

## chapters

# Acts of the Apostles

July 21, 2024

- 1 *Stand by Me*
- 2a *You Light Up My*
- 2b *He's ALIVE*
- 3 *When Tomorrow Starts without Me*
- 4a *Got Friends in Low Places*
- 4b *LIAR – Lying to God*
- 5 *Why God's Wondrous Grace*
- 6-7 *Ballad of **Green Beret**—Stephen*
- 8 *Baptizing*
- 9a *Calling*
- 9b *Healing*
- 10-11 *Including*
- 12 *Praying*

**Acts 7:56** “Look,” he said,  
“I see heaven open & the  
Son of Man standing at  
the right hand of God.”



*Martyrdom of St Stephen*  
by Peter Paul Rubens (1577–1640)



# Early Church

Chapter		Title	Summary
June 2	1	<i>Stand by Me</i>	Gift of Holy Ghost Coming
June 9	2a	<i>You Light Up My Life</i>	Pentecost—Gift of Holy Spirit
June 16	2b	<i>He's ALIVE</i>	1st Sermon Resurrection - Unified, Devoted, Shared
June 23	3	<i>When Tomorrow Starts</i>	Peter Heals Lame – 2nd Sermon Resurrection
June 30	4a	<i>Got Friends in Low Places</i>	Crocodile Bill & Peter to Rulers of Jerusalem
July 7	4b	<i>LIAR – Lying to God</i>	Shaken, Shared - Ananias & Sapphira's Lies
July 14	5	<i>Why God's Wondrous Grace</i>	Apostles Arrested & Gamaliel's Defense
July 21	6-7	<i>Ballad of Green Beret</i>	Stephen—Church's 1st Martyr
July 28	8	Baptizing	Angel, Phillip, Candace
Aug 4	9a	Calling	Paul Blinded, then SEES
Aug 11	9b	Healing	Peter Heals Aenaes & Raises Tabatha
Aug 18	10	Including	Peter's Vision—EAT
Aug 25	11-12	Praying	Peter Freed from Prison



Ohhhh ... story of Stephen ... Church's FIRST Martyr

I know your life on earth was troubled

And only you could know the pain

You weren't afraid to face the devil





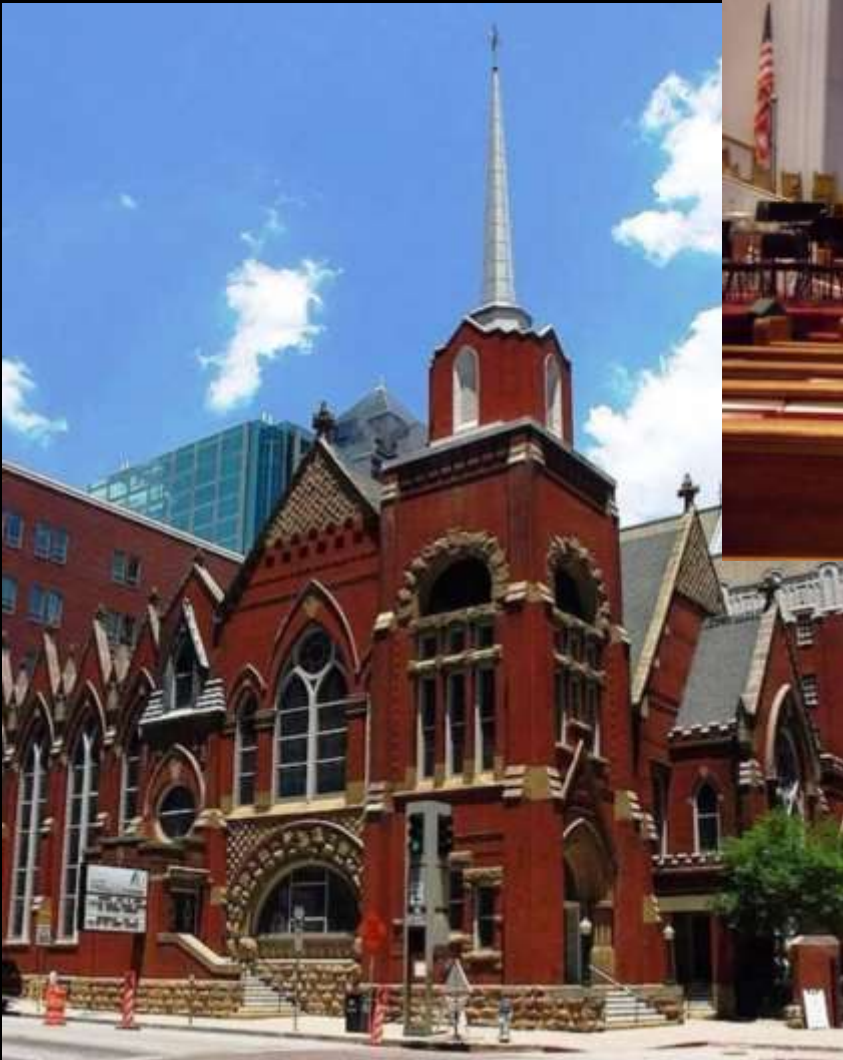
# Our Church



FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
MEETS HERE!  
PASTOR  
COLLIN BULLARD  
SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.  
S. WOOL  
CELEBRATION 10:45 A.M.  
FB.WOODVILLE.COM

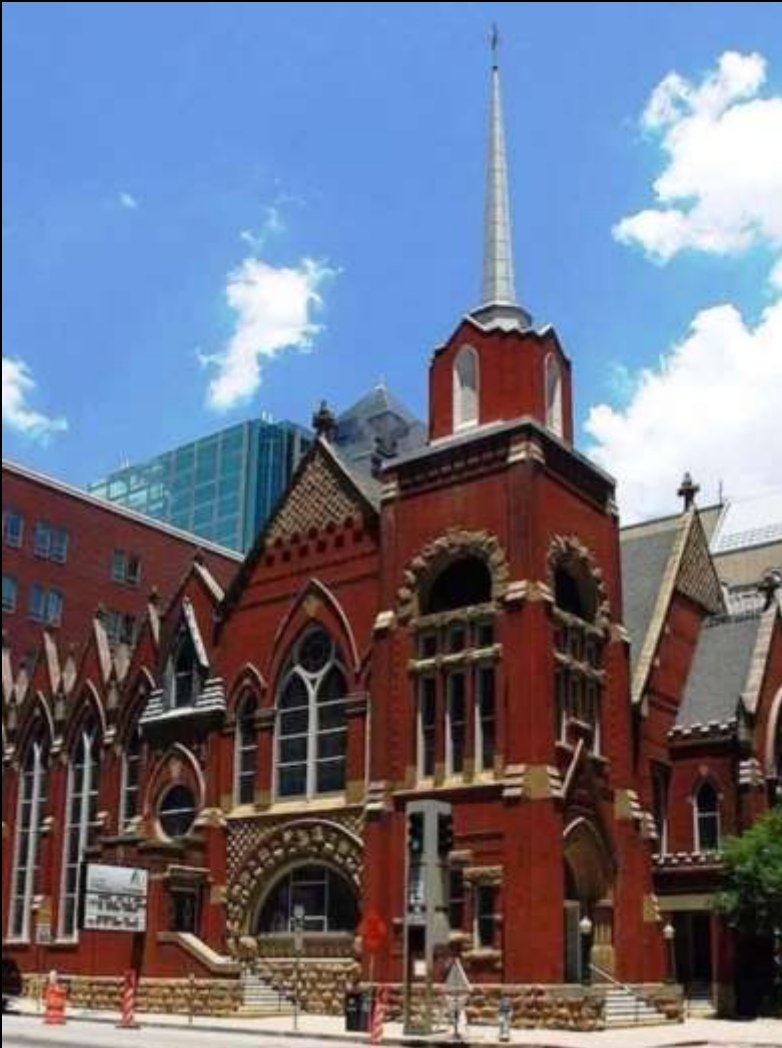


FBC Dallas burned down Friday evening, July 19, 2024





# FBC Dallas burned down Friday evening, July 19, 2024



## Acts 6-7

**6:1-2 Hellenistic vs. Hebraic Jews**

**6:3-7 Stephen First of 7 Chosen to Serve**

**6:8-10 Stephen—Could Not Stand Spirit of Wisdom**

**7:1-53 Stephen's Speech to "Stiff-necked" Sanhedrin**

**7:54-60 Stephen Stoned to Death as He Looked to Heaven**

**7:56-60** "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." . . .

**WHILE** they were stoning him, Stephen prayed,

**"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."**

**giving is important**

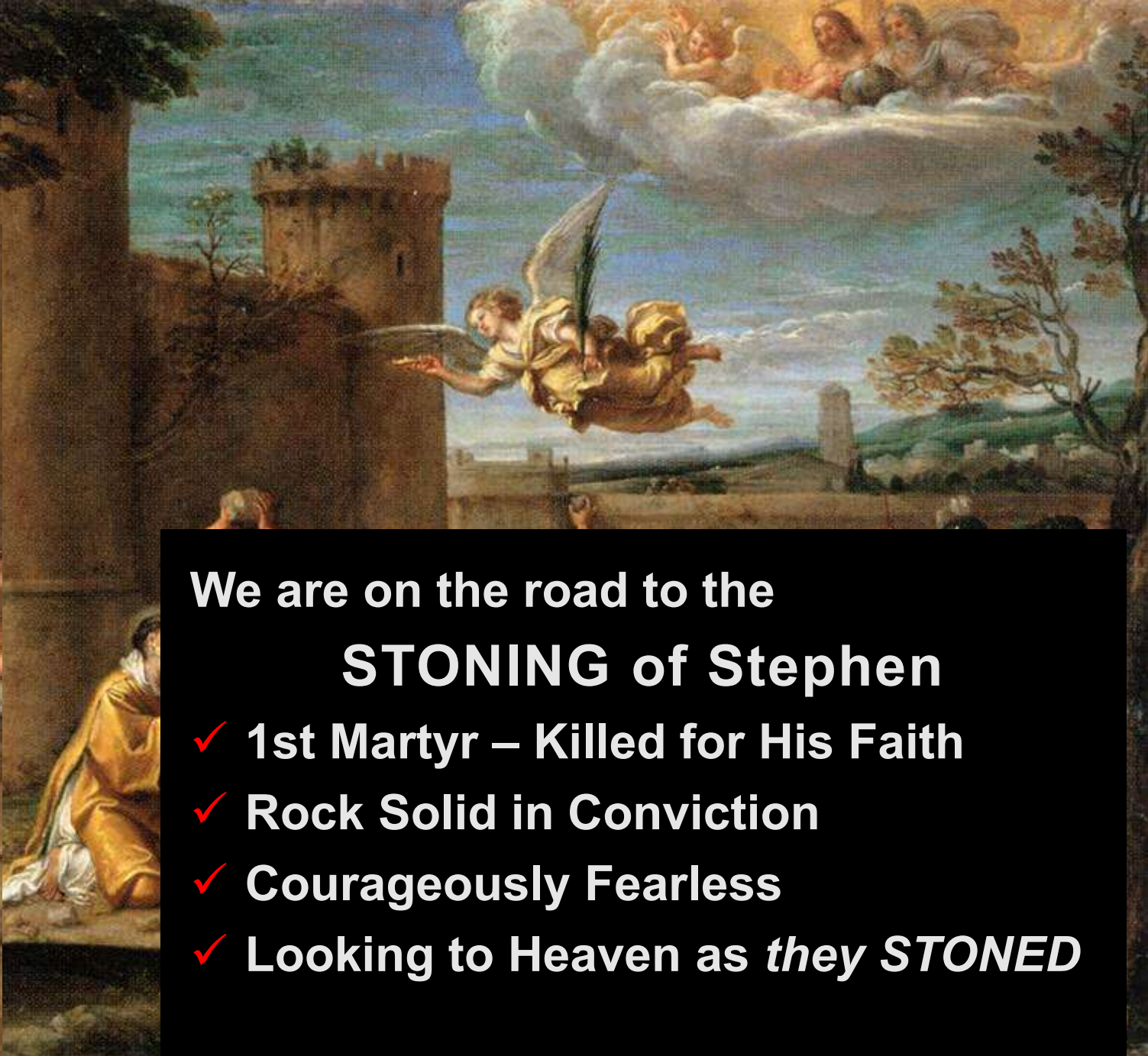
**the giving of your life**

**heart of Christianity**





**Martyrdom of St Stephen, c. 1603**  
by Annibale Carracci  
Gift to Louis XIV by the  
duc de Montausier

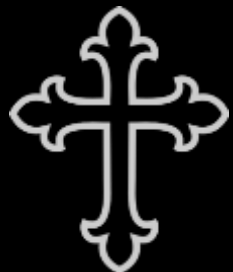


- We are on the road to the**  
**STONING of Stephen**
- ✓ **1st Martyr – Killed for His Faith**
  - ✓ **Rock Solid in Conviction**
  - ✓ **Courageously Fearless**
  - ✓ **Looking to Heaven as *they STONED***

**Sgt Barry Sadler**

**1966**

**Ballad of the  
Green Berets**



**STEPHEN –  
Strong to the END**

**Fighting soldiers from the sky  
Fearless men who jump and die  
Men who mean just what they say  
The brave men of the Green Beret**



## 6:1-2 Hellenistic vs. Hebraic Jews

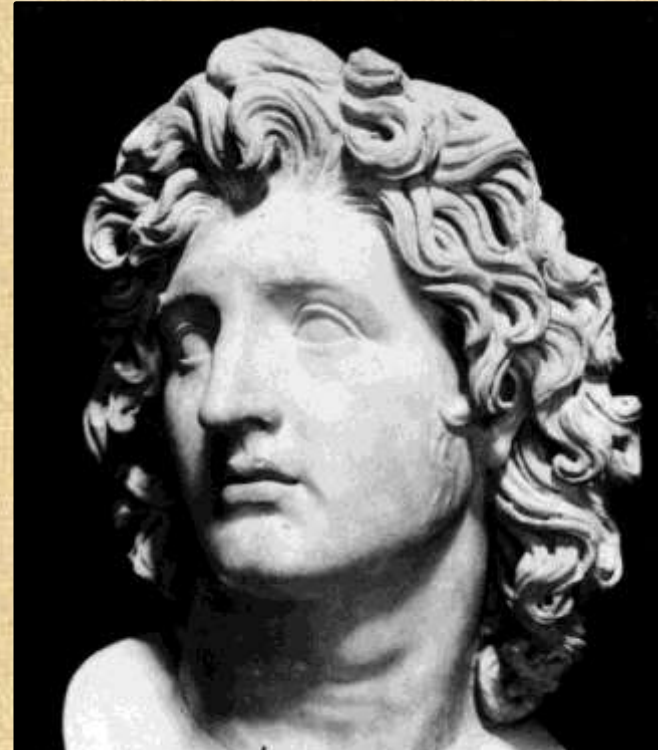
<sup>1</sup> In those days when the number of disciples increased, Hellenistic Jews complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in daily distribution of food.

<sup>2</sup> So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.”

**Hellenistic vs. Hebraic Jews on care for widows**  
yet, to understand Hellenism

**MUST** grapple with

**Alexander the Great**



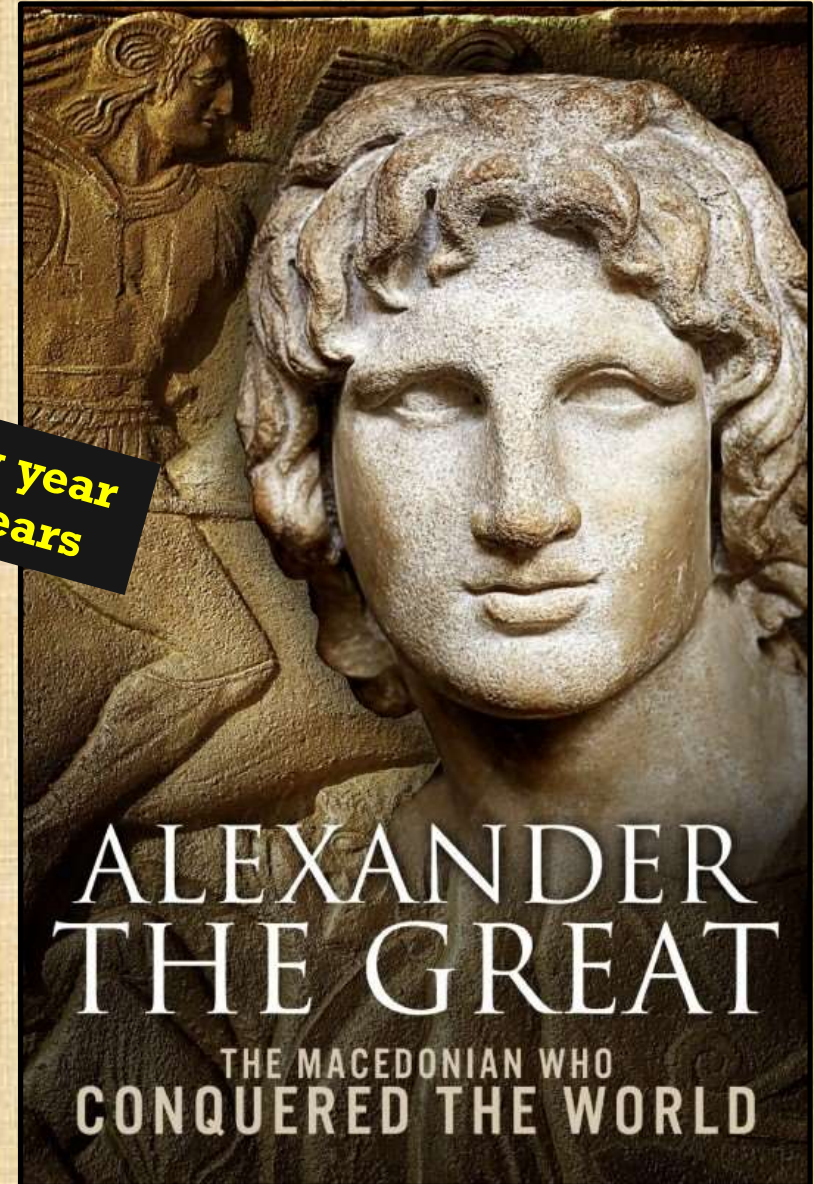


# Alexander the Great – 356-323 B.C. – 32 yrs

- ✓ Died at 32, one month short of 33 years old
- ✓ Tutored by Aristotle to 16
- ✓ 336 – Father Philip of Macedon killed
- ✓ At 20, Alexander became King of Macedon
- ✓ 334 – Battle of Granicus x Persians
- ✓ 333 – Battle of Issus, near Antioch
- ✓ 332 – in Egypt – founded Alexandria
- ✓ 331 – Battle of Gaugamela, 40k x 500k-lm  
Macedonian phalanx ... *beats Persia > east*
- ✓ 326 – Hydaspes River, India, x 200 elephants



**battle every year  
for next 8 years**





*Alexander & Diogenes*  
by Sebastiano Ricci  
(1659-1734)



After a chat with Diogenes, it is told that Alexander told his men,

**“If I were not Alexander, I would be Diogenes.”**



# Alexander in India





# WHO was Alexander the Great

## Bucephalus –

most famous horse in antiquity

Means “ox-head”

Artwork in reliefs, friezes, statues

They say, “**Bucephalus & Alexander were inseparable.**”

“**Only Alexander could ride him.**”





# Alexander the Great – 356-323 B.C. – died at 32

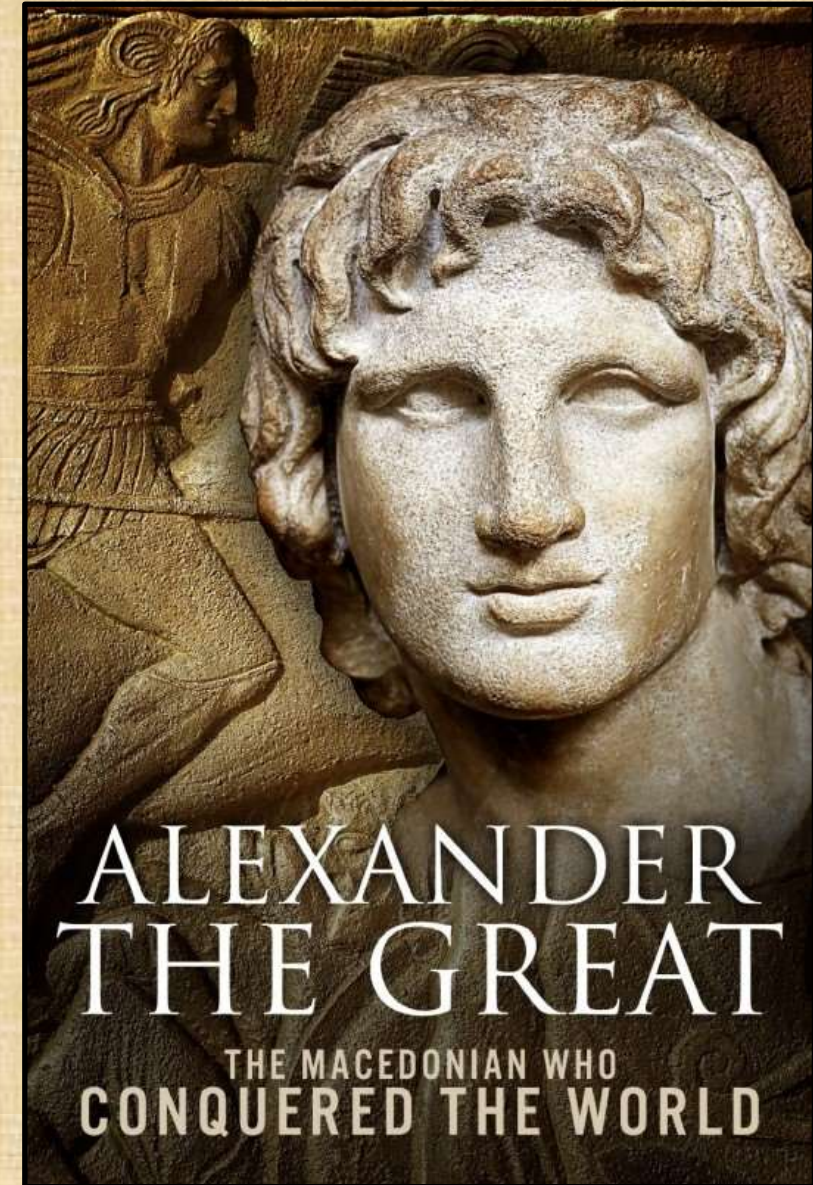
## Who was Alexander?

- ✓ Military Genius, strategist, studied today
- ✓ Greatest Achievement—blended Greek culture INTO nations – **Hellenization**  
Greek language helped Roman & Byzantine empires
- ✓ Established 70+ cities with Greeks settling
- ✓ 324 – Army revolts in India, he relaxes a bit

323 B.C. – Alexander dies in Persia –  
while dying Generals ask,  
“Who gets throne?”



**Alexander said,**  
**“The Strongest!”**



**Sgt Barry Sadler**

**1966**

**Ballad of the  
Green Berets**



**STEPHEN –  
TESTED by Stones**

**Silver wings upon their chest  
These are men, America's best  
One hundred men will test today  
But only three win the Green Beret**



# Alexander the Great – 356-323 B.C. – died at 32

Cassander

Lysimachas

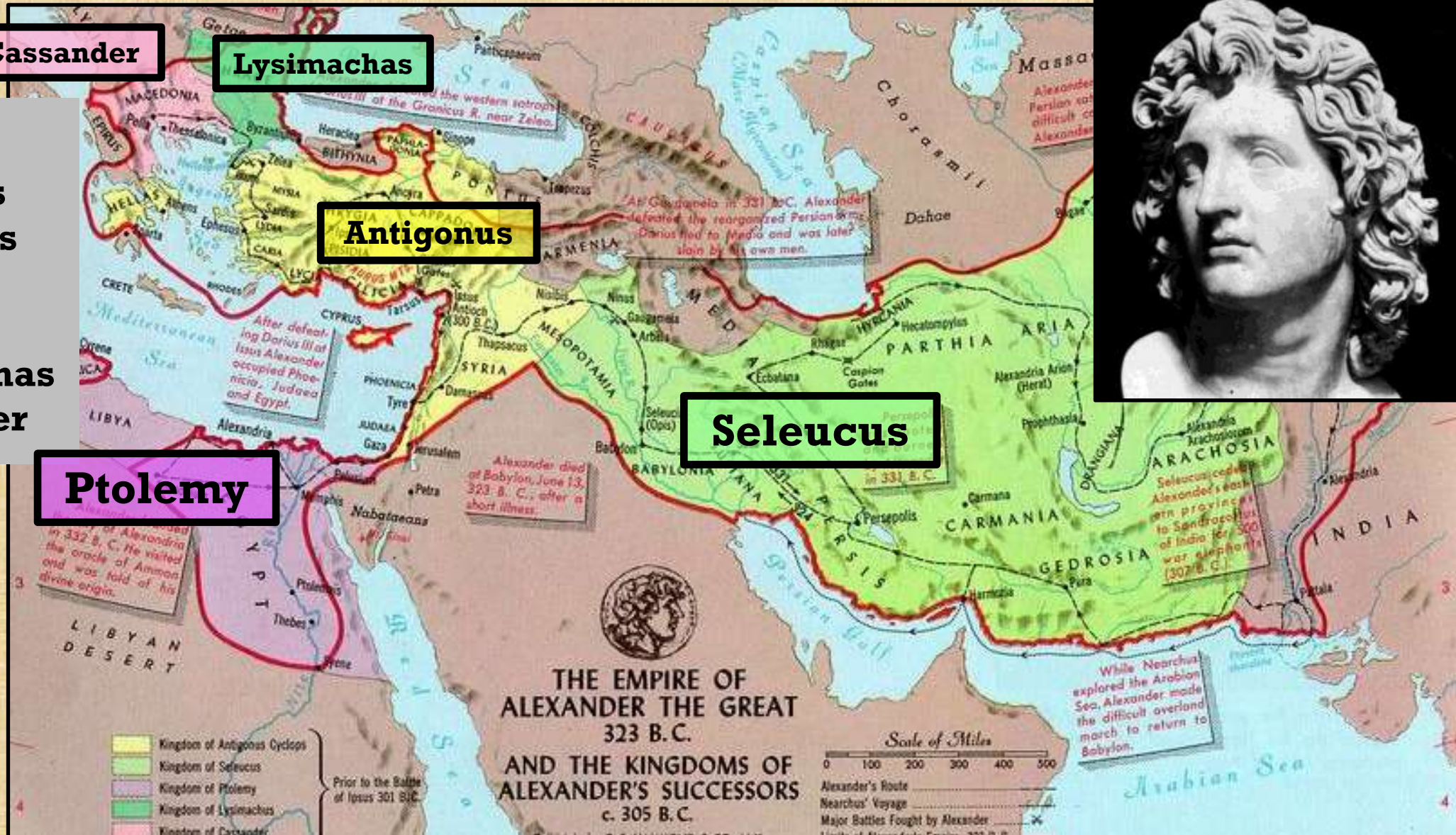
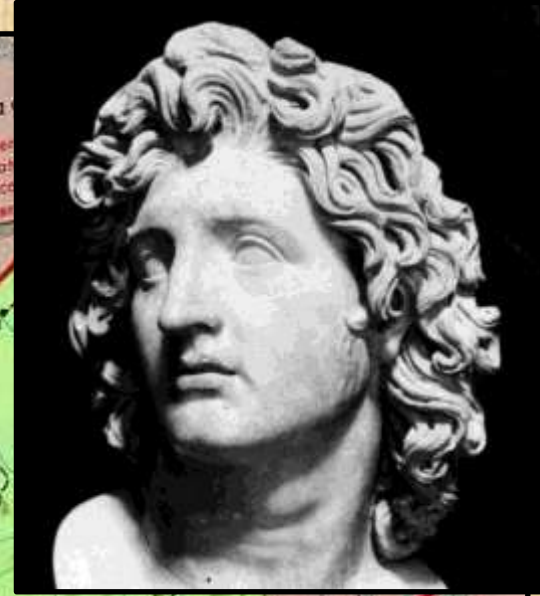
Antigonus

Seleucus

Ptolemy

## Alexandar's Generals

- ❖ Antigonus
- ❖ Seleucus
- ❖ Ptolemy
- ❖ Lysimachas
- ❖ Cassander





# Alexander the Great – 356-323 B.C. – died at 32

Cassander

Lysimachas

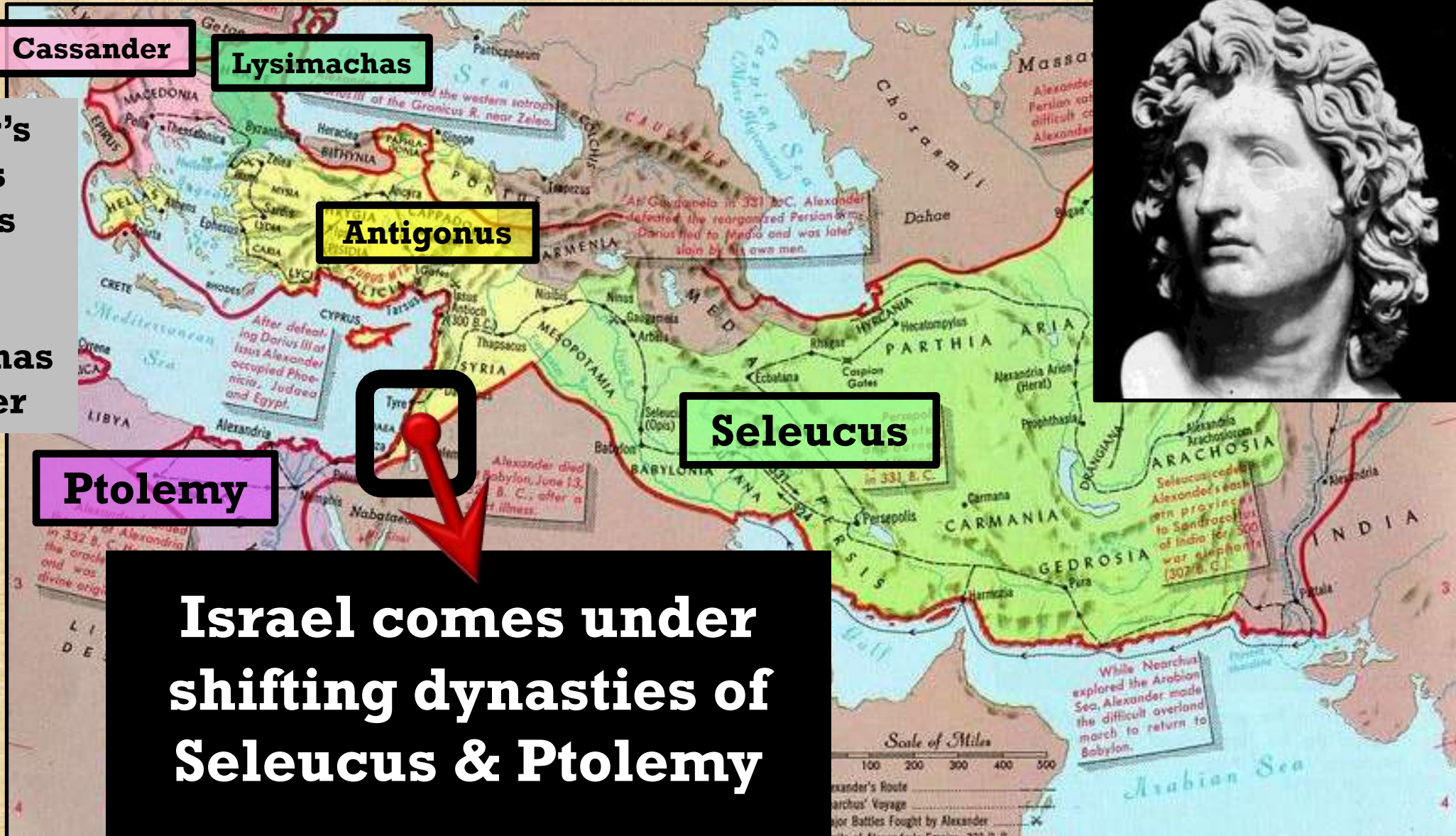
Antigonus

Seleucus

Ptolemy

Alexandar's  
Generals

- ❖ Antigonus
- ❖ Seleucus
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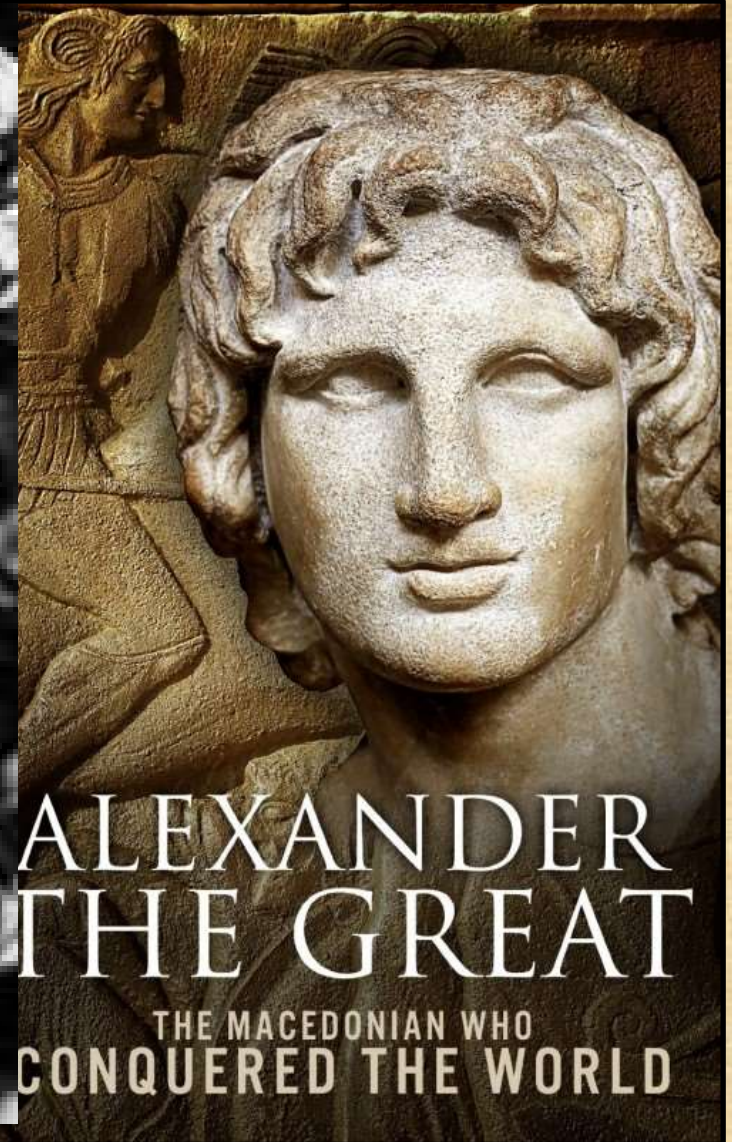
Israel comes under  
shifting dynasties of  
Seleucus & Ptolemy





# WHO was Alexander the Great

I AM INDEBTED TO  
MY FATHER FOR  
LIVING, BUT  
TO MY  
TEACHER FOR  
LIVING WELL.



# WHO was Alexander the Great



“THERE IS  
NOTHING  
IMPOSSIBLE  
TO HIM WHO  
WILL TRY.”

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

*nothing is impossible to him who will try.*



# WHO was Alexander the Great

I would rather excel others  
in the knowledge of what is excellent  
than in the extent of my powers and dominion.  
- Alexander the Great



# WHO was Alexander the Great

I am not afraid of an army of lions  
led by a sheep; I am afraid of an  
army of sheep led by a lion.





# Hellenism

**IS** “Spread of Greek Culture”

- ✓ From Alexander to Rome
- ✓ 333 to 30 B.C. – DEATH of Mark Antony & Cleopatra at **Battle of Actium** 31 B.C.
- ✓ Julius Caesar's nephew Octavian wins
- ✓ Octavian Becomes Augustus **First Emperor of Rome**



**Emperor at  
Birth of Christ**

**Dies A.D. 14**



# Hellenism

**IS** “Spread of Greek

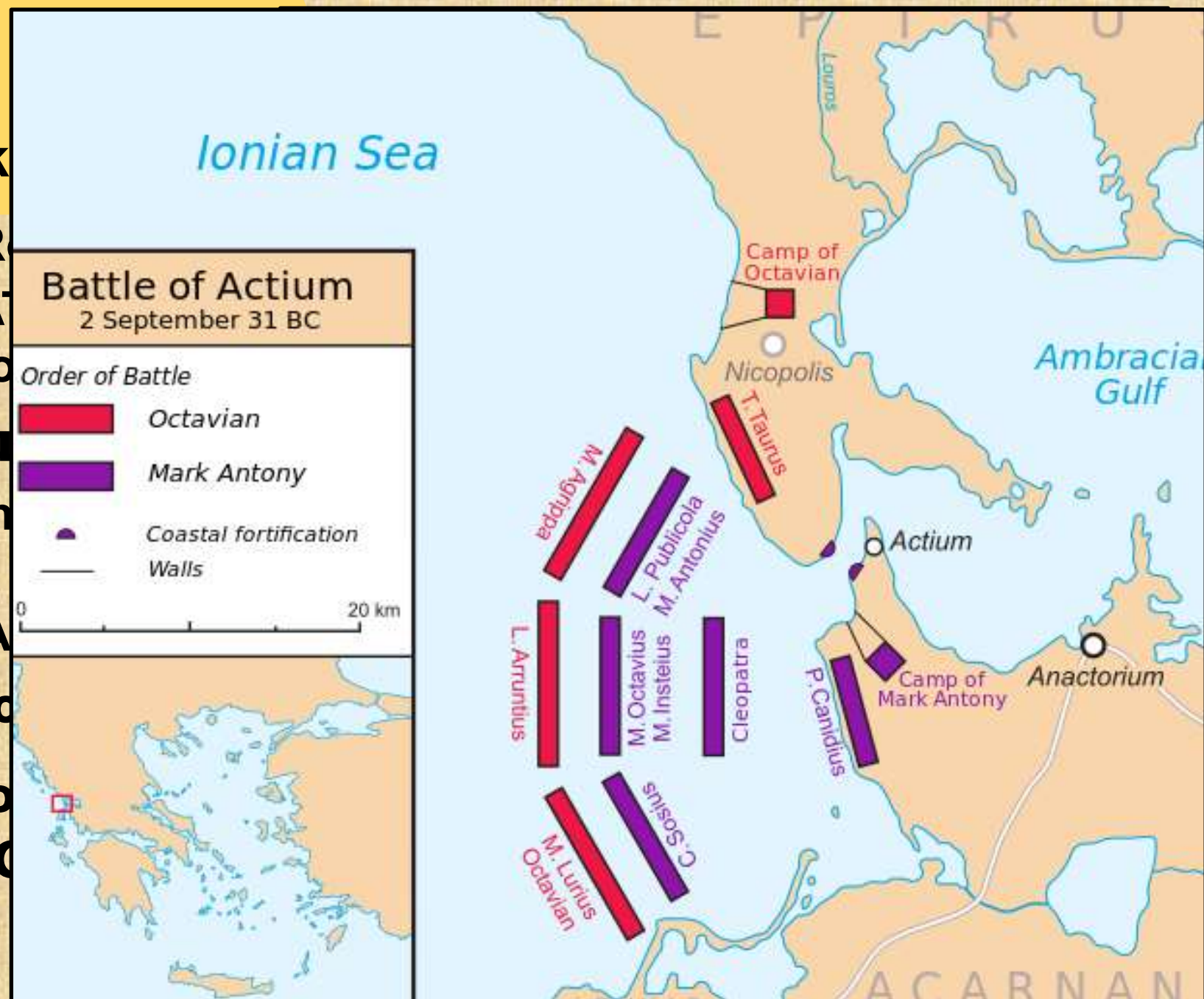
- ✓ From Alexander to Rome
- ✓ 333 to 30 B.C. – DEATH OF  
Mark Antony & Cleopatra

## Battle of Actium

- ✓ Julius Caesar's nephew  
Octavian wins
- ✓ Octavian Becomes Augustus

**First Emperor of Rome**

**Emperor Augustus  
Birth of Christianity**

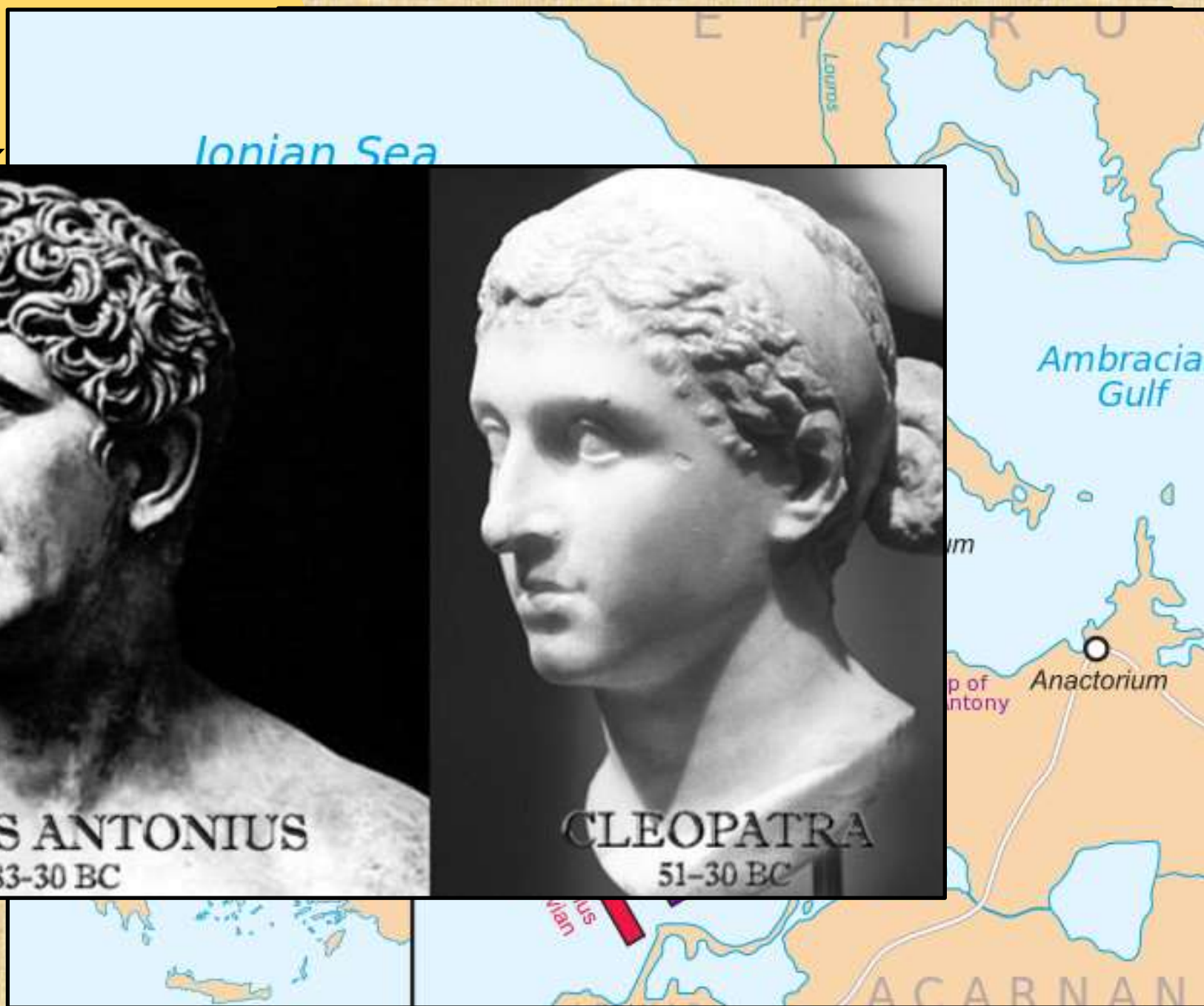
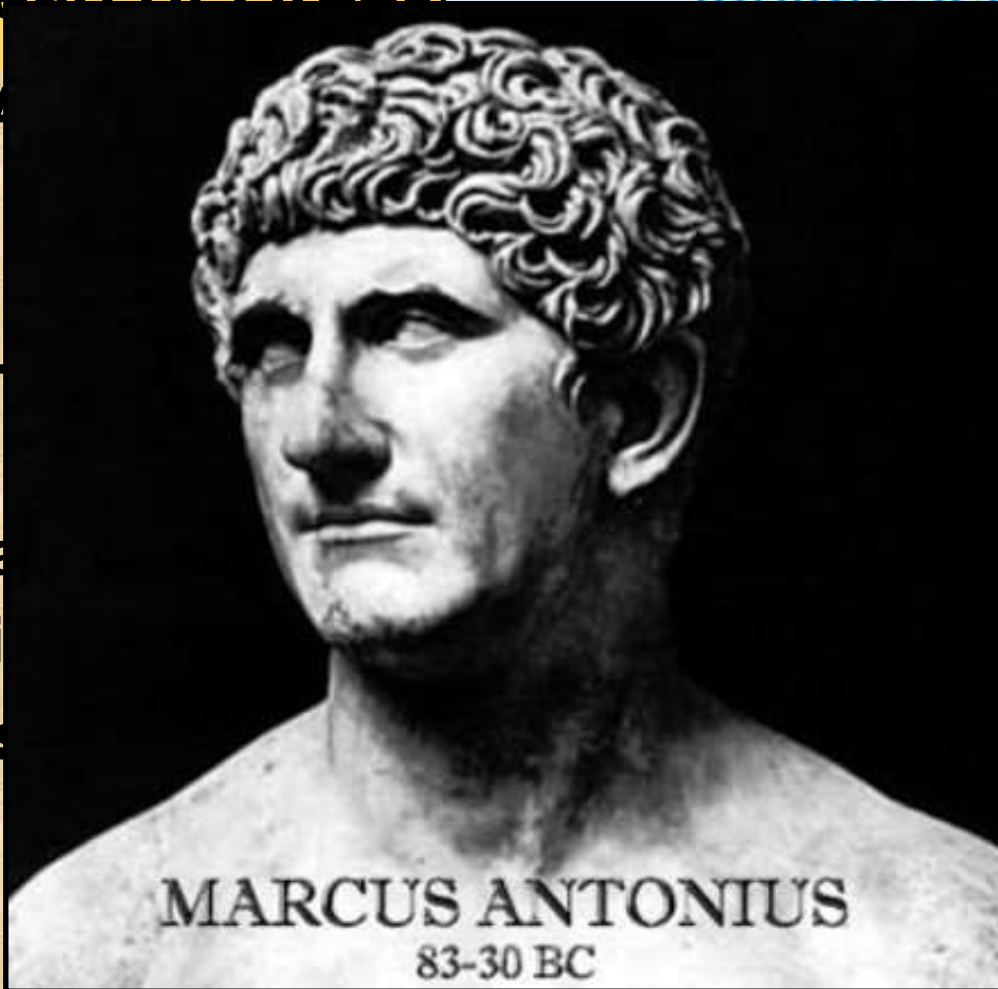




# Hellenism

**IS** "Spread of Greek

- ✓ From A
- ✓ 333 to
- Mark
- Bat**
- ✓ Julius
- Octa
- ✓ Octavi
- Firs**



# Hellenism

**IS** "Spread of Greek

- ✓ From A
- ✓ 333 to  
Mark
- Bat**
- ✓ Julius  
Octa
- ✓ Octavi
- First**



**1963 Cleopatra  
3-hour classic**





# Hellenism

*IS* "Spre

✓ From A

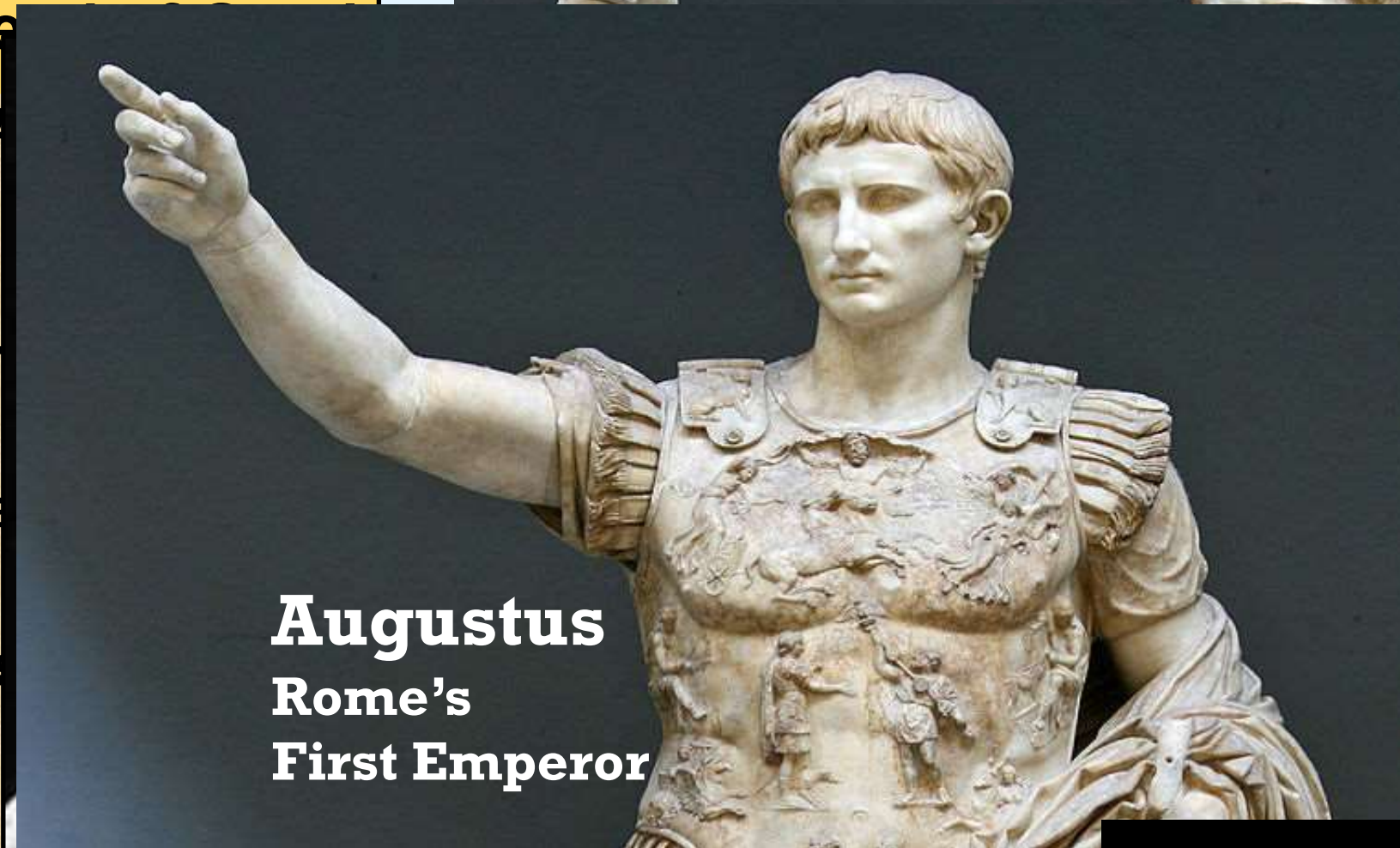
✓ 333 to  
Mark

**Bat**

✓ Julius  
Octa

✓ Octavi

**Firs**



**Augustus**  
Rome's  
First Emperor

**Dies A.D. 14**



# Remember weeks ago when Church Began?

## Acts 2:5-13 Galileans *drunk*?

<sup>5</sup>dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.... <sup>6</sup>heard them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup>And they were all amazed and marveled ... are not all these which speak Galileans? <sup>8</sup>And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

<sup>9</sup>**Parthians**, and **Medes**, and **Elamites**, and the dwellers in **Mesopotamia**, and in **Judaea**, and **Cappadocia**, in **Pontus**, and **Asia**, <sup>10</sup>**Phrygia**, and **Pamphylia**, in **Egypt**, and in the parts of **Libya** about **Cyrene**, and strangers of **Rome**, Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>**Cretes** and **Arabians**, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.





# Area of Study Acts 1-12

Greece  
Hellás

Rome

## Spread of Judaism

Rome

- 500-300 Golden Greece
- 325 BC Alexander
- 200 BC LXX
- 72-71 BC Spartacus
- Hellenism Dominates  
... Latin on Rise
- 44 BC J. Caesar killed
- 31 BC Battle of Actium
- Rome Dominates
- AD 14 Augustus Dies
- AD 64 Nero burns Rome
- AD 70 Temple Destroyed
- AD 73 Masada Falls



Egypt

Arabians



**Greece  
Hellás**

**Rome**

# Spread of Judaism

**25 more years - then  
Christians in Rome!**

- 500-300 Golden C
- 325 BC Alexander
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... *Latin on Rise*
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Rome
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**Antioch**

**Damascus**

**AD 30 – No Christians  
anywhere *but* Israel!**

**Area of Study  
Acts 1-12**



## 6:1-2 Need Discovered – Hellenistic vs. Hebraic Jews

### Hellenistic Jews

- ✓ 200 B.C. LXX, Septuagint O.T. into Greek
- ✓ 168 BC Antiochus Epiphanes IV aligns Hellenistic Jews against traditional
- ✓ Greek Jews – like Luke
- ✓ Great Historians
- ✓ Philo of Alexandria 20 BC – AD 40
- ✓ Clement of Alexandria AD 150–215
- ✓ Show Judaism to Pagans

### Hebraic Jews

- ✓ Spoke Aramaic after Babylon
- ✓ Hebrew still active, but tough
- ✓ Macebees 164-63 BC x Antiochus
- ✓ Jesus—Aramaic, Hebrew & Greek
- ✓ Most were bilingual & trilingual
- ✓ Dead Sea Scroll of 200 BC to AD 60 inform Masoretic Text of AD 700-1000



[www.JewishEncyclopedia.com](http://www.JewishEncyclopedia.com)



## 6:1-2 Need Disco

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Those who give hoping to be rewarded with honor are not giving, they are bargaining.

~ Philo

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Be kind, for  
everyone you meet  
is fighting a hard  
battle.

Philo



## **6:3-5 Solution Reached – Stephen chose among seven**

**<sup>3-4</sup> Brothers and sisters, choose SEVEN men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”**

**<sup>5</sup> This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.**



## **6:6-7 Solution Reached – Stephen chose among seven**

**<sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.**

**<sup>7</sup> So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.**





## **6:8-10**      **Servant Tested** – Stephen's signs and opposition

**<sup>8</sup> Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.**

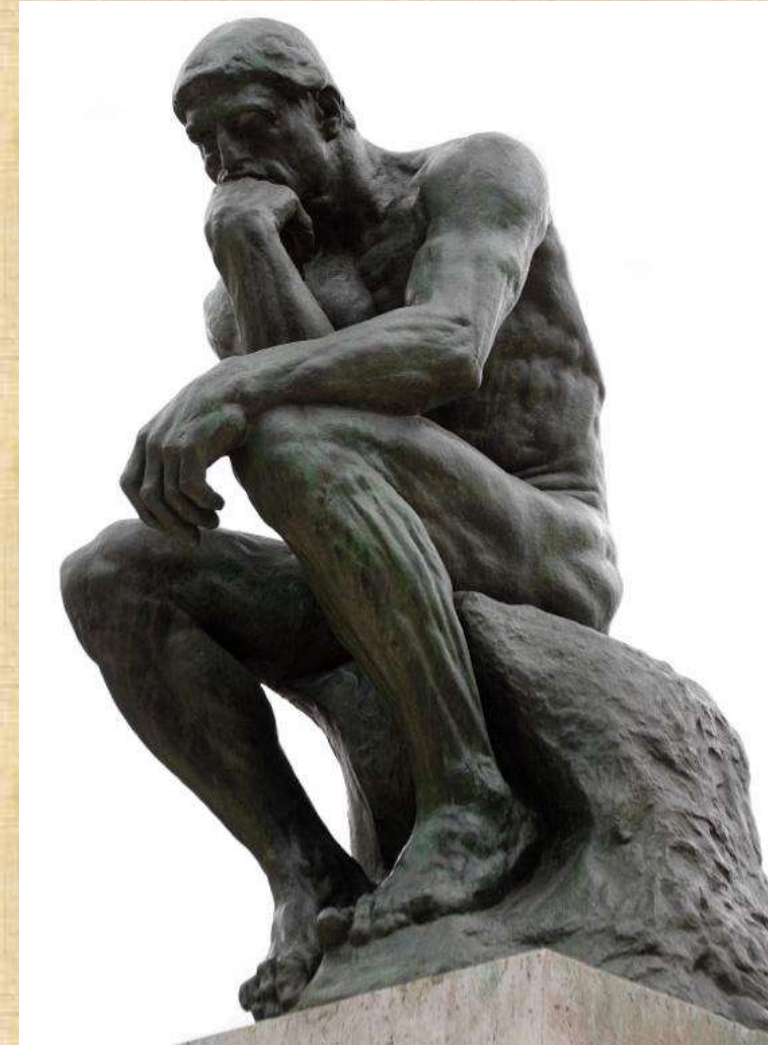
**<sup>9</sup> Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen.**



**6:8-10**      **Servant Tested** – Stephen's signs and opposition

**<sup>10</sup> But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.**

**Wisdom**  
**the Spirit gave him**





## Chapter 7 – First Martyr Stephen

7:1-53 Before Sanhedrin, Stephen tells of Egyptian bondage and Moses, then of David and Solomon's Temple, "Most High does not live in houses made by human hands" ... finally "You received the law ... but have not obeyed it."

7:54 Sanhedrin furious, gnash their teeth

# Stephen - Fearless



**Sgt Barry Sadler**

**1966**

**Ballad of the  
Green Berets**



## **STEPHEN – Courage of RIGHT**

**Trained to live off nature's land**

**Trained in combat, hand-to-hand**

**Men who fight by night and day**

**Courage take from the Green Berets**



## Chapter 7 – First Martyr Stephen

7:56-60 “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

*Martyrdom of St Stephen*  
by Italian Lorenzo Lotto (1480–1556)







***Martyrdom of St Stephen***  
**by Italian Lorenzo Lotto (1480–1556)**



## Chapter 7 – First Martyr Stephen

57-58 At this they covered their ears and,  
*yelling* at the top of their voices,  
they all *rushed* at him, *dragged* him out of the city  
and began to stone him.  
Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a  
young man named Saul.

*Martyrdom of St Stephen*  
by Italian Lorenzo Lotto (1480–1556)







*Martyrdom of Saint Andrew*  
by Pietro da Cortona (1596-1669)





***Martyrdom of St Stephen***  
**by Peter Paul Rubens (1577–1640)**



Sgt Barry Sadler

1966


## Ballad of the Green Berets



Silver wings upon their chest  
These are men, America's best

One hundred men *will test today*

But only three *win the Green Beret*



STEPHEN –  
Earned his  
WINGS



# Chapter 7 – First Martyr Stephen

**Acts 7:57-58** Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Martyrdom of St Stephen is a c.1603-1604 oil on canvas painting by Annibale Carracci. It was given to Louis XIV by the duc de Montausier sometime before 1668.





**Martyrdom of St Stephen is a c.1603-1604 oil on canvas painting by Annibale Carracci**







***Martyrdom of St Stephen, 1745***  
**by Jean-Baptiste-Marie Pierre**







***Martyrdom of St. Stephen***  
**by Santo Peranda (1566-1638)**

**Chiesa di Santo Stefano  
or Church of St. Stephen**  
**northern end of the  
Campo Santo Stefano**  
**sestiere of San Marco,  
Venice, Italy**





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**Sgt Barry Sadler**

**1966**

**Ballad of the  
Green Berets**



**STEPHEN –  
Did he too  
leave behind a  
WIFE & SON?**

**Back at home, a young wife waits  
Her Green Beret has met his fate**

**He has died for those oppressed  
Leaving her his last request**









So much work ***STONING***  
they took off  
their coats

*Rushed*  
**Mean**  
**Brutal**  
**Angry**



## Chapter 7 – First Martyr Stephen

7:59-60 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed,  
“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

Then he fell on his knees and cried out,  
“Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”

**Prepare yourself for a few of the  
most beautiful words in the Bible  
You will ever ... EVER Hear**

when he had said this,  
**he fell asleep**



Sgt Barry Sadler

1966

Ballad of the  
Green Berets



STEPHEN –  
*Tested* - did most  
certainly  
Leave for us a  
**LEGACY**



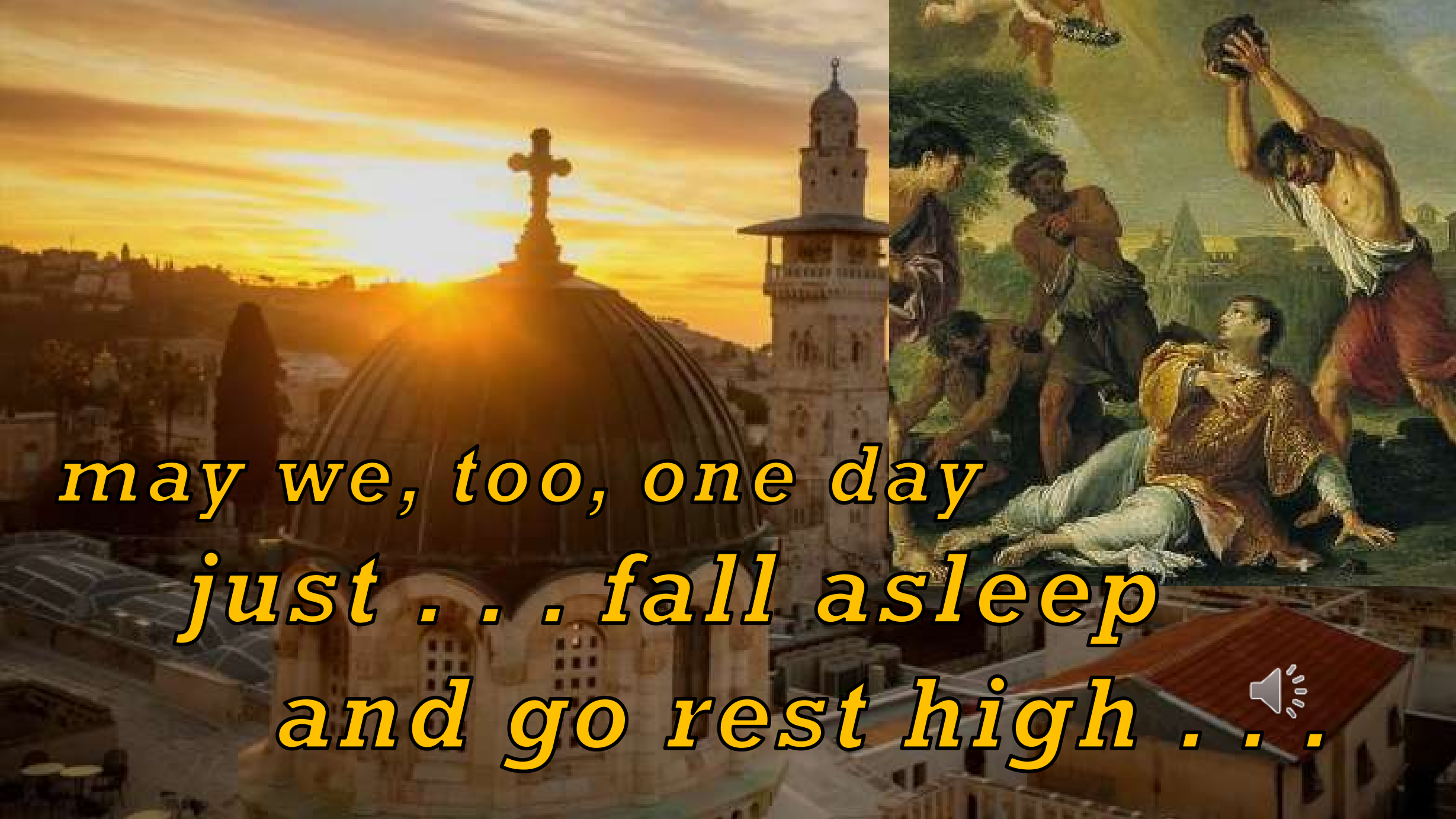
Put silver wings on my son's chest

Make him one of America's best

He'll be a man *they'll TEST ONE DAY*

Have him *win the Green Beret*





*may we, too, one day  
just . . . fall asleep  
and go rest high . . .*

