

What is Hellenization?

(Compiled by ChatGPT)

Hellenization is the process of adopting **Greek language, culture, religion, and social practices**, especially in regions conquered or influenced by the Greeks — most notably after the conquests of **Alexander the Great** in the 4th century BCE.

Definition:

| **Hellenization** (from “Hellas,” the Greek word for Greece) is the spread of **Greek culture and influence** across non-Greek societies.

Key Features of Hellenization:

Aspect	What It Meant in Practice
Language	Greek became the dominant spoken and written language (esp. Koine Greek).
Education	Greek philosophy, rhetoric, and literature were taught in schools.
Religion	Local gods were merged with or replaced by Greek deities (syncretism).
Government	Cities adopted Greek-style political institutions and architecture.
Lifestyle	Use of gymnasiums, theaters, Greek dress, and customs spread widely.

Hellenization in Judea (under Antiochus IV Epiphanes):

- Greek **gymnasiums** were built in Jerusalem.
 - Jewish high priests were replaced by those loyal to Hellenistic ideals.
 - The **Temple was desecrated**: sacrifices to Zeus, and circumcision was outlawed.
 - Jews who resisted Hellenization were persecuted (see **1 & 2 Maccabees**).
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Why It Matters in Daniel & History:

- Hellenization under **Antiochus IV** led directly to the **Maccabean Revolt**.
 - The tension between **faithful Jewish identity** and **Greek assimilation** is central to understanding **Daniel 8**, **Daniel 11**, and intertestamental history.
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Desiring to live by every word that comes from the mouth of Jehovah (Deut8:3; Matt4:4)

-Sid Nash: 06/15/2025. Latest version: <https://sidnash.org/docs/Hellenization.html>