Pre-Classical Empires of Mesopotamia

Chaldean, Hebrew, Persian, Phoenician
Chaldean Empire (Neo-Babylonian)

- Nabopollasar
  - 625 B.C.E.
  - Re-Establishes Babylonian empire
  - Allies with Egyptians to overthrow Assyrians
New Idea: Political Alliances

- Joining forces or making pacts of friendship with others to achieve political means
  - The enemy of my enemy is my friend
Conquests of the Babylonians

- Attempted (unsuccessfully) to invade Egypt
- Successfully captured Judea and expelled Israelites by 587 B.C.E.
  - Would not return till 538 B.C.E. thanks to Cyrus
The Hanging Gardens of Babylon

- Built by king Nebuchadnezzar II for his homesick wife
- Debate as to whether or not they even existed
- Listed one of the 7 wonders of the Ancient World
New Idea: Monotheism

- Belief in just one God
- Originated in the Hebrew belief of Judaism around the year 1300 B.C.E.
Cyrus the Great

- Founder of the Achamenid/Persian Empire
- Conqueror with strange mode of control
  - “King of the four corners of the world”
  - Respect for local customs and religions
- Empire eventually taken over by Alexander
New Ideas: Bill of Rights

• The Cyrus the Great Cylinder
  – Created in 539 B.C.E.
  – Provided for Racial, Religious, and Linguistic equality
Empire Building: Satraps

- Established capital at Pasargade
- Divided empire into satraps (regions) and appointed governors to administer satraps in his name
New Religion: Zoroastrianism

- Monotheistic
  - Believed in god Ahura Mazda
  - God revealed truth to prophet Zoroaster
- Made official religion of Persia around 600 B.C.E.
- Holy book called *Avesta*
Empire Builders: Phoenicians

- First major trade based empire
  - Had trading posts all over Mediterranean
    - Most famous of which is Carthage
    - Made it as far as Britain
- Name comes from their famous purple dye
- Developed Alphabet and based idea onto Greeks