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*"After this I beheld, and lo another [beast], like a leopard . . . the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it" (Daniel 7:6).*

## 16. Greece, the Third World Empire

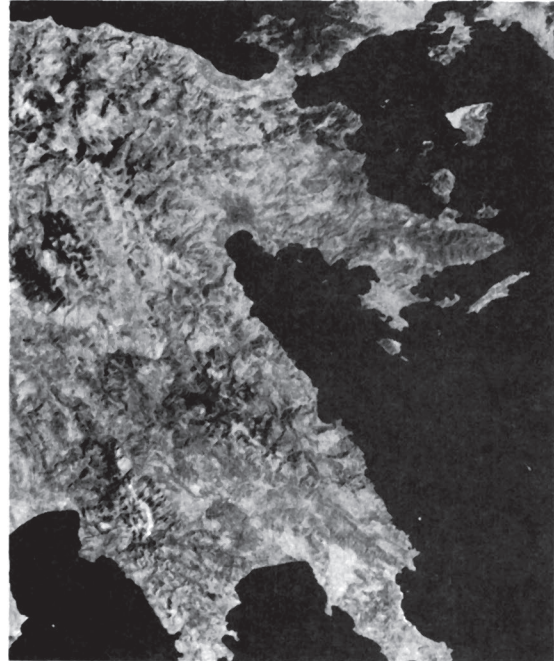


So far we have studied about 3,500 years of history. This is over half the time from the beginning of history until now. Yet all of what we have studied centered around a very small portion of the earth. So far we have explored Egypt, Palestine, the land of the Hittites, Mesopotamia, and Persia.

The small portion of the earth we have studied about covers a radius of only about 500-600 miles. We sometimes call this area the **cradle of civilization** since here is where men first lived. From here they spread over the whole earth.

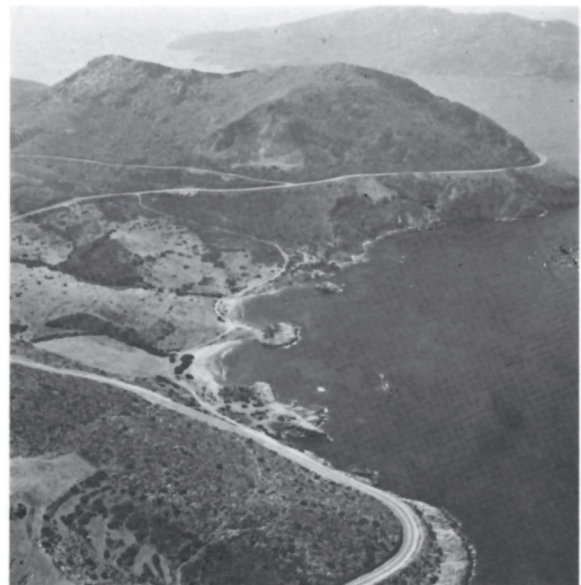
In this chapter we will begin to spread out in our study of history. We will not travel very far from Mesopotamia in this section. We will go a little farther in the next section.

If you were in an airplane flying from Mesopotamia to the northwest, you would first see the rugged mountains of Asia Minor. You remember them as the homeland of the fierce Hittites.



Above is a view from space of a section of Greece's rugged coastline. Below is a close-up air view showing a rugged coastal bay.

Nikos Kontos



To the south of Asia Minor's rugged mountains you might be able to see a ribbon of blue along the horizon. This is the Mediterranean Sea or the "Great Sea," as some of the ancients called it. You remember the Phoenicians who sailed this sea in search of wealth.

The plane crosses the western tip of Asia Minor. Below and to the northwest you can see dozens of little mountainous islands. You can also see another mass of land, which is Greece, in the distance to the northwest. The body of water between Asia Minor and Greece is the Aegean (i JEE uhn) Sea.

On the other side of the Aegean lies a long and very mountainous peninsula named Greece. Greece is only the southern end of a longer peninsula called the Balkan (BAWL kuhn) Peninsula. The Balkan Peninsula dips down in the Mediterranean Sea from the continent of Europe.

The Aegean Sea and Greece will be our first places to visit in the continent of Europe.

No one knows when the first settlers came to Europe. Perhaps it was around 2000 B.C. They came from Mesopotamia, probably through Asia Minor. They crossed into Europe from northern Asia Minor. On the map on page 169 you can find this place where Asia Minor comes very close to Europe. Only a narrow strip of water separates the two. This strip connects the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea.

A narrow strip of water like this between land is called a **strait**. The strait where Asia Minor is closest to Europe is called the Bosphorus (BAHS puh ruhs). Another strait just to the southwest leads to the Aegean Sea. This used to be called

the Hellespont (HEL uh spahnt). Today it is called the Dardanelles (dahrd uhn ELZ).

The first settlers to Europe probably crossed the Bosphorus. We met these people in the last section. They were called Indo-Europeans. Do you remember why they had that name?

## CRETE—THE BRIDGE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

Our first visit to Europe is a stopover to visit the island of Crete. Crete is larger than any of the Aegean Islands. It is just south of the Aegean Sea. The waters between Crete and the Aegean Islands are called the Sea of Crete. Crete is about 156 miles long and from 7 to 30 miles wide. This island is sometimes called the land bridge from Asia to Europe.

There are a number of ruined cities on the island. The most impressive one is the capital of ancient Crete, Knossos (NAHS uhs).

Let's imagine for a moment that we have gone back over 3,500 years ago to the days of Moses. We no longer stand among scattered ruins, but in a beautiful city of stone buildings.

The first Cretans came from Asia Minor by ship. They became pros-

Ancient Crete. Knossos, the capital of ancient Crete, was near the island's northern coast. Crete is about 156 miles long and from 7 to 30 miles wide.







Photo by Ph. Tselentis, offered by National Tourist Organization of Greece

A section of the temple ruins at Knossos, capital of ancient Crete.

perous many years before the days of Abraham. Most of their trade was with the Egyptians. In Knossos you see many things to remind you of Egypt.

Cretans dress much like the Egyptians. They wear fancy clothes made of fine linen. Many of their tools and household implements are from Egypt.

Egyptian traders and artists are busy in Knossos teaching the people how to make beautiful cloth, pottery, and other items.

High on a hill at Knossos is the great palace of Minos (MY nuhs). Cretans believe that a god king named Minos built this palace many years ago. They think that Minos is a son of one of the gods. They believe that he is the founder of their race.

The huge palace covers more than six acres or over 260,000 square feet. Parts of the palace are two stories high. However, few buildings are built in stories.

We walk into the palace from the main entrance. It faces north. We are now standing in a court about 200 feet long and 85 feet wide. Our eyes fall on the beautiful paintings on the walls. They show scenes of Cretan life. Chariot races, trading, and items made in Crete are the subjects of the paintings.

Dozens of palace rooms surround the main court. The palace is almost like a little town under one roof. There is one room with an olive oil press; others contain workshops and schoolrooms. There are even indoor bathrooms!

In some ways the palace is almost "modern." The palace has running water. Gravity pulls water from springs high on the hill down to the lowest rooms in the palace. The toilets are even flushable. Open a valve and water rushes down through pipes. One bathroom contains a small ivory bathtub made just for a child. There are several large bathtubs too.

**Cretans—A Busy People.** Cretans were a busy trading people. They were not content to stay on their island. They often traveled to other places hundreds of miles away. Their ships carried them south to Egypt and north to the southern shores of Greece.

In Greece, the Cretans built cities. They taught the people who lived there many of their ways. Today this group of people on Crete and in southern Greece are known as Minoans (muh NOH uhns). Why do you think they have this name?

A sample of the colorful art found on palace walls at Knossos, Crete.



**A New People Take Over.** Around 1400 B.C., soon after the Hebrews came back from Egypt, a new group of people invaded Minoan lands. These were Indo-Europeans who came from the northern part of Greece. These people conquered the Minoans and built their own cities. Their chief city was Mycenae (my SEE nee). We call these people Mycenaeans (my suh NEE uhns).

The Mycenaeans were very uncivilized when compared with the Minoans. It would be hundreds of years before Greece or Crete would again know a people so intelligent as the Minoans.

Though the Mycenaeans did adopt some of the ways of the Minoans, they were not so intelligent.

## **TROY—A LEGEND DUG UP**

Several hundred years after the days of the Mycenaeans, about 800 B.C., there lived a Greek poet named Homer. He sang of the adventures of the Mycenaeans of long ago. He told tales of superhuman things some of those people did. For a long time no one believed that any of his tales were based on things that really happened. A young German who lived during the 1800's named Heinrich Schliemann (HYN rik SHLEE mahn) refused to believe that all of Homer's tales were imaginary.

During his boyhood, Schliemann decided that he wanted to go to Greece to find some of the places Homer talked about in his poems. He worked hard to make enough money to go. When he became older, he made a fortune selling indigo, a blue dye for cloth.

He was able to collect enough money to go to Greece and to take a group of archaeologists with him!



Ruins from the southern Greek city of Mycenae. This is Mycenae's famous Lion Gate. The palace of the king and queen stood inside the walls.

Schliemann decided to search first for an ancient city called Troy. Many people believed there had been no such place. They thought Homer had made up stories about this place.

Schliemann thought the most logical place to start digging was in a tell on the west coast of Asia Minor. Natives of the area had long claimed that this tell was the legendary city of Troy.

What did the archaeologists find? Not just one city, but many buried on top of each other. They found one layer with pottery which showed that it was about as old as the Troy Homer wrote about. This city had been burned, for the layer contained many ashes. Homer said that the Greeks had burned Troy.

We do not know how many of Homer's tales about Troy were true, but we know now that the city did exist.

A drawing of the ruins of Troy excavated by Heinrich Schliemann, a German archaeologist. Schliemann refused to believe that Troy was just a myth. He proved the existence of the city.

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## THE TROJAN HORSE

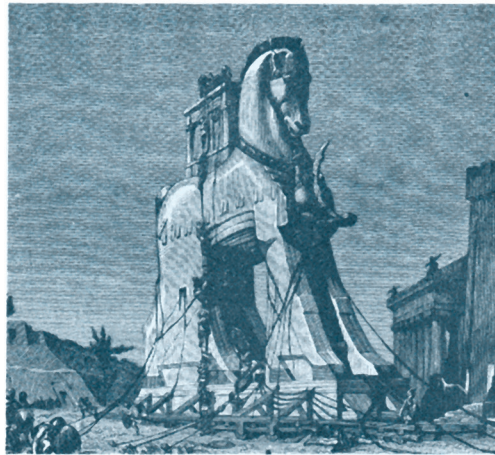
One of Homer's most interesting stories about Troy was the story of the wooden horse. This could have really happened.

A prince from Troy journeyed to southern Greece to a city called Sparta. He captured the wife of the king of Sparta. The angry Spartans set out to capture their queen from Troy.

The Spartans enlisted help from other Greek cities. A large Greek army landed on the coast near Troy. The Greeks could not take the city because of its strong walls.

The Trojans held their city for ten years. Finally the Greeks decided on a solution to the long war.

Hurriedly the Greeks built a gigantic wooden horse. They finished it off with a trapdoor in its side. Dozens of Greek warriors climbed inside the horse. The Greeks stationed their "Trojan horse" outside the city and sailed their ships out of sight of Troy.



At first the Trojans were afraid to bother the horse for fear it would bring them bad luck. But one lone soldier left by the Greeks convinced the Trojans that the Greek soldiers had given up. He claimed they left the horse for a peace offering.

With great joy the Trojans threw open their city gates. It was the first time they had been open in ten years! They dragged the horse in, tearing down part of the wall to get it in.

The Trojans feasted and celebrated until late that night. Finally they went to sleep. The Greek soldiers in the horse quietly unbolted the trap door hinges and slipped noiselessly to the ground. They set fire to the city.

Greek ships soon returned bringing more warriors to help destroy Troy. They burned the city to the ground.

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**A Land of Wars.** One surprising thing about the Trojan War is that the people of Troy were from Greece. Yet other Greeks from Sparta destroyed their city.

The Trojan War was not unusual for Greece. All through their early history, the Greeks fought each

other. They never learned to get along with each other until other nations conquered them. Then they were forced to live at peace with each other.

**The Dark Ages in Greece.** Soon after the Trojan War another wave of

Indo-Europeans swept down into Greece. These were the Dorians (DOHR ee uhnz). They cared very little for the cities and the civilized ways of the Mycenaeans. They had little time for beautiful artwork and beautiful buildings.

From about 1000 B.C. to around 700 B.C. the Dorians ruled in Greece. Few new buildings or cities were built. Many people forgot how to write. There was no trading with the outside world.

These years are called the Dark Ages of Greece. We know of very few artifacts from that age except some pottery with painted wavy lines. Here is a drawing of some of this pottery.

Pottery from Greece's Dark Ages was painted with beautiful yet simple designs like this.



### Reviewing

### What You Have Learned:

1. Where is the Aegean Sea? Where is Greece?
2. What large peninsula is Greece part of?
3. From where did the first settlers in Europe come?
4. How did the first settlers in Europe probably get there?
5. What is a strait? Name two straits.
6. What is Crete sometimes called?
7. What was the capital of ancient Crete?



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A peaceful scene of sheep grazing in the Greek countryside. Sheep have long been popular in Greece for their meat, milk, and wool.

8. Tell what you know about the Palace of Minos. How was it almost "modern"?
9. Who were the Minoans? Where did they live?
10. Who were the Mycenaeans? From where did they come?
11. Who was Homer? What kind of stories did he tell?
12. How did Heinrich Schliemann find Troy?
13. What was the Trojan horse?
14. Why did the ancient Greeks have so many wars among themselves?



### The Bible Speaks:

1. The Bible shows us that man was very intelligent from the beginning of history. What indication do you find of this in Genesis 2:19-20? How does the story of the Cretans show that man was very intelligent early in his history?
2. Evolutionists tell us man began as an ignorant animal. They claim he has gradually improved himself and the way he lives. They think too that man has been improving the way he does things. How does II Timothy 3:13 show this is false? How does the history of ancient Greece show too that this is a false teaching? Think of the Minoans, the Mycenaeans, and the Dorians.
3. Read James 4:1-2. Why is there so much fighting and war?



## GREECE—LAND OF MAN-MADE GODS AND MYTHS

The Indo-European settlers in early Greece brought their religion of many false gods with them. These gods were supposedly gods of nature. The Greeks imagined their gods had a beginning, for no Greek knew about the true God who had no beginning. They also could not imagine someone who did not make mistakes. Therefore their gods could do wrong just like people. The Greeks did imagine that their gods could live forever. God had created man in His own image, but the Greeks were expert at creating their false gods in their own image.

Each new group of invaders in Greece brought new gods with them. As time went on, there were more and more false gods to worship. Probably no Greek could have told you how many of these gods his kinspeople worshiped.

The stories about the Greek gods and goddesses are called myths. A myth is a story that people make up to try to explain something they do not understand. There was a myth to explain how man was created, how sin entered the world, how various kinds of trees and plants came into existence.

Here is a myth the Greeks told about a flood that destroyed mankind.

### DEUCALION RIDES OUT A FLOOD

Long ago, during the Iron Age, men became very wicked. The king of the gods, Zeus (ZOOS), set out to stop this wickedness. He decided to destroy the human race.

Zeus gathered the rain clouds, for he was the storm god, and called on Poseidon (puh SYD uhn), god of the sea, to send the oceans, seas, and rivers to cover the earth. Of all the people that lived on earth, only Deucalion (dyu KAYL yuhn) and his wife Pyrrha (PIR uh) remained alive.

Prometheus (proh MEE thyuhs), man's creator, had warned the two of the coming flood. He instructed them to build themselves a chest large enough to hold themselves and a good food supply.

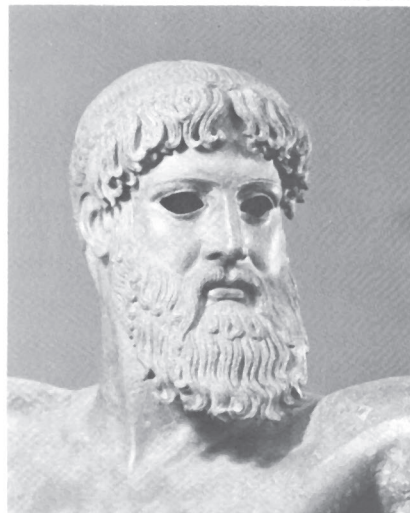
When the flood began to subside, the chest came to rest on the summit of a mountain. The couple were happy to step out onto land again. But they were very lonesome, for there were no other people on earth. A god instructed them to throw stones over their shoulders. Each stone they threw turned into a person to help repopulate the earth.



The Greek goddess Hera. Greek women worshiped her as the goddess of marriage and childbirth. Hera was supposed to be the wife of Zeus, king of the gods. The Greeks and Romans pictured this goddess as a very immoral woman.

The Greek god Zeus. Greeks worshiped him as king of all gods. Zeus was cruel and wicked, even worse than the people who worshiped him.

Nikos Kontos



Compare this flood story with the Babylonian one on page 73. How are the two similar? How does the Greek story compare with the Bible account of the Flood?

You have learned that the chief Greek god was Zeus. The Greeks believed he was father of all other gods. The sun god was Apollo. They believed the sun rising and setting each day was Apollo riding across the sky in his fiery chariot.

Young men worshiped Apollo as the god of manly strength and beauty. One of the main goddesses was Diana. She was a moon goddess. She was also the special goddess who was believed to watch over young girls.

**Land of City-States.** About 700 B.C. a new time of prosperity began in Greece. The 300 years called the “Dark Ages” of Greek history had finally ended. Greeks again started to build new cities and to trade with other nations.

Greece in 700 B.C. could not be called a nation. Why? For hundreds of years from 700 B.C. on there was no such thing as an overall Greek government.

Each city in Greece had its own government. The city also ruled the people who lived in the countryside around the city. This kind of government is called a **city-state**. Here is a map of some of the most important Greek city-states.

There were hundreds of city-states in ancient Greece. Each one was like a separate little country. There was no capital city, and no king or president for all of Greece.

Some city-states, of course, had more land or more wealth than others. Sometimes a strong, wealthy city-state asked other city-states to help fight off enemies. These city-

states became helpful friends or **allies**. In ancient Greece, a strong city-state and its allies were called a **league**.

We will study the two most famous Greek city-states. They were Sparta and Athens. Both cities were in southern Greece. They were only about 100 miles apart. But you will see that they were very different cities.

## SPARTA—LAND OF WARRIORS

On the map of Greece, find the triangle-shaped peninsula at the southern tip of Greece. This peninsula is the Peloponnesus (pel uh puh NEE suhs). Find the city of Sparta near the southern end of the Peloponnesus.

The best way to learn about Sparta is to study the education each boy received. We will visit a twelve-year-old Spartan boy as he trains for the time he will be a man. We will call him Telemachus (tee LEM uh kuhs).

Ancient Greece and its city-states. Each city-state was like a separate little country. Greece had no capital city and no king or president for the entire country.





Telemachus lived in a crowded frame building with twenty other boys about his own age. His group or pack had a few older boys as leaders.

Telemachus had not lived at home since he was seven years old. At age seven he had to leave his mother and his younger brothers and sisters. Every Spartan boy had to grow up in a pack.

Each boy had to take care of himself as best he could. One of the first things Telemachus had to do when he joined the pack was to find something to sleep on. He and some other boys went down to the Eurotas (yu ROHT uhs) River to break off reeds to sleep on. When



The remaining columns of a Greek temple. Like this ruined temple, all man's efforts to make and to worship false gods will end in ruin.

their reed mats got old, they had to go break more reeds.

The only food Telemachus had was a bad-tasting, black-colored wheat porridge. This was hardly enough for a growing young boy.

The pack leader told the boys to go steal food from farms out in the country if they were hungry for more than porridge.

Anybody caught stealing food had a terrible beating waiting him. Older boys gave the beatings. The beating wasn't for stealing, but because the boy had not been sneaky enough!

One afternoon Telemachus was returning from stealing some figs at a nearby farm. Out behind the dormitory where he lived he heard the sound of a whip. Snap, snap, crack!

He shuddered because he knew that he would soon get a beating, even if he did not get caught stealing.

Sometimes men or older boys would tie younger boys to a stake. They then beat them with whips to see how much they could stand. If the boy cried out in pain, everybody made fun of him, calling him "coward" and "sissy." Some boys died under the cruel lashes rather than cry out.

In a way Telemachus would be glad when he became a man and could go off to war. Certainly this would not be any worse than the beatings and living in the dormitory.

The story of Telemachus shows how cruel and hard-hearted the Spartans were. Every boy had to suffer the same rough life.

Why all the rough training? All Spartan men were trained to be fierce fighters. Sparta was nearly always at war with other states or nations.

The cry, "The Spartans are coming," struck terror into the hearts of

everyone else in Greece.

Spartans never learned about love and kindness. All they knew was *hate*, *steal* and *kill*. Spartan soldiers were the roughest and toughest soldiers in Greece.

Spartan children knew only cruelty from birth to adulthood. When a boy was born in Sparta, one of the first questions anyone asked was, "Does he look strong enough to

grow up to be a good fighter?”

The leaders of Sparta, the **Ephors** (EF urz), looked each baby over. If he was too small or frail, his father had to take him to the Taygetus (tay IJ uh tuhs) Mountains west of Sparta. There the father left his son to die.

If a boy survived to manhood, he had to move into special dormitories for men. At age 30 the law required him to get married. He could not live with his wife. He could only visit her once in a while. Spartan husbands did not love their wives. Love and kindness were unmanly, they thought.

A Spartan citizen could not work at a job for money. They believed that the only “good” occupation was being a soldier.

Since Spartans did not work, they had to get food and houses from someone else. Thousands of slaves lived in Sparta. They had to do just about everything for the Spartans. These slaves were called Helots (HEL uhts).

Even women and girls in Sparta had to learn how to fight. Their city might be invaded sometime. Girls could stay home with their mothers. But they played rough games much like the boys did.

Most of the women of Sparta

loved Sparta even more than their own children. There is a story about a Spartan mother who had just heard that her son had been killed in war. She answered the messenger, “It doesn’t matter about my son. What I want to know is, did Sparta win?”

To the Spartans, people were no better than animals. They believed it was right to murder their own children to help make Sparta a stronger city.

The Spartans did not respect human life as the Hebrews did. The commandments of God taught the Hebrews to love their children and their neighbors. His laws helped the Hebrews live better lives than the Canaanites, Spartans, and other ancient people.

At this time in history, the Hebrews were again living in their homeland after centuries of wars and years of deportation to Babylon. Most of the Hebrews had learned their lesson that idol worship would lead to their downfall.

In early Greek times, many Hebrews sincerely worshiped God and shunned heathen customs and gods. Others were not really obedient to the commands in God’s Word though they did avoid idol worship.

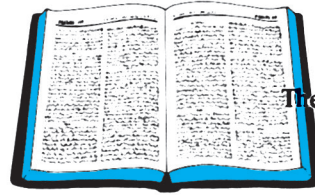


A view of Mount Olympus where the ancient Greeks imagined their gods lived. This mountain was always shrouded in clouds or mist, making it easier for the people to imagine its top as the realm of the gods. Read Psalm 148:13. How high is our God’s glory?





## Reviewing What You Have Learned:



## The Bible Speaks:

1. What is a city-state?
  2. City-states that became helpful friends of other city-states were \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. A group of city-states which helped each other fight off enemies were called \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. Where is the Peloponnesus?
  5. Where is Sparta?
  6. At what age did the Spartans take boys away from their homes? Why?
  7. Why were boys punished when they were caught stealing?
  8. For what two reasons could a boy receive a beating?
  9. Who were the Ephors? Name one cruel thing they did.
  10. Why could the Spartans not have jobs?
  11. Who were the Helots? What did they do?
  12. What did Spartan women and girls learn to do?
  13. What attitude did Spartans have toward human life? How was the Hebrew attitude toward life better?
1. Read the last six of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. Which of these did the Spartans disobey? Do you think they obeyed the first four?
  2. Why did the Hebrews not train their young men like the Spartans did? Find some reasons in Deuteronomy 6:5-7.
  3. If Telemachus had been a Hebrew boy in Palestine, what punishment might he have received for stealing? Why? Read Leviticus 6:2-7.
  4. Why is it wrong to take children away from their parents? Read Ephesians 6:1-4.
  5. Study I Peter 3:7. The word "dwell" means "to live with." What are Christian husbands told to do in this verse that Spartan husbands did not do?
  6. Spartans depended on well-trained warriors to defend their land. Read Deuteronomy 1:28-33 to find out what the Hebrews were to depend on for protection against enemies. What did you find?

## ATHENS—CITY OF LEARNING AND BEAUTY

About 100 miles northeast of Sparta lies the peninsula of Attica (AT i kuh). On the southern shores of Attica is the city of Athens. Athens is the most famous city in all Greece.

Photo by N. Kontos, offered by National Tourist Organization of Greece



Athens got its name from the Greek goddess of war, Athena. Athenian citizens believed that Athena protected their city from enemies and brought prosperity.

Life was much happier in ancient Athens than in Sparta. Families stayed together. Young boys did not have to suffer beatings or learn to steal and kill.

We will take a look at life in Athens during the time of its greatest prosperity. This golden age of Athens was around 400 B.C.

A view of the modern city of Athens, Greece.