A mosaic depicting Alexander the Great on a horse. Alexander is shown in profile, facing right, wearing a detailed, patterned tunic and a helmet. He is mounted on a brown horse with a decorative bridle. The background is a light, textured mosaic. The text "Alexander the Great" is overlaid in large, yellow, serif font across the center of the image.

Alexander the Great

Daniel 2:39b; 7:6; 8:1-8a

Daniel 2:39b

then another
third
kingdom of
bronze,
which will
rule over all
the earth.





Daniel 7:6

“After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.”



Turn to Daniel 8:1-8a

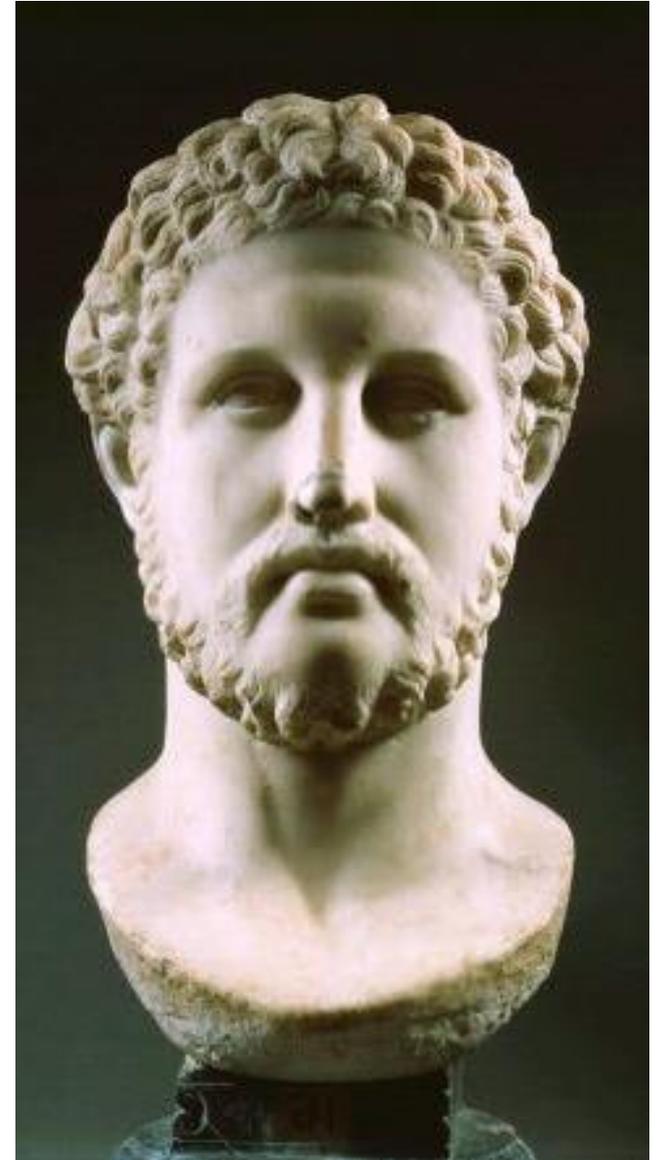
Since the Days of Xerxes

DANIEL

- Greek power had been on the increase and Persia had trouble keeping its expansive empire in submission.
- The city states of Greece, however, never formed a united government, and the Persian kings were able to play off one state against another.
- That changed under the leadership of a man named Philip of Macedon.

Philip II of Macedon

- **King of Macedonia (359-336 B.C.)**
- **Known for his military prowess, he conquers much of Greece by force and unites the city states under his army.**
- **Every city state, save Sparta, joins his League of Corinth.**





The Kingdom of Macedon at the death of Philip II (336 BC)

- City
- (red) Macedonian garrison
- ★ Important battles
- Kingdom of Macedonia
- Dependent territories
- Kingdom of the Molossians
- Thessaly
- Members of the League of Corinth
- Neutral states
- Persian Empire

0 50 100 km

In 336 B.C.

DANIEL

- Philip is prepared to invade Persia, but at a royal wedding Aegae, he is murdered by one of his seven bodyguards.
- The bodyguard, Pausanias, is killed in his escape attempt, so the motive behind the murder is unknown.
- Various theories have been posited from implicating Alexander and his mother to a tawdry scandal of a jilted male lover.

Whatever the Reason:

DANIEL

The murder of Philip
and Alexander's
ascension to the throne
is monumental in the
scope of history.

Alexander the Great

DANIEL

- Ruled from 336-323 B.C.
- Ethnically, he was Macedonian, but culturally, he was entirely Greek.
- He was tutored by Aristotle himself.
- He carried the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* with him on his military campaigns.
- He is sometimes called the Apostle of Hellenism.

What is *Hellenism*?

DANIEL

“conformity to, imitation of, or devotion to the principles, ideals, and pursuits associated with classical Greek civilization and the culture of ancient Greece”

The Jews & Alexander

DANIEL

- He encouraged Jewish colonists to settle in Alexandria, and that city became a stronghold for Judaism in the centuries to come.
- Josephus tells the story of Alexander coming to Jerusalem and offering sacrifice in the temple.
- The historiography of the event is dubious, but the fact remains that Jerusalem was not destroyed or put under siege as many others were.



3054.

Charles Pfeiffer, *Between the Testaments*

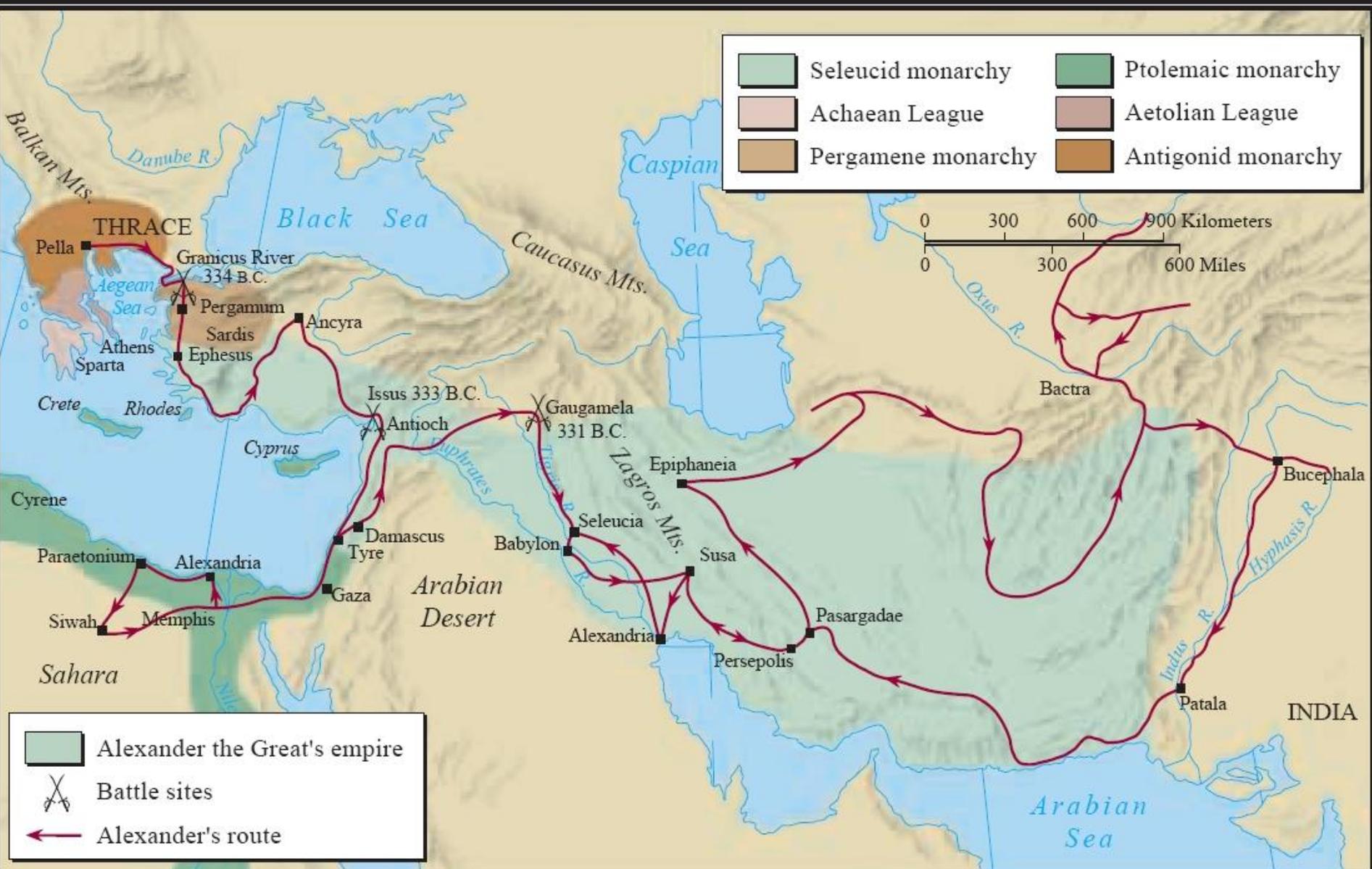
DANIEL

“Alexander the Great had been a missionary as well as a conqueror. From his teacher Aristotle he had been taught the virtues of Greek philosophy and the Greek ‘Way of life.’ Although his journeys toward the East caused him to adopt non-Greek practices, and a Greek purist would be shocked at his assumption of the role of a deity, Alexander continued to think of himself as one who was bringing the blessings of Hellenism, as the Greek way of life is called, to more benighted parts of the world.”

In 331 B.C.

DANIEL

- Alexander outmaneuvered and defeated the Grand Army of Darius at the Battle of Gaugamela.
- **With no army to oppose him, Alexander conquers every major Persian capital: Babylon, Susa, Persepolis, and Ecbatana.**
- The conquest of Babylon was reminiscent of Cyrus, as Alexander was welcomed as a liberator.



MAP

/// The Conquests of Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic Kingdoms ///

By 330 B.C.

DANIEL

- The Persian Empire was crushed, and Alexander assumed the title of *Basileus*, “Great King.”
- Alexander continues eastward to the regions of Bactria (present-day Afghanistan) and Sogdiana (present-day Tajikistan and Uzbekistan).
- The Punjab region of India was the limit of Alexander’s conquests, as his army refused to travel further.

Alexander Changes

- In Egypt, he accepted the title of Pharaoh as a legitimate son of Ammon, an Egyptian god.
- **In Persia, Alexander adopted Persian dress and began to rule as an oriental despot.**
- He encouraged his officers to take Persian wives, and it is said that Alexander wished to be treated as a god.

In 323 B.C.

- Alexander planned a sea voyage around Arabia, but he died of a fever before the voyage was completed.
- He was only 33 years of age.
- His only son was born after his death.



THE DEATH OF ALEXANDER

Account #1

DANIEL

Diodorus Siculus (90-30 B.C.)

- Diodorus records that Alexander was struck with pain “instantly” after drinking a bowl of unmixed wine.
- He had to retire to his quarters and went directly to bed.
- After 11 days of worsening health and extreme agony he died in great pain.

Account #2

DANIEL

Plutarch (A.D. 46-120)

- In his *Life of Alexander*, he writes that around two weeks before his death Alexander engaged in some heavy drinking one evening and into the next day.
- After this “he began to have a fever” and had a sudden pain in his back “as though struck with a spear.”
- The fever got worse; he needed to be carried and eventually was unable to speak.

According to Plutarch

DANIEL

- After his death Alexander's body did not decompose for six days: "His body, although it lay without special care in places that were moist and stifling, showed no sign of such destructive influence, but remained pure and fresh."
- The 1st century A.D. Roman author Quintus Curtius Rufus agrees that there was no "discoloration" or "decay."

Was Alexander the Great Buried Alive?

A controversial new theory has suddenly gotten a lot of press.



Candida Moss 02.02.19 9:08 PM ET



In the News!

DANIEL

- In a recent article for *The Ancient History Bulletin*, Dr. Katherine Hall, a senior lecturer at New Zealand's Dunedin School of Medicine and practicing clinician, argues the ancient hero met his end thanks to the neurological disorder Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS).
- **Previous explanations for his mysterious death have included typhoid fever, acute pancreatitis, West Nile virus, alcoholism, leukemia, malaria, influenza, and even poison.**

Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)

“an uncommon autoimmune disorder of sudden onset that is an inflammatory neuropathy affecting the peripheral nervous system, that is initially marked by tingling, numbness, weakness, or loss of sensation in the feet and legs usually spreading to the arms, upper body, and face, that often causes severe nerve pain and breathing difficulties and sometimes progresses to paralysis and in rare instances death.”

Hall's Theory Argues:

DANIEL

- Alexander contracted an acute motor axonal neuropathy variant of GBS and that this is why, in addition to developing a fever, he suffered from paralysis and an inability to speak.
- In addition, she argues that only her theory can explain why Alexander's body did not decompose: he wasn't dead, she argues, he was alive and paralyzed.
- Somewhat horrifyingly, she contends, he ended up being buried alive.

So, How Did He Die? DANIEL



In His Short Life...

- Alexander conquered more territory than any of his predecessors.
- Although he never consolidated his empire into a cohesive whole, the eleven years from the beginning of his conquest until his untimely death in Babylon changed the course of history.
- And his crusade of Hellenism would long outlive its “apostle.”

Alexander's Influence

DANIEL

- Political Unity
- Introduced Greek Culture
- Common (*koine*) Greek Language
- New Cities on the Greek Model
- Religious Syncretism
- Large Commercial Network
- Increased Knowledge and Learning

Results of Hellenism

DANIEL

- Greek culture permeated the Mediterranean world, imposing a remarkable measure of oneness on that part of the world.
- **The concept of the city as an important political unit spread across the world; thus the emphasis on citizenship.**
- The next 600 years (300 B.C.-300 A.D.) saw Greek become the *lingua franca* of the Mediterranean world.

God's Providence

DANIEL

- Greek was a highly sophisticated language, and it was the perfect medium in which the New Testament could be written.
- So, when the time came, the apostles could speak and write in a language that everyone in the Roman world could understand.
- This period of the formation of the Greek language is known as the Koine period (the Greek word koine means “common”).

Why is this Important?

DANIEL

The acceptance or rejection of Hellenization will become the most dominating issue in all of life in Israel.



Next Week:

**Alexander's Empire
Crumbles...Just as
Scripture Predicted!**

DANIEL