

## Backdrop: The Greek Empire

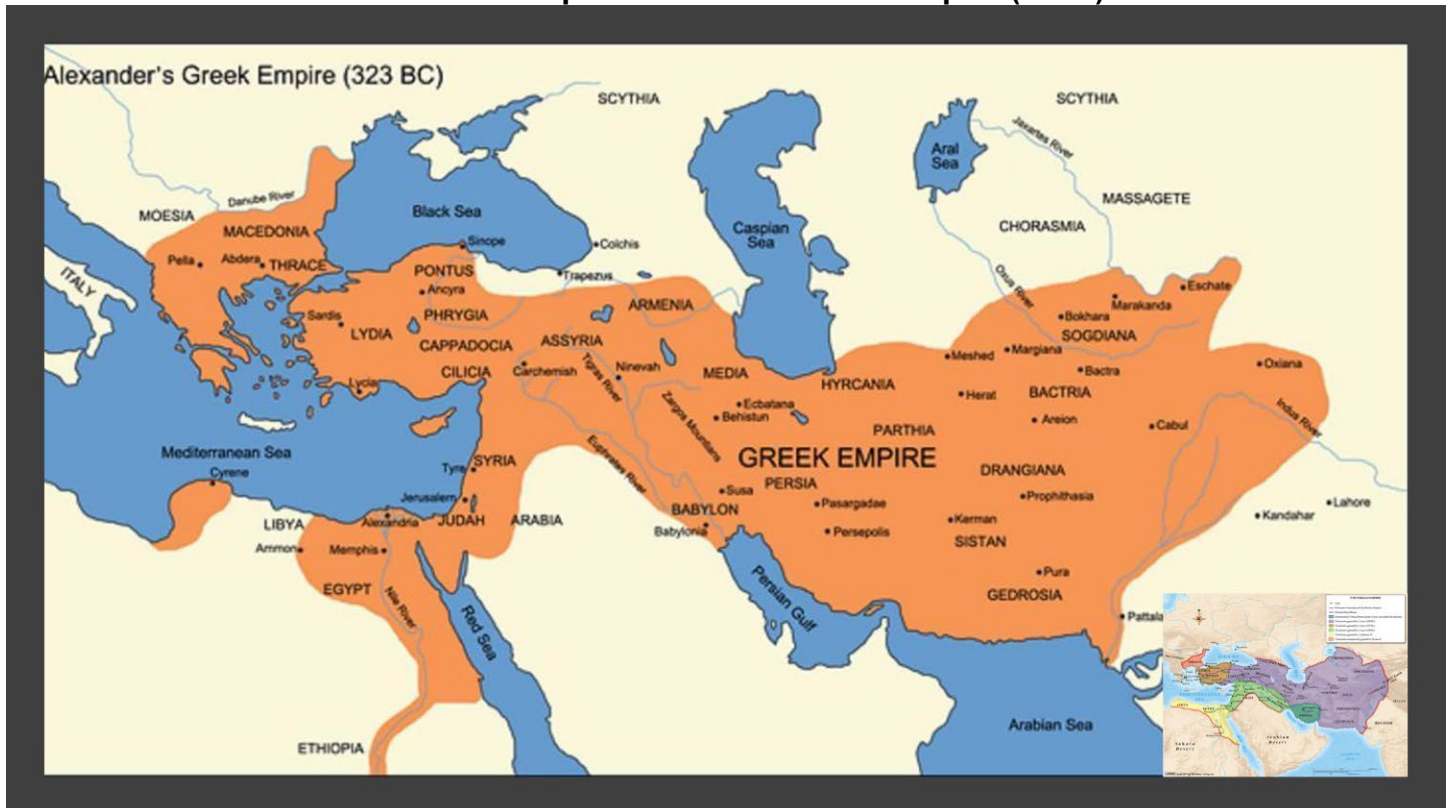
### Opening Discussion:

1. When you hear about ancient Greece, what comes to mind?
2. How has the Greek empire influenced the western world and the United States?
3. In what ways has Greek culture and through impacted the New Testament and Christianity?

God used the Greek empire to set the \_\_\_\_\_ stage of the \_\_\_\_\_ expansion of the \_\_\_\_\_.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

### The Greek Empire with The Persian Empire (Inset)



### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ importance

- Two important rulers: Phillip the Great and Alexander the Great
- Greek empire's impact on the world:
  - Greek language
  - Greek culture (baths, gymnasiums, theater)
  - Greek democratic ideas
  - Greek philosophy
  - Greek architecture
  - Greek pantheon of gods
  - Antioch and Alexandria became centers of Greek culture.

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ significance

- The remnants of the Greek empire were in control for much of the intertestamental period.

After Alexander son of Philip, the Macedonian, who came from the land of Kittim, had defeated King Darius of the Persians and the Medes, he succeeded him as king. (He had previously become king of Greece.) He fought many battles, conquered strongholds, and put to death the kings of the earth. He advanced to the ends of the earth, and plundered many nations. When the earth became quiet before him, he was exalted, and his heart was lifted up. He gathered a very strong army and ruled over countries, nations, and princes, and they became tributary to him. After this he fell sick and perceived that he was dying. So he summoned his most honored officers, who had been brought up with him from youth, and divided his kingdom among them while he was still alive. And after Alexander had reigned twelve years, he died. Then his officers began to rule, each in his own place. They all put on crowns after his death, and so did their descendants after them for many years; and they caused many evils on the earth. **1<sup>st</sup> Maccabees 1:1-9**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **Romans 1:14**

For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. **1 Corinthians 1:22-25**

To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. **1 Corinthians 9:20-21**

### **Fill in the Blank Answers**

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God used the Greek empire to set the cultural stage of the rapid expansion of the gospel.

1. Geography, location
2. Historical
3. Biblical