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BIB 304 HISTORY OF THE LAND OF ISRAEL

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Script

Introduction: Good afternoon class. Today, I want to talk to you about the life and legacy of Alexander the Great, one of the most remarkable figures in ancient history. Alexander conquered much of the world in the 4th century BC. He was born in 356 B.C in Macedon and received education under the guidance of Aristotle. After his father's assassination he ascended to the throne and embarked on a series of military campaigns that would eventually lead him to the expansion of Greece. Despite his young age, Alexander was a gifted strategist and commander, known for his desire for victories and bold tactics. His reign was short-lived, facing his death at 33 in Babylon. Nevertheless, his legacy lives on through numerous early literary sources, inscriptions, and archeological remains.

Early Literary Sources: The Old Testament references a king named Alexander who conquered much of the Near East. The Book of Daniel describes a vision of a goat with a "notable horn" that "smote the ram" which some scholars believe it refers to Alexander. Alexander is mentioned as a powerful conqueror who established a vast empire in the book of Acts. Some Scholars

believe that the name reference to “Diana of the Ephesians” is an allusion to Alexander, who was worshipped as a god in the city of Ephesus.

Inscriptions: Inscriptions, written texts preserved on durable material also provide more sources on Alexander. The “Alexander Sarcophagus” made entirely of marble was discovered in Sidon, Lebanon which depicts scenes from his life and military campaigns. It includes a depiction of his victory over the Persian king Darius III. Inscriptions provide valuable information about Alexander’s conquest and their impact on the regions he conquered.

Archeological Remains: Excavations of Alexandria in Egypt revealed a great deal about the city’s Greek heritage. Alexandria became a major center of trade and commerce in the Eastern Mediterranean after Alexander founded it. The ancient city of Ai Khanoum in northern Afghanistan additionally provided important information about the Greek influence within the region during the Hellenistic period. Archeologists have uncovered numerous artifacts including papyri, coins, and sculptures.