Anaximander
611 BC - 546 BC

Anaximander was a Greek scholar who first proposed that the sun, moon, and planets revolved around the earth. He invented the gnomon of a sundial.

Democritus
460 BC - 370 BC

Democritus was a Greek scholar who is best known for his atomic theory although he was also an excellent geometer.

Socrates
470 BC - 399 BC

Socrates is recognisable thanks to his distinct features. Raphael was able to use an ancient portrait bust as his guide.

Euclid
325 BC - 265 BC

Euclid is shown surrounded by students. Raphael based his portrait on his friend Bramante who was the principal planner of St Peter's basilica.

Plato
427 BC - 347 BC

Plato was the founder of the Academy in Athens. He is shown carrying his Timaeus. Raphael has shown him as Leonardo da Vinci.

Archimedes
287 BC - 212 BC

Archimedes was the greatest mathematician of his age. His contributions in geometry revolutionised the subject and his methods anticipated the integral calculus. He was a practical man who invented a wide variety of machines including pulleys and the Archimidean screw pumping device.

Aristotle
384 BC - 322 BC

Aristotle is shown carrying his Nicomachean Ethics.

Pythagoras
570 BC - 475 BC

Pythagoras is shown surrounded by students (including a young Archimedes).

Parmenides
about: - 586 BC

Parmenides was an ancient Greek philosopher born in Elis (now in Southern Italy).

Diogenes
413 BC - 323 BC

Diogenes was a Greek philosopher and one of the founders of Cynicism.

Heraclitus
about: - 500 BC

Heraclitus was a pre-Socratic Greek philosopher. Raphael based his portrait on Michelangelo, who was painting the Sistene chapel ceiling as Raphael was painting his fresco.

Socrates
470 BC - 399 BC

Socrates is recognisable thanks to his chiton and autumnal mantle. Raphael was able to use an ancient portrait bust as his guide.

Aeschines
389 BC - 314 BC

Aeschines was a Greek statesman and one of the ten Attic orators.

Averroes
1126 - 1198

Averroes (or Ibn Rashid) was an Andalusian polymath and jurist who wrote about many subjects. He is one of the few non-Ancient Greeks in the picture.

Democritus
460 BC - 370 BC

Democritus was a Greek scholar who is best known for his atomic theory although he was also an excellent geometer.

Aristotle
384 BC - 322 BC

Aristotle is shown carrying his Nicomachean Ethics.

Zeno (or Zaratustra)
about: - 500 BC

Zeno (or Zarathustra) was a Persian prophet who founded a religious movement that eventually became a major religion in ancient Iran.

Heraclitus
about: - 500 BC

Heraclitus was a pre-Socratic Greek philosopher. Raphael based his portrait on Michelangelo, who was painting the Sistene chapel ceiling as Raphael was painting his fresco.

Parmenides
about: - 586 BC

Parmenides was an ancient Greek philosopher born in Elis (now in Southern Italy).

Diogenes
413 BC - 323 BC

Diogenes was a Greek philosopher and one of the founders of Cynicism.

Aeschines
389 BC - 314 BC

Aeschines was a Greek statesman and one of the ten Attic orators.

Averroes
1126 - 1198

Averroes (or Ibn Rashid) was an Andalusian polymath and jurist who wrote about many subjects. He is one of the few non-Ancient Greeks in the picture.

Raphael
1483 - 1520

Raphael included himself next to Ptolemy. Renaissance painters often included their own portraits into their compositions.