



## **ANSWER GUIDE**

### **Ancient: Episode 4**

Roots of Democracy

#### **Discussion Questions and Answers**

1. How were stories like the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* passed down from one storyteller to the next?

*Oral tradition: a technique where people memorize vast stories and collective histories.*

2. What are some of the accomplishments of Alexander the Great?

*Alexander's lifelong obsession was to deal a 'death blow' to the Persian Empire, but that quickly grew into a desire to conquer vast expanses of land. He conquered territories across Asia Minor, uprooted the Persian army stationed there, and captured all the coastal towns where Persia might attempt to establish reinforcements. He defeated King Darius in the city of Issus, captured a key coastal port of Tyre on the Phoenician coast of Syria, was welcomed as a liberator in Jerusalem, and conquered Egypt with practically no opposition. In 331 BC, Alexander the Great crossed the Euphrates into Mesopotamia and defeated King Darius for a second and final time. He then overthrew what are now the countries of Iran and Afghanistan, and finally, he crossed the border into India.*

3. Why was the Oracle at Delphi famous across the ancient world?

*It was believed that the Oracle at Delphi could fall into a trance and recite incredible prophecies. The Oracle was known across the globe: rulers, princes, generals, and citizens from cultures around the ancient world flocked to the Oracle to request her mystic revelations, lavishing her with gold, silver, and other treasures.*

4. Who “translated” the Oracle at Delphi’s babblings?

*The Oracle of Apollo, a priest, would “translate” the Oracle at Delphi’s nonsensical babblings into poetry or prose. Though this material was usually ambiguous and obscure, it was held to be magically prophetic--especially if later events could be considered as a fulfillment of her blathering.*

5. What impact did Greek culture have on the territories that Alexander the Great conquered?

*Greek culture, or Hellenism, spread and become deeply implanted in the regions conquered by Alexander the Great. Greek became the common language of the entire world. Mathematics, architecture, early science, government, art, and Greek philosophy began to unify the world like nothing else before. The true legacy of Alexander the Great was the spread of Greek culture, which became enormously influential in world history and a cornerstone of Western Civilization.*

6. Describe the encounter between the Oracle at Delphi and the Apostle Paul.

*The Oracle at Delphi is never explicitly mentioned in the Bible. There is an obscure clue in the Book of Acts Chapter 16, when the Apostle Paul and his companion Silas were in the region of Philippi. Acts tells us that a slave girl had a spirit through which she could predict the future and tell fortunes. She followed Paul and Silas for days, screaming: “These men are servants of the Most High God who proclaim to you a way of salvation.” However, she was referencing Zeus, not salvation through Jesus the Messiah, and Paul eventually became so perturbed by her attempts to associate the Gospel with her pagan deities that Acts 16:18 states he cast the evil spirit out of her in the name of Jesus. The spirit left her and she lost her ability to tell the future.*