

Daniel 635-536 B.C. Hebrew prophet of the Old Testament who was divinely spared from a den of lions. While in Babylon, he interpreted dreams and experienced apocalyptic visions. He was instrumental in influencing Nebuchadnezzar II.



Judah's Captivity by Babylon (stage 3)

586 B.C. During the final invasion of Judea under the reign of King Zedekiah (appointed by Nebuchadnezzar II), Zedekiah's sons were killed in front of him and he was blinded. Jerusalem was stripped of all valuables and the city was burned to the ground. It lay in ruin for the next 70 years.



Ezekiel

597-571 B.C. Hebrew prophet who encouraged the Jews exiled in Babylon to return to faithful, holy lives of trust in God.



Pythagoras

566 B.C. Greek philosopher and mathematician whose interests in math included proving the validity of the Pythagorean theorem. He is credited with founding a school in southern Italy that pursued the study of musical harmony and geometry.



Temple of Diana (Artemis)

550 B.C. One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, this marble structure was constructed over the course of 120 years in the city of Ephesus. A monument to the goddess Diana, it contained over 100 columns that stood over 60' in height.

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UPHARSIN

Belshazzar and the Fall of Babylon

539 B.C. A descendant of Nebuchadnezzar and last king of Babylon, he drank from goblets stolen from Solomon's temple. He was warned of his impending fate when Daniel interpreted supernatural handwriting on the wall: "God has numbered your kingdom and finished it; you have been weighed in the balance and found wanting; your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians." (Dan. 5:26-28) As warned, he was killed that very night by the Medes and Persians, who laid claim to Babylon.



Aesop

600 B.C. Legendary Greek writer and author of *Aesop's Fables*, moral stories such as *The Fox and the Grapes* and *The Tortoise and the Hare*.



Judah's Captivity by Babylon (stage 2)

597 B.C. The second invasion was during the reign of King Jehoiachin, a king appointed by King Nebuchadnezzar II himself and under his authority. More Judeans were taken captive, this time including Ezekiel.



Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego

575 B.C. Three men of faith of the Old Testament who were divinely delivered from a fiery furnace in Babylon.



Cyrus' Proclamation

c. 538 B.C. Upon the victory over Babylon, the Medo-Persian king, Cyrus the Great, issued a decree allowing the Jews to return to their homeland of Palestine, ending the 70 years of captivity.