

**What have you got
to lose?**

Risk and faith

What is risk?

The possibility that something unpleasant or unwelcome will happen

The potential of losing something of value

The intentional interaction with uncertainty

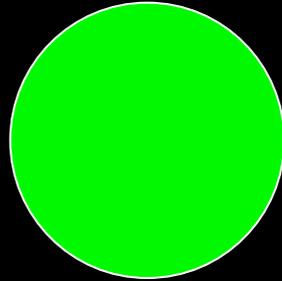
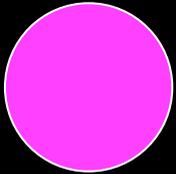
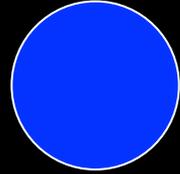
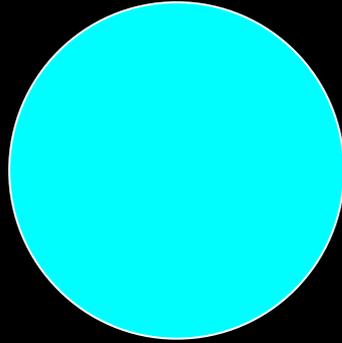
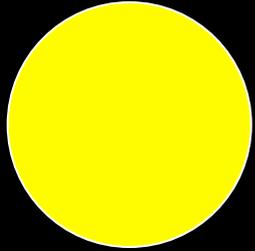
TOO MANY TO JAIL

MARK
BRADLEY

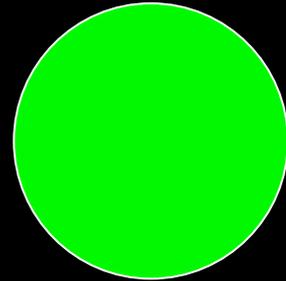
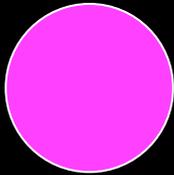
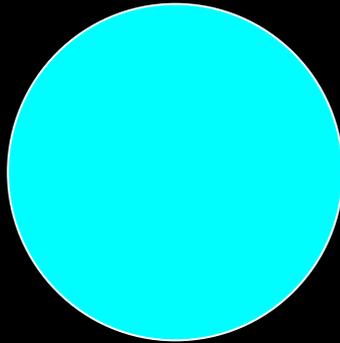
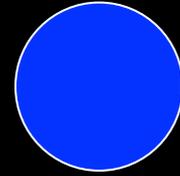
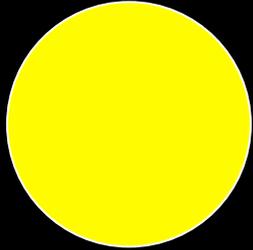
THE STORY OF IRAN'S
NEW CHRISTIANS



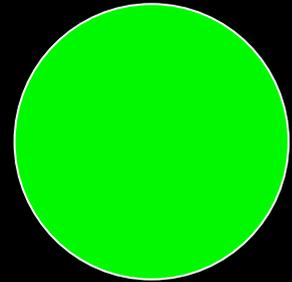
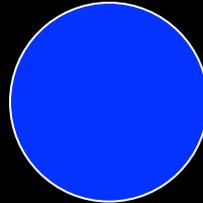
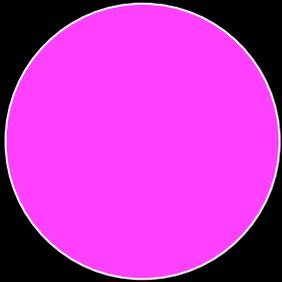
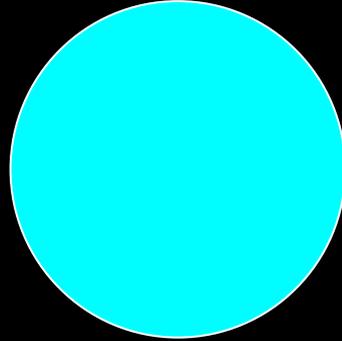
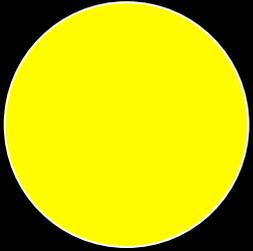
£5 to play.... £5 to win....



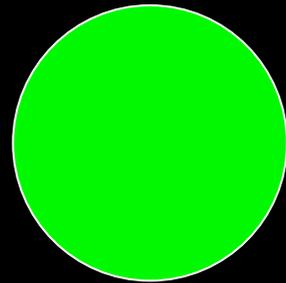
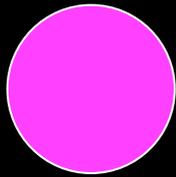
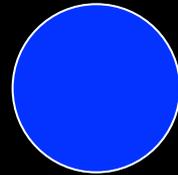
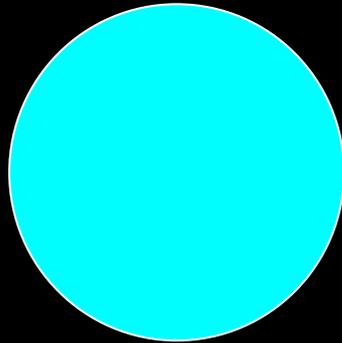
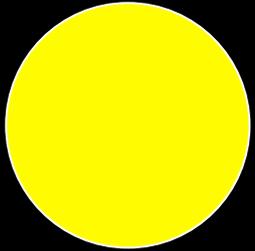
£50 to play.... £50 to win....



£5,000 to play.... £5,000 to win....



£500,000 to play.... £500,000 to
win....



Isaiah prophecies

**Who stirred up one from the east
whom victory meets at every step?
He gives up nations before him,
so that he tramples kings underfoot;
he makes them like dust with his sword,
like driven stubble with his bow.**

(Isaiah 41:2)

**“Who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd,
and he shall fulfil all my purpose’;
saying of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be built,’
and of the temple, ‘Your foundation shall
be laid.’”**

(Isaiah 44:28)

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus whose right hand I
have grasped,
to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him that gates may not be closed:
“I will go before you and level the exalted places,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the
bars of iron,
I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret
places,
that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who
call you by your name.

For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know
me.

(Isaiah 45:1-4)

Jeremiah prophecies

“This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.”

(Jeremiah 25:11)

Timeline

740 – 681 BC: Isaiah prophecies

623 – 586 BC: Jeremiah prophecies

**607 BC: Jews carried off to Babylon and
Jerusalem destroyed**











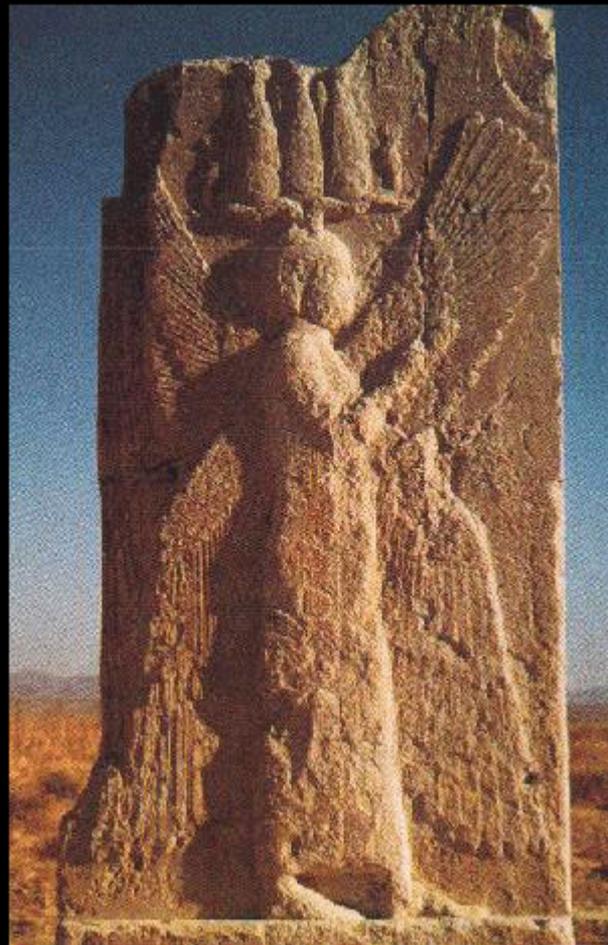
Exiles taken from Judah to Babylon [597 & 586 BC]

THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE c. 600 BC

Daniel

In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom—in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

(Daniel 9:1ff)



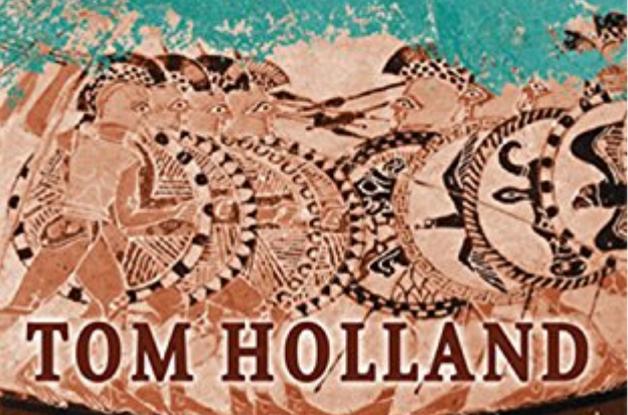
THE FIRST WORLD EMPIRE AND
THE BATTLE FOR THE WEST



PERSIAN FIRE

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TOM HOLLAND

Josephus (37 – 100 AD)

“Thus says Cyrus the king: Since God Almighty has appointed me to be king of the habitable earth, I believe that he is the God which the nation of the Israelites worship; for indeed he foretold my name by the prophets, and that I should build him a house at Jerusalem, in the country of Judah” (Antiquities 11.1.1).



Timeline

740 – 681 BC: Isaiah prophecies

623 – 586 BC: Jeremiah prophecies

607 BC: Jews carried off to Babylon and Jerusalem destroyed

590 BC: Cyrus born in Persis

568 BC: Babylonian Empire defeats Egypt

549 BC: Cyrus takes over Median Empire

547 BC: Cyrus defeats Croesus and takes over Lydian Empire

539 BC: Daniel fasts and prays

538 BC: Cyrus takes over Babylonian Empire

537 BC: Cyrus allows Jews to return to Jerusalem

331 BC: Alexander the Great defeats Persian Empire

Israelites

Chose not to respond to God

Did not want to give up security and comfort

Content with religion rather than relationship

Lost everything

But had it restored through God's grace

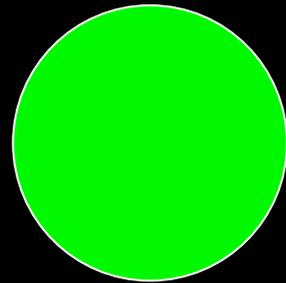
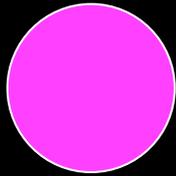
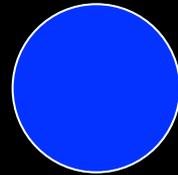
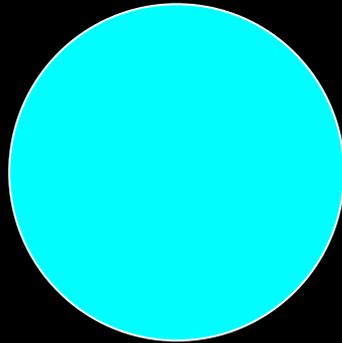
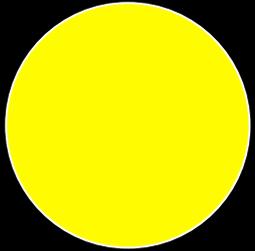
Daniel

Risked everything by refusing to compromise

**Became one of the most powerful people in
the world**

**God used him to bring about the salvation of
the Jews from Babylon**

1, 2 or 5 talents to play...



What is risk?

The possibility that something unpleasant or unwelcome will happen

The potential of losing something of value

The intentional interaction with uncertainty

**History repeats itself.
Has to.
No-one listens.**

(Steve Turner)