

On Alexander the Great

Although he did not acknowledge the one true and living God, God was going to use him, like Cyrus before him, to bring about his purposes. The short but effective work of Alexander was going to pave the way for the gospel message some 200 years later. Because of Alexander's conquest of so many countries, Greek culture would become the main influence in the whole Mediterranean area. Greek would be the universal language used by all the educated people in each country, and Alexander would pave the way for the Romans to build their long, straight and safe roads linking the whole empire together. All of these things would contribute to a rapid spread of the gospel in the early Christian era. The New Testament was written in Greek, it was easy for people to move from one country to another because there were no frontiers in the Roman Empire, and the good roads made for rapid communications between towns.¹

New Testament Reflection

Read Matthew 11:20-24 and Matthew 15:21-28 and in light of the current passage, how do we understand these references to Tyre and Sidon? Are they both positive? Negative?

¹ Michael Bentley, [*Building for God's Glory: Haggai and Zechariah Simply Explained*](#), Welwyn Commentary Series (Darlington, England: Evangelical Press, 1989), 168.