

Ezra and Nehemiah how he took the vessels from the temple and gave them to the Jews, and told the Jews who were in exile that they could go back to Jerusalem, and could set up their temple of God, and could re-establish a home-land within the ~~Persian~~ Persian empire. There is no great wide-spread persecution of the Jews for their religion in the time of the Persian empire. At least, if there was anything, it was quite sporadic. The book of Esther tells about a time when an enemy of the Jews, Haman, got the king to do him a personal favor, and the personal favor was to cause that the Jews be exterminated, and then it tells how ~~the~~ the ~~king~~ king could not change the law which was made, so he made another law to counteract it when he saw what had ~~a~~ happened. He permitted that the Jews should defend themselves. And thus the persecution didn't amount to anything on that particular ~~p~~ occasions. It would have been terrible if it had not been for Esther and Mordecai being used of God to prevent it. But the ~~Persian~~ Persian empire, so far as we know, was not a time of great ~~persecution~~ persecution of the Jews for their loyalty. Then the Persian empire was destroyed by Alexander the Great, and after his death his generals divided up the sections of his empire, and one of them named Ptolemy ~~was~~ seized Egypt and ~~established~~ established an empire in Egypt that lasted for 300 years, and for 100 years the Ptolemies ruled Palestine as part of their empire, and during this time there is a myth, a legend which says, that Ptolemy sent to the Jews in Jerusalem and asked them to send some highly trained Jews down to him, in order to make him a transaction of the Jewish Scriptures for his library. This was the second of the Ptolemies. And ~~was~~ according to this story, the high priest of Jerusalem said I will not send them unless you will promise me you will send them back, because I am afraid you will want to keep them. They are so wise and so brilliant you will want to keep them for your support, and we need them here. And so he made the promise, and they picked out 70 of their brightest men, 72, six from each of the 12 tribes, and they sent them down, and according to the story Ptolemy gave them a great feast and ~~asked~~ ^{asked} them all kinds of questions, and they ~~was~~ answered so brilliantly, he wanted to keep them in Egypt and make them the rulers in his empire, but he had promised the high priest he'd ~~send~~ send them back, so he then after all this, he put them in 70 different rooms, and they ~~23~~ were there