

The Background of the New Testament

by Wayne Goff

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Alexander the Great defeated the Medo-Persian Empire, and thus subdued the regions of Asia Minor, Syria, Egypt, Persia, and western India by 324 B.C.

In Alexander's army, men from every part of the Greek world met, and their dialects were fused into a common Greek which pervaded the Middle East.

The resulting Greek culture was planted throughout Alexander's Empire, who wished to unite the Occident and the Orient.

The Hellenistic Culture is seen in Acts 6:1; 9:29 and 11:20 when Luke mentions "*Hellenists*," or Greek-speaking Hebrews. Paul identifies himself as a "*Hebrew of the Hebrews*" (Phil. 3:5) which suggests that he was a Hebrew who could still speak the Hebrew language, among other things. It would seem to suggest that the more strict Jewish cults viewed the "*Hellenists*" a bit more dimly than the rest. Go back and read the Acts references and see if it is not reflected therein.

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