

Bible History to Read and Talk About

Alexander the Great described: Daniel 8:5–8, 21–22; 11:1–4

- Discuss together the vision Daniel saw concerning the third empire to rise in the earth. What kind of animal was Greece? In Daniel 11:1–4, how is Alexander the Great described?

This prophecy came true in every detail. When Alexander the Great died suddenly at age 33, his wife and unborn child were murdered. His kingdom was then divided up among his four top generals—just like the Scripture said would happen!

Paul's Sermon on Mars Hill in Athens: Acts 17:16–34

- Discuss together Paul's attitude and actions towards the Athenian people. What did he talk about with the Greek philosophers? What were the responses to Paul's message?
- Talk about how Paul spoke with the Greek people about their statues and their gods. Do you think the people were more

interested in listening to Paul because he had started by talking about their own beliefs? Why or why not?

Antiochus Epiphanes: Daniel 8:9–12

After Alexander the Great died, his kingdom was divided into four. The two most important were Egypt, governed by the Ptolemies, and Syria, governed by the Seleucids. In 199 BC the Seleucids took the land of Israel away from the Ptolemies, and began demanding that the Jewish people become hellenized. That means, their culture, religion, and thought patterns had to be like the Greeks. The most tyrannical leader of Syria was Antiochus Epiphanes. His soldiers captured the Temple in Jerusalem, set up a statue of Jupiter, and sacrificed pigs on the altar.

- Discuss together this Scripture, which describes what Antiochus Epiphanes would one day do in the Temple. Do you think God knows what is going to happen in the future? Why or why not? How does this help you to trust Him more?

Suggested Books for Reading Together

Growing Up in Ancient Greece by Chris Chelepi

Great overview! This book really helps explain many different aspects of life in ancient Greece.

Famous Men of Greece edited by Rob Shearer

An excellent, brief introduction to the important historical figures of Greece, written in biographical style.