**PERSIAN KINGS**

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| Cyrus II, the Great (559-530) | 10/ 12/539 conquered Babylon w/o a fight  Issued edit allowing Jews to return to Jerusalem and begin rebuilding the Temple (536) |
| Cambyses | Died w/o heir in 522 BC |
| Darius I (521-486) | Established Susa palace & those @ Persepolis  & Babylon)  Jewish exiles resumed building Jerusalem Temple (520) |
| Xerxes (485-465) | Ahasuerus of Esther  He invaded Greece by building a bridge over the Hellespont; defeated 300 Spartans at Thermopylae Pass; conquered most of Greece & burned Athens; but his navy was decisively defeated by the Greeks at Salamis. |
| Artaxerxes (464-424) | Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai & Zechariah |