
Kings & Chronicles

Understanding Thiele

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Chronology is the backbone of history. ... Without exact chronology there can be no exact history. Until a correct chronology of a nation has been established, the events of that nation cannot be correctly integrated into the events of neighboring states. If history is to be a true and exact science, then it is of fundamental importance to construct a sound chronological framework about which may be fitted the events of states and the international world. – Edwin Thiele, *The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings*, Chapter 1



Synchronisms

In the absence of absolute dating, dates are established by the presence of one or more key figures. In this case:

- Herod “The Great” ruled Judea from 37 BC to March, 4 BC
- Caesar Augustus was Roman Emperor from 27 BC to 14 AD
- Quirinius was governor of Syria from 6 AD

There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, ... (Luke 1:5)

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria (Luke 2:1-2)



Problem 1: Different dating schemes

Israel Non-ascension year dating with years beginning on Nisan (March/April)

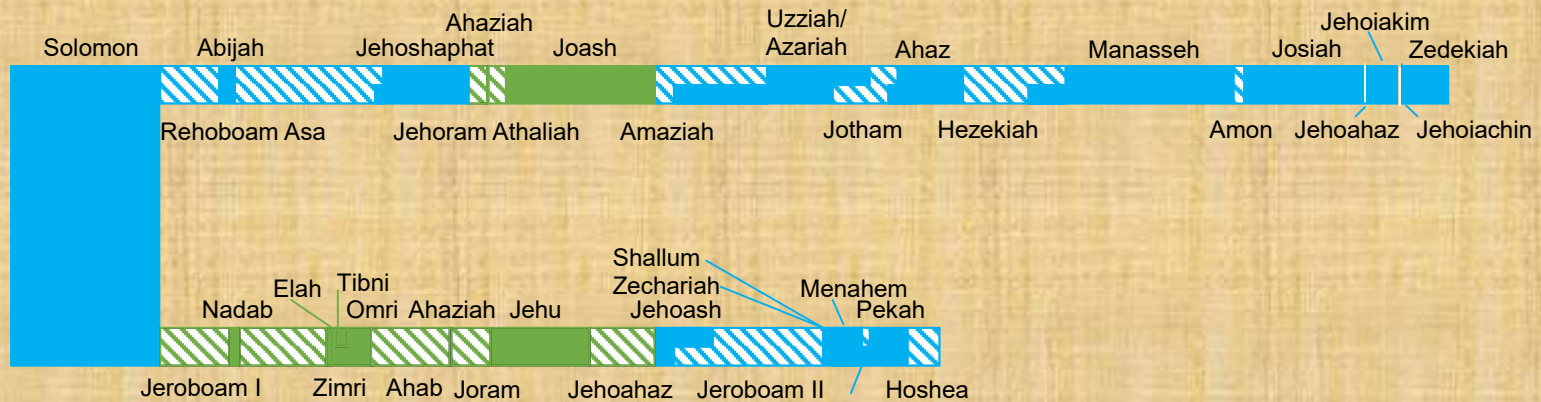
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Judah Ascension year dating with years beginning on Tishri (September/October)



Ascension and non-ascension year reckoning



- Ascension year reckoning
- Non-ascension year reckoning



Problem 2: Coregencies and rival reigns

Israel

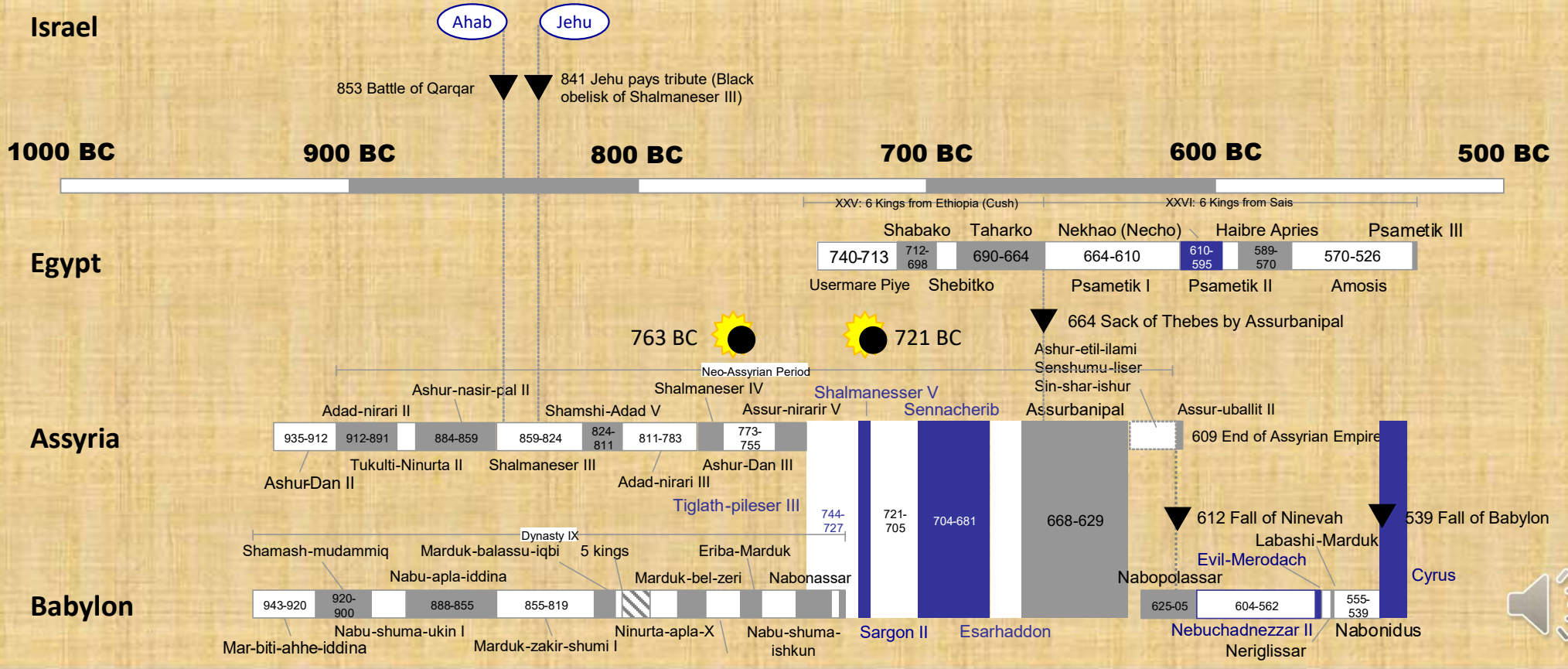
Kings	Cause
Omri & Tibni	Rivals. Israel divided (I Kings 16:21-22)
Jehoash & Jeroboam II	Coregency due to imminent war (II Kings 14:8-13; II Chronicles 25:18-23)
Menahem (& Pekahiah) & Pekah	Rivals. Two nations in the north (Hosea 5:5)

Judah

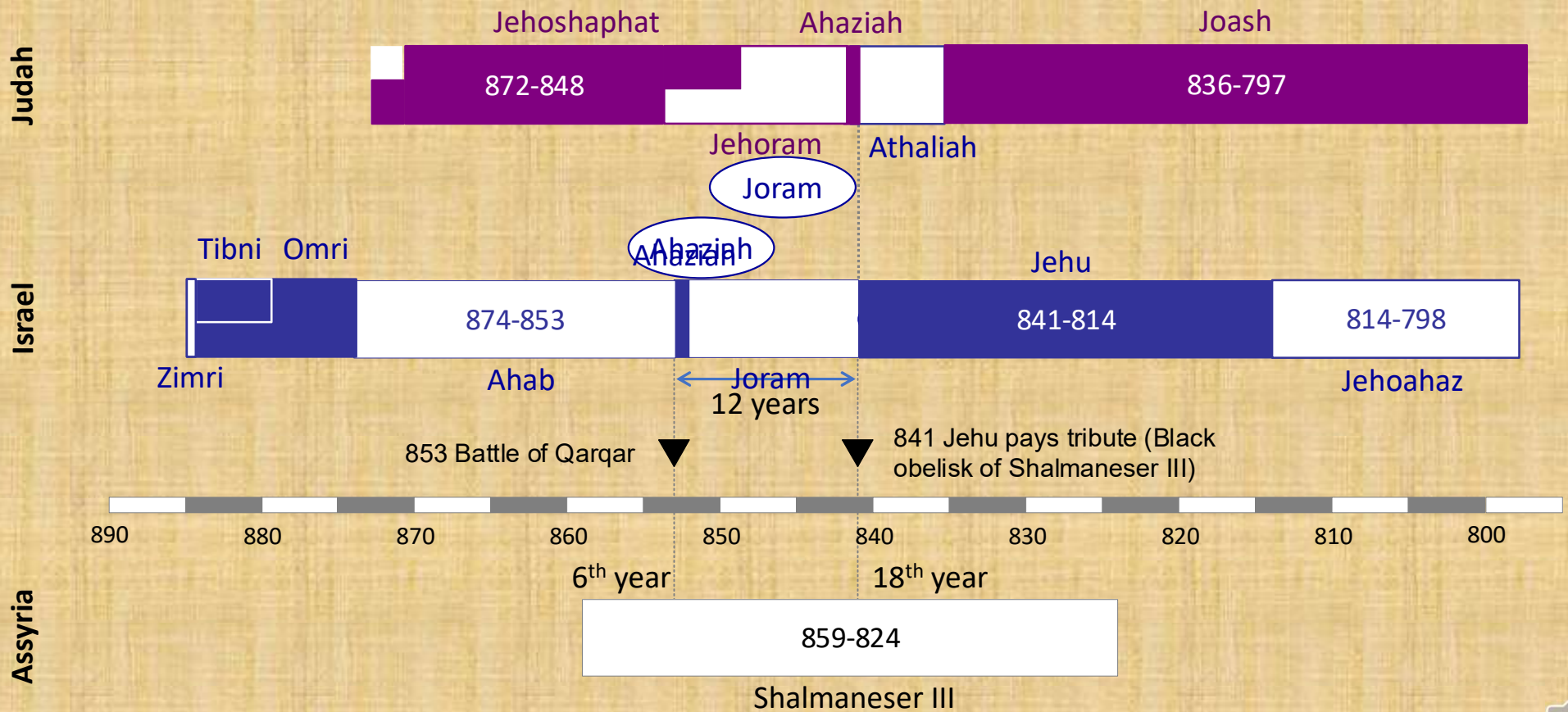
Kings	Cause
Asa & Jehoshaphat	Coregency due to Asa's illness (I Kings 15:23; II Chronicles 16:12)
Jehoshaphat & Jehoram	Coregency due to imminent war (I Kings 22:4, 32-33; II Kings 8:16)
Amaziah & Azariah / Uzziah	Coregency due to Amaziah's captivity in Israel (II Kings 14:8-13; II Chronicles 25:21-24)
Azariah & Jotham	Coregency due to Azariah's leprosy (II Kings 15:5; II Chronicles 26:21)
Jotham & Ahaz	Coregency. Ahaz involved in pro-Assyrian coup (II Kings 16:7)
Hezekiah & Manasseh	Coregency due to Hezekiah's illness (II Kings 20:6; II Chronicles 32:24)

Source: Thiele, Edwin, The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings, Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan, 1983, pp 61

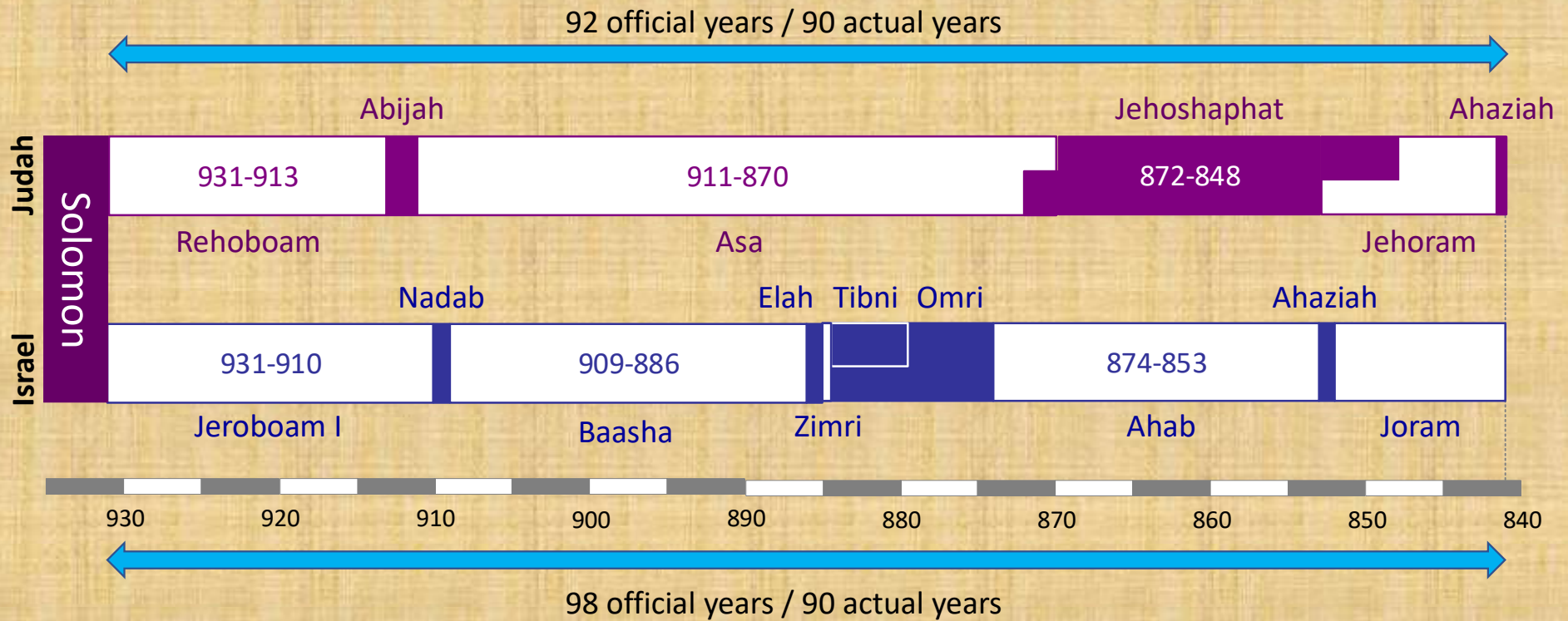


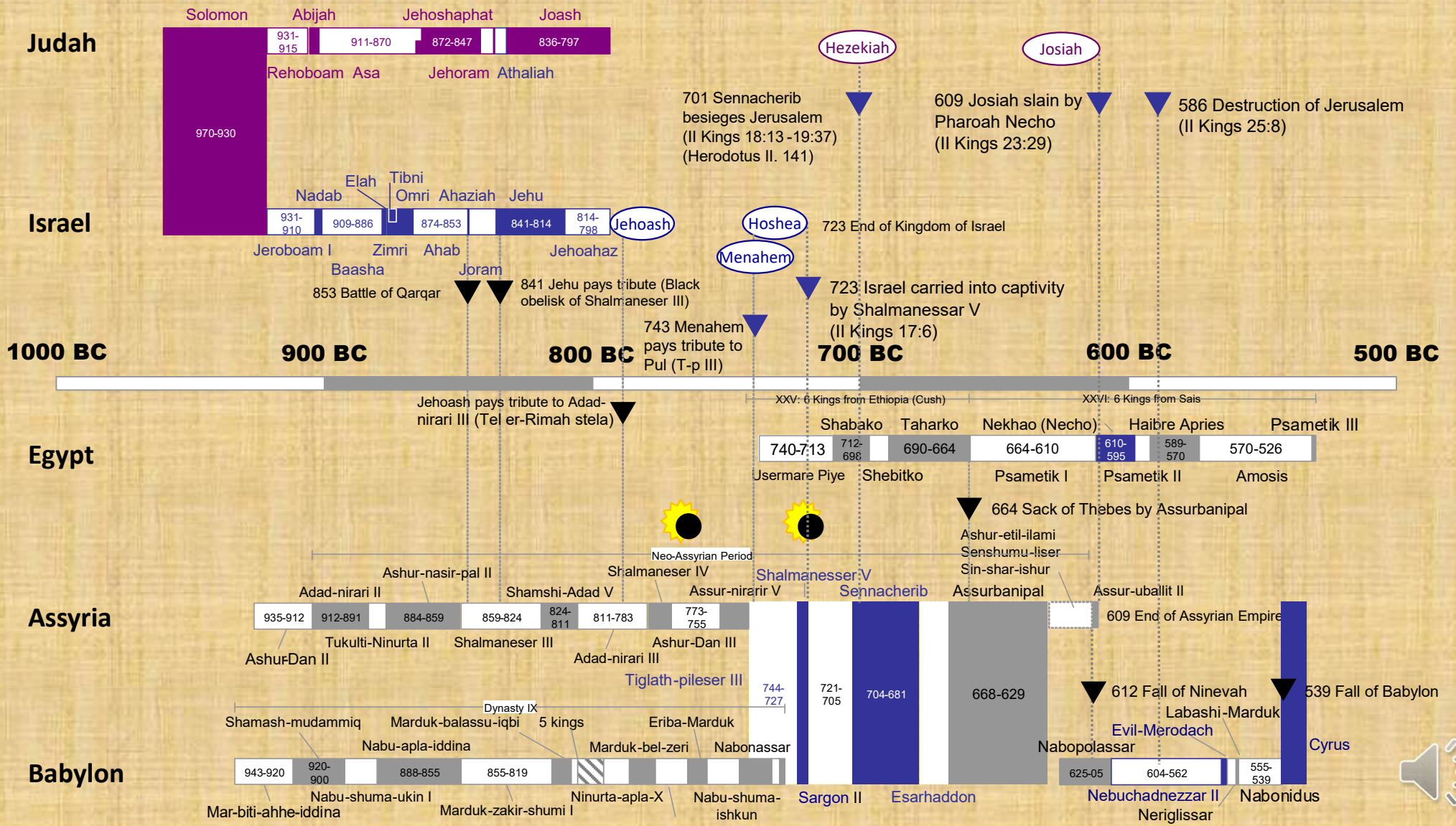


The anchor: Ahab and Jehu

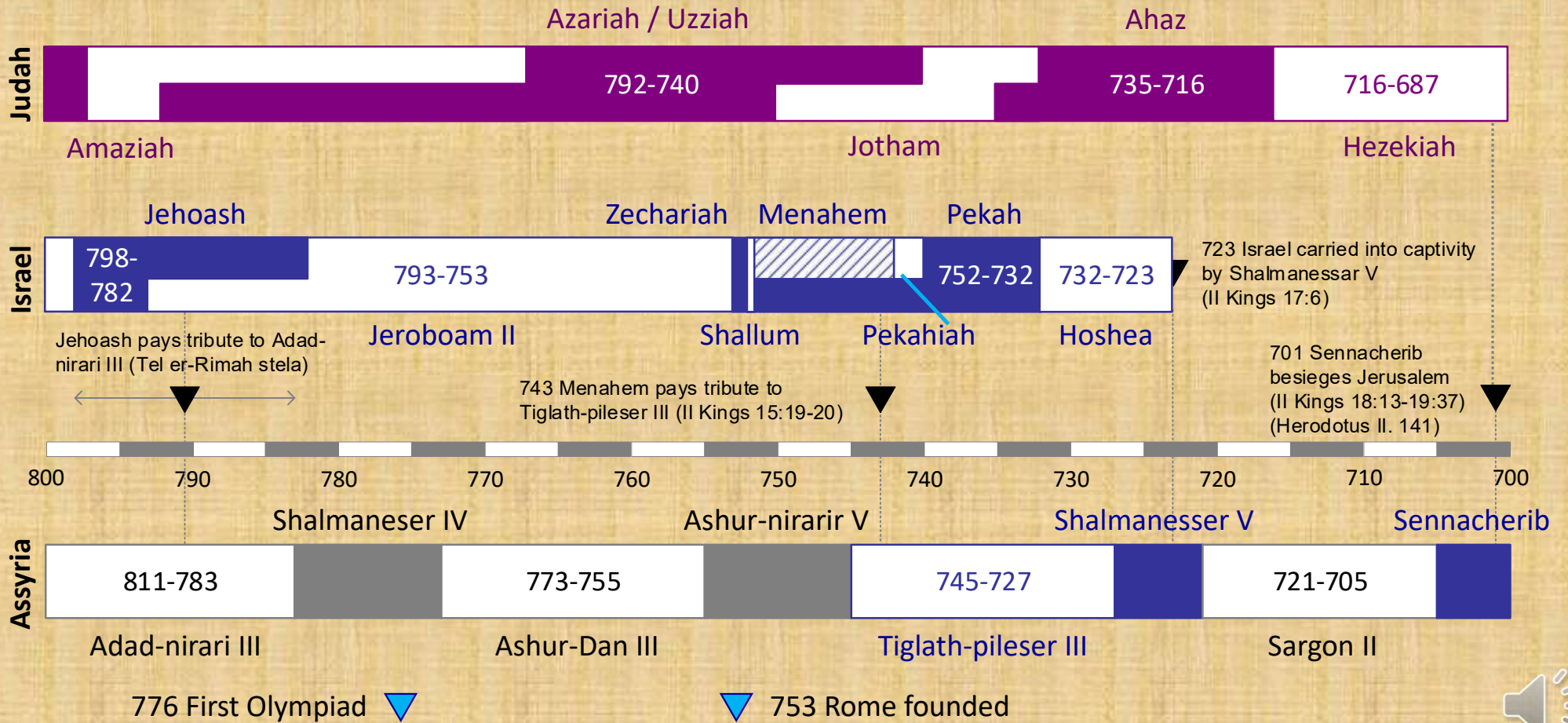


Kings to 841 BC

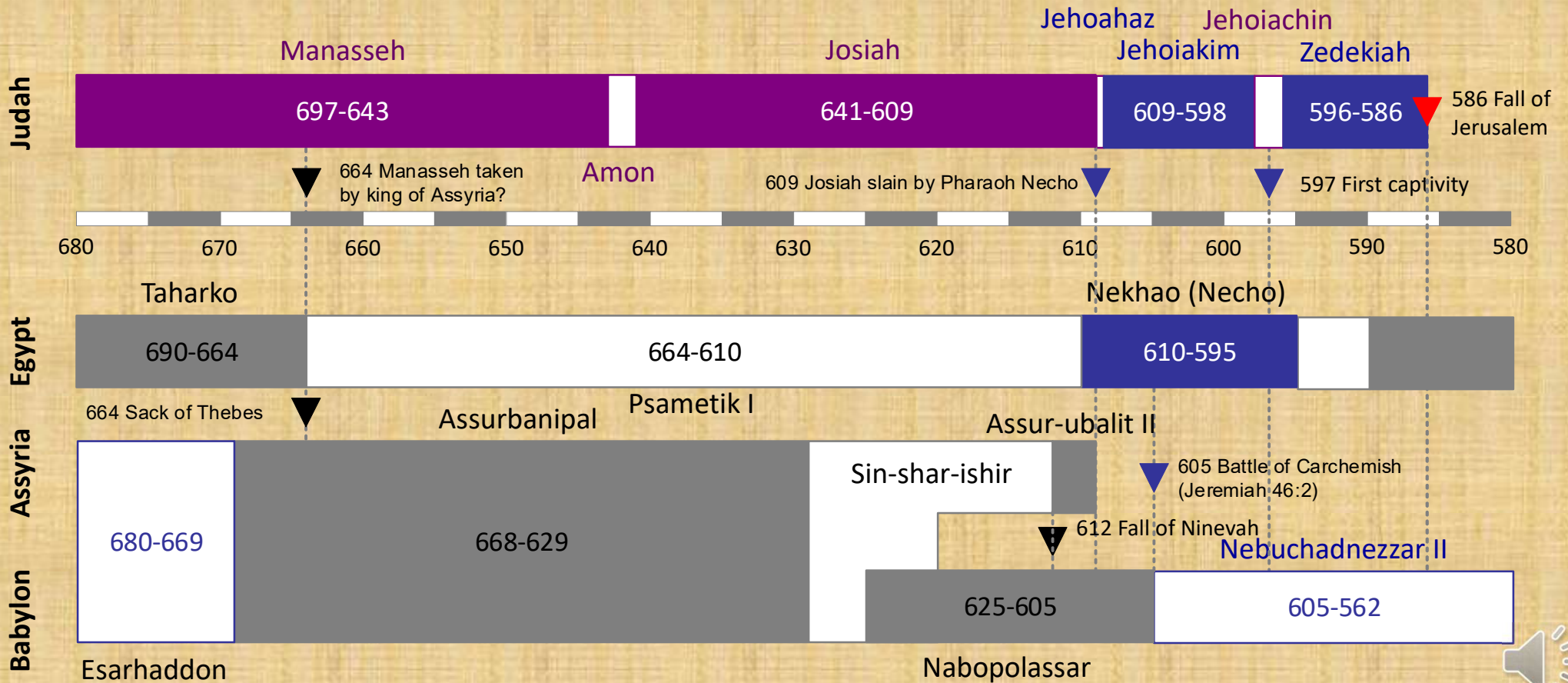


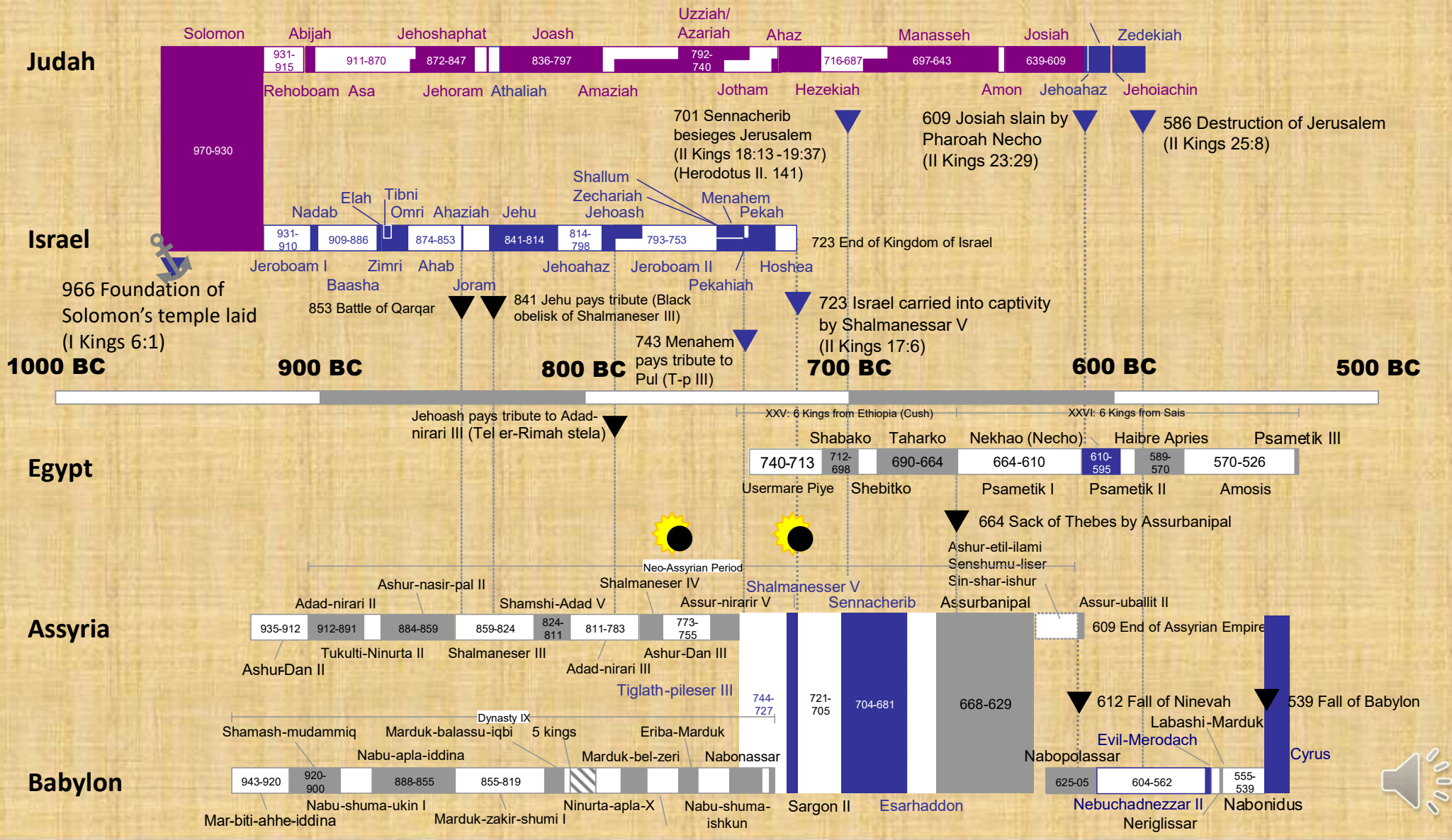


Kings from 800-700 BC

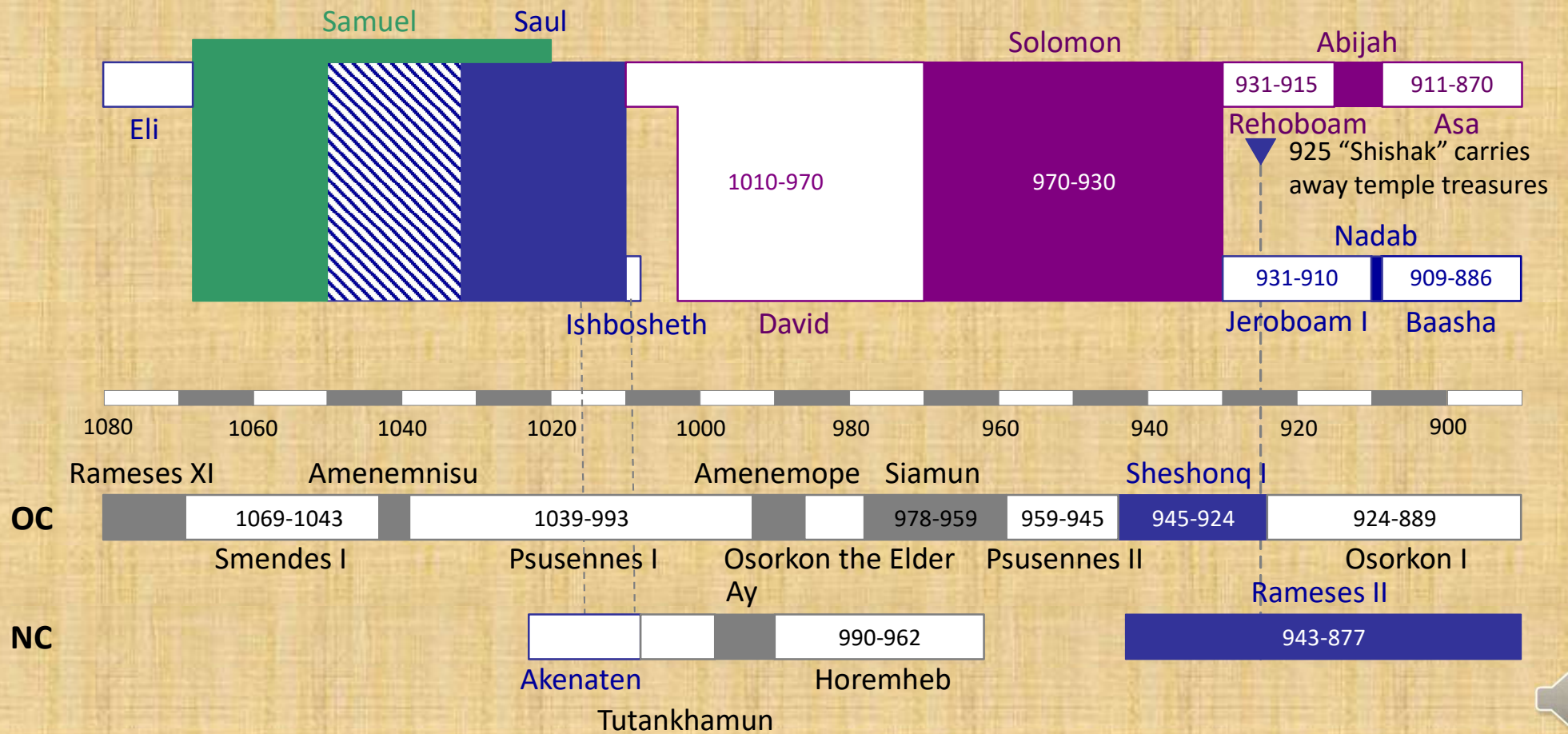


The last years of Judah





Egyptian synchronisms in the old and new chronologies



Thank You

