



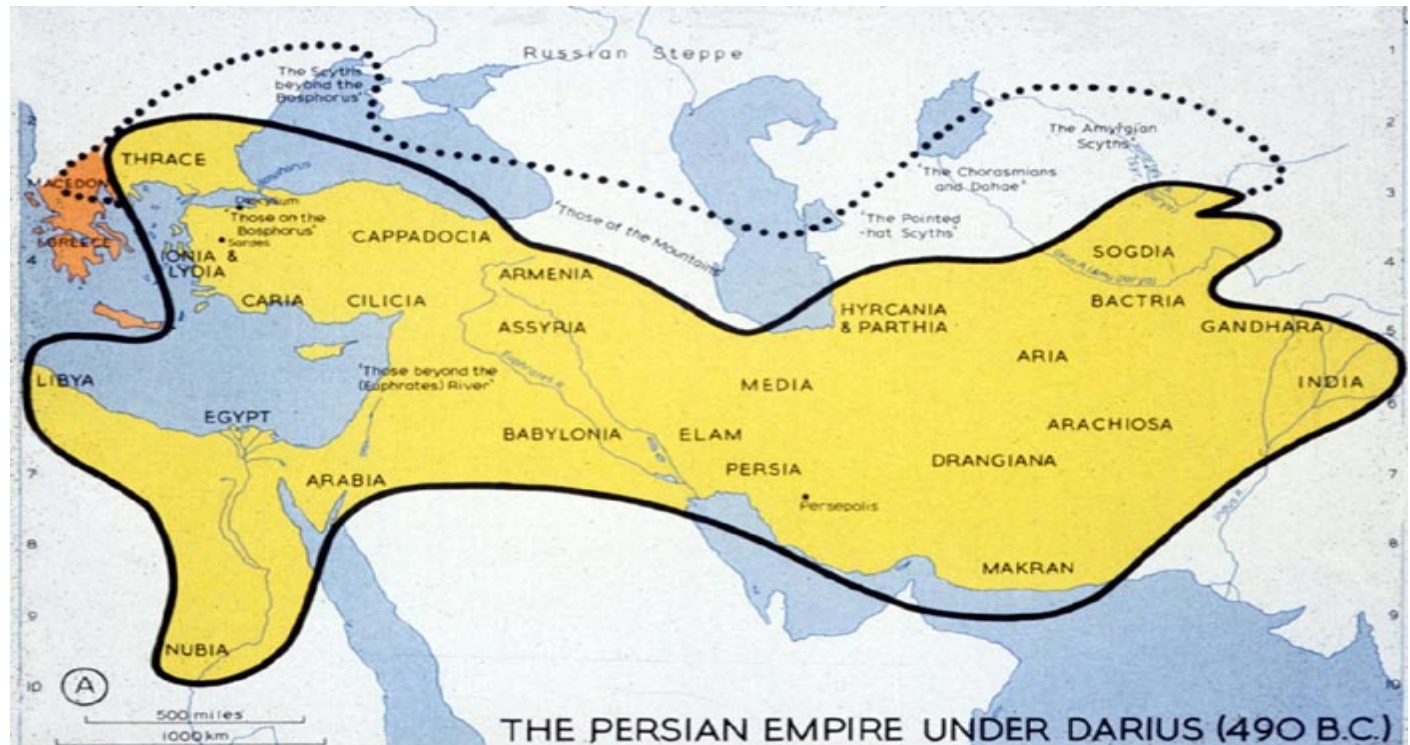
WHERE WAS GOD?

**THE 400 YEARS BETWEEN THE OLD
AND NEW TESTAMENT**

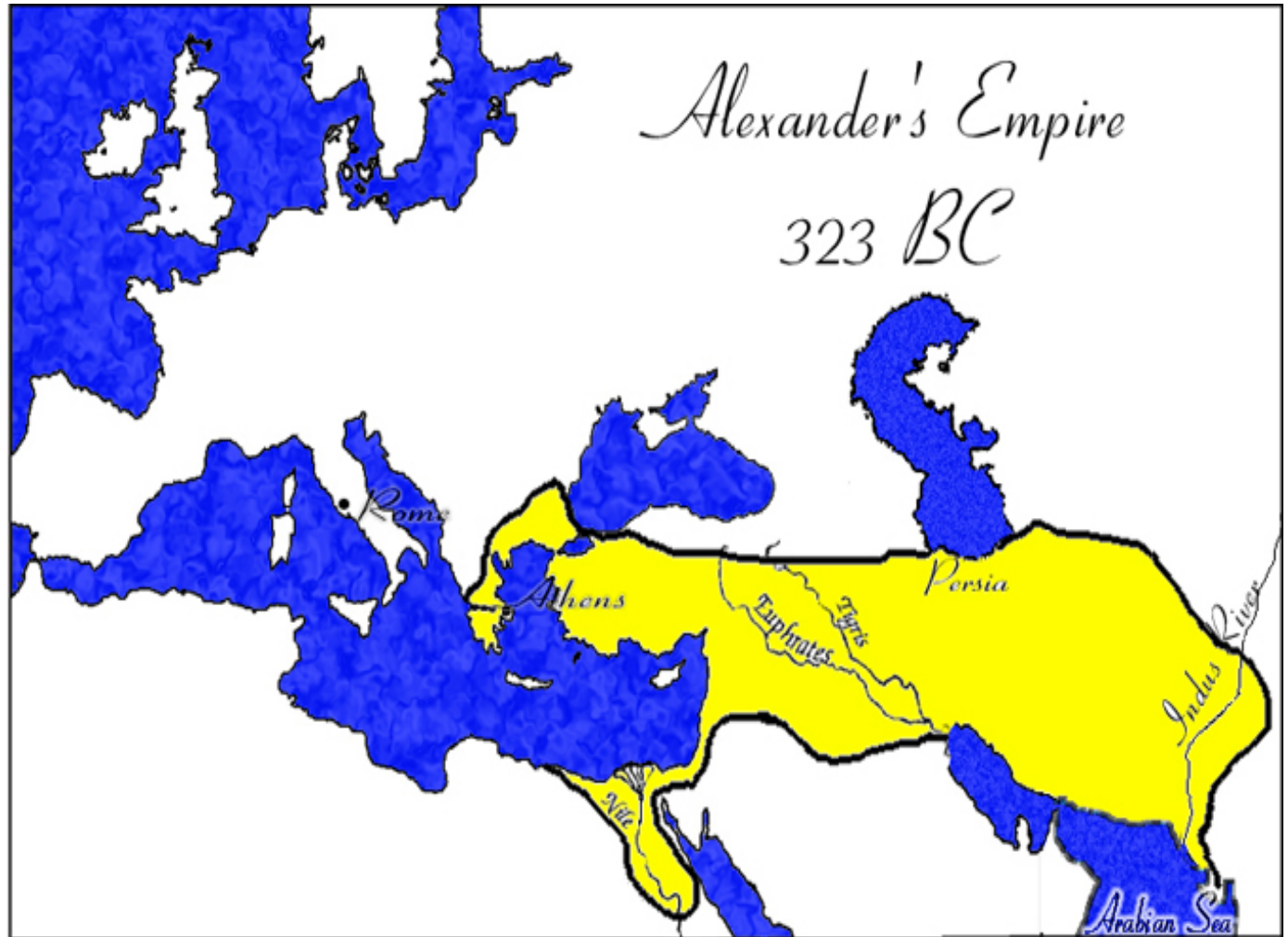
The Persian Empire



- Dominated the world from c.550 B.C.E to 330 B.C.E
- Famous Kings you may have heard of from the O.T.; Cyrus; Darius; Artaxerxes



Alexander's Empire



Alexander's Empire

- Alexander spread Greek culture throughout the known world—Hellenization
- Greek language, religion, entertainment, ideals, education, etc.
- Palestine and the Jews were affected by this cultural conquest.





Impact of Hellenism on Jews

- Some Jews embrace a Hellenistic identity
 - Embrace Greek culture—dress, style, philosophy, entertainment, take Greek names, etc.
 - Movement toward syncretism with Greek religion?
 - Political alliances are made Greek rulers/powers
- Some Jews resist a Hellenistic identity
 - Resist influence of Greek culture—but cannot be completely untouched
 - Vehemently oppose any syncretism
 - Opposed political alliance with Greeks



Fate of Alexander and his Empire

- Alexander dies in 323 B.C.E (possibly poisoned)
- With no heir to the throne his generals fight over the empire
- Ptolemy rules Egypt
- Seleucus rules Syria/Persia
- Others fight over the rest

The World After Alexander





The Jews and The Successors

- Palestine/Jews first under the control of Ptolemaic Empire; with good relations.
- From 323 B.C.E to 198 B.C.E the Ptolemies and the Selucids fought 5 major wars (one every 25 years!)
- How does this affect the Jewish people?

Antiochus IV

“Epiphanes” (Selucid King)

– Traditional View

- Never liked Jewish people—thought Jewish faith was odd
- Was angry at the lack of Jewish support (no money/no prayers)
- After loss in Egypt he took out anger on the Jewish people by outlawing Judaism

– Modern View

- Civil War between traditionalists and Hellenistic Jews
- Antiochus sides with Hellenistic Jews
- To support Hellenistic Jews, Antiochus outlaws Judaism as a religion (only outlawed in Judea and Samaria)



Antiochus and Judaism

- Judaism Outlawed
 - Burned Torah Scrolls
 - Forbid Circumcision of Children
 - Forced assimilation into Greek Culture
 - Forced to offer pigs as sacrifice
 - Statue of Zeus placed in Holy of Holies
 - Those who resisted tortured and killed
- Jewish Response:
 - Hellenists see this as necessary progress and adapt
 - Traditionalists see this as an abomination and resist



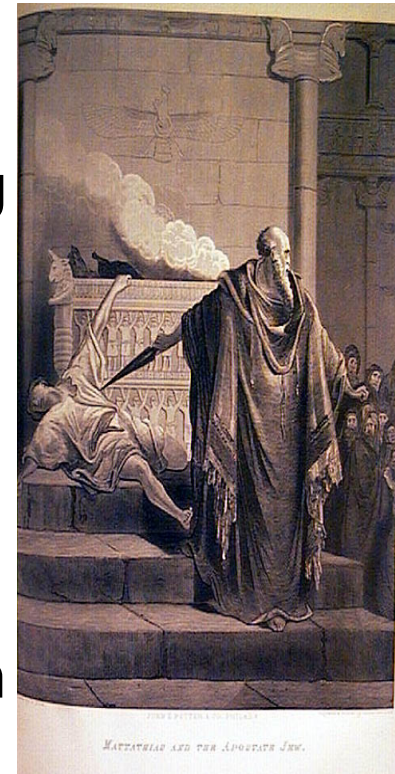


The Maccabean Revolt

- Revolt begun by a priest named Mattathias and his five sons. (Hasmonean Family)
 - “Then the king’s officers who were enforcing the apostasy came to the city of Modein to make them offer sacrifice. . . . But Mattathias answered and said in a loud voice: ‘Even if all the nations that live under the rule of the king obey him, and have chosen to do his commandments, departing each one from the religion of his fathers, yet I and my sons and my brothers will live by the covenant of our fathers’” (1 Macc 2:15–20).

The Maccabean Revolt

“When he had finished speaking these words, a Jew came forward in the sight of all to offer sacrifice upon the altar in Modein, according to the king’s command. When Mattathias saw it, he burned with zeal and his heart was stirred. He gave vent to righteous anger; he ran and killed him upon the altar. At the same time he killed the king’s officer who was forcing them to sacrifice, and he tore down the altar. Thus he burned with zeal for the law.” (1 Macc 2:23–26).





The Maccabean Revolt

- “Then Mattathias cried out in the city with a loud voice, saying: ‘Let every one who is zealous for the law and supports the covenant come out with me!’ And he and his sons fled to the hills and left all that they had in the city. Then many who were seeking righteousness and justice went down to the wilderness to dwell there, they, their sons, their wives, and their cattle, because evils pressed heavily upon them” (1 Macc 2:27–30).

Jewish War of Independence

- Mattathias dies (166 B.C.) and his son Judas takes control.
- Judas is nicknamed “Maccabeus” or “The Hammer”—military genius
- Temple is cleansed and rededicated (Dec, 165 B.C.); “Hanukah” associated with this event.
- In 160 B.C. the Jews achieve independence!!



Hasmonean Dynasty

- Hasmoneans lead traditionalists to victory
- “Hellenists” essentially rooted out of Palestine
- Hasmonean’s Ruled from 166 to 63 B.C.
- Fought with Selucids
- Fought with each other
- Mixed religion and politics—a lot of corruption.
- Pharisees, Sadducees, and Essenes emerge during this time

