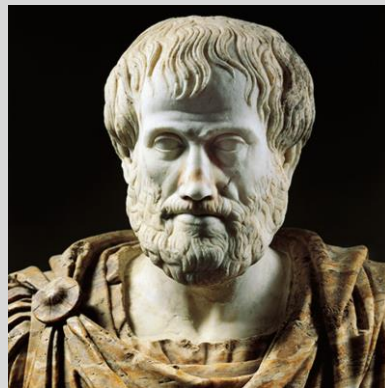
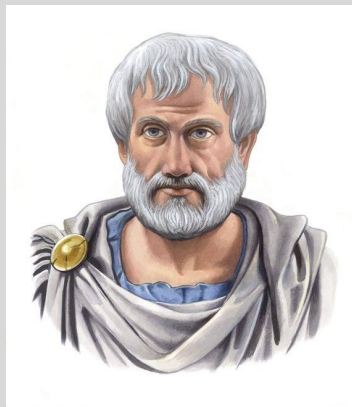


Pericles 495--429 BC

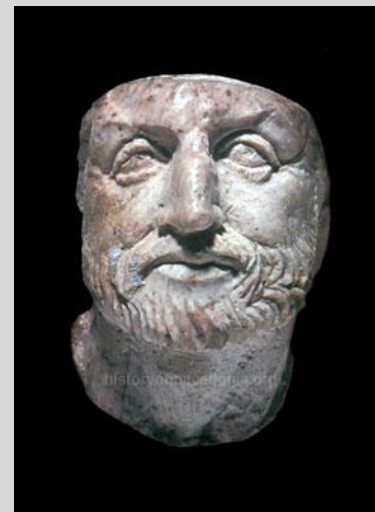
# Pivotal Players



Plato 424—347 BC



Aristotle 384—322 BC



Philip II 382—336 BC



Alexander III the Great 356—323 BC

# Olympics 776 BC

- The ancient Olympic Games were part of a religious festival in honor of the father of the Greek gods and goddesses, **Zeus**.
- Held in Olympia, a rural sanctuary in the western Peloponnese. The sanctuary's name came from Mount Olympus the home of the Greek gods and goddesses.
- The Olympic Games officially began in 776 BC but in some form had been held up to 500 years before this
- From 776 BC, the Games were held in Olympia every four years for almost 12 centuries.
- A single foot race called a stadion (600 feet long) was the only athletic event of the games for the first 13 Olympic festivals or until 724 BC.
- The games grew to include 23 contests -- an **Olympiad**.
- Running, boxing, pankration, horse racing, wrestling, chariot racing, two stade races, a long jump, discus throw, and the javelin throw were some of the main events. No marathon!
- Male athletes only.

# The First Marathon

- Pheidippides was a day-long runner in the military who carried the news of the Persian landing at Marathon to Sparta in order to enlist help for the battle.
- According to the ancient Greek historian Herodotus, Pheidippides (530–490 BC) RAN WITHOUT STOPPING 149 miles and delivered the news to the Spartans the next day.
- **The marathon** was NOT an event of the ancient Olympic games. The marathon is a modern event that was first introduced in the Modern Olympic Games of 1896 in Athens, a race from Marathon northeast of Athens to the Olympic Stadium, a distance of 40 kilometers.
- The distance of the modern marathon was standardized as 26 miles 385 yards or 42.195 km. in 1908 when the Olympic Games were held in London.
- The distance was the exact measurement between Windsor Castle, the start of the race, and the finish line inside White City Stadium.

# Gymnasium 6th Century BC

- Gymnasia were typically very large structures. The name comes from the Ancient Greek term *gymnós* meaning "naked" or "nude".
- Only adult male citizens were allowed to use the gymnasia.
- Athletes competed nude, a practice which was said to encourage aesthetic appreciation of the male body, and to be a tribute to the gods.
- Covered porticos where philosophers and other "men of letters" gave public lectures and held disputations.

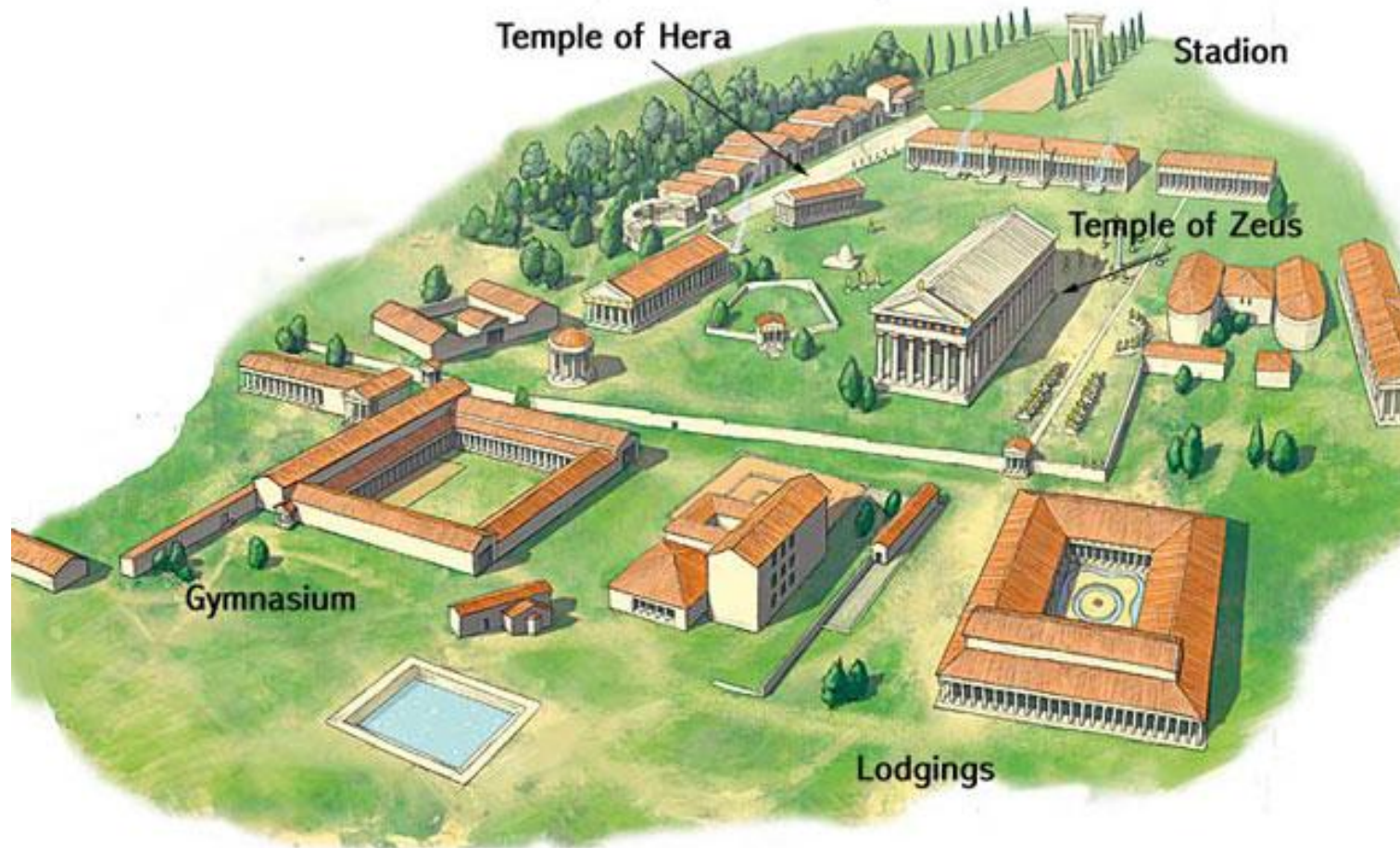


Image:  
<https://www.curriculumvisions.com/search/G/gymnasiumGreek/gymnasiumGreek.html>



# Gymnasium

The gymnasium functioned as a training facility for competitors in public game(s) and prepared men for war.

It was a place for socializing and engaging in intellectual pursuits.

Academic instruction became increasingly important as a function in the gymnasium

Science, Philosophy, Mathematics. Reading and Handwriting were added later.

Aristotle established his school, the Lyceum, in a gymnasium

The modern German word “gymnasium” = secondary school or high school



# 1 Maccabees

## The Gymnasium 180 BC

*14 Thereupon they built a gymnasium in Jerusalem according to the Gentile custom.*

*15 They disguised their circumcision and abandoned the holy covenant; they allied themselves with the Gentiles and sold themselves to wrongdoing.*

- The Maccabees objected to the gymnasium because of a concern for modesty. Greek athletes trained and competed in the nude (gymnos, means "naked"). Beyond the nakedness, the Maccabees considered the Greeks' preoccupation with sports a worship of false gods.
- Antiochus IV Epiphanes c. 215 BC -164 BC was a Greek Hellenistic king of the Seleucid Empire from 175 BC until his death in 164 BC
- Antiochus Epiphanes wanted the intellectual treasures of Greek culture to be taught throughout his kingdom so education in the gymnasiums flourished during his reign.

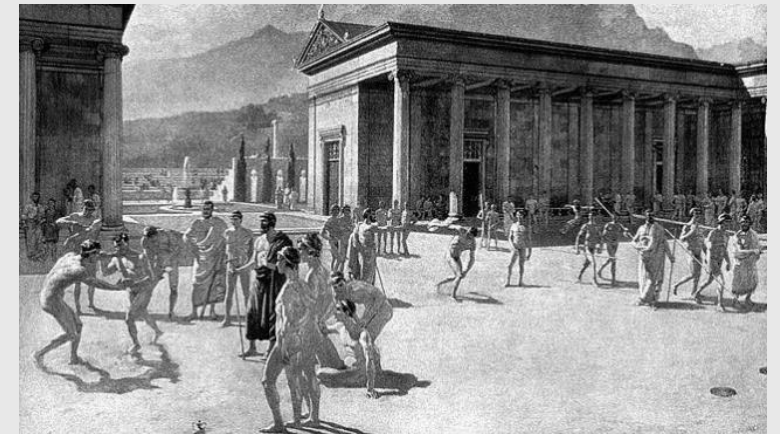


Image from  
<https://deadliestblogpage.wordpress.com/2017/12/10/mad-kings-and-maccabees-part-two-humiliation-in-egypt-and-revolt-in-judea/>

# Greek Government—for Context

- **Monarchy 2000 BC to 800 BC,**

The power to make decisions is in the hands of one person. The word monarchy comes from the Greek root words monos (which means “one”) and arkhein (which means “rule”).

Greek city-states were ruled by monarchs. At first, the Greek kings were chosen by the people of the city-state.. Over time, however, kings demanded that, after their death, their power be passed on to their children—usually to the oldest son.

- **Oligarchy 800 BC and 650 B.C.E**

The power to make decisions is in the hands of two to three rich men, usually called oligarchs or kings. The word oligarchy comes from the Greek root words oligos (which means “few”) and arkhein (which means “rule”). Greek city-states were ruled by a small group of men. These men were called oligarchs, and they often ruled like kings who shared power together.

# Greek Government —for Context

- **Tyranny 650 BC to 500 BC**

The power to make decisions is in the hands of one person, usually called a tyrant or dictator, who took control illegally. These men became tyrants because they just took over the power— usually throwing out the current leader by violence.

The word tyranny comes from the Greek root word tyrannos (which means “supreme power”). Tyrants became known for holding power through cruel and unfair methods. The people in some Greek city-states looked to men who claimed that they wanted to overthrow kings or oligarchs and to make life better for the people.

- **Democracy Athens 500 BC to 400 BC**

The power to make decisions is in the hands of all of the people, who are called citizens. One man-one vote. The word democracy comes from the Greek root words demos (which means “people”) and kratos (which means “power”).

# The Greek Tyrants 650 to 500 BC

- In the Greek world, a tyrant was not a malicious or evil person. A tyrant was the leader of a tyranny, just as a monarch ruled the monarchy.
- The concept of tyranny gained high popularity in the ancient Greek society and was mostly supported by the commoners who were against the monarchy.
- Tyrants were aristocrats who seized control of a city-state in the name of security or general welfare. They were influential opportunists who remained in power with the help of mercenary soldiers. The tyrants often emerged from the aristocracy, and the force of public dislike of them varied from place to place
- They were not elected, as democratic rulers were, and did not fall within traditions of hereditary succession, as monarchical rulers did, tyrants often had to find creative ways to justify their power.



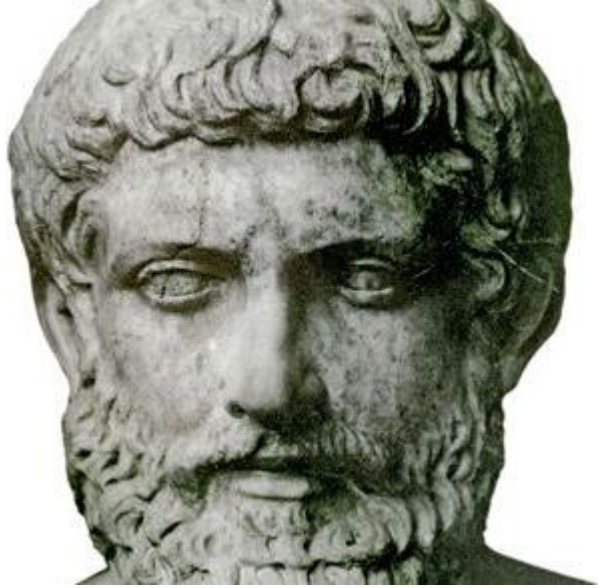


Image: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Cypselus>

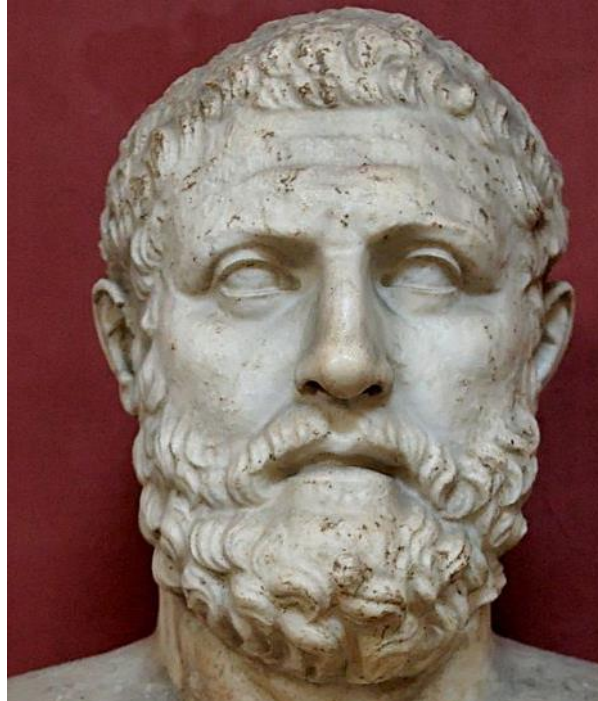


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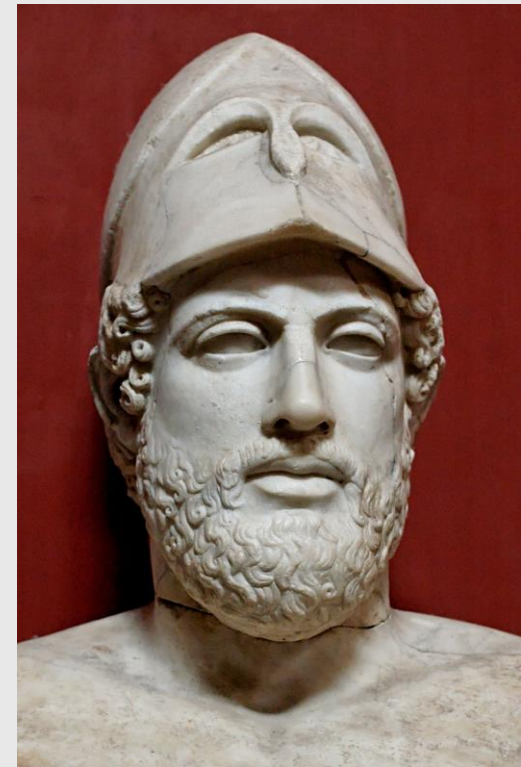
# The Greek Tyrants

- **Cypselus** was a tyrant who lived in Corinth in the seventh century BC ~c. 657– c. 628 Corinth was amongst the richest cities of Greece. And this wealth was largely held by the "new rich," who weren't from traditional aristocratic families.
- After the king of Corinth was assassinated, Cypselus consolidated power using the new rich of Corinth and established a dynasty of tyrants known as the Cypselids.
- Were they evil? Cypselus' son, **Periander** (the second tyrant of Corinth), is labeled as one of the Seven Sages of Greece, considered the wisest rulers of Greek history.

# Ancient Greece— Chronology

## Classical Period ~ 500-429 BC

- The Classical Period of ancient Greece was a time when the Greeks achieved new heights in art, architecture, theater, and philosophy.
- 530 BC Cyrus releases the Jews to return to Jerusalem
- **Democracy in Athens was established 508 BC**
- 450 - The Golden Age of Athens begins and flourishes under the rule of Pericles.
- **Pericles** (495-429 BC) was an Athenian statesman Elected ~460 BC
- **Acropolis and Parthenon (Temple of Athena)** --Built to the highest standards of aesthetics, engineering and mathematics, white marble structures decorated with intricate statues and friezes
- Played a large role in developing democracy in Athens and helped make it the political and cultural center of ancient Greece. Appointed people to positions based on their skill and abilities instead of their social class.
- 429 BC Pericles' two legitimate sons died of the plague. A few months later, Pericles himself succumbed.







# The ACROPOLIS and the PARTHENON

# The Plague at Athens, 430-426 BC

- In the second year of the **Peloponnesian War**, 430 BC, an outbreak of plague erupted in Athens.
- The illness would persist throughout scattered parts of Greece and the eastern Mediterranean until 426 BC.
- The origin of the epidemic occurred in sub-Saharan Africa just south of Ethiopia. The disease swept north and west through Egypt and Libya across the Mediterranean Sea into Persia and Greece.
- The Greek historian Thucydides recorded the outbreak in his monumental work on the Peloponnesian War (431-404 BC) between Athens and Sparta.
- The **epidemic changed the course of the war** – Weakened, Athens lost
- The epidemic killed one-third of the population; a population which numbered 450,000.



# Ancient Greece— Chronology

## Classical Period ~ 490-338 BC

- 490 - The Greeks defeat the Persians at the Battle of Marathon ending the First Persian War.
- 480 - The Greeks defeat the Persians at the Battle of Salamis ending the Second Persian War
- 404 - Athens is defeated by Sparta to end the Peloponnesian War.
- 399 - Socrates is put to death for corrupting the youth of Athens.
- 371 - Sparta is defeated by a group of city-states including Athens and Thebes.
- 386 - Plato founds the Academy, the first western institution of higher learning.
- **338 - Athens and Thebes are defeated by Phillip II of Macedonia.**

# Persian Wars

- Between 499 to 479, Greece and Persia fought a series of wars that determined the balance of power in the Mediterranean. In 492 B.C., Persia was one of the world's largest empires. It controlled a huge expanse of territory, including Greek cities in Asia Minor.
- Greece, which consisted of a bunch of disparate states that fought against one another more than they were united, seemed like an easy target.
- The Persian Wars were triggered by a rebellion by Ionian Greeks against the Persian King Darius in 499 B.C.
- Athens and Eretria supported the rebellions and Greeks sacked the important Persian city of Sardis. Darius was outraged. The Persians retaliated by destroying the Greek city of Miletos.
- Darius developed a plan to invade Greece and teach the Athenians a lesson they wouldn't forget. The gods favored the Greeks during Darius's first invasion. A fleet of 600 Persian ships crossed the Dardanelles and then was ravaged by a storm off of Mount Anthos that destroyed half the fleet.

# The End of Persian Rule

- The military campaigns against the Greeks by Darius and, after his death, by his son Xerxes, constituted the largest military undertaking in history up to that time.
- Xerxes ruled 486-465 BC. He was regarded as weak and tyrannical. He spent the early years of his reign putting down rebellions in Egypt and Babylon and preparing to launch another attack on Greece with a huge army that he assumed would easily overwhelm the Greeks.
- The last 125 years of Persian rule was marked by conspiracies, intrigues, assassinations and revolts by subjects straining under high taxes.
- Darius III was leader of Persia at the time of Alexander the Great. He was regarded as weak and cowardly, and he demonstrated these shortcomings in his confrontation with Alexander.
- His death and defeat marks the fall of the Persian Empire and the end of the Achaemenid dynasty.

# Philip II of Macedonia

- **Philip II**, born 382 BC—died 336 BC 18th king of Macedonia 359–336 BC
- Macedon was unstable during Philip II's youth. During an invasion by the Greek city-state of Thebes, Philip was taken hostage for three years where he learned military strategies
- Philip used his military knowledge to strengthen the Macedonian army. He became king on his brother's death in 359.
- King Philip II is credited with restoring internal peace to his country.
- By 339 had gained domination over all of Greece by military and diplomatic means
- He laid the foundations for the expansion of Greece under his son Alexander III the Great
- Assassinated 336 BC





# Alexander the Great YouTube Video

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7lb6KWBanI>

# Alexander III

- Alexander III , son of Philip II was educated in military strategy, horsemanship, and fighting from a very young age
- At age 12, Alexander showed impressive courage when he tamed a wild, enormous stallion. He named the horse Bucephalus; the horse became his battle companion for most of Alexander's life
- When Alexander was 13, Philip called on the great philosopher Aristotle to tutor his son. Aristotle sparked and fostered Alexander's interest in literature, science, medicine and philosophy
- Philip went to war leaving the 16-year-old Alexander to govern Macedonia. Alexander saw the opportunity to prove his military worth. Alexander put his vigor and bravery on display, and his cavalry decimated the undefeated Sacred Band of Thebes



Photo credit: Rotherham Heritage Services

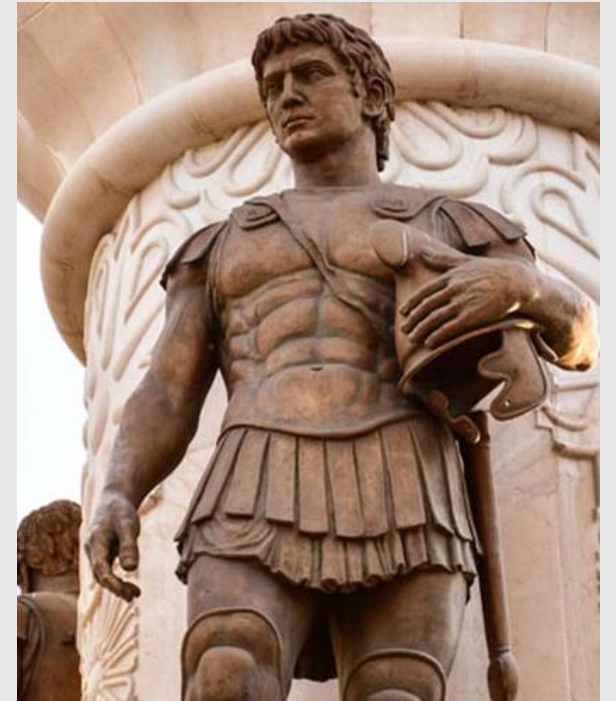
# Alexander and Aristotle



- Aristotle taught Alexander and his friends about medicine, philosophy, morals, religion, logic, and art from 343-336 BC.
- Under Aristotle's tutelage, Alexander developed a passion for the works of Homer. Aristotle gave him an annotated copy, which Alexander later carried on his campaigns
- Alexander was influenced by Aristotle, whose philosophy of Greek ethos did not require forcing Greek culture on the colonized. Alexander would take away the political autonomy of those he conquered but not their culture or way of life.
- During his campaigns Alexander was always intent on finding out everything he could about the areas through which he passed.
- He took with him an entourage of scientists to record and analyze this information, from botany, biology, zoology and meteorology, to topography.
- His desire to learn, and to have information recorded as scientifically as possible, probably stemmed from Aristotle's teachings and enthusiasm.

# Alexander the Great

- On Philip's death, Alexander claimed the Macedonian throne and killed his rivals before they could challenge his sovereignty. He was 20 years old.
- Alexander the Great was King of Macedonia and Persia 336 - 323 BC
- One of the greatest military minds-- in 13 short years he amassed the largest empire in the entire ancient world which extended for **3,000 miles** from Greece to the Indus River in present-day Pakistan, a territory of **about 2 million square miles**
- He did this without the benefit of modern technology and weaponry. Troop movements were primarily on foot, and communications were face to face.



# Ancient Greece ~ Hellenistic Period

- As a king, Alexander spread Greek culture, thought, religion, and language from Greece throughout Egypt, Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, and India initiating the Hellenistic era 332 BC
- **332 BC:** Jerusalem capitulates to Alexander the Great, during his six-year Macedonian conquest of the empire of Darius III of Persia. Alexander's armies took Jerusalem without complication while travelling to Egypt after the Siege of Tyre (332 BC)
- **3,000 miles** from Greece to the Indus River in present-day Pakistan, a territory of **about 2 million square miles**
- The fusion of Greek culture with the other cultures throughout the Empire led to new developments in art, government, science and language that would not have taken place without the Greek influence.









# Alexander and the Jews

- Alexander arrived in Jerusalem in 329 BC.
- Alexander was told the story of Daniel who, according to Jewish Tradition from 200 years earlier, prophesied the coming of the Greeks and "their first king".
- Alexander decided that the story was about him and instead of plundering Jerusalem, asked what he could do for the Jewish people
- The Talmud describes the high priest greeting Alexander at the gates of Jerusalem as he rode in on his famous horse. According to the historians of the time, it was an enormously tall horse and Alexander was an enormously tall person and he always wore a plumed helmet. Alexander stood about 13 feet high on the horse. He was an awe-inspiring sight to behold.



Image <https://www.amazon.com/s?k=UNICORN+STUDIO>

# Alexander and the Jews

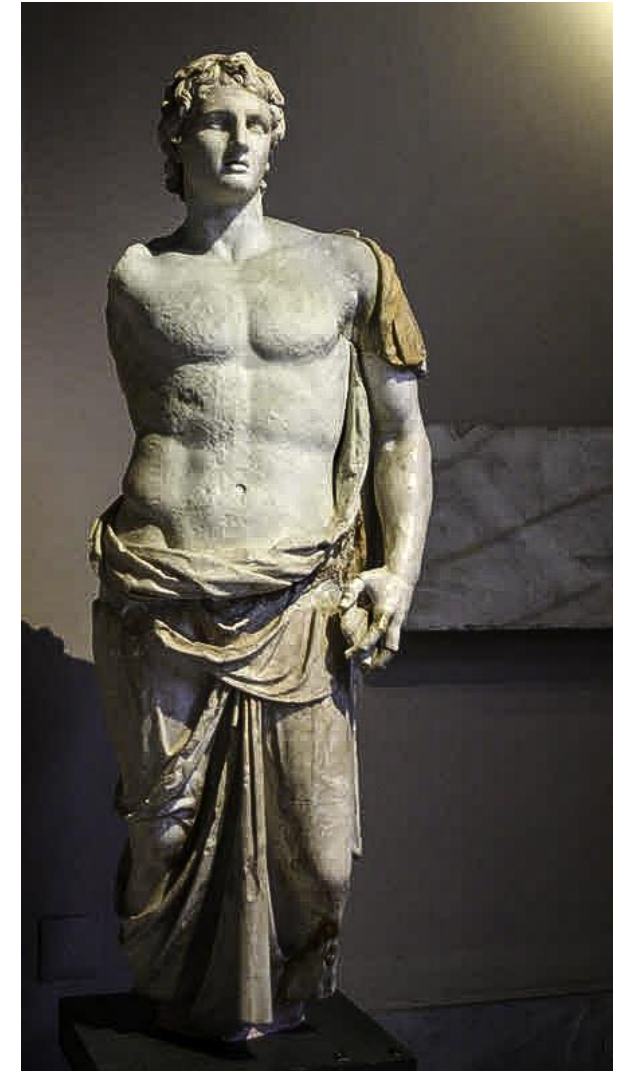
- When Alexander saw Simon the High Priest, he dismounted and bowed to him. When he was questioned by his advisors, he told them that whenever he went into battle, he dreamed of an angel leading him to victory. The face of the Jewish High Priest, he said, was the face of the angel he saw in his dreams. That was why he bowed down to him.
- Instead of destroying and subjugating the Jews, he agreed that if the Jews would be his loyal vassals and pay their taxes, they could remain autonomous
- Jews agreed and established a system of tax collection that would lead to terrible corruption



Image from: <https://dreamsocial.co/alexander-dream-invasion-jerusalem/>

# Alexander the Man

- Tall, handsome, intelligent, educated, he combined immense personal charisma and bravery.
- He was a military genius. He had the ability to identify the key moment in a battle and act decisively to ensure he won that moment.
- Described as charismatic and ruthless, brilliant and power hungry, diplomatic and bloodthirsty, he inspired such loyalty in his men they would die for him
- Criticized because: Failed to invest time and energy in the peaceful administration of his diverse empire. He was too impetuous and made unwise decisions especially when drunk, was too prone to believe alleged conspiracies against his life, and was too trusting in subordinates who betrayed him
- He believed he was descended from more than one god. His mother Olympia allegedly told him he was descended from Achilles and was the son of Zeus.
- Died in 323 BC at age 32. Modern medical experts have speculated that malaria, lung infection, liver failure or typhoid fever may have been the cause. And there is the poison theory...
- His wife, Roxana was pregnant with Alexander IV, but her son did not live to inherit Alexander's empire.



<https://www.goodfreephotos.com>

# Alexander the Great -- Hellenistic Period

## Alexander's Empire and Its Legacy, 336–306 B.C.

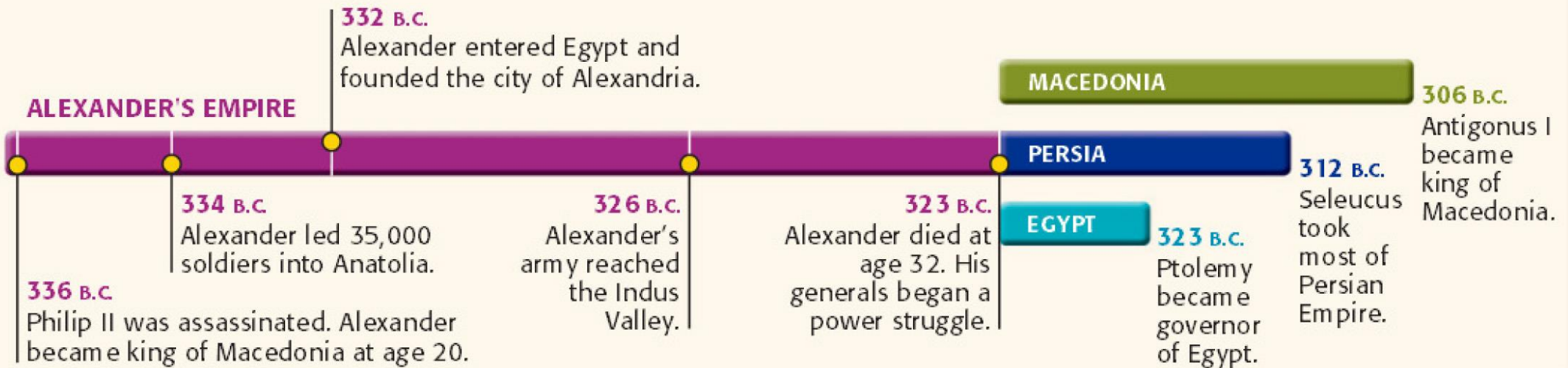


Image from:  
<https://www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us/cms/lib/NC01910456/Centricity/Domain/2836/Alexander%20the%20Great%20Power%20point%20.pdf>

# 1 Macabees: 1-9

- **Alexander the Great**
- **1** This history begins when Alexander the Great, son of Philip of Macedonia, marched from Macedonia and attacked Darius, king of Persia and Media. Alexander enlarged the Greek Empire by defeating Darius and seizing his throne. **2** He fought many battles, captured fortified cities, and put the kings of the region to death. **3** As he advanced to the ends of the earth, he plundered many nations; and when he had conquered the world, he became proud and arrogant. **4** By building up a strong army, he dominated whole nations and their rulers, and forced everyone to pay him taxes.
- **5-7** When Alexander had been emperor for twelve years, he fell ill and realized that he was about to die. He called together his generals, noblemen who had been brought up with him since his early childhood, and he divided his empire, giving a part to each of them. **8** After his death, the generals took control, **9** and each had himself crowned king of his own territory. The descendants of these kings ruled for many generations and brought a great deal of misery on the world.

# Dividing the Kingdom

- Alexander's death plunged his empire into a civil war that lasted for the next 20 years.
- Diadochi were the rival generals, families, and friends of Alexander the Great who fought for control over his empire after his death in 323 BC.
- Eventually, his empire was divided among various generals, the two most important being Seleucus and Ptolemy.
- Seleucus received most of Asia Minor, Syria, and Mesopotamia. This was known as the Seleucid kingdom. Ptolemy received Egypt, which became known as the Ptolemaic kingdom.
- Judea was located right between the Seleucids to the north and the Ptolemies to the south. During most of the 3rd century B.C., it was under the rule of the Ptolemies. During most of the 2nd century B.C., it was under the rule of the Seleucids. N.B. Antiochus Epiphanes

# Legacy of Greece to the Modern World

## **Art**

The first to develop the concept of aesthetic beauty, ancient Greeks created spectacular sculptures that have inspired artists from the Renaissance until today.

Greek mythology was a major source of inspiration for many European painters, which depicts the many tales and myths in their works.

## **Architecture**

Ancient Greek architecture has influenced modern day architecture. The use of columns and pediments for example, is a direct legacy from ancient Greece and is omnipresent in modern-day public buildings, such as parliament buildings, museums and even memorials. The use of architecture as an art form, more than a utilitarian science comes from ancient Greek culture.



# Legacy of Greece to the Modern World

## **Literature**

The ancient Greeks were the first to create complex literature.

One of the oldest literature styles is poetry, and more specifically, epic poetry, to depict the story of a hero. The oldest surviving epic poems are the Iliad and the Odyssey, written by Homer, roughly around 800 BC.

But it was mostly during the Classical era that ancient Greek literature blossomed with new styles emerging such as history. It was Herodotus who first started researching and collecting historical archives to compile them into a narrative.

In philosophy, the works of Plato, Aristotle and Socrates have influenced the establishment of modern ethics and metaphysics.

Hippocrates wrote medical essays that are still read in medical schools.

## **Sciences**

Ancient Greek scientists made significant discoveries in numerous fields such as geometry, astronomy, mathematics, natural sciences, and medicine.

# Resources

- **Alexander's Speech** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RlKJDwViNKs>

The speech, as it has reached us, was no doubt written by Arrian rather than Alexander. His actual words are now impossible to ascertain. But Arrian had access to eyewitness accounts which are now lost (principally Ptolemy and Nearchus), and modern historians generally agree that the speech was a real historical event, and that Arrian gives a good representation of its likely content

**Military Campaigns** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7lb6KWBanI>

One hour of rich information of Alexander's conquering the world.

**Rise and Fall of the Seleucid Empire (Who were the Seleucids?)**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v\\_Qxex9M6OQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_Qxex9M6OQ)

# Attributions

- Information on the Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos taken from <https://www.pravmir.com/the-feast-of-the-protection-of-the-most-holy-theotokos/>

- **Image sources**

<https://www.sciencephoto.com/media/227900/view/plato-ancient-greek-philosopher>

Plato marble statue: public domain

<https://literariness.org/2019/04/25/the-philosophy-of-aristotle/>

<https://www.biography.com/scholar/aristotle> *Photo: Getty Images*

- Philip of Macedon reconstructed image by medical illustrator Richard Neave University of Manchester; Ivory bust of Philip II found in a Macedonian Tomb Vergina Museum. all other images of Philip II in public domain

Photo reconstruction of Alexander **Arianne King** published on 22 February 2021 <https://www.worldhistory.org/image/13337/alexander-the-great-facial-reconstruction/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pericles>

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