PASSAGES ON ETHICS

ANAXIMANDER (fl. 546)
“The things that are perish into the things out of which they come to be, ‘according to necessity, for they pay penalty and retribution to each other for their injustice in accordance with the ordering of time.’” (13)

XENOPHANES (fl. 530)
“But always to be mindful of the gods is good.” (25)
Wisdom is superior to strength. (25)

"Homer and Hesiod have ascribed to the gods all deeds which among men are a reproach and a disgrace: thieving, adultery, and deceiving one another." (26)

"If oxen and horses and lions had hands and were able to draw with their hands and do the same things as men, horses would draw the shapes of gods to look like horses and oxen to look like oxen, and each would make the gods' bodies have the same shape as they themselves had." (26)

HERACLITUS (fl. 500 B.C.E.)
"A person's character is his divinity." (39)

"Right thinking is the greatest virtue and wisdom is to speak the truth and act in accordance with nature, while paying attention to it." (28)

PYTHAGOREANS
Contemplation (theoria), harmony (harmonia), purification (catharsis).

SOPHISTS (5th c. B.C.E.)
Human being is the measure of all things--of things that are, that they are, and of things that are not, that they are not. (Protagoras, 490-420 B.C.E.)

Justice is the advantage of the stronger. (Thrasymachus, fl. c. 430-410 B.C.E.)

PLATO (427-347 B.C.E.)
Virtue is knowledge (wisdom). (Meno)
No one can harm a good man. (Apology)
Human being is soul. (Alcibiades Major)
ARISTOTLE (384-322 B.C.E.)
Virtue is a mean between extremes in emotion and action. (For example, courage is a mean between recklessness and timidity; moderation is a mean between immoderation and insensitivity; justice is a mean between taking more than your share and less than your share.)

Happiness is a life of virtuous activities. (*Nicomachean Ethics*)

STOICS
"What is the subject most argued about by Chrysippus himself and Antipater in their disputes with the Academics? The doctrine that without assent there is neither action nor impulse, and that they are talking nonsense and empty assumptions who claim that, when an appropriate appearance occurs, impulse ensues at once without people first having yielded or given their assent." (Chrysippus, 279-206 B.C.E.)

“Do not seek to have events happen as you want them to, but instead want them to happen as they do happen, and your life will go well.” (Epictetus, 50-130 C.E.) (*Handbook*)

“Love the human race.” (Marcus Aurelius, 121-180 C.E.) (*Meditations*)