



The Powers of Mesopotamia
c. 689-612 B.C. The Assyrians were feared for their military power. Under cruel dictators, their armies included horses and chariots, battering rams and catapults. Among their leaders were Sennacherib and Ashurbanipal. The Babylonians were more cultural, producing great mathematicians, ziggurats, and impressive clay statues. Both powers struggled over the Mesopotamian region.



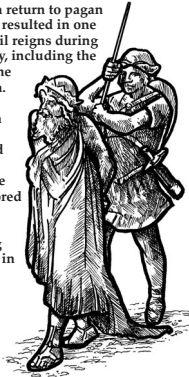
The Horatii & The Curiatii
c. 650 B.C. Due to the quarreling between Rome and Alba, the two kings agreed that instead of fighting with armies, they would elect three men each to fight. The Romans chose three brothers called the Horatii; the Albans chose three brothers called the Curiatii. After two Horatii were slain, the remaining brother cunningly separated the Curiatii, slaying all three and achieving victory for Rome.



Draco
c. 600 B.C. The first Athenian to codify the severe Athenian laws. The death penalty was prescribed for even the smallest offense, giving rise to the term "draconian" as an indication of ruthlessness. It is said that while at a theatre, the public saw him and threw their cloaks to him in honor. However, the mass of cloaks smothered him to death.

Manasseh

691 B.C. The son of Hezekiah and the king of Judah at age 12. Upon his father's death, advisors counseled that Manasseh return to pagan worship. This resulted in one of the most evil reigns during Judah's history, including the execution of the prophet Isaiah. While under affliction with the Assyrians, the Lord heard his humble prayer, forgave him, and restored the throne of Judah to him. His remaining life was spent in restoration to the Lord.



Nahum
660 B.C. A Hebrew prophet of the Old Testament during the reign of King Josiah who prophesied the fall of Nineveh.



Hulda
c. 600s B.C. A Prophetess of the Old Testament (*II Chron. 34:22-28 & II Kings 22:14-20*) who was used by King Josiah to verify the Book of the Law that was found in the Temple. Hulda's influence with the people allowed them to understand the book and improve their ways.



Zephaniah
c. 630 B.C. A Hebrew prophet of the Old Testament during the reign of King Josiah who preached to the people of Jerusalem and surrounding nations. His messages were of the hope of God's ultimate love for His people. He also prophesied the fall of Nineveh.



King Ashurbanipal
669-626 B.C. King of Assyria who, as a noted patron of literature and the arts, collected great libraries of literature. He strove to heighten Assyria's military power and culture.



King Josiah

640 B.C. A king of Judah whose reign began at age eight, and who sought to abolish all forms of idolatry. Upon finding the Book of the Law (the first 5 books of the Old Testament), he had them read to all the people, stirring revival among them. He was eventually killed by an archer during the battle between Egypt and Carchemish.



Solon

c. 638-559 B.C. The Athenian laws first recorded by Draco were particularly harsh towards the poor. Known for his wisdom, Solon was given the task of re-writing the laws to include all people, and instituted that every citizen should have a vote in the Assembly of the people.