

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE ORIGIN STORY OF JESUS

RLJ-1890

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PART 90: THE GREEK CENTURY

THREE RIVALS

Alexander's death in 323 B.C. left his kingdom without a successor. There were three prominent generals that had served under Alexander, each commanding a portion of the Greek army.

1. Ptolemy Soter was a Macedonian who lived from 367-282 B.C.
2. Antigonus Monophthalmos was an elder half-brother of Alexander who lived from 382-301 B.C.
3. Seleucus Nicator was a Macedonian who lived from 358-281 B.C.

A BLOODY INFIGHTING

The ferocious infighting that took place among the Greek army was a reflection of the internal strife among fallen angels of the spirit world. Lucifer is a cruel taskmaster, ruling his kingdom by brute force. There is no love in the kingdom of Satan. **Isaiah 14:12-20**

Since Alexander had not named an heir, a successor group (Diadochi) was formed. It consisted of rival generals, family members and friends. The Diadochi split into two factions.

1. One was led by Meleager, a high-ranking infantry officer. He supported the candidacy of Alexander's half-brother Arrhidaeus.
2. He was opposed by Perdiccas, the leading cavalry commander, who wanted the Diadochi to wait until Alexander's unborn child, assuming it was a son, by his wife, Roxana, to be the successor.

Perdiccas was appointed as regent of the Greek empire, and Meleager was to be lieutenant regent.

WESTERN EMPIRE

Perdiccas eventually ordered the murder of Meleager and his supporters, rewarding the cavalymen who supported him. He appointed the following generals and officers as satraps (governors) over the following provinces of the Greek empire:

- ❖ Ptolemy was given Egypt.
- ❖ Laomedon was given Syria and Phoenicia.
- ❖ Philotas was given Cilicia (Eastern Turkey).
- ❖ Peithon was given Media (part of western Persia).
- ❖ Antigonus received Phrygia, Lycia and Pamphylia (provinces that bordered one another in eastern Turkey).
- ❖ Asander received Caria (located in south western Turkey).



- ❖ Menander received Lydia (covered western half of Turkey with Sardis as its capitol).
- ❖ Lysimachus received Thrace (located in modern day Bulgaria).
- ❖ Leonnatus received Hellespontine Phrygia (Northwestern Turkey, facing Bulgaria)
- ❖ Neoptolemus received Armenia.
- ❖ Antipater and Craterus were to jointly govern Macedonia and what was left of Greece.
- ❖ Eumenes of Cardia was to receive Cappadocia (a small state in the interior of Turkey) and Paphlagonia (north of Cappadocia bordering the Black Sea).

EASTERN EMPIRE

Alexander had appointed satraps (governors) over the eastern portion of his empire before his death.

- ❖ Taxiles and Porus ruled over their carved-out kingdoms in India.
- ❖ Oxyartes (Alexander's father-in-law ruled Gandara (Pakistan and Afghanistan).
- ❖ Sibyrtius ruled Arachosia and Gedrosia (southern Afghanistan and western Pakistan to the Indus River).
- ❖ Stasanor ruled Aria and Drangiana (Iran and part of western Afghanistan).
- ❖ Philip ruled Bactria and Sogdiana (northern part of Afghanistan, southwestern Tajikistan and southeastern Uzbekistan,
- Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.
- ❖ Phrataphernes ruled Parthia and Hyrcania (northeastern Iran and southeast of the Caspian Sea).
- ❖ Peucestas ruled Persis (an area in the southwest Iran).
- ❖ Tlepolemus ruled Carmania (modern day Iranian province of Kerman).
- ❖ Atropates ruled northern Media (northwestern Iran).
- ❖ Archon ruled Babylonia.
- ❖ Arcesilas ruled Northern Mesopotamia (Iraq, Syria).

THE BROKEN EMPIRE

Alexander was possessed by powerful evil spirits. He became a king at the age of 20 and lived for a short 13 years before he died of sickness in the city of Babylon.

Alexander was a pagan that worshiped demon gods in different temples. One could look at just about any king, general, soldier and common person in the different nations and find a pagan. Only a small remnant served the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Everyone else was demon possessed.

There was no reason for Alexander to start a conflict with the Persian Empire except that he was power hungry and loved war, women and alcohol. The prophet Daniel had been given a prophecy about Alexander. **Daniel 8:15-22**

I have detailed the splitting of Alexander's kingdom to show just how many different people groups had been lumped together, only to be split apart after his death.

The Greek military with soldiers from other nations conquered the Persian kingdom, only to see what they had fought for broken apart. The generals, officers and soldiers in the Greek army were divided about what to do next. The soldiers that once fought together were now pitted against each other. Many of the soldiers were married with families, and as Alexander's empire was carved up, they wound up in Egypt to Pakistan. History does not record what happened to their wives and children.

The only winner in the war between Greece and Persia was Lucifer. He and his fallen angels had played a fun chess game with human pieces since they controlled both sides. Lucifer enjoys war games with the agony of dying soldiers, rape of women, and the killing of children. The kingdom of Satan is intoxicated by an insatiable blood lust that can only be fulfilled with human suffering because we are made in the image of God. **John 8:44; 10:10**

THE CIVIL WARS

The first civil war took place between 322-320 B.C. when Ptolemy took Alexander's corpse and brought it to Egypt.

Antipater, Craterus and Antigonus joined Ptolemy in this rebellion against Perdiccas. During the brief war, Craterus was killed and Perdiccas was murdered by his generals, Peithon, Seleucus and Antigenes.

The remaining members of the Diadochi held a conference at Triparadisus in 321 B.C. Antipater, the organizer of the conference, was named regent of the Greek Empire and Ptolemy was granted the right to govern Egypt and all lands west thereof.

War broke out again in Macedon and Greece in 319 B.C. when Antipater died. When it was over, Cassander declared himself the next king of Greece. He ordered the murder of Alexander's wife, Roxana, and the heir, Alexander IV, in 310 B.C. to ensure the son of Alexander the Great never became king.

The battle of Ipsus in 301 B.C. was the last war between the rivals. Antigonus I and his son, Demetrius of Macedon, fought a coalition of Lysimachus of Thrace, Seleucus I of Babylon and Persia. Antigonus was killed in the battle and Demetrius took a large portion of Macedonia.

Once the dust settled, the final division of Alexander's empire was now complete. Ptolemy established himself as king of Egypt and Seleucus became the king of Babylon, Persia and Syria. Cassander died in 297 B.C. and Lysimachus died in 281 B.C.

Lucifer was now ready to confront Jesus and His control over Jerusalem and Judah. Judah had been a province of Persia and became a province of the Greek empire. It was quiet for some years until Ptolemy's troops occupied Judah around 318 B.C., but he had to withdraw in 315 B.C. when Antigonus I asserted control over Palestine.

Ptolemy returned in 312 B.C. with help from Seleucus to defeat Demetrius I, son of Antigonus I, at the Battle of Gaza. The occupation only lasted a few months until Antigonus returned from Asia Minor. Eventually Ptolemy returned to Palestine and took

control of Judah and Jerusalem. Solomon Grayzel states the Jews did not resist when Ptolemy's army came to take control of Jerusalem.¹ He arrived on a Saturday when the Jews were observing the Sabbath and the soldiers just walked into the city and started their occupation.

Flavius Josephus records that Ptolemy was a skilled ruler who knew how to tax people.² People from the upper Jewish class were selected to collect taxes on farmers and laborers, while the clergy and the aristocrats were exempt. This system was still in effect at the time of Jesus, who called one of them to be a disciple. **Matthew 9:9-12**

A publican had to meet a certain quota that was turned over to the government. The problem was that publicans usually extracted more tax than necessary and pocketed the rest. That was why they were hated by the population.

Since slavery was common in all nations, Ptolemy would send officials with soldiers to Judah looking for people to enslave. Young girls were a hot commodity. Soldiers would capture teenage girls and bring them to Egypt where they were sold on the slave market as prostitutes. Life was cheap at this time and the oppression of the kings was severe.

SUMMARY

Lucifer had successfully developed the earth to the same condition that existed prior to the creation of Adam and Eve.

- ❖ All nations were ruled by pagan kings who were possessed by demons.
- ❖ War was glorified and men were sacrificed on battlefields.
- ❖ A large portion of the population was enslaved. They possessed no great value and received no protection from the laws that existed. They were sold at auctions like animals and slave women were considered breeders to make more slaves.

Powerful fallen angels (archons) ruled the nations through the human kings. There was no justice, goodness, or mercy. It was literally hell on earth. **Isaiah 14:12-21; Ezekiel 28:12-19; John 8:44; Revelation 12:7-17**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?

¹ A HISTORY OF THE JEWS, Solomon Grayzel, The Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1948, p.43

² THE COMPLETE WORKS OF FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS, Flavius Josephus, translated by William Whiston, Attic Books, 2008, Book XII, section 154