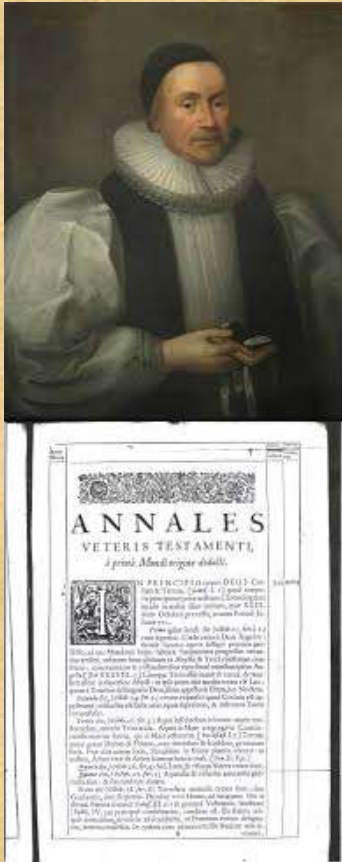

Overview of Biblical Chronology

www.thebiblicaltimeline.org





Modern

- James Ussher, an Irish Anglican Bishop, wrote his Annals of the World in 1650
 - Creation in 4004 BC
 - Flood in 2348 BC
- Sir Isaac Newton did chronological work that was published after his death
- Many others have proposed alternatives to Ussher's chronology

All of the ancient and modern Chronologies prior to the 20th century were textual studies, without the benefit of archaeology



Ancient

- Flavius Josephus, a Jewish priest, wrote his Antiquities of the Jews in the 1st century AD
- Eusebius, a Christian bishop, wrote his chronicle in the early 4th century AD. He also wrote an early church history.
- Several others histories and chronologies were written in ancient times

Ancient chroniclers had access to manuscripts that are now lost and to older versions of those that are available to us today

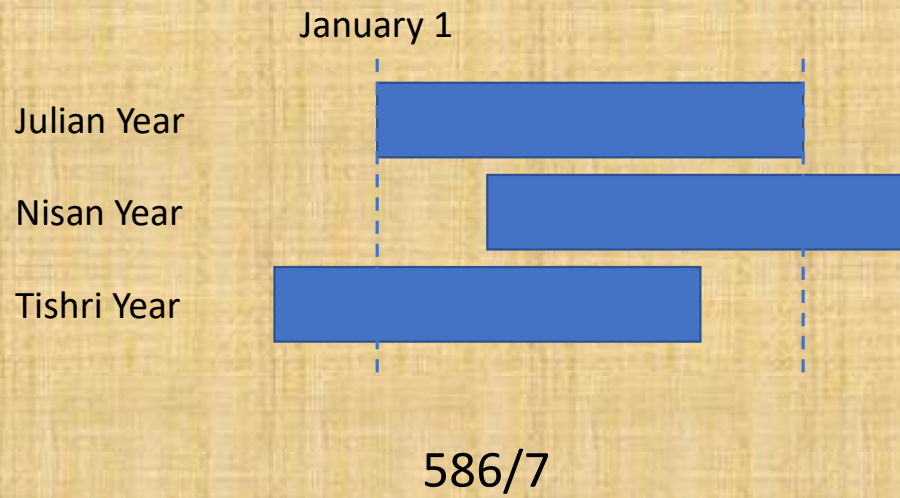


Seven Problems in Old Testament Chronology

1. When was creation?  Genesis 5
 2. When was the flood?  Genesis 11
 3. When was Joseph in Egypt?  Exodus 12:40
 4. When was the Exodus?  I Kings 6:1
 5. When did the Judges rule?
 6. When did the Hebrew Kings live?  I & II Kings, I & II Chronicles
 7. When was the seventy year captivity?
- 



Reckoning years



Ascension and non-ascension reckoning

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

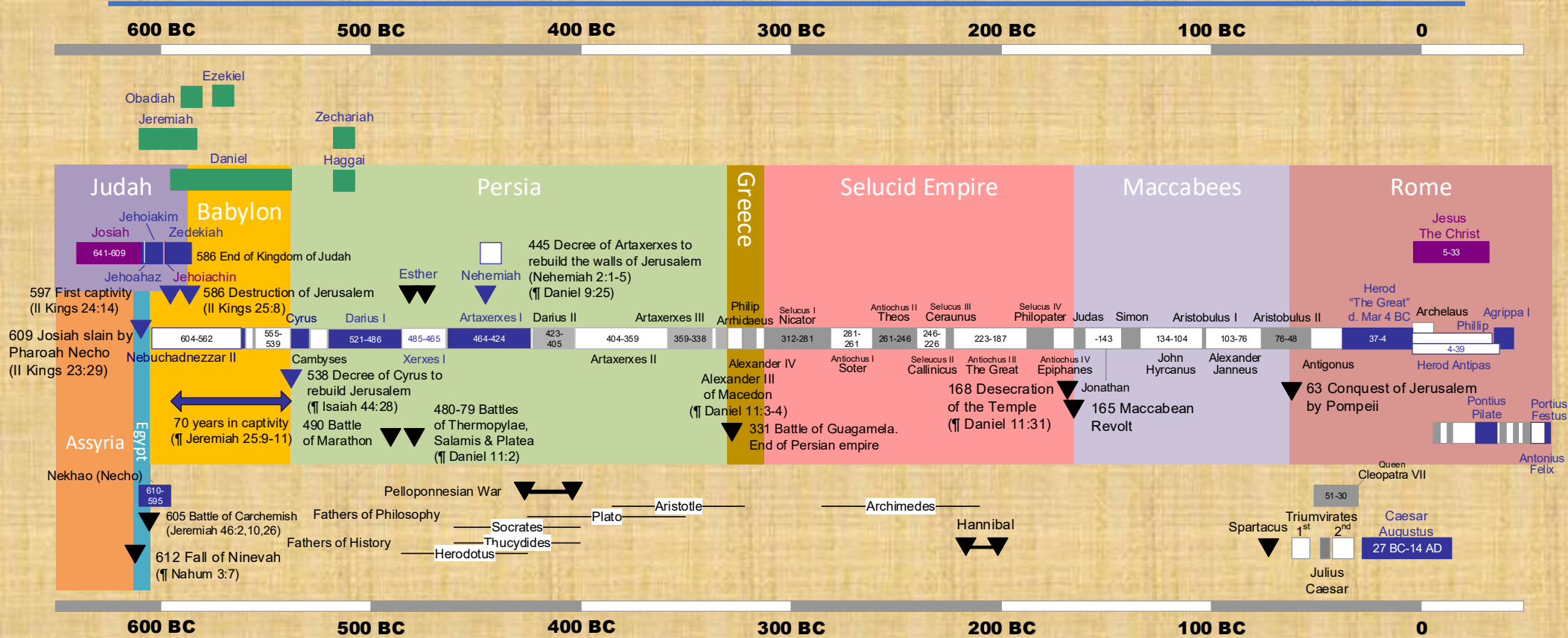
1	2	3	4	1	2	3				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	0	1

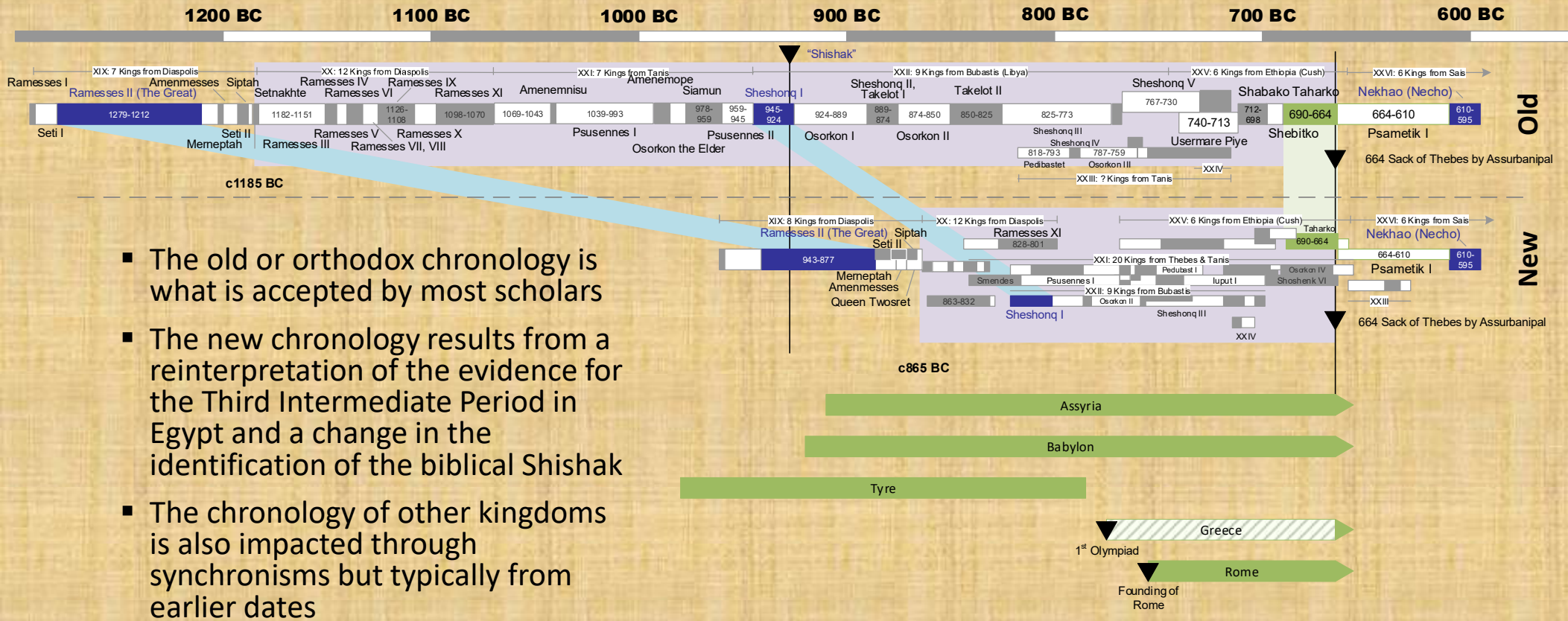
Judah Ascension year dating with years beginning on Tishri (September/October)



To the fall of Jerusalem, 586 BC



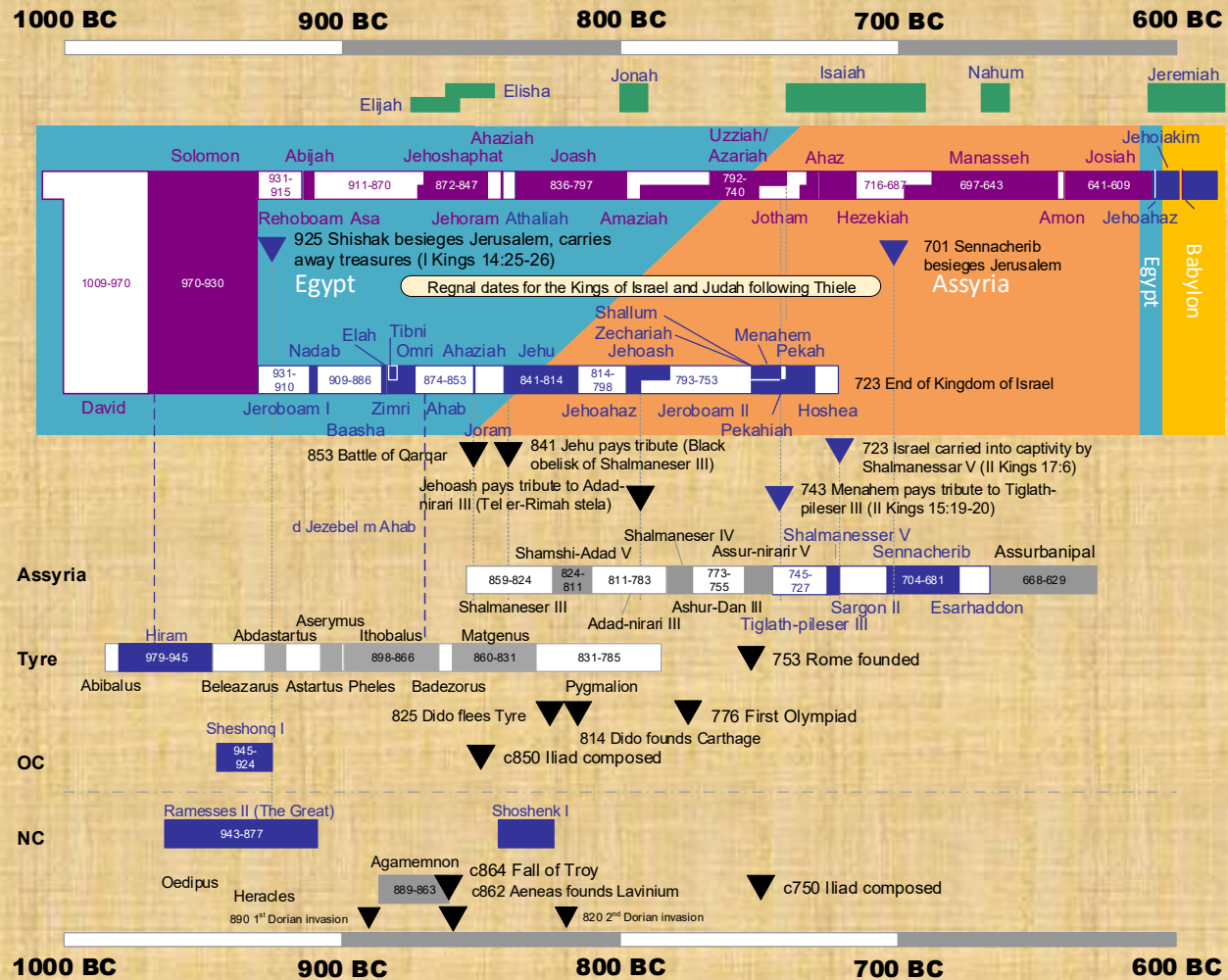
Old and new chronologies



- The old or orthodox chronology is what is accepted by most scholars
- The new chronology results from a reinterpretation of the evidence for the Third Intermediate Period in Egypt and a change in the identification of the biblical Shishak
- The chronology of other kingdoms is also impacted through synchronisms but typically from earlier dates



To the foundation of the temple, 966 BC

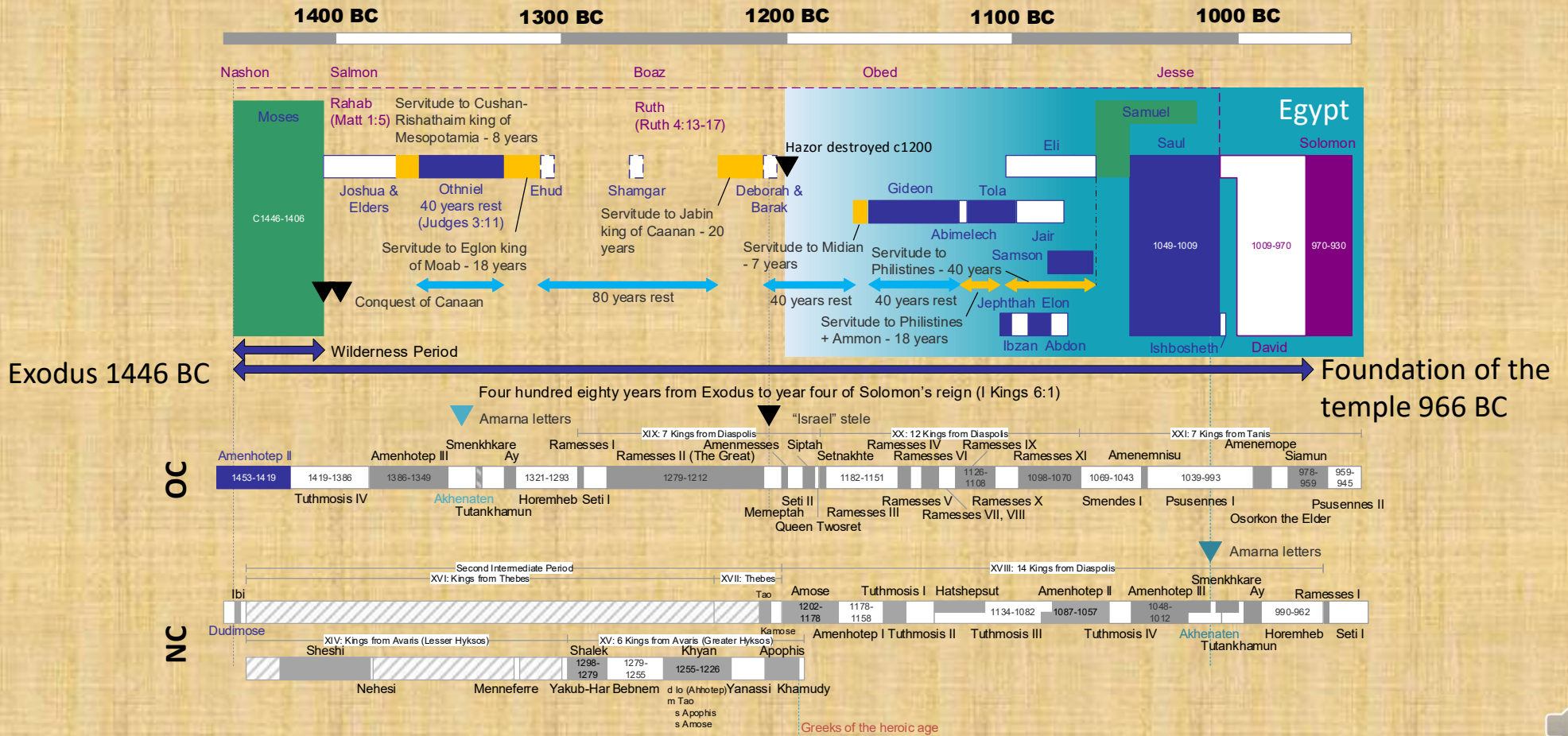


Ramesses II and the Exodus

- “Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses. (Exodus 1:11 NKJV)
- The city of Raamses was constructed by Ramesses II (The Great), so doesn't this make him the Pharaoh of the Exodus?
- All of the archaeological and other textual evidence indicates that Ramesses II is NOT the Pharaoh of the Exodus
- The Children of Israel did build a city at the site that later became Raamses, but in an earlier time when it was known as Avaris
- The occurrence of the name Raamses must then be due to a later update (the name is also used in Genesis in the time of Joseph)



The Exodus to David



How long was Israel in Egypt?

Long Sojourn

- Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years (Exodus 12:40, Masoretic text – NKJV)
- Now the time that the children of Israel lived in the land of Egypt was four hundred thirty years (Exodus 12:40, Dead Sea Scrolls 4Q14, 2Q2 – dssenglishbible.com)

430 Years

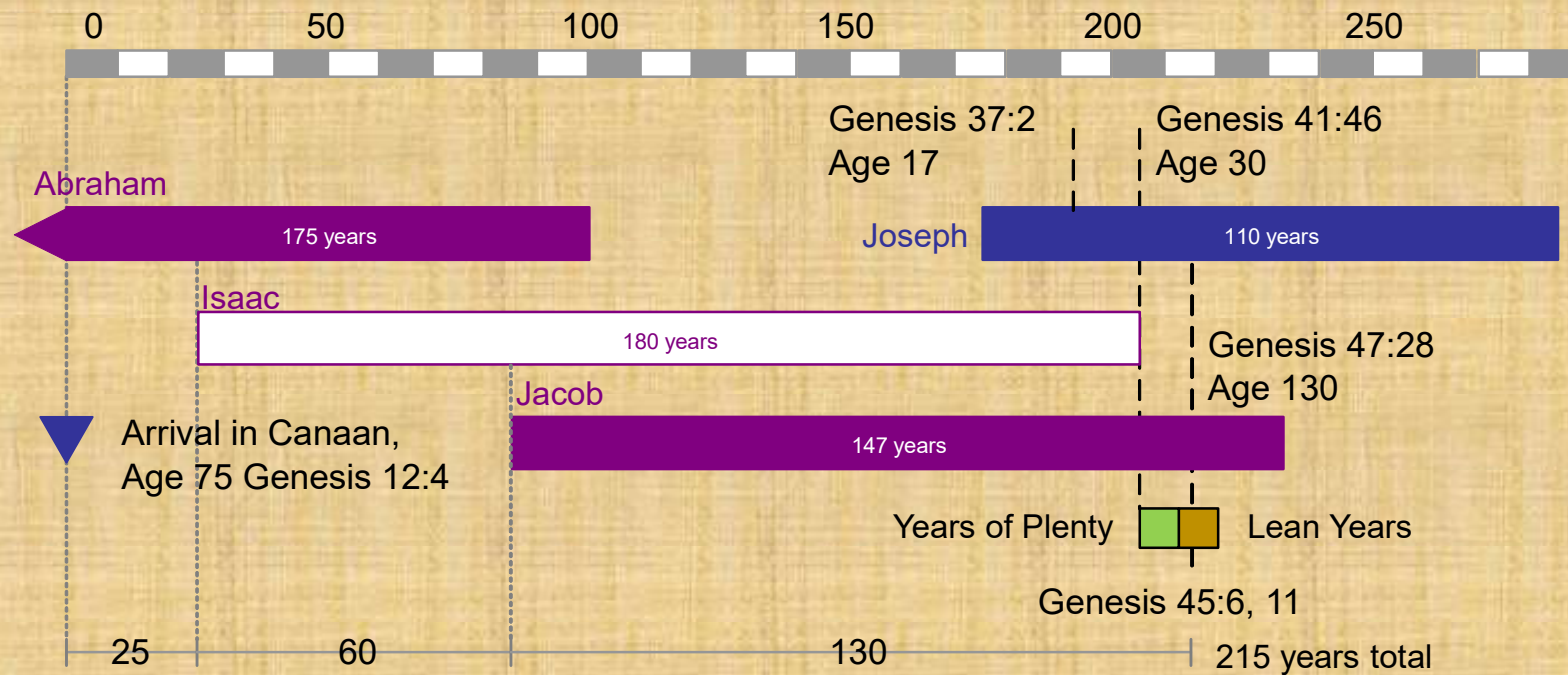
Short Sojourn

- Now the residence of the sons of Israel during which they dwelt in the land, Egypt, **and in the land of Chanaan**, was four hundred and thirty years. (Exodus 12:40, Septuagint – NETS)
- And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later [after the promise to Abraham], cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect (Galatians 3:17 – NKJV)
- They left Egypt in the month Xanthicus, on the fifteenth day of the lunar month; four hundred and thirty years after our forefather Abraham came into Canaan, but two hundred and fifteen years only after Jacob removed into Egypt (Josephus, Ant Book II XV:2)

215 Years

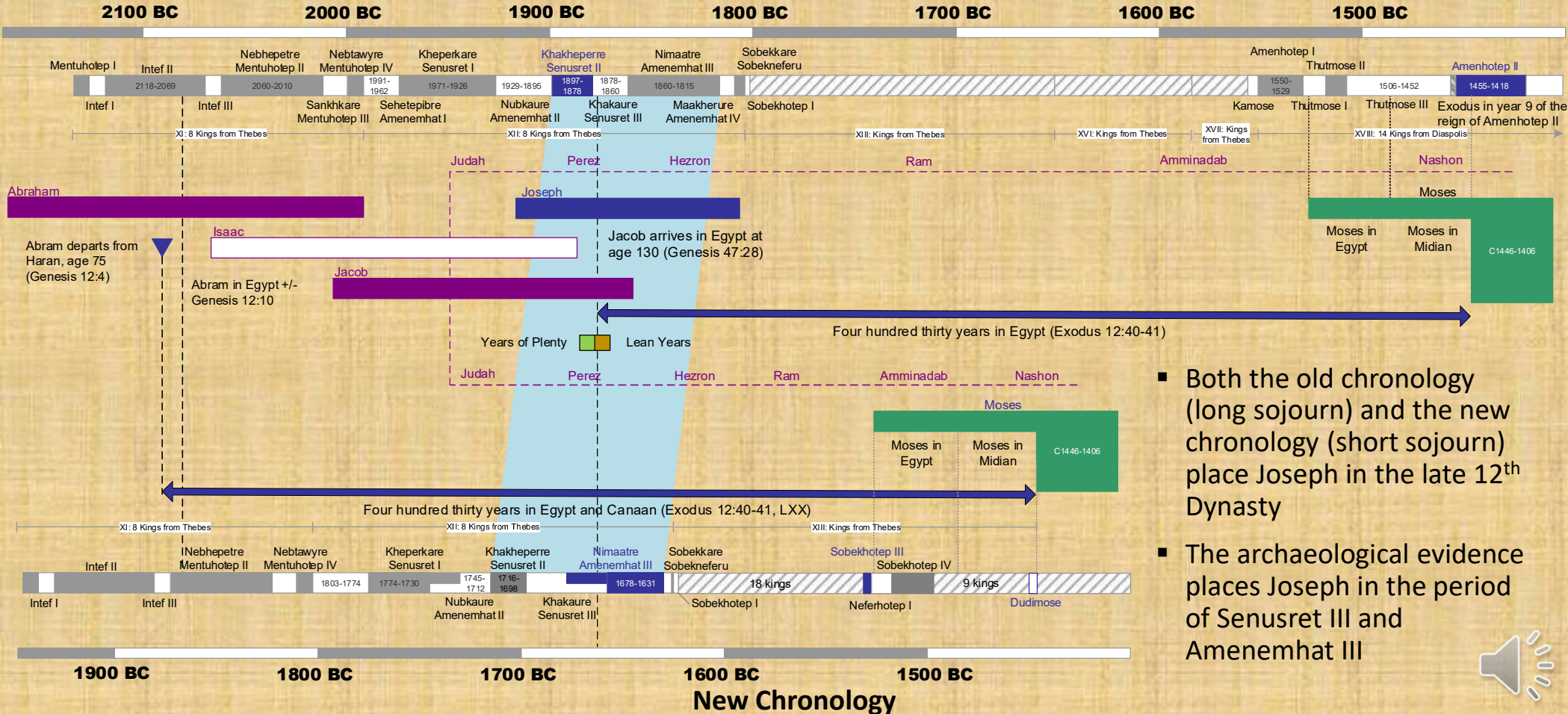


Abraham to the descent into Egypt: 215 years



The Sojourn

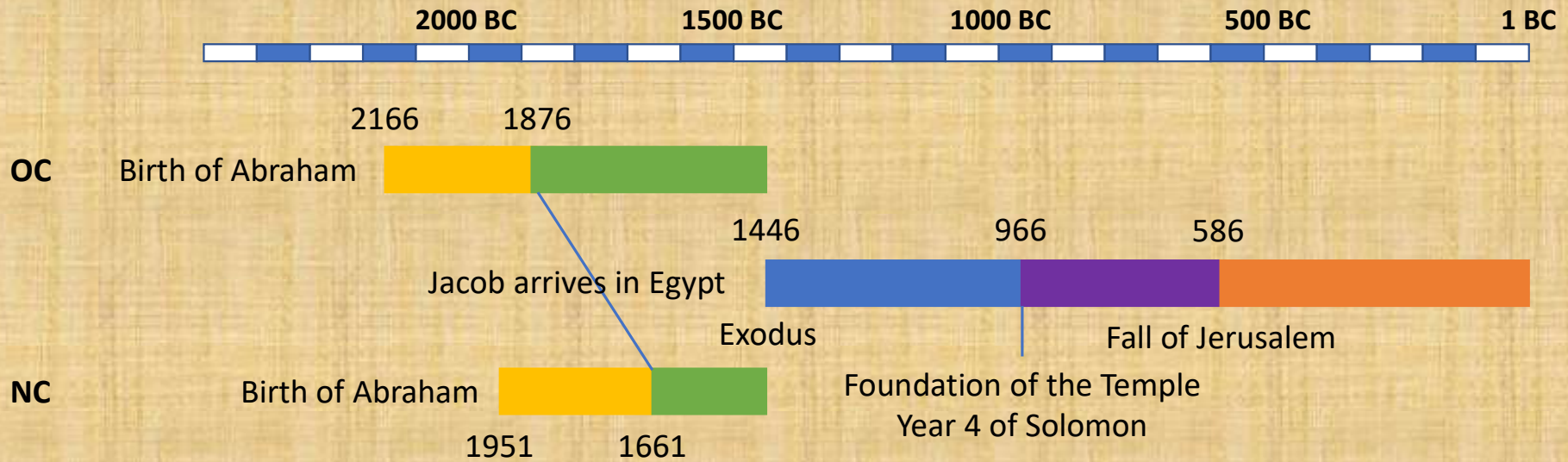
Old Chronology



- Both the old chronology (long sojourn) and the new chronology (short sojourn) place Joseph in the late 12th Dynasty
- The archaeological evidence places Joseph in the period of Senusret III and Amenemhat III



Recap



3. When was Joseph in Egypt?
4. When was the Exodus?
5. When did the Judges rule?
6. When did the Hebrew Kings live?



Generations in the Masoretic and Septuagint

Genesis 11: From the Flood to Abraham

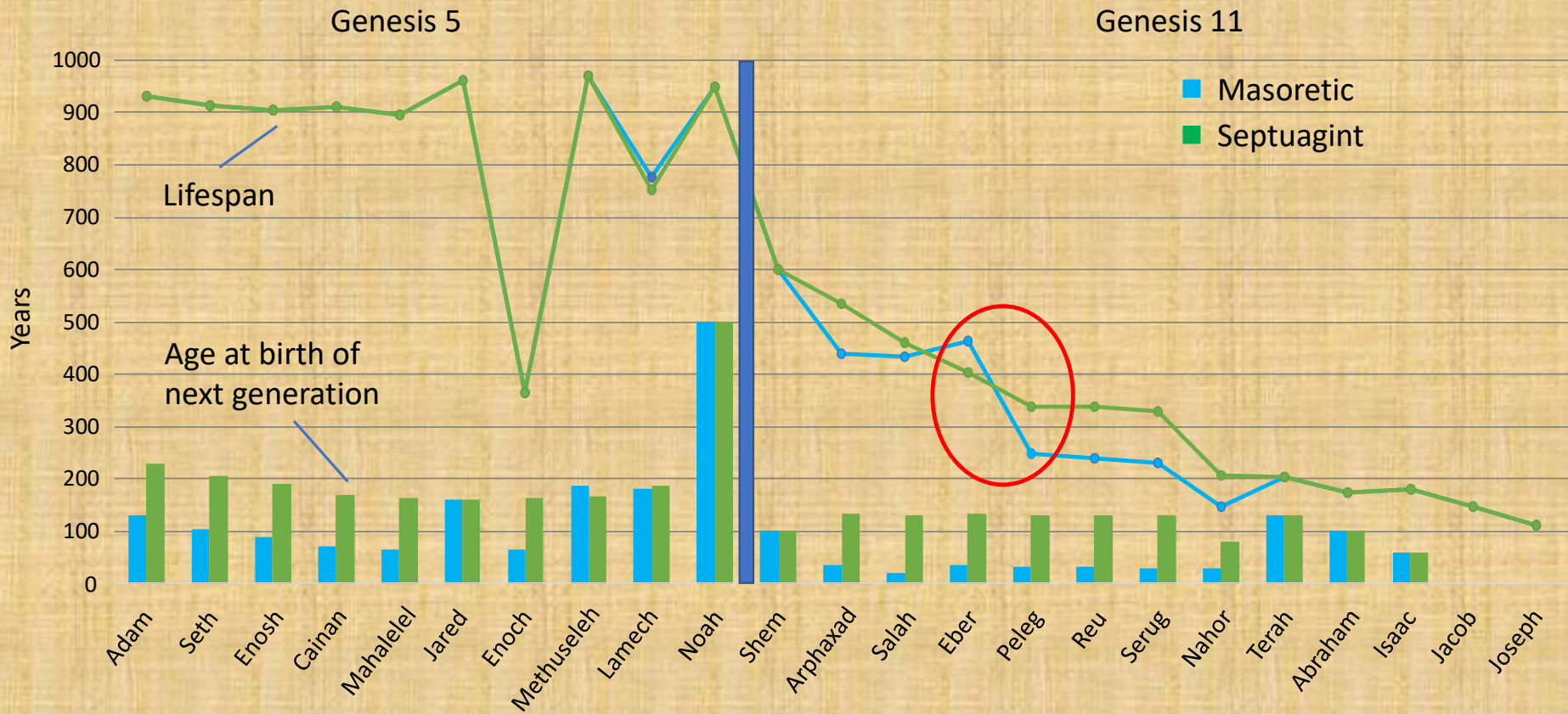
Name	Masoretic			Septuagint		
	Generation	Total Age	Elapsed	Generation	Total Age	Elapsed
Shem	2*	600	2	2*	600	2
Arphaxad	35	438	37	135	535	137
Salah	20	433	57	130	460	267
Eber	34	464	91	134	404	401
Peleg	32	249	123	130	339	531
Reu	32	239	155	132	339	663
Serug	30	230	185	130	330	793
Nahor	29	148	214	79	208	872
Terah	130	205	344	130	205	1002
Abraham	100	175	444	100	175	1102

444 ← Difference of 658 years → 1102

*Years after the flood. Shem was 100 when Arphaxad was born and lived 500 years after the flood



Generations in the Masoretic and Septuagint

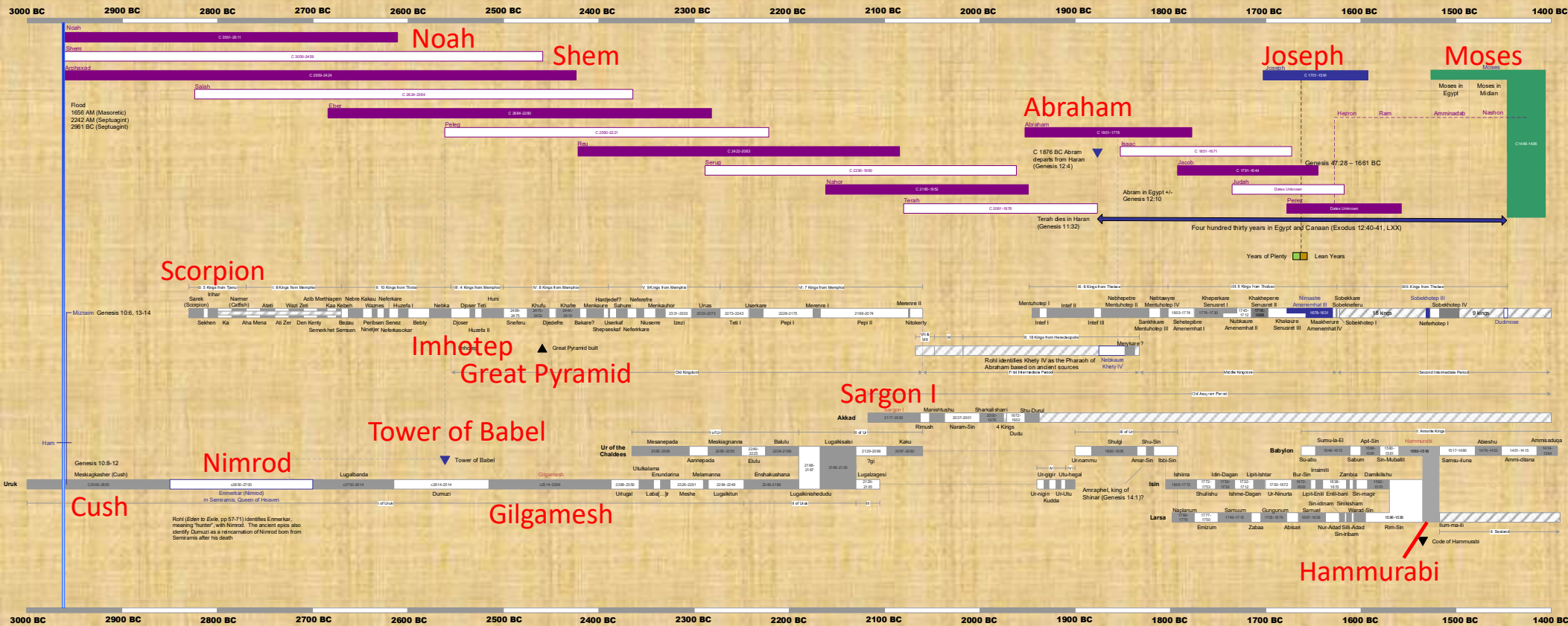


Potential dates for Creation and the Flood

Chronology	Text	Creation	Flood
Old / Long Sojourn	Masoretic	4,166 BC	2,510 BC
Old / Long Sojourn	Septuagint	5,410 BC	3,168 BC
New / Short Sojourn	Masoretic	3,951 BC (Ussher 4,004)	2,295 BC (Ussher 2,348)
New / Short Sojourn	Septuagint	5,195 BC	2,953 BC



The Flood to the Exodus in the New Chronology



The End

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