

Athens and Sparta Lesson #1  
Why Study the Classics?

**Intro: The classics are wonderful. Ancient Greeks started philosophy which tried to figure out what is the "good" and is there a standard by which man can follow?**

**This was embodied in Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.**

- To learn about ourselves is a good beginning for contemplation.

**Lecture: Athens and Sparta were the two leading cities in classical Greece.**

- Classical means 'being of a certain class'. So what makes it unique?

- We are highly influenced by Athens and Jerusalem.

- They did something different and similar in those cities.

- Jerusalem said that there was one eternal God who was for every human being.

- Athens taught us that there is the highest good and that good is the highest form of human inquiry. Also the most urgent. This inquiry is for ALL humans.

- Greek classical world only lasted around 170 years, from Socrates to Aristotle.

- There is an ultimate standard for every person during any age.

- What is natural law?

- Where did the ideas of the opening of the Declaration of Independence come from?

- Discipline of History was born during classical period.

- Herodotus is the father of history. He wrote about the war against the Persians.

Learned a lot from that.

- War is very revealing and shows what a people really believes.

- The Greeks had a way of life and belief system that made them very good warriors.

What was that? When fighting the Persians, they couldn't match what the Greeks had.

- Athens and Sparta were two very different Greek cities. Athens had philosophy.

- Greatest achievements of Greek happened in a short period of 50 years e.g. Greek art and sculptures.

- Sparta was very different. They constantly trained as soldiers. Very well trained and extremely courageous.

- Greeks conquered the biggest power at that time.

- Spartans lived simply and lived for the society i.e. the Polis.

- They had a very strong feeling of kinship.

- When we study Athens and Sparta we'll learn something about human nature and where we came from.