

THE KING IS COMING

Survey of Judah Alone, Captivity, Return, and Years of Silence

LESSON 21: THE MACCABEAN REVOLT . . . *HISTORY*

MEMORY. Memorize the names of the leaders of the Maccabean Revolt: Mattathias, Judas (Maccabeus), Jonathan, and Simon.

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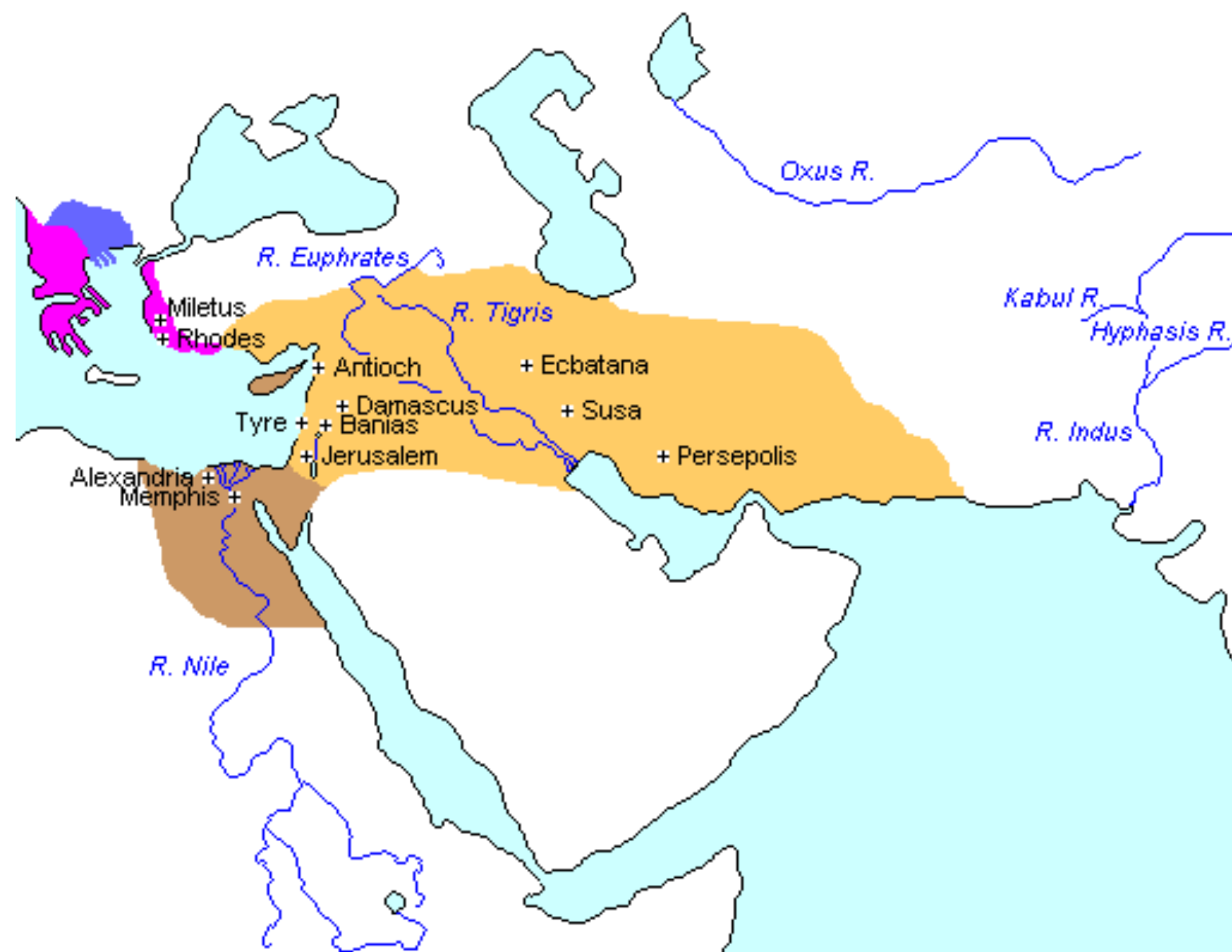
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DISCUSSION.

1. *Greece*. What empire controlled Judah at the close of the OT? What empire came next? Read Dan 8:1-27. Which empires do the ram and the goat represent?

What would the small horn do? (vv. 9-12, 23-25)



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DISCUSSION.

2. *Causes.* Why would this [Hellenization] have been a problem for devout Jews?

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- 3. *Revolt.*** Read Dan 11:32–35. After Antiochus IV profaned the sanctuary with the abomination of desolation, what would “those who act wickedly” do? (v. 32a) What would “the people who know their God” do? (vv. 32b–33) What would be granted to the faithful, and why would some of them still fall? (vv. 34–35)

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4. *Independence.* Throughout the revolt, according to Daniel, who had been standing guard over the people of God? (Dan 12:1) What would be the reward of those Jews who had died the death of a martyr? (vv. 2-3)



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CONNECTION. Read Heb 11:35–38 and 2 Macc 6:1–7:42. Why might the author of Hebrews have included the martyrs from the Years of Silence?

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APPLICATION. Faithful Jews in the Years of Silence were willing to die rather than violate the law of their God. They hoped in the promise of God—the promise of a future resurrection. Now, after the time of Christ, we have reason to hope even more than they. This week meditate on your hope of resurrection and purpose in your heart not to compromise with an ever-increasingly wicked culture. (You may want to reread Heb 11:35-38 daily.)