

Dor's importance in the Persian period (538-332 B.C.E.) as a commercial center tends to be borne out by the find at Dor of these figurines of pregnant women. They wear Egyptian wigs and often hold one hand on their stomachs. Probably Phoenicians lived at Dor and produced these figurines, for they resemble those found at Phoenician sites in Lebanon, Cyprus and Israel in the Persian period. Scholars usually interpret figurines such as these as votive offerings to goddesses or as petitions for aid. Some similar figurines from a fourth-century B.C.E. shipwreck at Shave Zion, on the northern coast of Israel, bore the symbol of the Phoenician goddess Tanit.