

Daniel 11:22-35

The wars and doings of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the type of the Anti-Christ in the Tribulation (verses 21-35).

I have heard and read of Antiochus Epiphanes and the Maccabean war but never really simplified so I am going to give you just the primary facts before we go into these verses.

Maccabean war against Antiochus Epiphanes

1.	Date: 171-164 bc
2.	Cause: Antiochus IV Epiphanes invaded Israel and Jerusalem where he pillaged the Temple; killed or took Jewish women and children as hostages, and stopped all Jewish worship, burned the Torah, outlawed Jewish sacrifices, outlawed the observance of the Sabbath, as well as the feast and even banned circumcision. And desecrated the Temple by putting up ‘abomination of desolation’ he erected a statute of Zeus, which resembled himself, in honor of the birth of the Sun god, inside the Temple and sacrificed a pig on the altar on December 25, 167 bc

3.	<p>Why so dominate in the Word of God—Daniel 8 and 11? Because the very things that Antiochus IV does to Israel, and Jerusalem are just a hint of all that the dictator of Revived Roman Empire, sometimes referred to as the Anti-Christ (not so referred in Revelation) will do against Israel in The Tribulation.</p>
4.	<p>Revolt “This single act of desolation so incited the Jews that it began a revolt which ended in Jewish independence for the first time since 586 bc.</p>
5.	<p>The Resistance by the Maccabees-the faithful Jewish Remnant</p>
	<p>a. Elderly Priest of Modein named Mattathias</p>
	<p>b. His five sons: John, Simon, Judas, Eleazer and Jonathan</p>
	<p>c. The family is referred to as the Hasmoneans a family name or: the Maccabeans which means ‘hammerers”</p>
	<p>d. Mattathias died in 166 bc</p>
	<p>e. Mattathias left his son Judas in charge.---Judas</p>

		Maccabeus who led a successful resistance against Antiochus IV
	f.	Brief overview of the Resistance. (well summarized in google)

“The first book of Maccabees portrays the effort by the Jews to regain their cultural and religious independence from Antiochus IV Epiphanes after his desecration of the Jewish temple.

In the second century bc, Judea existed between the **Egyptian Ptolemaic Kingdom** and the **Syrian Seleucid Empire**, kingdoms formed after the death of Alexander the Great. **Judea** fell under the control of the Seleucids in approximately 200 bc. During this time, many Jews began to adopt a Greek lifestyle and culture in order to gain economic and political influence. They avoided circumcision and advocated abolishing Jewish religious laws.

[much like so many churches today,
who desire to be politically correct
rather than biblically correct]

Antiochus IV Epiphanes became the ruler of the Seleucid Empire in 175 bc. He was inconsiderate of the views of the religious, traditional Jews in Palestine. To Antiochus, the office of high priest

was merely a local appointee within his realm, while to orthodox Jews the high priest was divinely appointed.

Antiochus appointed a high priest named **Jason**, a Hellenized Jew, who promptly abolished the Jewish theocracy, followed by **Menelaus**, who had the rightful high priest, **Onias**, murdered. After Menelaus' brother stole sacred articles from the temple, a civil war ensued between the Hellenized Jews and the religious Jews.

[Remember, that in The Tribulation, **The Beast**, that is the dictator of Revived Roman Empire will appoint the False Prophet over Israel.]

Antiochus subsequently attacked Jerusalem, pillaged the temple, and killed or captured many of the women and children. He banned traditional Jewish religious practice, outlawing Jewish sacrifices, Sabbaths, feasts, and circumcision. He established altars to Greek gods upon which “unclean” animals were sacrificed. He desecrated the Jewish temple. Possession of Jewish Scriptures became a capital offence.

[these are the very things that **The Beast**,
dictator of Revived Roman Empire
will do to Israel in the Tribulation.]

In a small, rural village called **Modein**, an elderly priest named **Mattathias** lived with his five sons—**John, Simon, Judas, Eleazer,**

and **Jonathan**. Sometimes referred to as the **Hasmoneans** (a designation derived from **Asmoneus**, the name of one of their ancestors), this family more frequently has been called the **Maccabeans** (a nickname meaning “hammerer”).

In 167 bc Antiochus sent some of his soldiers to Modein to compel the Jewish inhabitants to make sacrifices to the pagan gods.

Mattathias, [elder high priest] as a leader in the city, was commanded by the officers to be the first person to offer a sacrifice as an example to the rest of the people.

He refused with a powerful speech in 1 Maccabees 2:19.

His speech is here inserted:

[**Mattathias** answered and spake with a loud voice,

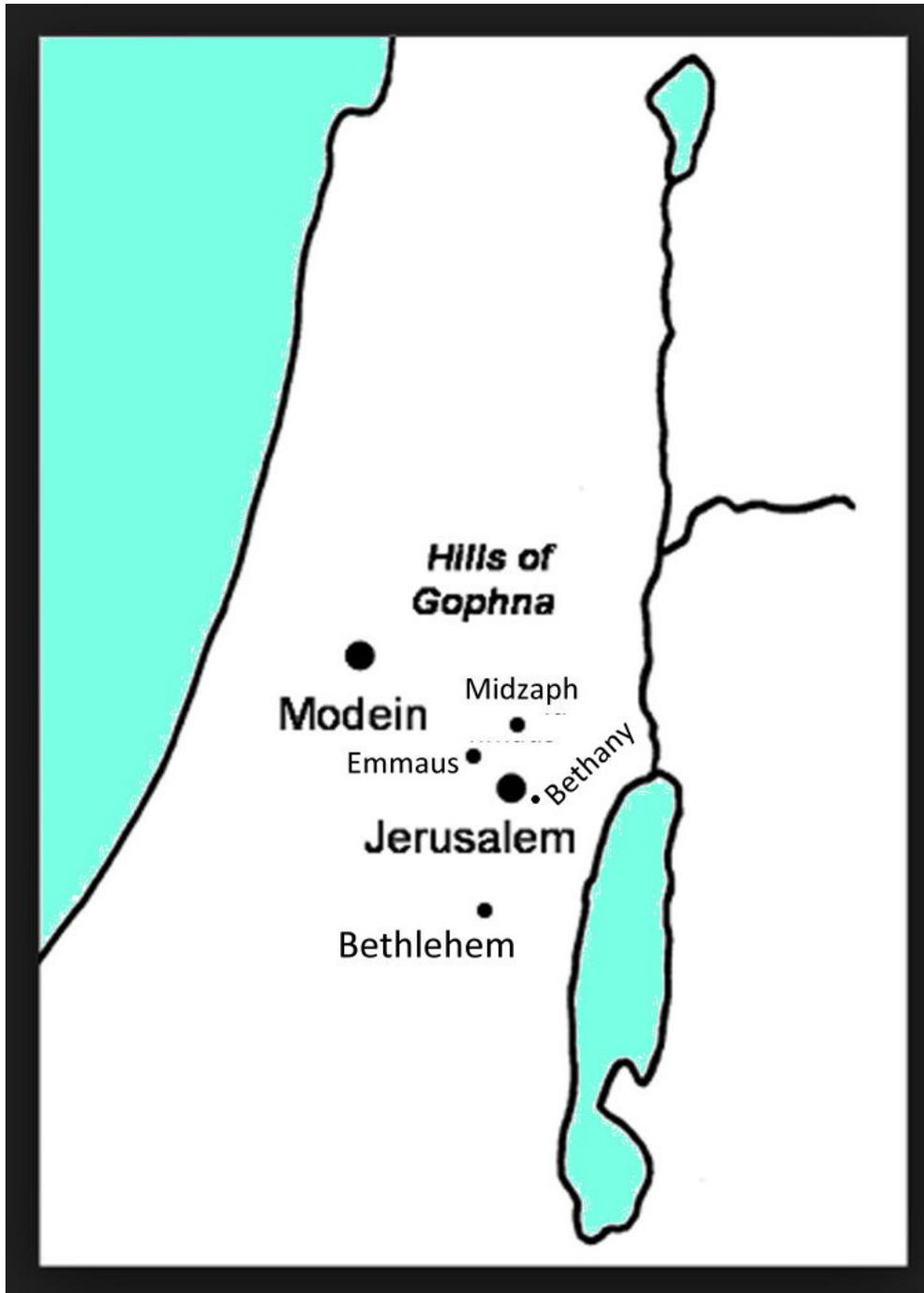
THOUGH ALL THE NATIONS THAT ARE UNDER THE KING’S DOMINION OBEY HIM, AND FALL AWAY EVERY ONE FROM THE RELIGION OF THEIR FATHERS, AND GIVE CONSENT TO HIS COMMANDMENTS: 20 YET WILL I AND MY SONS AND MY BRETHREN WALK IN THE COVENANT OF OUR FATHERS. 21 GOD FORBID THAT WE SHOULD FORSAKE THE LAW AND THE ORDINANCES. 22 WE WILL NOT HEARKEN TO THE KING’S WORDS, TO GO FROM OUR RELIGION, EITHER ON THE RIGHT HAND, OR THE LEFT]

Fearing violence against the people for Mattathias' refusal, another Jew volunteered to offer the sacrifices to the pagan gods in the place of Mattathias, but Mattathias killed this Jewish man, as well as the soldiers of the king. He then destroyed the altar to the pagan gods, after which he, his sons, and a number of followers fled to the mountainous wilderness. These men formed a large, guerrilla warfare army and soon began to launch raids against the towns of the land, tearing down the pagan altars, killing the officials of Antiochus, and also executing those Jews who were worshipping the pagan gods.

Mattathias died in 166 bc, just as the revolt was gaining momentum, leaving his son **Judas** in charge of the rebel forces. Even though greatly outnumbered, Judas and his rebels defeated general after general in battle, winning decisive victories against overwhelming odds. The rebels even won a tremendous victory south of **Mizpah** against a combined army of 50,000 troops. The people of Israel gave Judas the nickname "**Maccabeus**" because of his success in "**hammering**" the enemy forces into the ground.

Antiochus, who had underestimated the scope of the revolt, now realized the serious nature of the rebellion in Palestine. He dispatched Lysias, the commander-in-chief of the Seleucid army, along with 60,000 infantrymen and 5,000 cavalry, **to utterly destroy the Jews**. This vast army was additionally commanded by two generals serving under **Lysias—Nicanor and Gorgias**. This powerful army came against Judas, who fought with a force of only 10,000 poorly

equipped rebels, in the town of **Emmaus**. He prayed to God for strength and deliverance (1 Maccabees 4:30–33), and God answered and they won a huge victory over the Seleucid army.



Emmaus (Greek: Ἐμμαούς, Latin: *Emmaus*, Hebrew: חמַת *Hammat*, meaning "warm spring") was an ancient town located approximately 7 miles (11 km) northwest of present day Jerusalem. The New Testament reports that Jesus appeared before two of his followers on the road to Emmaus after his resurrection

[his prayer: 4:50-54

50 Then cried they with a loud voice toward heaven, saying, What shall we do with these, and whither shall we carry them away?

51 For thy sanctuary is trodden down and profaned, and thy priests are in heaviness, and brought low.

52 And, lo, the heathen are assembled together against us to destroy us: what things they imagine against us, thou knowest.

53 How shall we be able to stand against them, except thou, O God, be our help?

54 Then sounded they with trumpets, and cried with a loud voice]

Subsequently, the Maccabees marched into Jerusalem, cleansed the temple, and resumed traditional Jewish religious practices. The festival of Hanukkah commemorates the cleansing and rededication of the Jewish temple. Judah's brother, Jonathan became the new high priest after the rededication of the temple and ultimately succeeded Judah as commander of the army. His brother Simon assumed control from 142 to 135 bc, followed by Simon's son, **John Hyrcanus**. With the death of

Simon, the last son of Mattathias, the Maccabean Revolt came to an end.”

6. **Hanukkah** The cleansing of the temple and end of foreign rule has been celebrated by the Jewish festival **Hanukkah** meaning “dedication” of the cleansed sanctuary, **Dec. 25 164 bc** dedication of lights, from **164 bc** until today.

7. **Historical record**

- a. First, of course, is the Bible, namely Book of Daniel
- b. Second is the books of Maccabees
- c. **First Maccabees**

The books of 1 and 2 Maccabees are early Jewish writings detailing the history of the Jews in the first century bc especially detailing the events we are studying in Dan. 8 and 11. The Biblical scholar and translator Jerome (c345-c419) (you can visit where he lived and studied until his death, in Bethlehem) Jerome thought people needed to know their history, so he included the Maccabees in the back of his bible, like we do maps. But unfortunately the Roman Catholic Church made them canonical, and therefore they are inserted in the RCC bible. Neither Protestants nor Jews consider them canonical—divinely inspired.

The books outline the history of the Maccabees, Jewish leaders

who led a rebellion of the Jews against the Seleucid Dynasty, especially or directly against Antiochus IV from 175 bc to 134 bc. The first book portrays the events by the Jews to regain their Jewish institutions and independence from Antiochus IV Epiphanes after his desecration of the Jewish temple.

The authors of both first and second Maccabees are unknown. The first book, written in Hebrew does not directly mention God or divine intervention. The second book has a more theological slant, advancing several non-biblical doctrines followed by the Roman Catholic Church. Such as prayers and sacrifices for the dead, Purgatory and masses for the dead. The book of 1 Maccabees was written in Hebrew and later translated into Greek. Scholars believe that the author was a Palestinian Jew who was intimately familiar with the events described. The author opposed the Hellenization of the Jews, which Antiochus was set on instituting. The author also supported and admired the Jewish Revolutionaries led by Judas Maccabeus and his brothers.

It is so important to God, that we understand what is going on that we have already noted this “despicable person” in Daniel 8. He was “the little horn” of Daniel 8: 9

But let’s read from verse 8

Then the male goat Alexander the Great *magnified himself exceedingly.* Conquering all around the Great Sea

But as soon as he was mighty, the large horn was broken; Alexander died just short of being 33 *and in its place* in Daniel 11:4 *though not to his own descendants there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven.* The four horns are the *four heads* of Daniel 7:6

and ***4 points of the compass in Daniel 11:4***

This is the division of Alexandrian kingdom by his 4 generals
Lysimachus Ruling Turkey and Asia Minor;
Cassander Controlled Macedonian
Ptolemy Ptolemy ruling Egypt in the South
Selucus Selucus ruling Syria in the North

Daniel 8:9 *Out of one of them* these four generals *came forth a rather small horn* Antiochus IV, Epiphanes (175-163 bc) *which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Beautiful Land.* = Judea.

This little horn must not be confused with the little horn of Daniel 7:8 and Daniel 7:24-26. This little horn is the Anti-

Christ in The Tribulation.

But the little horn of chapter 8 comes up from one of the four horns of the third beast; that is he comes up from one of the dynasties of Alexandria's empires.—Antiochus IV Epiphanes. And while they are different, this little horn will act much like the little horn at the end of The Tribulation. They are both similar in their idolatry and desecration of the Temple in Jerusalem. Both are determined to stamp out all Jews (Daniel 11:21-35) and establish a world government under their rule. This has been Satan's 'lust' since the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11.

His design in every head of the Seven Headed Dragon: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome 1 and Rome 2.

Daniel 8:10 *It grew up to the host of heaven and caused some of the host and some of the stars to fall to the earth, and it trampled them down.* These are identified in *Daniel 8:24 He will destroy mighty men and the holy people* which refers to Spiritual leaders and believing Jews.

Daniel 8:11 It Antiochus Epiphanes IV *even magnified itself*

to be equal with the Commander of the host; this is the Lord Jesus Christ; by Antiochus IV taking the name *Ephipanes* which means *God Manifest*, he sought to make himself equal with Jesus Christ. This has always been Satan's objective—to be equal if not greater than Jesus Christ.

and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down.

You will recall that Antiochus IV in 167 entered the Temple of Jerusalem and took all the sacred items out of the temple and installed Abomination of Desolation—that is a statute of the Sun God which resembled himself, and then offered pigs (unclean animal) on the altar on 25 December.

The Sanctuary was not completely torn down but since it was so polluted and desecrated that when the Syrian army was driven out by Judas Maccaheus, they completely rebuilt the sanctuary and the altar of burnt offering and then celebrated 'Hanukkah' celebration of lights

12 *And on account of transgression the host* of God's chosen people will *be given over to the horn* over to the viciousness of Antiochus IV *along with the regular sacrifice;* Antiochus took away their sacrifices and feast, and *it* the Little horn-Antiochus IV *will fling truth to the ground*

the truth that Israel was supposed to be spreading *and perform its will* over the Jews, to do whatever he wishes *and prosper*. He will become great in this area of the Great Sea (Mediterranean)

NOW WE HAVE THE CRY BY THE PEOPLE OF DANIEL.

13 *Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to that particular one who was speaking, “How long will the vision about the regular sacrifice apply, sacrifice being discontinued while the transgression causes horror, so as to allow both the holy place Temple of Jerusalem and the host Daniel’s people, the Jews to be trampled?”*

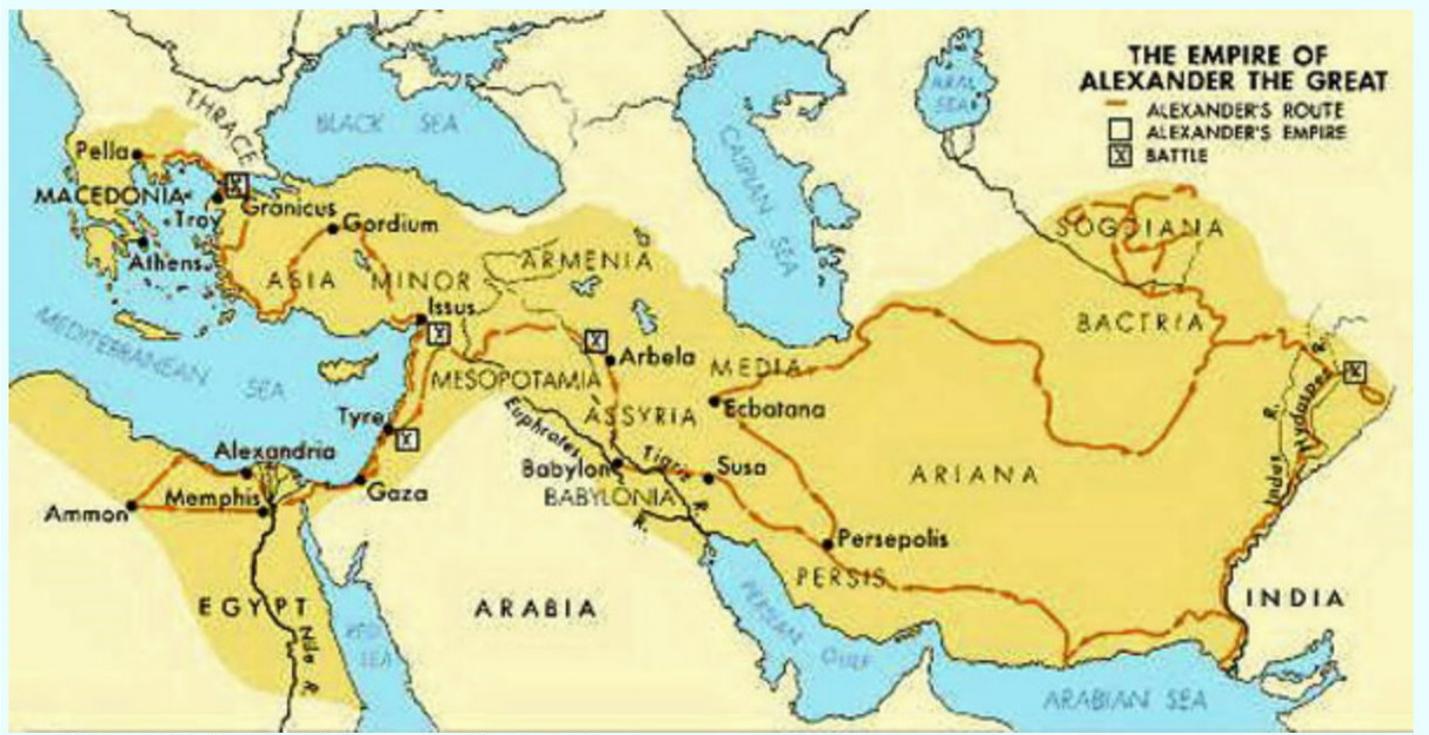
Warning:

I wonder how long we will be allowed to teach the Word of God in truth?

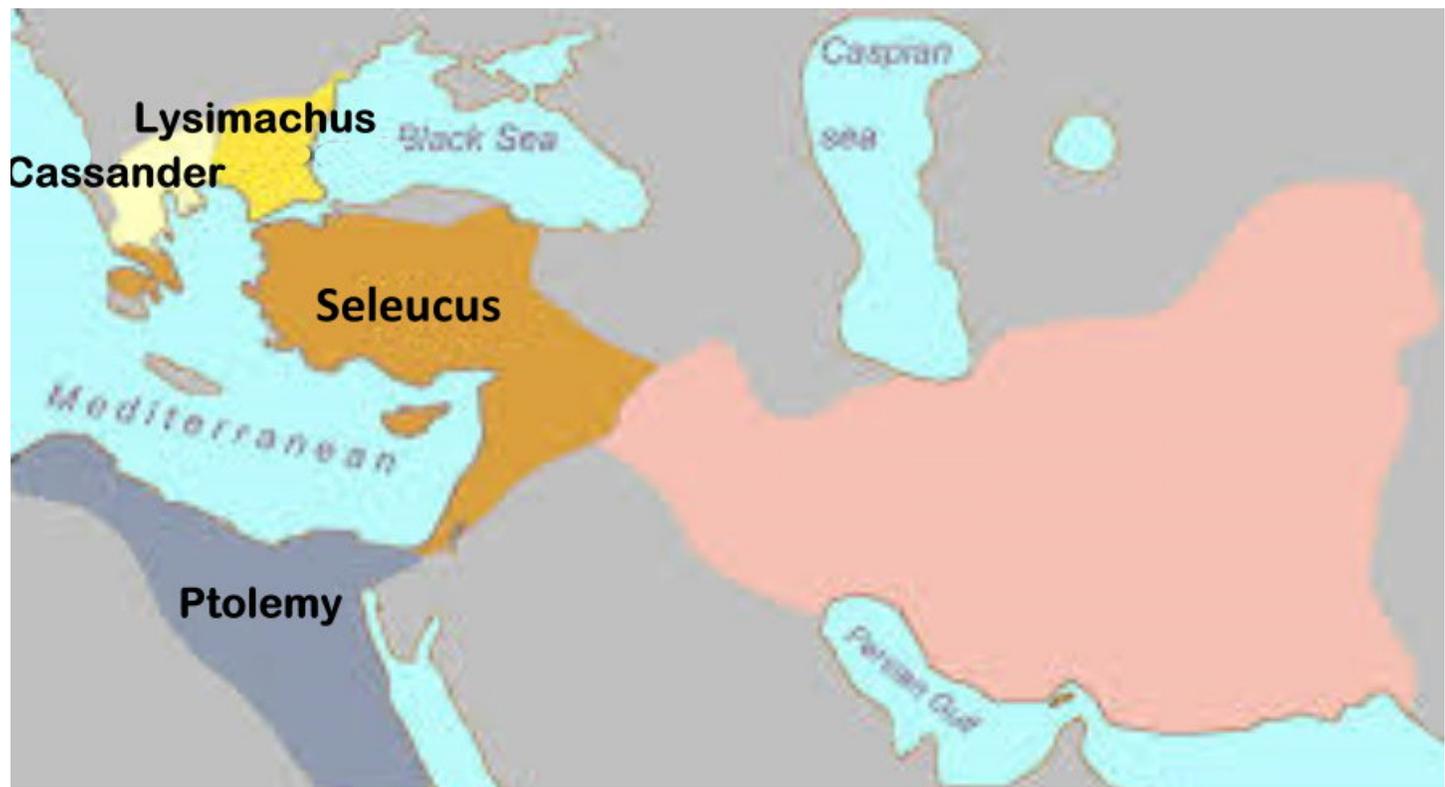
So few in America desire the grinding of verse by verse teaching of His Word, until this freedom is taken away?

You better learn the Word of God while you have the freedom and a few teachers across this country who study and rightly divide the Holy Scriptures.

*Ancient Maps of the
Alexandrian and Post-Alexandrian Era
are found on the next page.*



Alexander Greco-Macedonian Empire Map



Always Remember - God Is In Control