

## STUDY PACK 18

### GREECE

“Alexander \_\_\_\_\_ and affirmed that he was the son of Zeus. He was no longer to be addressed in the Macedonian custom, but would be adored with prostration, after the fashion of the Persian kings. There were plenty of court flatterers to feed the desire of Alexander. These are the curse of all kings, and by their tongues more kings have perished than by the sword of their enemies.”

~~ Bishop Ussher, *Annals of the World*, p. 257 ~~

#### I. ANCIENT GREECE

“Ancient Greece” is the term used to describe the Greek-speaking world in ancient times. It refers not only to the geographical peninsula of modern Greece, but also to areas of Hellenic culture that were settled in ancient times by Greeks: Cyprus and the Aegean Islands, the Aegean coast of Anatolia (then known as Ionia), Sicily and southern Italy (known as Magna Graecia), and the scattered Greek settlements on the coasts of Colchis, Illyria, Thrace, Egypt, Cyrenaica, southern Gaul, east and northeast of the Iberian Peninsula, Iberia and Taurica.

Modern explorations have revealed much of the glorious past of the country of Greece. A German businessman named Heinrich Schliemann made some very exciting discoveries. Schliemann enjoyed reading Homer, and he believed that the stories of the Trojan War as told in the “Iliad” were true. In 1870 he began excavation on a mound where he believed that the ancient city of Troy was buried. The result of the excavation was the discovery of nine cities on nine different levels. Schliemann was also involved in other excavations, including Agamemnon’s Circle where graves contained bodies with gold jewelry in abundance. Other discoveries on Crete and other parts of Greece indicate the presence of an early Aegean civilization.

On the Island of Crete there are the remains of the early Minoan culture which was thriving \_\_\_\_\_. This small area seemed to be \_\_\_\_\_, probably from trade with Egypt and other countries on their trade routes. One of the points of interest was the palace at Knossos, which had a thousand rooms and contained its own plumbing system which was considered better than any in the world before 1800 A.D.

About the same time the Minoan culture was thriving in Crete, other Aegean civilizations were developing on the Greek mainland and Asia Minor. These included the city of Troy made famous by the blind poet Homer, who has been credited for the poems the “Iliad” and the “Odyssey.”

#### II. THE MYCENAEAN CIVILIZATION

During the five centuries between \_\_\_\_\_ the Mycenaean culture was in full strength on the Greek mainland. Evidence has indicated that the Mycenaean civilization flourished on trade with other lands, and that there was significant rivalry with the Minoans on Crete.

The Mycenaean civilization was destroyed by the Dorian Greeks from central and southern Greece around 1200 B.C. The period following the Dorian invasion until the eighth century B.C. is called the Dark Ages of Greece as there is little recorded information covering this era.

Most of the early Greek cities were developed from tribal villages of earlier historical periods. As the settlements expanded, they often merged with neighboring villages for common protection, or they defeated a less powerful village and forced them to unite. These combined villages became independent, self-governing state-type cities that ultimately came to be known as city-states.

These city-states acted as small nations, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.

The citizens became closely united and citizenship became a great privilege. The patriotism experienced by the city-state residents combined with the natural barriers of mountains and seas prevented the formation of a united nation and promoted warfare with other city-states. It is interesting to note that our word "politics" is derived from the Greek word "polis" meaning "city," which gave the original meaning to politics \_\_\_\_\_.

The Greeks also developed colonies in other lands including Italy, Africa, and along the coast of the Black Sea. These colonies also became independent city-states.

Four forms of government were developed in Greece during this period. First there was the monarchy consisting of a \_\_\_\_\_. Second, we find an \_\_\_\_\_ or aristocracy, which is the rule of \_\_\_\_\_. The third form was \_\_\_\_\_ which consisted of a \_\_\_\_\_. Finally we have democracy which is actually rule by the people. As an outgrowth of the city-state system, each of these government forms existed in Greece during the period of 700-500 B.C.

### III. SPARTA

Located in the Peloponnesus (the southern section of the Greek peninsula), the city of Sparta was founded by the Dorian invaders who possibly destroyed an earlier city and built Sparta on the same site.

The residents of Sparta were divided into three distinct classes, beginning with the upper class which was the \_\_\_\_\_. Only Spartans and their children could become citizens of Sparta. The citizens were the smallest class, making up only about ten percent of the total population. The citizens were free people, and they were granted certain privileges not available to other residents. These privileges included the right to ownership of land and a role in the election of city officials.

The helots were actually \_\_\_\_\_ who made up the lowest class of the population. Working as farmers, the helots could not own land; but they were required to give the major part of their produce to their landlords. The helots were not slaves, but they also were not free men. They were not permitted to have any role in the government including the choice of city officials. This group greatly outnumbered the citizens who always feared an uprising by the helots.

Living around Sparta was the third class of residents. This group was primarily made up of the farmers, but there were also some non-Spartans who made their livelihood by trading. These people were \_\_\_\_\_, and they were permitted to own land. Like the helots, they were not able to have any role in the operation of the government or in the choice of city officials.

A balance of power was attained by the Spartans in their government by having \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Much of the function of the government was led by five overseers elected by the popular assembly and known as ephors. The ephors went to war with the king, were in charge of the educational system, and gave direction to both the council and to the

assembly. This form of government has been closely duplicated in many areas of the world in subsequent years.

Newborn children in Sparta were examined for defects, and those who were not found acceptable were left on a mountainside to die from exposure. The acceptable children were returned to their families. However, the boys were taken from their home at the age of seven to be reared in a military school. The goal of education for boys was to develop \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. At the military school they were taught to march, fight, endure severe hardships without complaining, and to speak as briefly as possible at all times. At the age of twenty, the boy became a soldier and lived in the army quarters in a very simple, sacrificing style. At thirty the young man became a full citizen and could become a member of the popular assembly. He was to marry and have children, but this was not to interfere with his military life in any way.

#### **IV. ATHENS**

Athens stood as nearly a total opposite of Sparta and of the Spartan life. The uniting of several small villages brought about the Greek city-state of Athens. In Athens, probably earlier than in the other Greek states, rule by the nobles replaced a monarchy. However, the nobles did not always rule justly, which brought a cry from the people \_\_\_\_\_. In 621 B.C., the nobles employed an Athenian by the name of Draco to write these laws. The work of Draco resulted in a harsh set of laws which demanded the death penalty for very minor offenses. Some said that the code was written in blood rather than in ink because it was so extreme.

Around 594 B.C., the Athenians gave Solon, an exceptionally wise statesman, the power to bring reformation to the government. Solon helped the poor of Athens \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Special courts were established to reexamine previous cases in which justice may have been questionable. This was kind of \_\_\_\_\_. By 500 B.C., Athens had the most democratic government of all the city-states. Any citizen could speak before the Assembly which met on a hill outside the city. The Assembly made all of the laws, and they also elected a city leader who served for one year. Generals were elected to lead the armies, and courts with citizen juries were established.

The wealth of Athens attracted talented people from all over Greece, and also created a wealthy leisure class who became patrons of the arts. The Athenian state also sponsored learning and the arts, particularly architecture. Athens became the center of Greek literature, philosophy and the arts. Some of the greatest names of Western cultural and intellectual history lived in Athens during this period: the dramatists Aeschylus, Aristophanes, Euripides, and Sophocles, the philosophers Aristotle, Plato, and Socrates, the historians Herodotus, Thucydides, and Xenophon, the poet Simonides and the sculptor Pheidias. The city became, in Pericles's words, "the school of Hellas."

#### **V. THE PERSIAN AND PELOPONNESIAN WARS**

While the Greek city-states were developing and colonizing, Cyrus the Great was building a Persian Empire. In his drive for power, Cyrus was capturing the Greek city-states in Asia Minor and moving westward. These captive city-states made a plea for help from Sparta and Athens.

Sparta refused to send any assistance, but Athens sent several ships to their aid. Darius the Great, who now had become king of Persia, became angered and was therefore determined to conquer \_\_\_\_\_.

The first military move by Darius against Sparta and Athens was ended by a wreck of the Persians at sea. Darius became even more enraged and demanded that all of the Greek city-states follow his leadership. Sparta and Athens still refused the demands of Darius. He had the ships rebuilt that were involved in the wreck at sea. In 490 B.C. he sent an army of approximately 60,000 men to the plain of Marathon, about 26 miles from Athens. The Athenians were greatly outnumbered, but they made a surprise attack on the Persians on the Plain of Marathon on the advice of General Militates who was experienced in Persian warfare. The valiant Greeks won their battle.

King Xerxes, a new Persian ruler and the son of Darius, led a third attack on the city-states in the spring of 480 B.C. The Persians built a bridge across the narrow strait of Hellespont. The Persian army took seven days and seven nights for all of the men to cross the bridge because there were so many troops. Herodotus, the historian, tells of the battle between a small group of three hundred well-trained Spartans and Xerxes' troops in a narrow mountain pass near the Hellespont. The Spartans held off the invaders until a Greek traitor sold the information of a hidden path to the rear of the Spartan troops. The Spartans defended their position until all of them were killed by the Persians.

The second major battle was to take place in the Bay of Salamis. Xerxes had his golden throne placed high on a hill overlooking the bay where he could view what he thought would be an easy victory. Though much fewer in number, the smaller Greek ships solidly defeated the large, bulky Persian ships \_\_\_\_\_.  
Some of the Persian ships even rammed and sank each other.

The final battle with the Persians at Plataea was a vicious battle in which the Spartans and the Athenians were united against the much larger Persian Army. The Persians were once again defeated in spite of the great size advantage which they enjoyed. This victory for the Greeks was a lasting victory, and never again would the Persians attack the Greeks. Athens had been destroyed by the invaders, but the people returned and rebuilt the city to even greater grandeur.

The Persian War was in reality a struggle between the East and the West. This time in history seemed to be a turning point in political domination from Asia to Europe. Following the Persian War, Greece became a leading power and remained so for almost three hundred years.

One outcome of the Persian wars was the beginning of \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_. Following these wars, Athens organized \_\_\_\_\_  
which was a uniting of the Greek city-states for the purpose of defense against the Persians. This league was the foundation for and later became the Athenian Empire. The purpose of the League was protection against Persia and the advancement of the Greek economy.

Fearing Athenian aggression, Sparta joined with some other city-states \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_. This alliance resulted in a bitter war between Athens and Sparta.  
This war was known as \_\_\_\_\_. This war was much more destructive to life and property than the Persian War, and it lasted from 431 to 404 B.C. The Spartans were financially supported by the previously defeated Persians. Following the war the Spartans tried to assume the leadership role previously held by the Athenians. Eventually, Athens became prosperous and restored its limited democracy.

## VI. MACEDONIA AND ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Macedonia was a country located just north of the land of Greece. The inhabitants of Macedonia were related to the Greeks, but they had not had the same kind of training or opportunities. Philip II was an exceptional leader who had taken control of Macedonia, centralized the government, and developed a highly efficient army with \_\_\_\_\_.  
Philip gradually took over many of the city-states and eventually took control of the peninsula until he was assassinated. The Greeks lost their military power; but at the same time, \_\_\_\_\_.

In 336 B.C., at the young age of twenty, Alexander became the king of Macedonia after the murder of his father. He had a brilliant mind and was thoroughly trained for assuming this position. Alexander was skillful in sports and in warfare, appreciated Greek literature and art, and was an exceptionally courageous young man. Alexander's father brought the famous philosopher-teacher, Aristotle, to Macedonia to teach his son when Alexander was only thirteen years old. Aristotle had a strong and lasting impression in both Alexander's life and his work. From Aristotle's influence, Alexander also developed a sincere interest in Greece and in Greek culture.

The death of Philip brought rebellion in many areas, but Alexander was able to demonstrate his capabilities in controlling the problems that broke out. The first widespread uprising was in Thrace, but Alexander was soon in control of the situation. While he was in the northern area, the Greeks, upon hearing a rumor of Alexander's death, began a revolt of their own with blockades of the Macedonian garrison at Thebes. Alexander marched his men to Thebes, captured and destroyed the city, \_\_\_\_\_.  
This action \_\_\_\_\_,  
and they begged for peace with Alexander.

Soon after the calming of the Greek disturbance, Alexander began planning to complete one of his father's objectives — \_\_\_\_\_. This plan, accomplished by 331 B.C., began when Alexander and his troops crossed the Hellespont in the spring of 334 B.C. and began their march. Soon after their landing, Alexander's troops were confronted by the Persian troops that were gathered to prevent the invasion. Alexander led a daring attack by his cavalry which resulted in disbanding the Persian troops. Greek mercenaries, who were abandoned by the retreating Persians, were. \_\_\_\_\_.

As Alexander and his men continued down the coast of Asia Minor, they were welcomed by many of the cities which were happy to be freed from Persian domination. At times, Persian abuses had been extremely severe. The Macedonians under the leadership of Alexander were in total control of Asia Minor within one year. Darius III was now the King of Persia, and he had been preparing to meet Alexander in battle. With approximately five hundred thousand men available, Darius definitely had a numerical superiority. When Darius and his men were following Alexander, they were forced into battle in a narrow pass on the Syrian coast between the mountain and the sea. This was known as the Battle of Issus. In this situation the vast amount of troops was not an advantage in the narrow pass, and this helped to balance the battle. Alexander and his men fought daringly, and his cavalry went for the center of the Persians' holdings where King Darius was stationed. Darius fled leaving even his own family which were taken captive by the Macedonians.

Many Persian officers and rulers were captured by the Greek armies. Members of the Persian nobility were treated very kindly by Alexander. The Battle of Issus was an outstanding success.

The next goal for Alexander was the Phoenician city of Tyre, where the Persian navy was based. Tyre was located on an island about one-half mile from the shore, and it was protected by a one-hundred-foot-high wall at the edge of the sea. The brilliant Alexander filled in a roadway to the island, battered through the immense walls, and conquered the city. The total destruction of Tyre, right down to the dust, had been prophesied in Ezekiel.

Such military successes resulted in the submission of most of the cities of Syria to the invaders. Alexander's army moved on into Egypt where the Persians did not put up much of a battle. The Egyptians received the Macedonians \_\_\_\_\_. In Egypt, Alexander laid the foundation for \_\_\_\_\_, which was to become one of the great cities of that period of history.

Leaving Egypt, Alexander led his army eastward toward Mesopotamia. They were met at Arbela on the site of the ancient city of Nineveh by Darius and his army estimated at one million men. Against unbelievable odds, the army of Macedonians under the capable leadership of Alexander, fought fearlessly; and once again Darius deserted his men who soon scattered without leadership. In his retreat, \_\_\_\_\_.

There were still lands to conquer, and Alexander went on to add Iran and much of India to his possessions and accomplishments. After this he found that his armies were tired of fighting, and he reluctantly gave the command to start the long journey homeward. When Alexander and his men got back as far as Babylon, he made that great city \_\_\_\_\_. Alexander declared himself a god. In June, 323 B.C., Alexander became ill and died within a few short days. He was not quite \_\_\_\_\_, but he had conquered the world of his day, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Part of Alexander's plan was to break down barriers between the people of his empire by having a government made up of leaders from different backgrounds and by encouraging intermarriage. He encouraged this idea through his own marriage to the daughter of the last king of Persia.

Alexander did not live long enough to organize the government system of the empire into an efficiently run operation. Because of this lack of development, his military leaders competed for control of the empire which gradually declined and was finally divided into four parts under four generals.

## VII. THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD

Some believe that the greatest Greek contribution to civilization was the emphasis on \_\_\_\_\_. The Greeks were in search of the answer to many of life's perplexing questions. The first of a long line of Greek philosophers was Thales, who is known as the "father of philosophy." Thales, who lived in the sixth century B.C., is also known as the "father of science." In his search for the natural makeup of the substance of the universe, Thales proposed that everything was made up of water. In the fifth century B.C., Democritus proposed the theory that all substance was composed of tiny particles called atoms.

Possibly the greatest teacher of this period was Socrates who was living at the time of the Peloponnesian War. Socrates had an inquiring mind, and he questioned just about everything. He

tried to get others to think about their own thoughts, and his motto became the famous “\_\_\_\_\_.” Socrates’ method of teaching was through discussion or conversation; he never lectured. This manner of shrewd questioning followed by a challenge of the answers is often used by lawyers today and is referred to as the Socratic Method.

Socrates questioned the many gods of his day and believed that they were a product of the poets’ imagination. He challenged the idea of many gods and believed that there was one God who was an all-wise and good ruler of the universe. Socrates was accused of false teaching about the gods and of corrupting the minds of the young. He was found guilty and sentenced to death by poisoning in 399 B.C. His followers wanted him to escape, but he asked them if he would be doing right or be doing wrong to escape. He further explained to his friends that breaking the law is wrong, and keeping the law is right. His reasoning was that it is just as important to do right as it is to know what is right. When his time had come, he calmly took the poison that was given to him and died quietly. Not being a writer, Socrates did not leave his teachings except in the minds and hearts of his followers. Plato, who was one of the students of Socrates, collected many of Socrates’ teachings and passed them on to us in his \_\_\_\_\_, which is composed of imaginary discussions with Socrates.

Plato believed and taught that \_\_\_\_\_. Truth, according to Plato, can only be found in thoughts or in ideas where the concepts of Good, Justice, and Beauty are found. One of Plato’s most famous writings is the \_\_\_\_\_, in which he describes what he believes would be the ideal state.

One of Plato’s most famous pupils was Aristotle, who was originally a Macedonian but became a famous teacher in Athens. As a young man he lectured in an Athens park known as the Lyceum. The attainment of knowledge and truth were primary objectives in the life of Aristotle. He was not the prolific writer that Plato was, but some scholars consider him to have been \_\_\_\_\_.

Like Plato, Aristotle formed his own school where such subjects as biology, astronomy, and psychology were taught. Politics were studied in relation to the existing governments. It has been said that Aristotle and his students collected the constitutions of more than one hundred Greek city-states. A detailed study of these government papers resulted in the formation of a group of general principles in the field of politics.

The interest of Aristotle was very broad and included rhetoric, poetry, science, and ethics. Possibly his greatest contribution to society was the creation of logic or the science of reasoning. His books are still used as textbooks in many universities. Aristotle did not agree with Plato that truth is found in ideas. He believed that truth existed in the concrete or that it existed in form and matter which could not be separated.

The greatest physician of this era was Hippocrates who is often called \_\_\_\_\_. He believed that disease had natural causes which could be discovered and treated. This was in opposition to much of the myth and superstition that existed. Hippocrates believed that fresh air, good food, and proper care of the body were probably the best treatment for any disease.

The recurring thought that comes to mind in a study of the Greek philosophy is found in II Timothy 3:7, “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

## VIII. ARCHITECTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS

In early Greece, drama was normally performed in large outdoor theaters. The theaters of Dionysus were built in Athens at the foot of the Acropolis, the high hill in the center of the city. Seats were built in a semicircle around the stage, and seating was for about fifteen thousand people. Two major types of drama developed and were known as tragedies and comedies.

The Greek tragedy was primarily developed by Aeschylus who has been called the “father of Greek tragedy.” Sadness and death dominated the plot of this form of drama, which usually found its origin in some of the Greek legends. All of the roles, including that of women, were acted by men who wore masks which were identified with the character they played.

The greatest Greek author of tragedies was Sophocles who wrote more than one hundred dramas. His most outstanding work was probably the famous Oedipus Rex.

The third of the three Greek dramatists was Euripides who also authored over one hundred dramas. Electra remains as Euripides’ most popular and most famous work. The Greek comedies were often written as satires of politicians and to ridicule religion.

Greek architecture was probably at its height in the fifth century B.C. After the city of Athens was destroyed by the Persians, Pericles assigned the rebuilding of the temples to the sculptors, artist, and painters. The results are evidenced in some of the most beautiful public buildings of all times.

The Athenians used much sculpture in their public buildings. Most of their works were in bronze or marble. Early sculpture was stiff and severe, but a reality of action and emotion was soon evident in the realistic human figures which have shaped the course of western art.

The Greek language bonded the people of the Greek-speaking world together, and their literature also played a significant role in unity. Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey* were sung and recited in every Greek village for centuries. They also were the primary textbooks in the educational system. One work of Hesiod was *Works and Days*, which included many wise sayings such as “Hard work is no shame; the shame is idleness,” and “There is no prize like a good wife.”

Later, lyric poetry was added to the field of Greek literature. The Greeks seemed to thoroughly enjoy short poems accompanied by the music of flute or lyre. One of the lyric poets was Sappho, one of the first women to appear on the literary scene of the world. Sappho is noted for her tender love songs. Pindar was probably the most popular poet of the fifth century. His poems were so popular that he became the “poet laureate” of Greece. Also from this period we have a collection of moral stories which we know as *Aesop’s Fables*. It is believed that Aesop was a crippled slave who lived in Samos about 550 B.C. Many of the fables may have had their origin in India. These short tales \_\_\_\_\_ were as popular in ancient Greece as they are around the world today.

The Greek language was noted for its \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and its \_\_\_\_\_. As a result of the efforts of Alexander the Great, the Greek language became the language of the Mediterranean world. Greek is the language that the Lord chose for the text of the New Testament.

**Ezra 1:2-3:** Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah. <sup>3</sup>Who is *there* among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he *is* the God,) which *is* in Jerusalem.

**2 Timothy 3:7:** Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.