

A brick from the city of Ur in southern Babylonia, with an inscription from King Coresh stating, "Cyrus king of the world... The great gods delivered all the lands into my hand." This is very similar to the language Coresh uses in the Book of *Ezra* when issuing the decree permitting the Jews to return to Eretz Yisrael. (Photograph reproduced by kind permission of the Trustees of the British Museum)





A map of the Persian Empire which extended from India to Africa





Silver bowl with a royal inscription from Artaxerxes. The inscription reads: "Artaxerxes, the great king, king of kings, king of countries, son of Xerxes the king, of Xerxes [who was] the son of Darius the king, the Achaemenian, in whose house this silver drinking cup was made." (Photograph reproduced by kind permission of the Trustees of the British Museum)