

# THE DECLINE OF PERSIA

The destruction of Athens marked a low point for the Greeks in their conflict with Persia. However, while the Persians were celebrating their victory on land, trouble was brewing for them at sea.



This shows a scene from the Battle of Salamis.

## THE BATTLE OF SALAMIS

An Athenian politician named Themistocles was convinced that their best chance against the Persians was at sea. So he had deliberately left Athens undefended, while he lured the Persian fleet into a narrow strip of water between the island of Salamis and the Greek mainland.

Although the Greek ships were fewer in number, they were more agile, and they took the Persians by surprise.

Trapped in the narrow waters, the Persian ships were unable to move about easily and were all but destroyed.

A heavy bronze ram could do enormous damage to a wooden ship.

Eyes were painted onto the front of the ships, to scare the enemy.

