

## KOINE' KORNER #2

Welcome back folks. Some time has passed since the opening article; work and Bible conference speaking commitments are among the reasons why.

Yes, in fact, The Almighty God originally “penned” His New Testament Scriptures through the hands of faithful men using the Koine Greek language. We understand that God “used” Alexander the Great (356-323 BC) and his conquests of the known world at the time, to infuse the Koine Greek across the lands. Among the countries Alexander acquired were modern day Afghanistan, Egypt, Greece, parts of India, Iraq, Iran, Israel/Palestine, Italy and Turkey; this included the Holy lands of the Bible. Alexander began his military campaigns at the age of 18 in 338 BC. Therefore, in roughly 15 years, he subdued most of the known civilized world, which was in a word, astounding! What a “personage” and a life for God to utilize, wouldn't you think? We know from our understanding of God's Word that He can use anybody that He is pleased to use; anybody.

What then were Alexander the Great's spiritual beliefs? Well, in my opinion, it was highly doubtful that he was a believer in the Messiah, the Saviour Jesus Christ the Lord. Alexander believed that he was a descendant of the hero of the Trojan war Achilles. He was also totally convinced that he was not the son of King Phillip II of Macedonia but was the son of the omnipotent Greek god of war Zeus! He was told by his mother, Olympias, that he was a product of “an immaculate conception” no less, and that this conception was the result of a lightning bolt from Zeus striking her womb! “Not an ideal person for our God to use for His purposes,” we would say. But wait; let us not lose our focus on God's overall and far reaching purpose ... the knowledge of His Precious Word.

332BC.....Alexander conquered Egypt and established the city of Alexandria, the city that bares his name. Alexander was concerned about creating a oneness throughout his empire and used the Koine Greek language as an important instrument to make this oneness a reality.

331-327BC.....Alexander defeated Darius III, the great king of Persia, and in doing so, the Koine is spread throughout all of what is now modern day Afghanistan.

324BC.....Alexander sanctioned the marriage of 80 of his senior officers to Persian women; he also married a Persian woman bringing solidarity between Greece and Persia.

323BC.....Alexander died at the age of 33 in Babylon at a banquet. His generals decided to divide the throne of Alexander between his half brother Phillip III and his son Alexander IV. The real power, however, still resided with Alexander's generals, and they eventually divided the Kingdom up among themselves.

More about the division of Alexander's Kingdom among his generals in the next article.