

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF OLD TESTAMENT CHRONOLOGY

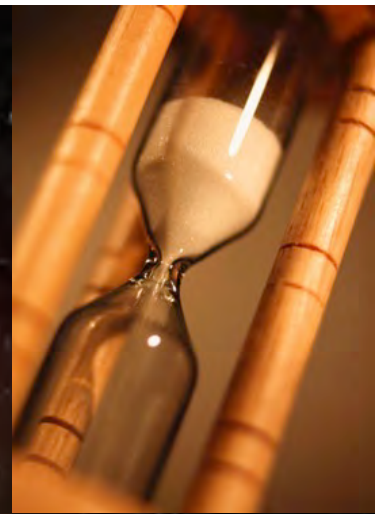


***“Chronology is the backbone
of history.”***

– Edwin Thiele

Genesis 5

Small Group Questions



- 1. How old was Adam when he died?**
- 2. How old was the earth when Adam died?**
- 3. On what basis did you answer the above?**

Our Questions

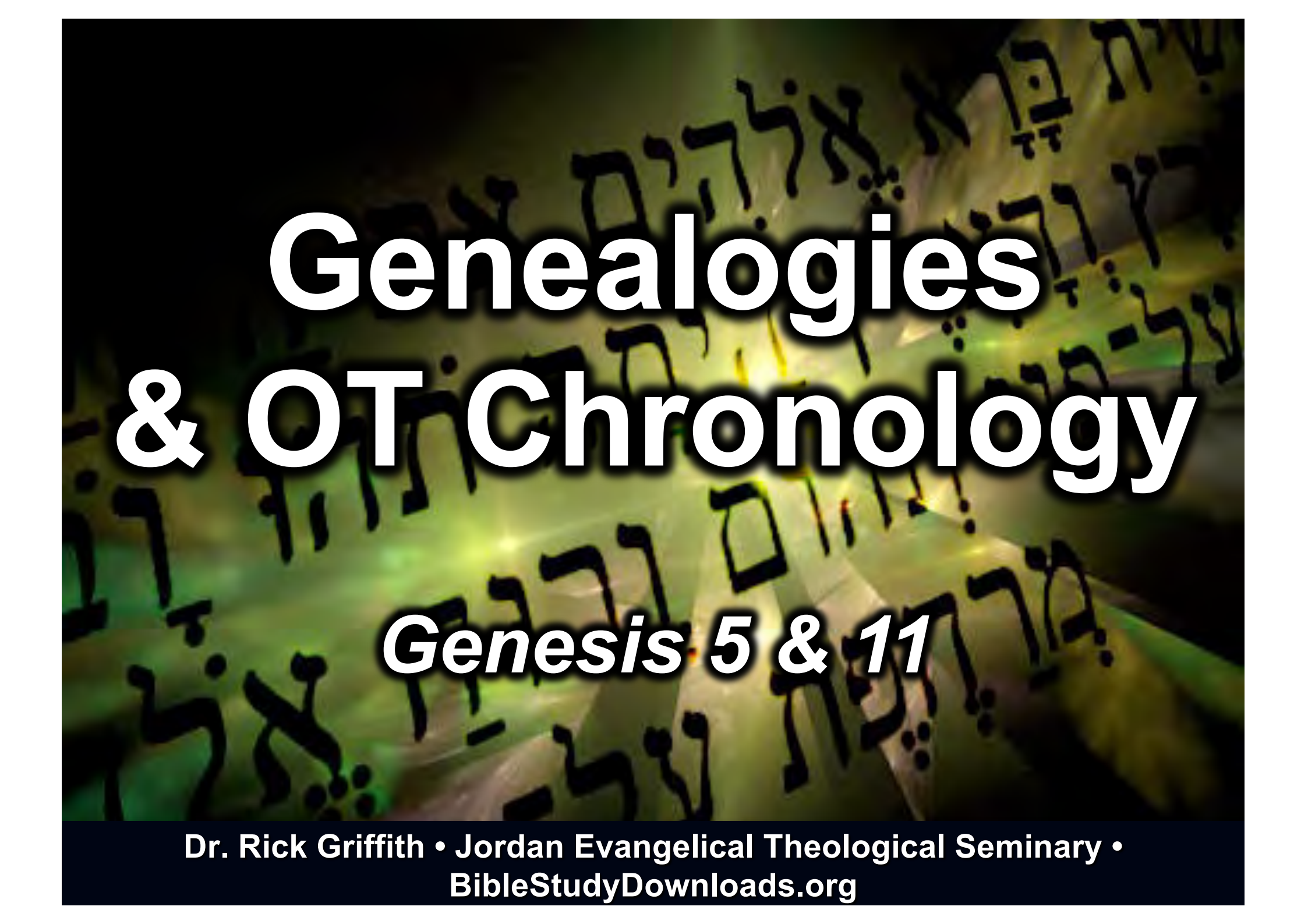


- ◆ **WHY ARE WE DOING THIS TOPIC???**
- ◆ How do all the dates and genealogies in the Bible **relate** to us today?
- ◆ Are all those numbers and genealogies we find in the Bible **historically reliable**?
- ◆ Could mistakes have been made when the numbers were **transmitted**?
- ◆ Can we reasonably say that the Bible is **God's inerrant word** with respect to chronology?

Our Method of Investigation

- 1) Research **key chronological problems** of the genealogies, the patriarchs, the exodus, the judges and kings of Israel
- 2) Examine the **issues, arguments** and various **solutions** proposed
- 3) Come to our **own conclusions** based on **biblical tenets** and **logical reasoning**
- 4) Consider how our findings and conclusions **apply** to our lives



The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly blurred view of ancient Hebrew script carved into stone tablets. The script is dark and set against a lighter, textured stone surface. The lighting is dramatic, with some areas appearing brighter than others, creating a sense of depth and historical significance.

Genealogies & OT Chronology

Genesis 5 & 11

What is OT Chronology?

- ◆ The **arrangement** of OT events in time, including their **dates** and **correlation** with secular history
- ◆ **Purpose**: To determine the correct dates of events and persons in the OT as precisely as possible



Why is the Chronology of the OT important?



- ◆ It describes the **building of the nation** of Israel, a country with **timeless significance**
- ◆ It fits OT events into the **extra biblical records** of the Near Eastern world
- ◆ It helps give confidence in the **historicity** and **reliability** of the Bible
- It builds **faith** in God and His message



How do Historians Determine the Chronology of the OT?

Sources

1. The **Bible** (genealogies, ages, lengths of reigns, time spans, synchronisms with events of other countries)
2. **Historical records** of the Ancient Near East (ANE)
3. **Astronomical data**
4. **Material remains and archaeological findings**
5. Records of **contemporary historians**

How do historians determine OT Chronology?

Methods

1. General: Examine the **milieu** of the time and compare with **other known records** to find compatibilities
2. Establish **sequence and time** according to Bible
3. Compare **synchronic events** in Bible and another reliable source
4. Verify with **other sources**
5. Work from **established dates**



Genesis Questions

Beginnings

- **When did the creation occur?**
- **Did the patriarchs really live that long?**

Oh, no... I hit the genealogies



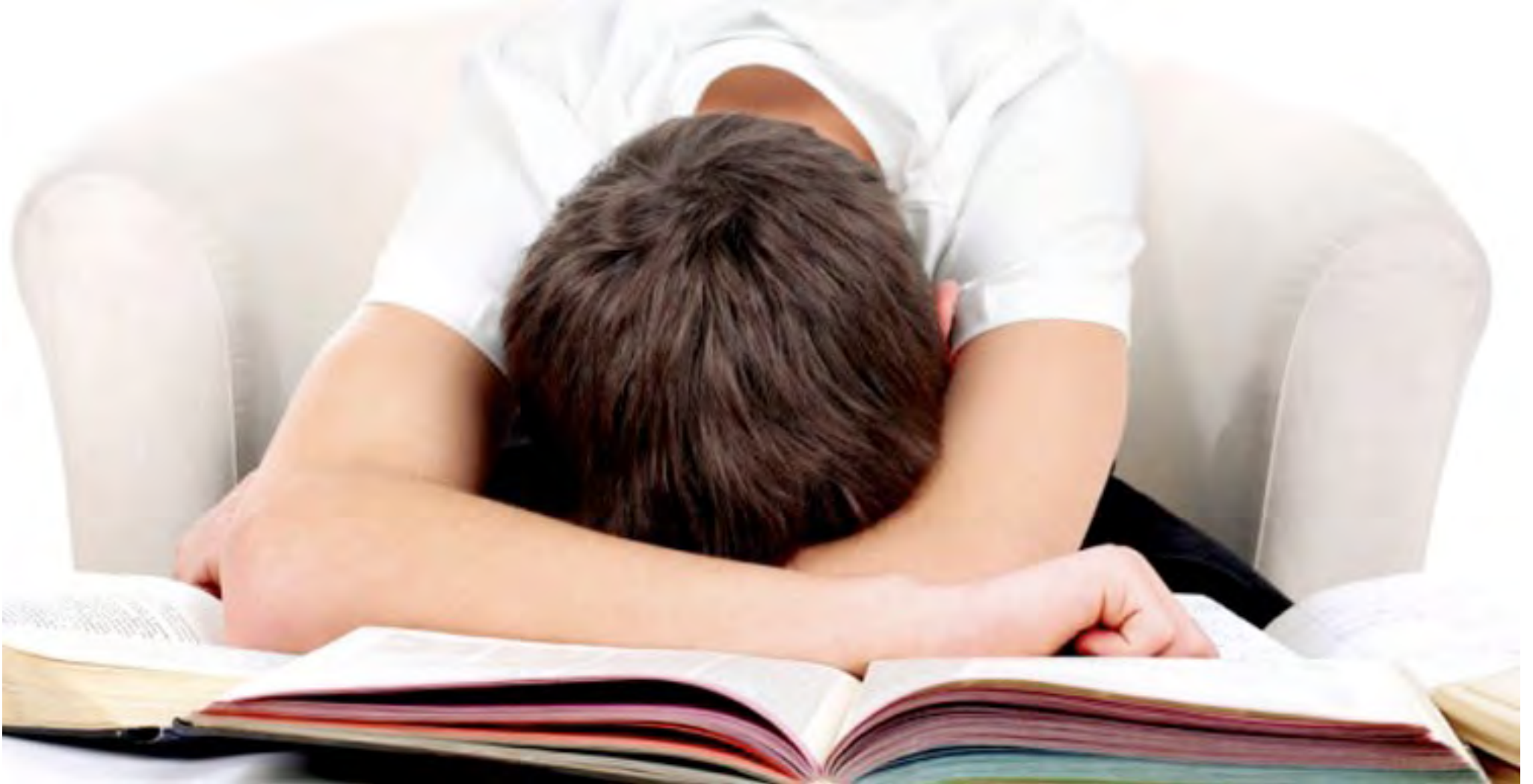
**in my read-through-the-Bible
program again...**

What's the point?

GENEALOGY



What's the point?



Genealogies can help you catch up on your sleep?

Can We Find the Date of Creation from Genesis 5 & 11?



Some Say "No"

- Other genealogies in the Bible have gaps (e.g., Matt. 1:1-17)
- Therefore there must be gaps in Genesis
- A "no gap" view puts the Flood at 2487 BC but Egypt's history goes back before 3300 BC

Others Say "Yes"

- The other genealogies do not give the father's ages when their sons were born
- God wants us to "mark seasons and days and years" (Gen. 1:14)
- Why else would God give us the ages of these men?



The Mystery of the Genesis 5 & 11 Genealogies

- ◆ **Genesis 5** carries the genealogy that stretches from Adam to the Flood.
Genesis 11 carries the genealogy from Shem (son of Noah) to Terah (father of Abram)
- ◆ Can information found in the genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11 be used to **determine the dates** of certain events in history?

Genesis Genealogy Mysteries



Adam

Noah

Shem

Terah

Genesis 5

Genesis 11

Can these genealogies help **determine the dates** of events in history?

Genesis 5 Genealogy

Adam

Seth

Enosh

Kenan

Mahalalel

Jared

Enoch

Methuselah

Lamech

Noah

Why Don't Genesis 5 & 11 Have Gaps?³⁸

Adam

Seth

Enosh

Kenan

Mahalalel

Jared

Enoch

Methuselah

Lamech

Noah

1. State lengths of time

Age at Son's Birth

Adam-130

Seth-105

Enosh-90

Kenan-70

Mahalalel-65

Jared-162

Enoch-65

Methuselah-187

Lamech-122

Noah-500

Genesis 5 Age at Death

38

Adam	930	
Seth	912	
Enosh	905	
Kenan	910	
Mahalalel	895	
Jared	962	
Enoch	365	God took him without death
Methuselah	969	
Lamech	777	
Noah	950	

Why Don't Genesis 5 & 11 Have Gaps?³⁸

Adam

Seth

Enosh

Kenan

Mahalalel

Jared

Enoch

Methuselah

Lamech

Noah

1. State lengths of time
2. Shorter lengths

Genesis 5 Shorter Than Luke 3

Adam

2006

yrs

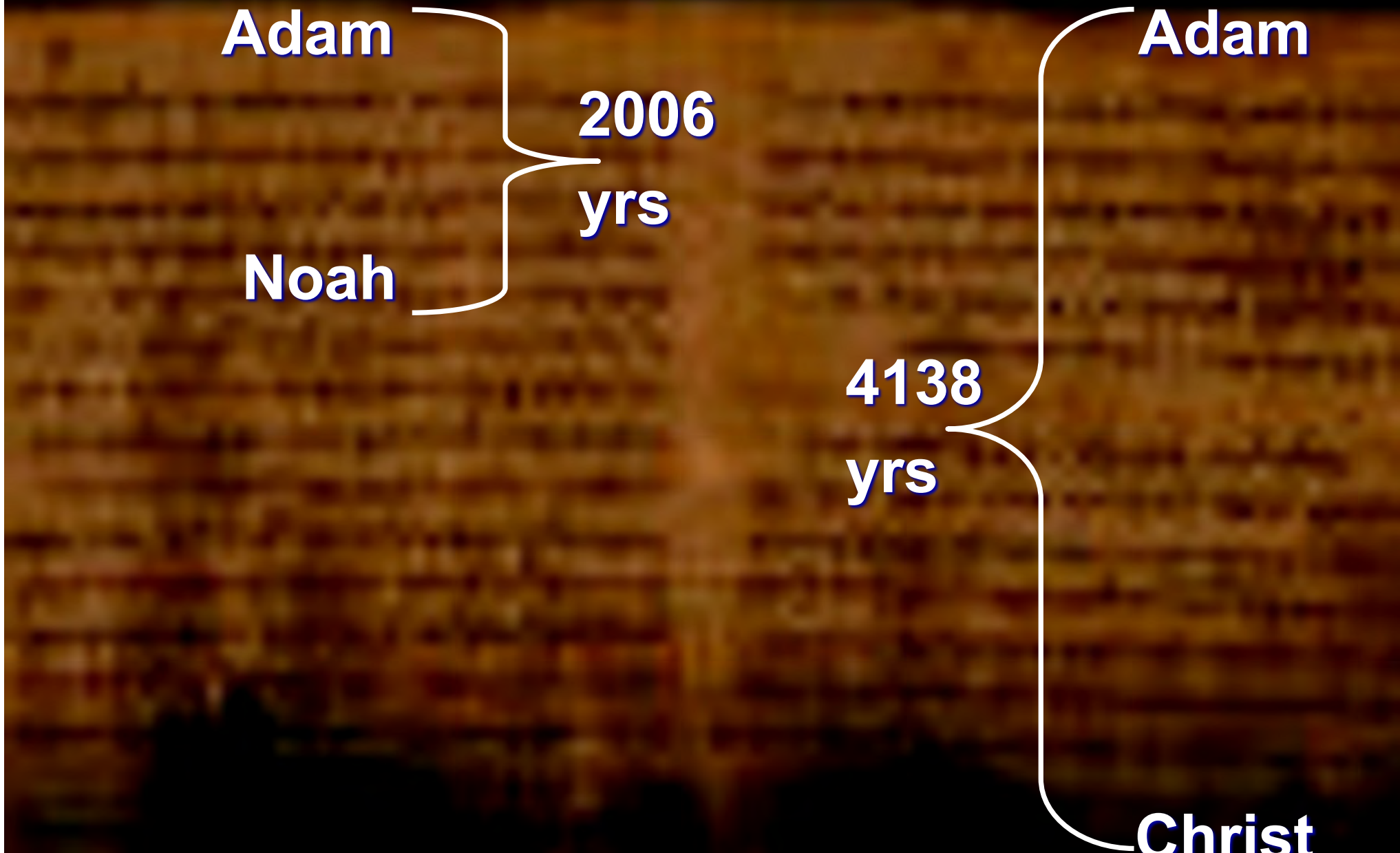
Noah

Adam

4138

yrs

Christ



Why Don't Genesis 5 & 11 Have Gaps?

7

Adam
Seth
Enosh
Kenan
Mahalalel
Jared
Enoch
Methuselah
Lamech
Noah

1. State lengths of time
2. Shorter lengths
3. Most natural
4. Show father-son
5. Jude 14
6. Similar ANE chronologies

"Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied saying. . ."
(Jude 14a, NASB)

Two Views



◆ Straight chronology

- The Bible has the necessary data to map out the basic historical timeline of the OT

◆ Genealogical gaps

- There are gaps not mentioned in the Bible
- Genealogical information should not be used as the only source for dating events

Arguments Posed for Gaps


- ◆ It is normal for Scripture to **pass over very long periods of time** with little or no remark
- ◆ **Omission of unimportant names** is the rule rather than the exception
- ◆ In the ancient world "begat" simply indicated "**became the ancestor of,**" however far removed that ancestor was
- ◆ **Lack of harmony** exists between OT chronologies and neighboring states



Straight Chronology Support



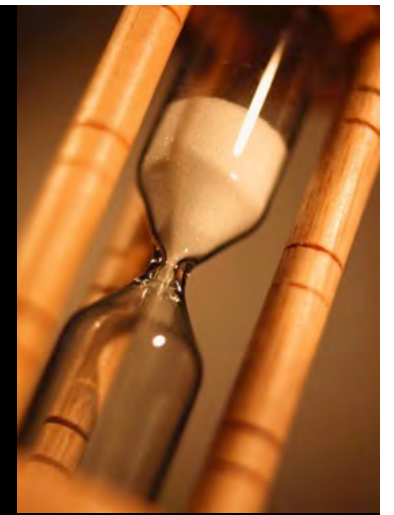
- ◆ The Bible is filled with much chronological information though **scattered** in many places
- ◆ When this chronological information is fully **systematized**, a straight chronology may be proven



**How can
you tell the
age of the
earth?**

**Just ask the only
Eyewitness!**

**"Just do
the math."**






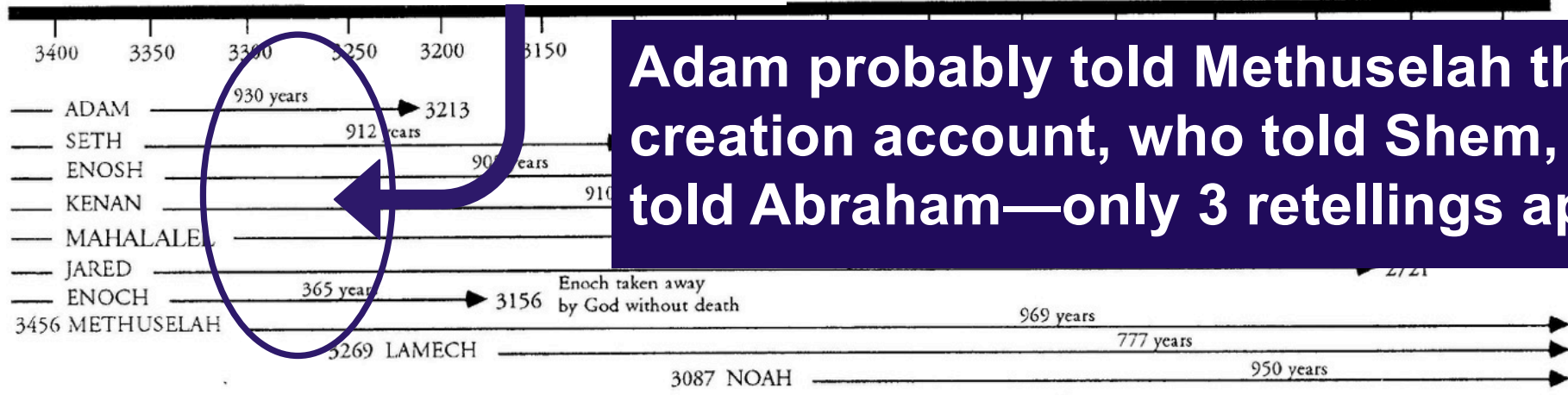
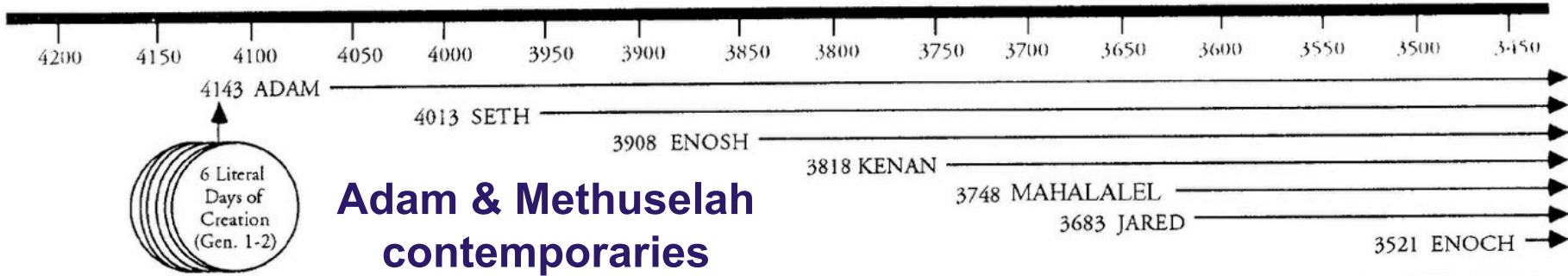
**"God, how
old is the
earth?"**



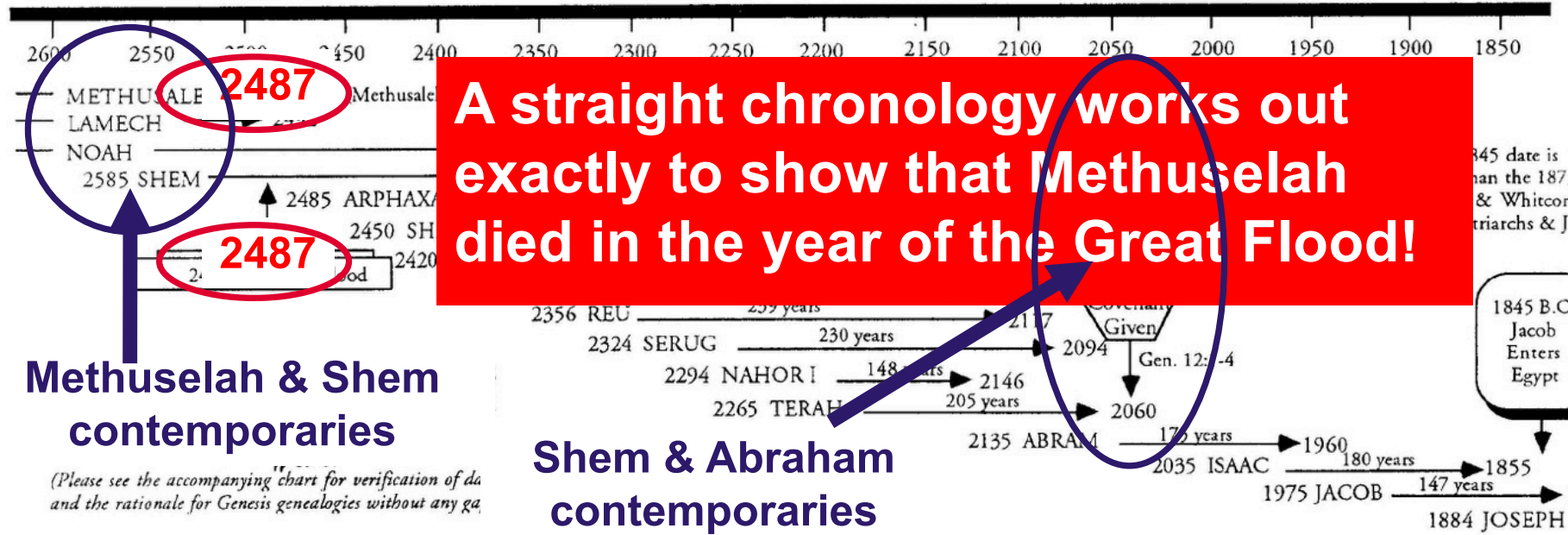
Chronology of the Patriarchs (Gen. 5, 11)

38-44

Event	Reference	AH	BC
World created	"God finished"	-6 days	4143
Adam created	"God created man"	0	4143
Seth born	"Adam was 130..."	130	4013
Enosh born	"Seth was 105..."	235	3908
			
Jacob & family go to Egypt	"Jacob age 130 at 400 years before Exodus in 1445 BC"	2298	1845



Adam probably told Methuselah the creation account, who told Shem, who told Abraham—only 3 retellings apart!



A straight chronology works out exactly to show that Methuselah died in the year of the Great Flood!

Methuselah & Shem contemporaries

Shem & Abraham contemporaries

(Please see the accompanying chart for verification of data and the rationale for Genesis genealogies without any gaps.)

Line of the Patriarchs

A “day” means a “day” in the Flood account.

Flood Chronology

Day
0



God Shuts the Door

Noah and his family sealed within the ark (Gen 7:16).

Day
7



Flood Begins

Waters trapped deep in the ground break open on the land in 40 days of hard rain with volcanic eruptions, erosion, earthquakes, and more (Gen 7:12, 17). Waters cover the whole earth (Gen 7:18-20). All land creatures die (Gen 7:21-22).

Day
47



Day 47 of Flood—Intense Rainfall Ends

For 110 more days, the waters cover the earth (Gen 7:24), as the rain and eruptions continue. Many layers of mud laid down, full of dead things. They have now turned into rocks and fossils.

Finally, the water begins to go down.

Day
157



Ark Lands on New Ararat Mountains (Gen 8:4)

For 74 days, Noah and his family wait while the water continues to go down. A great wind (Gen 8:1) helps to drive the water off the land. The mountains continue to rise and valleys form. The flood waters continue to collect in the new oceans.

7
Days

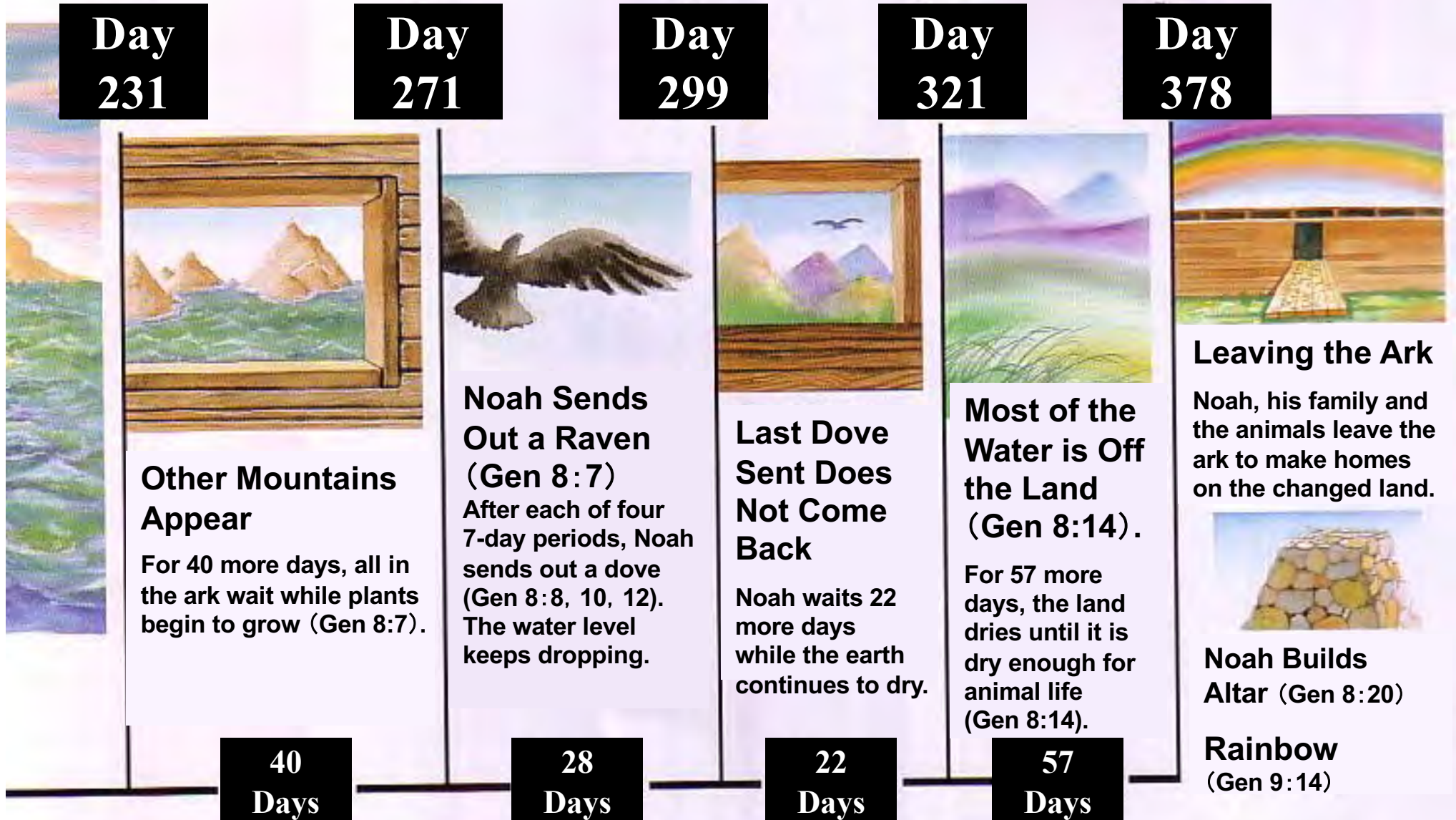
40
Days

110
Days

74
Days

So why can't a "year" mean a "year" in the genealogies?

Flood Chronology



Ages of people when they died



Adam  930 Years



Methuselah  969 Years



Noah  950 Years



Shem  600 Years



Abraham  175 Years

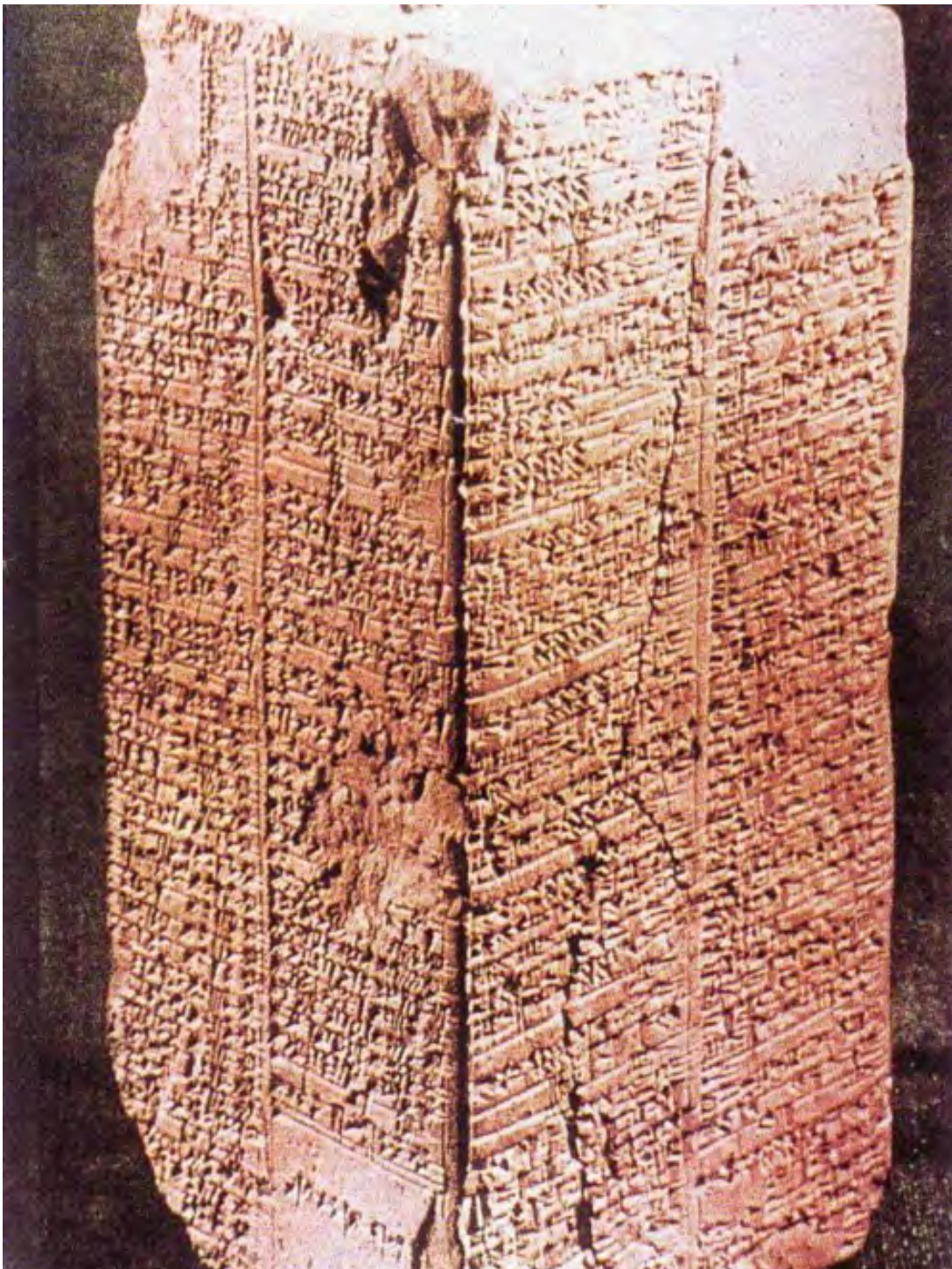


Moses  120 Years



David  70 Years

**The Flood
explains why
life spans
shortened**



Sumerian King List

**Inscribed about 1800
BC (about 600 years
after the Flood)**

**Ten of these kings
before the Flood are
said to have lived
between 21,000 to
43,200 years each
(cf. Gen. 5)**



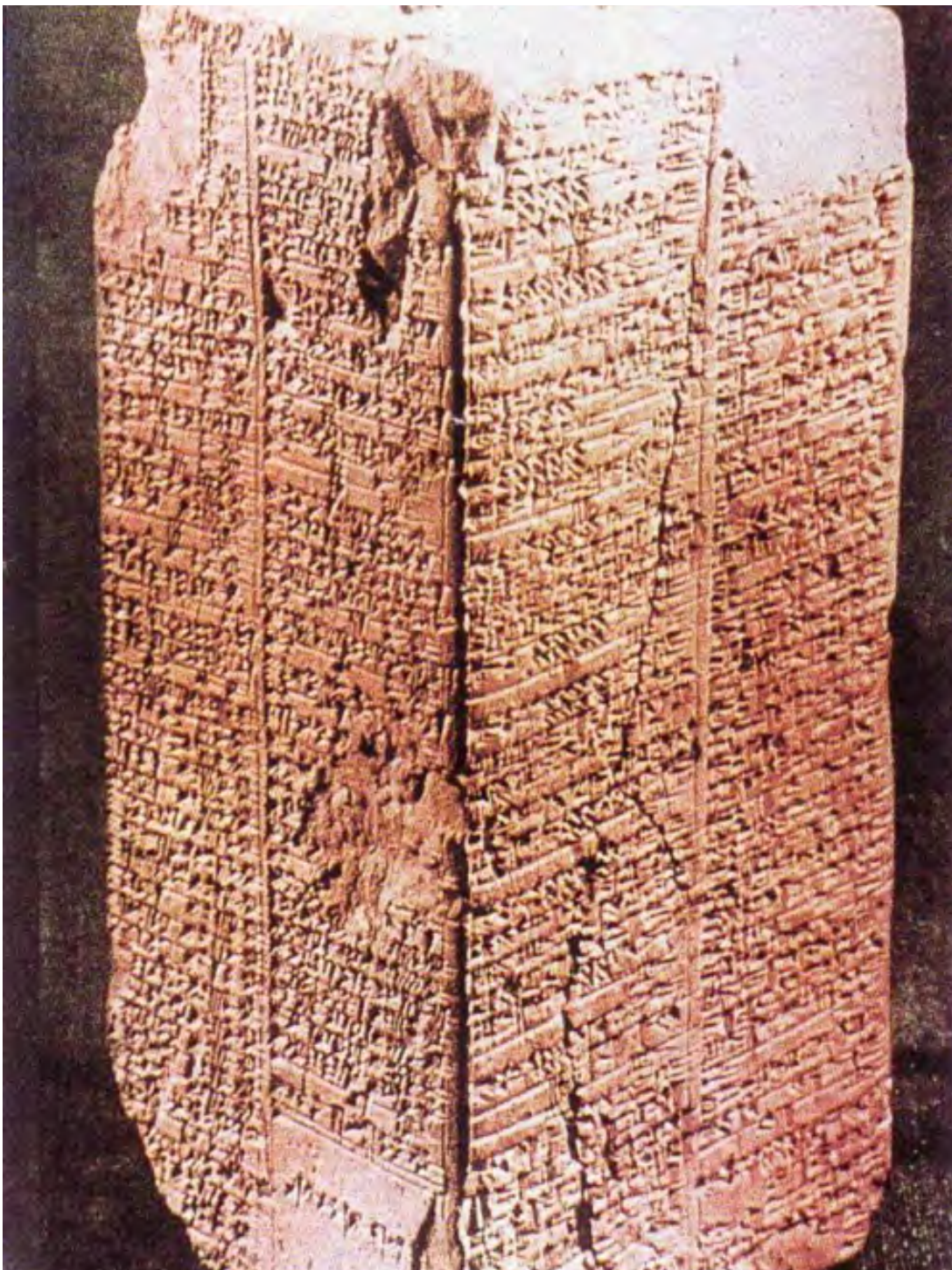
“When kingship came
down from heaven. . .

Alulim became king and
reigned for 28,800 years...

Eight kings reigned for
241,000 years. *Then the
flood waters streamed over
the earth.*”

Sumerian King List

<u>King & Years of Reign</u>	
Alulim	28,800
Alalgar	36,000
Enmenluanna	43,200
Enmengalanna	28,800
Dumuzi	36,000
Ensipazianna	28,800
Enmeduranna	21,000
Urbatutu	18,600
<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	241,000



Sumerian King List

**None of us
believe in kings
who reigned
28,800 years, but
it does show a
belief in long ages
and a worldwide
flood.**



Kitchen, *Reliability of the OT*

How long did they
really reign?

Sumerian King List

<u>King & Years of Reign</u>	<u>The Math</u>	<u>Kitchen</u>
Alulim 28,800	÷ 600	48
Alalgar 36,000	÷ 600	60
Enmenluanna 43,200	÷ 600	72
Enmengalanna 28,800	÷ 600	48
Dumuzi 36,000	÷ 600	60
Ensipazianna 28,800	÷ 600	48
Enmeduranna 21,000	÷ 600	35
<u>Urbatutu 18,600</u>	<u>÷ 600</u>	<u>31</u>
Total 241,000	Total	402

Genesis 5 Age at Son's Birth

Adam-130

Seth-105

Enosh-90

Kenan-70

Mahalalel-65

Jared-162

Enoch-65

Methuselah-187

Lamech-122

Noah-500

Kitchen on Age at Son's Birth

Adam **130** \div **5** = **26**

Seth **105** \div **5** = **21**

Enosh **90** \div **5** = **18**

Kenan **70** \div **5** = **14**

Mahalalel **65** \div **5** = **13**

Jared **162** \div **5** = **32**

Enoch **65** \div **5** = **13**

Methuselah **187** \div **5** = **37**

Lamech **122** \div **5** = **24**

Noah **500** \div **5** = **100**

Kitchen on Age at Death

Adam **930** $\div 5 = 186$

Seth **912** $\div 5 = 182$

Enosh **905** $\div 5 = 181$

Kenan **910** $\div 5 = 182$

Mahalalel **895** $\div 5 = 179$

Jared **962** $\div 5 = 192$

Enoch **365** $\div 5 = 73$

Methuselah **969** $\div 5 = 193$

Lamech **777** $\div 5 = 155$

Noah **950** $\div 5 = 190$

Alternate Kitchen View

Adam	930
Seth	912
Enosh	905
Kenan	910
Mahalalel	895
Jared	962
Enoch	365
Methuselah	969
Lamech	777
Noah	950



**Years Later
When Clan
Died Out**

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha

90

I JUST TURNED 969
YEARS OLD AND PEOPLE
KEEP TELLING ME HOW
OLD I AM. I TELL THEM
I'M NOT OLD! THE
EARTH IS OLD! IT'S
ALMOST 700 YEARS
OLDER THAN
I AM!

www.AnswersInGenesis.org

256

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Methuselah

Methuselah believed in an "Old Earth."

The Meaning of Each Patriarch's Name in the 10 Generations

Genealogy of Genesis 5

(with their Hebrew meaning.)

אָדָם	Adam	=	“Man” (is)
שֵׁת	Seth	=	“Appointed”
אֵנוֹשׁ	Enosh	=	“Mortal”
קֵינָן	Kenan	=	“Sorrow” (but)
מַהֲלֵאֵל	Mahalael	=	“The Blessed God”
יָרֵד	Jared	=	“Shall Come Down”
חֵנוֹךְ	Enoch	=	“Teaching”
מֶתוּשֶׁלַח	Methuselah	=	“His Death Shall Bring”
לָמֶךְ	Lamech	=	(the) “Despairing”
נֹחַ	Noah	=	“Comfort, Rest”

The Meaning of Each Patriarch's Name in the 10 Generations

GENEALOGY OF GENESIS 5 - ADAM TO NOAH

NAME	HEBREW MEANING
Adam (אָדָם)	- "man"
Seth (שֵׁת)	- "appointed"
Enosh (אֱנוֹשׁ)	- "mortal/frail"
Cainan (קַיִן)	- "sorrow"
Mahalalel (מְהַלְלֵלֵאל)	- "blessed God"
Jared (יָרֵד)	- "shall come down"
Enoch (חֲנוֹךְ)	- "teaching"
Methuselah (מֶתוּשֶׁלַח)	- "his death shall bring"
Lamech (לִמְךָ)	- "despairing"
Noah (נֹחַ)	- "comfort/rest"

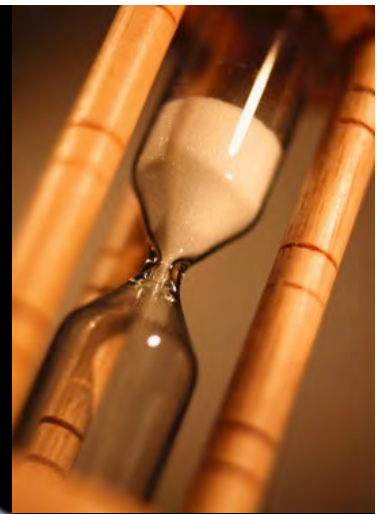
"[For] man [was] appointed mortal sorrow. [But the] blessed God shall come down teaching, His death shall bring [the] despairing comfort/rest!"

**OK, so what's
the point?**

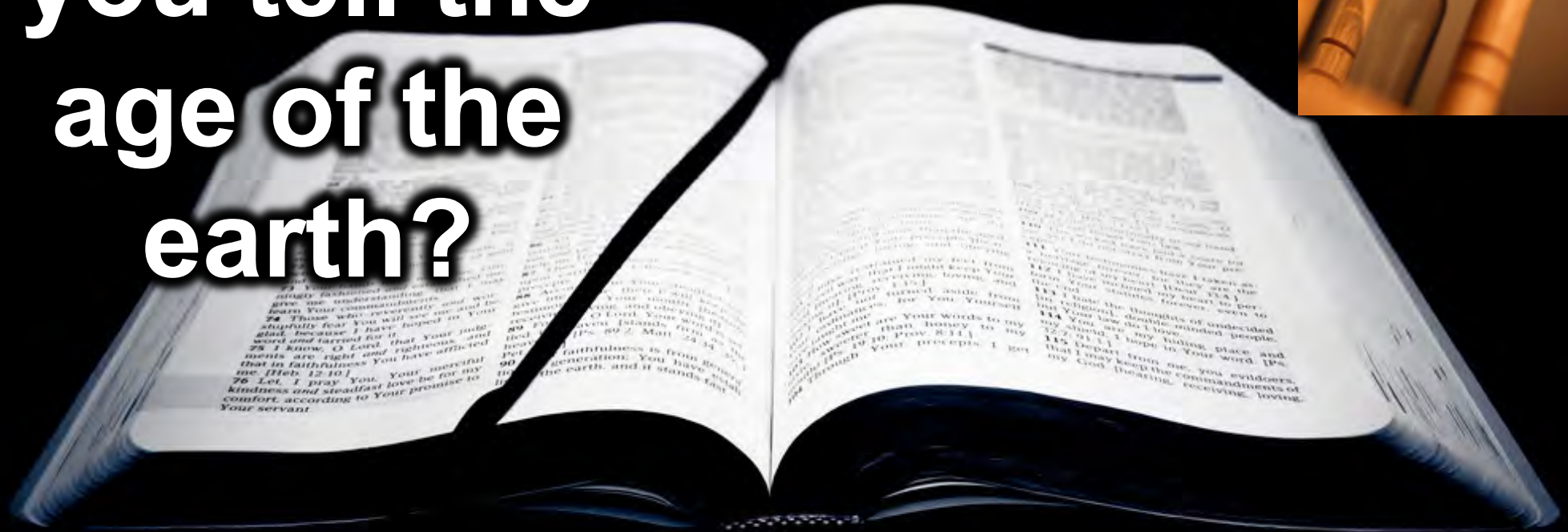


**Will you take
God's Word at
face value—
even when it is
uncomfortable?**





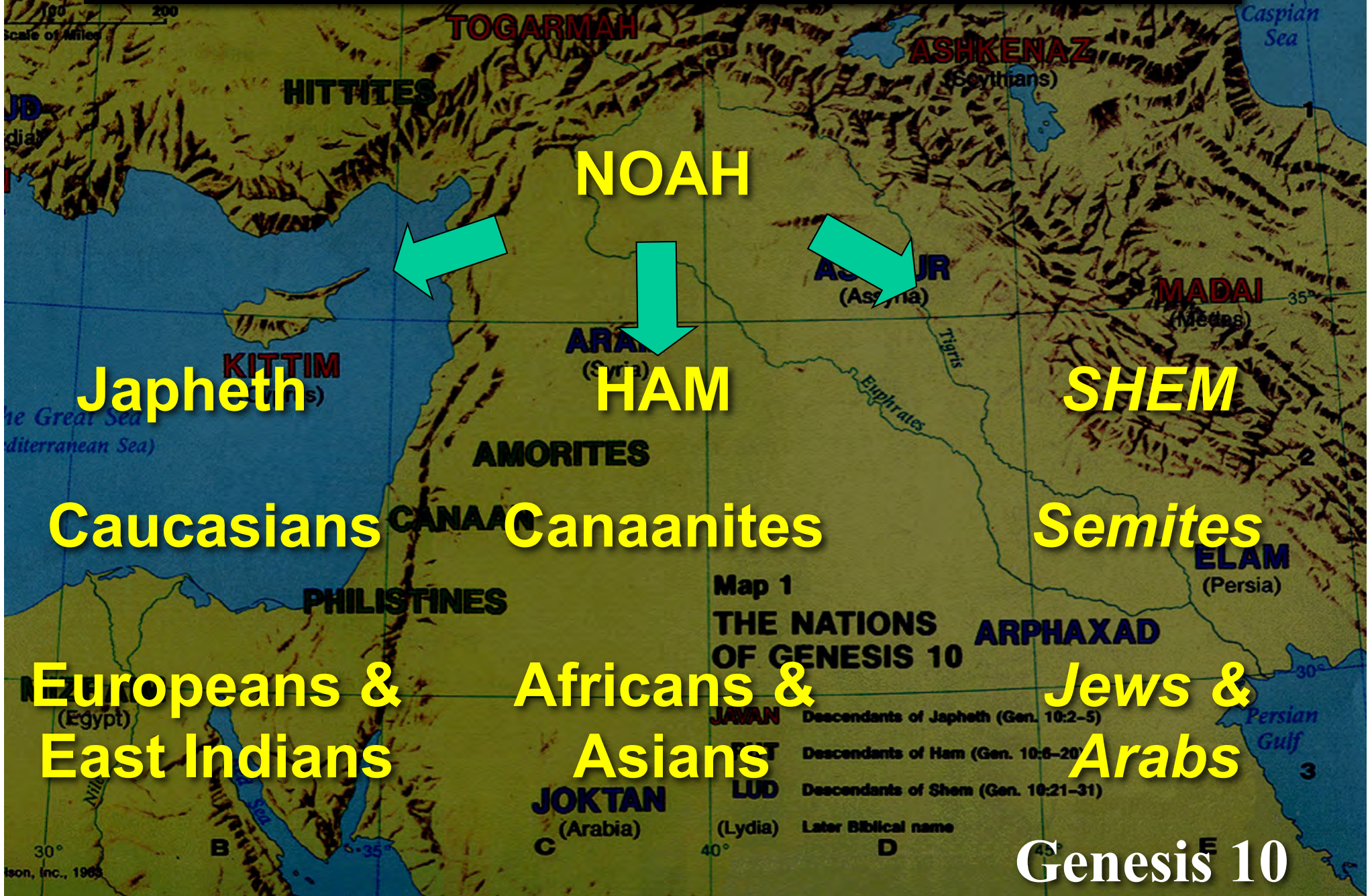
**How can
you tell the
age of the
earth?**



**Trust the Book
written by the
Eyewitness**

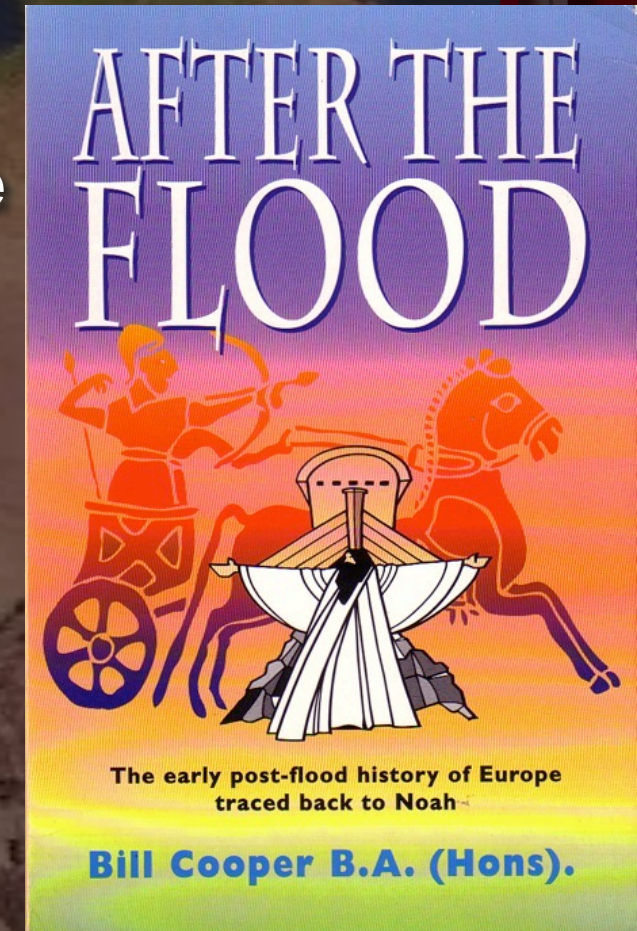
The Table of Nations

60
50°
Pt. 6

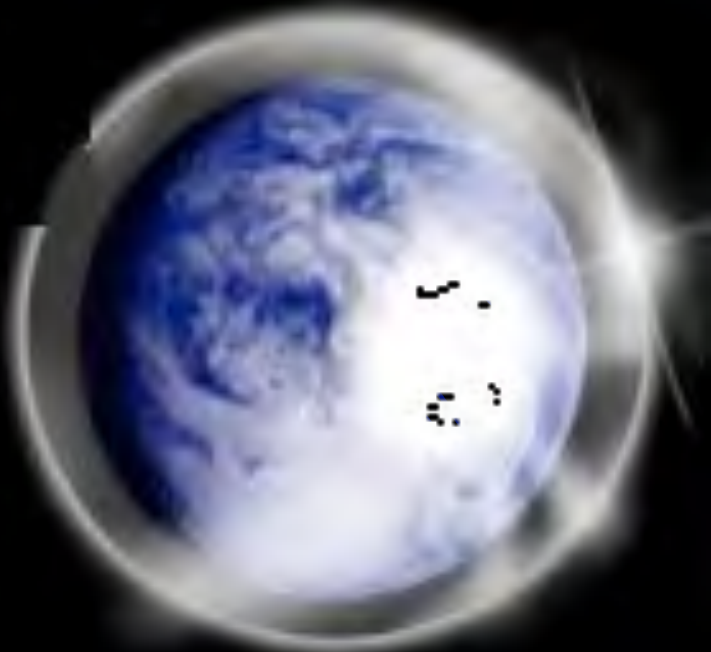


Is the Table of Nations Accurate (Gen. 10-11)?

“Having constructed the Table of Nations into a simple genealogy, I wanted to see how many of its names were attested in the records of other nations in the Middle East... [I saw that] the Table of Nations had listed all the families and tribes of mankind in their correct groupings, whether those groupings were ethnological, linguistic or geographical. All the names, without exception, were accurate, and in more than twenty-five years of searching and analyzing, I uncovered not one mistake or false statement of fact in the Table of Nations.”



Water Vapor Canopy Theory



- First proposed by Isaac Newton Vail in 1874
- Support sought in "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water" (Gen. 1:6)
- Provided enough water for universal flood (Gen. 7:11)
- Enabled long pre-flood life spans (reduced radiation)
- Held by young earth advocates
- Hotly contested!

Evangelicals Differ

Reasons to Believe
 Hugh Ross
 Walt Brown
 Old Earth
 Day-Age Theory
 Local Flood
 Rain waters

reasons.org
godandscience.org
creationscience.com


Institute for Creation Research, AiG
 Henry/John Morris, Duane Gish
 Joseph Dillow, Ken Ham
 Young Earth
 24-hour Creation Days
 Universal Flood
 Vapor canopy

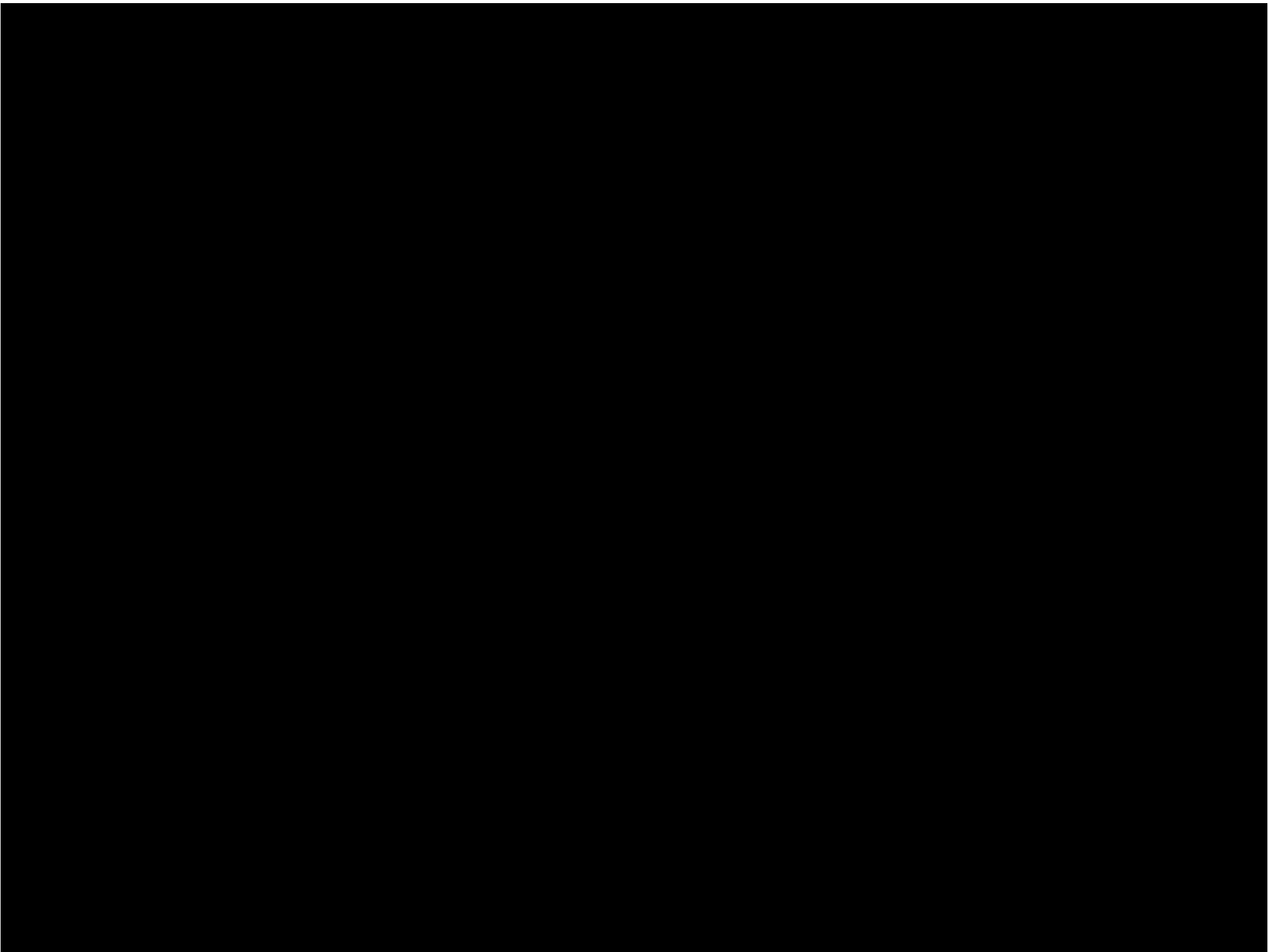
answersingenesis.org
genesispark.org
icr.org critiques Ross at:
icr.org/pubs/imp/imp-217.htm



EARTH'S PRE-FLOOD VAPOR CANOPY
 FOREWORD BY HENRY M. MORRIS
 Revised Edition

Conclusions from Findings

- 
- ◆ The **purposes** of the genealogies were:
 - **Historical**: to trace an exact outline of their history and establish their descent
 - **Religious and theological**: to show that God had protected this line as promised, and to show the connection with past godly people
 - ◆ The genealogies **should not be read with modern meanings** and inferences attached to the words



The Mystery of the Patriarchs

- ◆ Who were they?
 - The ancestors of the people of Israel, **Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & Joseph**
- ◆ Did they really exist?
 - Many OT scholars rejected the OT account of the patriarchs and their historical backgrounds, considering them **fictional** ancestors
 - New scholars believe they are **historical** as modern archaeologists and historians have **corroborated** many features of the patriarchal records in Gen. 12-50



The Mystery of the Patriarchs



- ◆ How can they be dated?
 - a) External events in their time
 - b) Evidence of period/social conditions in which they lived
 - c) Statements of time elapsed between their days



Egyptian Chronology

- ◆ Originally used a lunar calendar (but it could not predict the Nile's annual flooding)
- ◆ First to develop solar calendar (earliest date claimed is 4236 BC)
- ◆ Added an extra month when the solar and lunar calendars disagreed



Beni Hasan Mural

Two Egyptians lead the procession (no beards)

- Egypt

- 1850 BC

- Attests to Israelites trading in Egypt

- Joseph story (Gen. 37–50)

- Solomon's wife (1 Kings 9:16), etc.

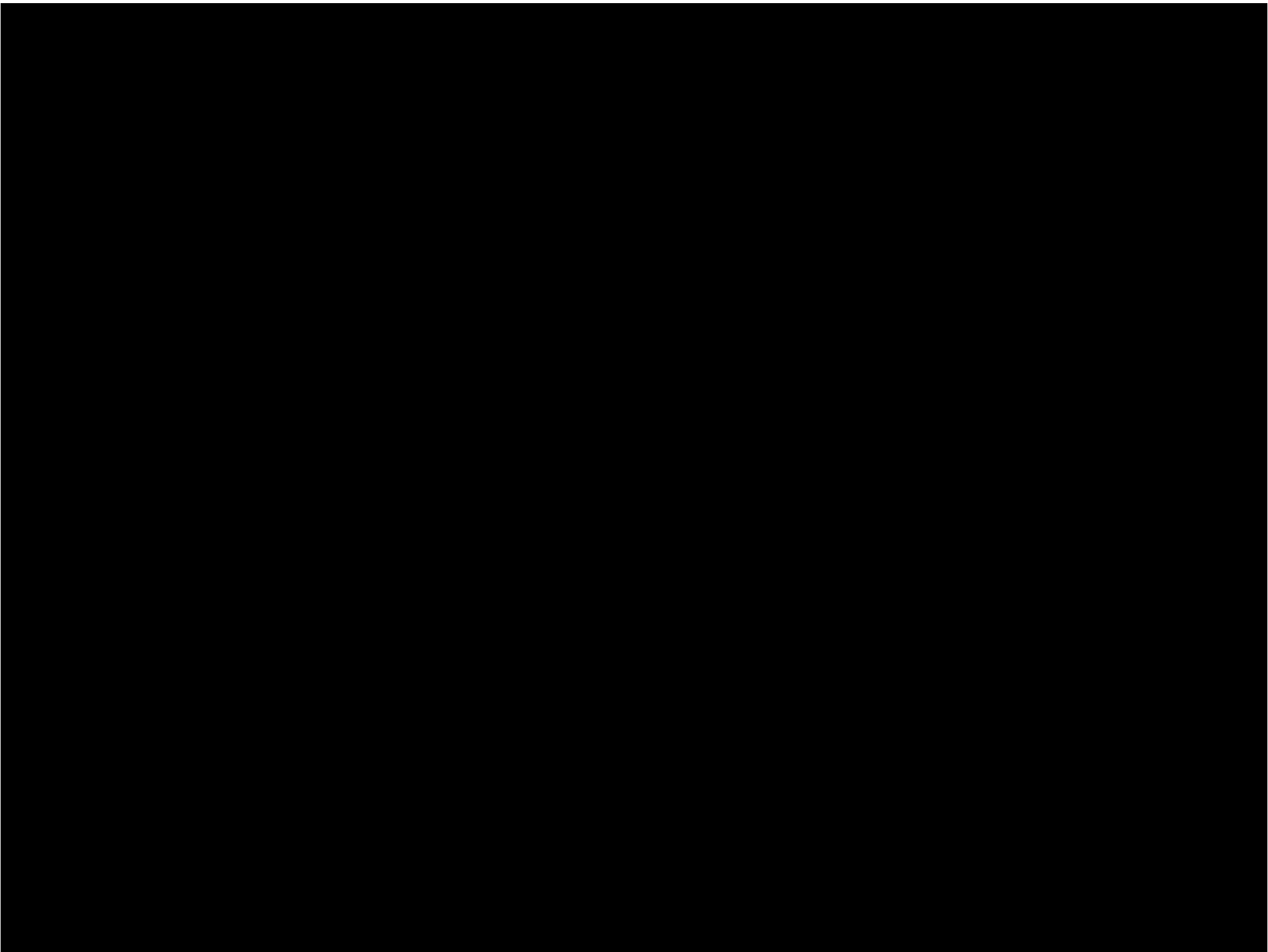
8 wealthy Asiatic men
& 4 women follow
(note beards)

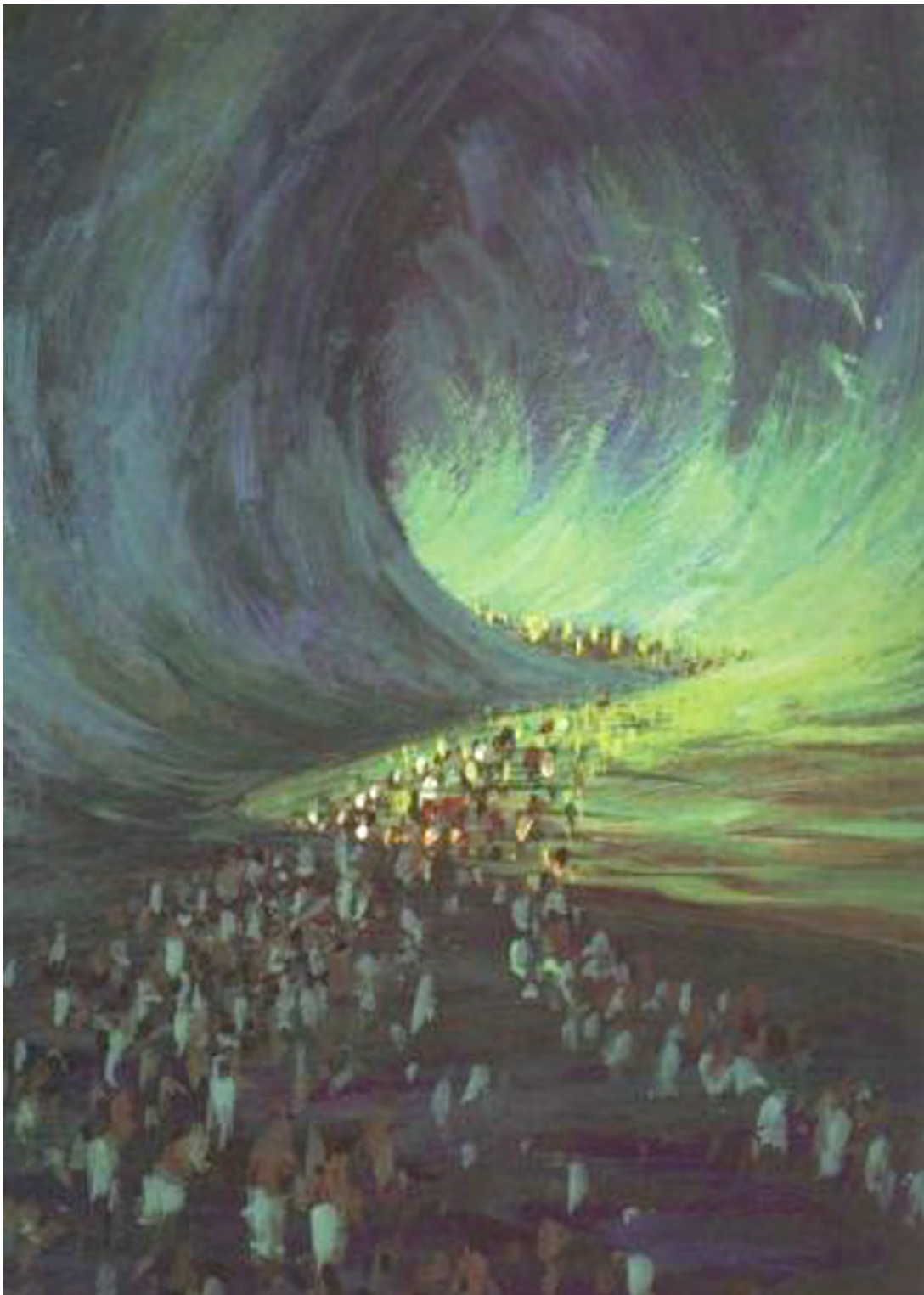


Conclusions from Findings

- ◆ Archaeological discoveries have shown that the patriarchs were **historical** figures and that the biblical record is **accurate**
- ◆ **Israel's existence** now as a nation resulted from:
 - God keeping His covenant with Abraham
 - The patriarchs' faith and obedience
- ◆ As Christians, we have the patriarchs as **fathers of our faith** and we are **partakers of that same everlasting covenant**







Crossing the Reed Sea

Amenophis II

The Exodus Took Faith!



(See Exodus 14)

04-20-1999

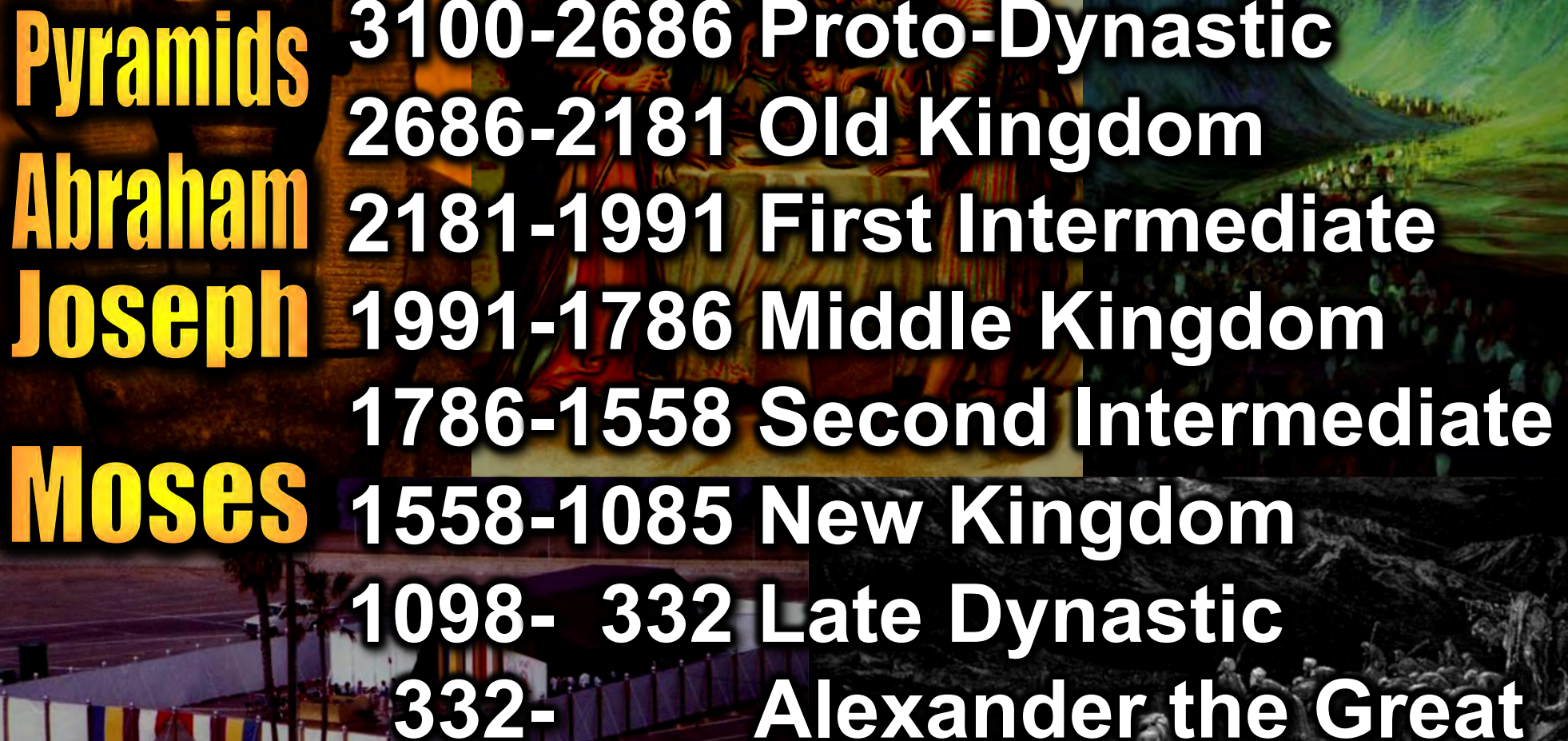
I think you have some serious faith issues.



**Was this
Rameses II?**



Traditional History of Egypt



Pyramids	3100-2686	Proto-Dynastic
Abraham	2686-2181	Old Kingdom
Joseph	2181-1991	First Intermediate
Moses	1991-1786	Middle Kingdom
	1786-1558	Second Intermediate
	1558-1085	New Kingdom
	1098- 332	Late Dynastic
	332-	Alexander the Great

Traditional Dating of New Kingdom Pharaohs

87



Eighteenth Dynasty

Name	Comments	Rule Dates
Ahmose, Ahmosis I	Successor to Kamose	1570-1546
Amenhotep I		1551-1524
Djehutymes I (Tuthmosis I)		1525-1518
Djehutymes II (Tuthmosis II)		1518-1504
Djehutymes III (Tuthmosis III)		1503-1450
Hatshepsut	A rare female ruler	1498-1483
Amenhotep II (Amenophis II)	Early Exodus ruler	1453-1419
Djehutymes IV (Tuthmosis IV)		1419-1386
Amenhotep III		1386-1349
Amenhotep IV Akhnaten	Founded brief monotheism period worshiping Aten	1350-1334
Smenkhkare		1336-1334
Tutankhamun		1334-1325
Kheperkheprure Ai		1325-1321
Horemheb	Former General and advisor to Tutankhamun	1321-1293

Adapted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharaoh#Eighteenth_Dynasty

Amenophis II



Traditional Dating of New Kingdom Pharaohs



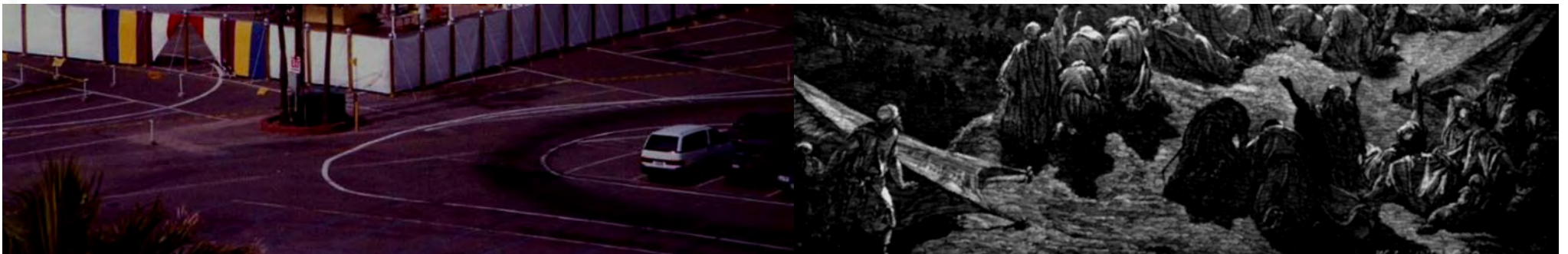
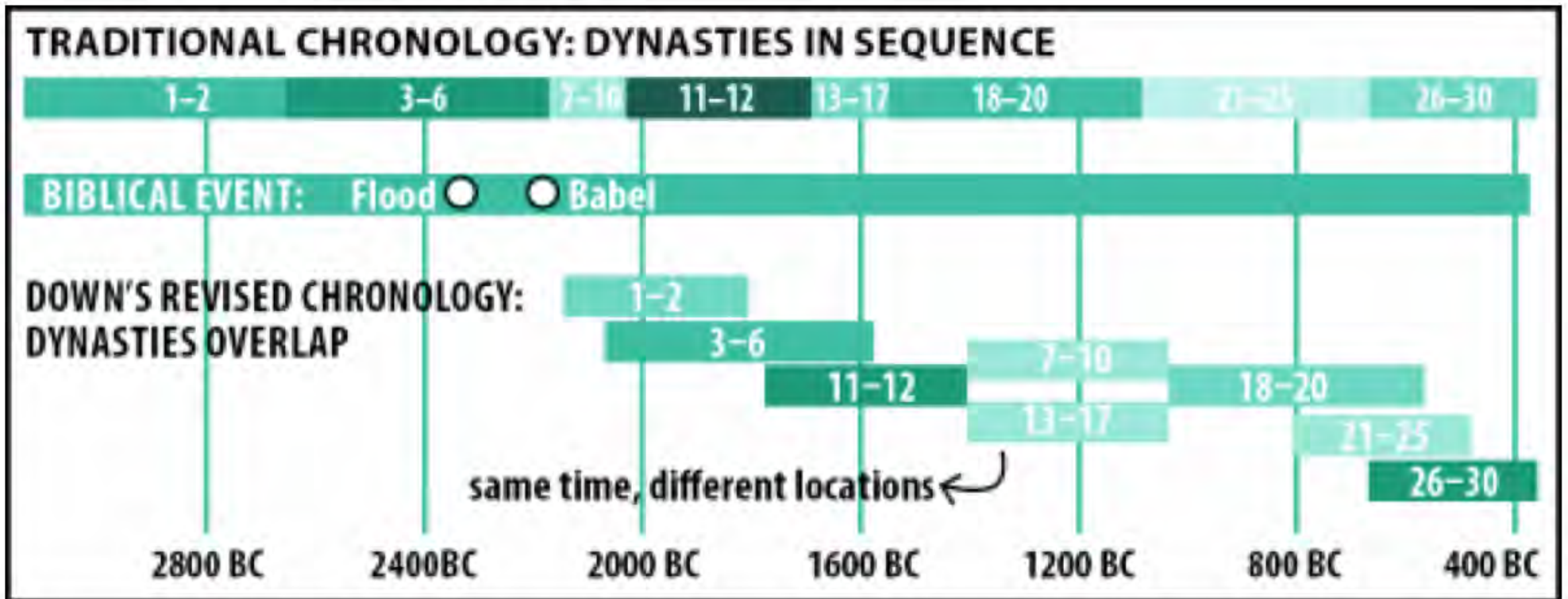
Nineteenth Dynasty

Name	Comments	Rule Dates
Rameses I		1293-1291
Seti I		1291-1278
Rameses II the Great	The ruler of Moses by late date advocates	*1279-1212
Merneptah		1212-1202
Amenemses		1202-1199
Seti II		1199-1193
Merneptah Siptah		1193-1187
Twosret	A rare female ruler	1187-1185

A dapted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharaoh#Eighteenth_Dynasty

*** Other Egyptologists say Rameses began his reign in 1304 or 1292-1290. Absolute dates are difficult to ascertain.**

Contradicting Histories of Egypt



Histories of Egypt

Traditional

Biblical

3100-2686	Proto-Dynastic		2400-2200
2686-2181	Old Kingdom	Abraham	2200-1600
2181-1991	First Intermediate Period	Pyramids	1800-1000
1991-1786	Middle Kingdom	Abraham	1600-1000
1786-1558	Second Intermediate Period	Joseph	1400-1000
1558-1085	New Kingdom	Moses	1000-600
1098-332	Late Dynastic	Solomon	800-332
332-323	Alexander the Great	Jeremiah	332-323

400 YEAR SOJOURN	430 YEAR SOJOURN	215 YEAR SOJOURN		LATE EXODUS	CRITICAL
------------------	------------------	------------------	--	-------------	----------

The Patriarchs 2135-1774	The Patriarchs 2166-1805		2100		
Canaan Sojourn 1875-1845	Canaan Sojourn 2090-1876		2000		
Migration to Egypt 1845	Migration to Egypt 1876	The Patriarchs 1952-1589	1900	The Patriarchs 1950-1650	
Egyptian Sojourn 1845-1445	Egyptian Sojourn 1875-1446	Canaan Sojourn 1875-1660	1800	Canaan Sojourn ?-1650	
		Migration to Egypt 1660	1700	Migration to Egypt 1650	
Slavery 1730?	Slavery 1730 or 1580	Egyptian Sojourn 1660-1446	1600	Egyptian Sojourn 1650-1230	
EXODUS	EXODUS	Slavery	1500	Slavery 1580	
		EXODUS	1400		The Patriarchs 1500-1300
Wandering 1445-1405	Wandering 1446-1405	Wandering 1446-1405	1300	EXODUS	Gradual Migration to Egypt
Conquest and Judges 1405-1050	Conquest and Judges 1406-1050	Conquest and Judges 1406-1050	1200	(No Wandering)	Egyptian Sojourn 1350-1230
United Kingdom 1050-931	United Kingdom 1050-931	United Kingdom 1050-931	1100	Conquest and Judges 1230-1025	(No Exodus or 40 Yr. Wandering)
			1000	United Kingdom 1025-931	Migration, Conquest and
			900		United Kingdom 1025-931

Egyptian Sojourn Chronologies Contrasted

Adapted (column 1 added) from John H. Walton, *Chronological and Background Charts of the OT*, 2d ed., 99 (cf. OTS, 108a-b)

View	400 YEAR SOJOURN	430 YEAR SOJOURN	215 YEAR SOJOURN	LATE EXODUS	CRITICAL
Exodus	Early	Early	Early	Late	Gradual Migration
Egyptian Sojourn	400	430	215	420	120
Years of Freedom	Unspecified	295 or 145	80	70	120
Years of Slavery	<400	135 or 285	135	350	none (a myth)
Exod. 12:40 Text	LXX & Samaritan Pentateuch	MT	LXX & Samaritan Pentateuch	MT	Unimportant
Popularity	Few	Most common	Common	Few Evangelicals Many Liberals	Many Liberals
Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gen. 15:13 (sojourn 400 yrs) • Acts 13:19-20 "about 450 years" = 400 + 40 + 7 = 447 yrs. • Exod. 12:40 "children of Israel" points to Gen. 35:10 (1875 BC) to begin 430 years as this is when nation called "Israel" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follows MT of Exod. 12:40 • Scripture sometimes uses round numbers (See the next few pages for more early date arguments) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follows MT of Exod. 12:40 • The new king of Exod. 1 was a native Egyptian who followed the Hyksos • Their later date for Abr. Cov. (1875 BC) to Jacob entering Egypt (1660 BC) is 215 yrs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeology supports the destruction of some Canaanite cities in the 13th century (See the next few pages for more late date arguments) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city of Rameses (Exod. 1:11) must have been built after Rameses II (1300 BC) since it was named after him

Egyptian Sojourn Chronologies Evaluated

Adapted (column 1 added) from John H. Walton, *Chronological and Background Charts of the OT*, 2d ed., 99 (cf. OTS, 108a-b)

The Mystery of the Exodus^{70g}

- ◆ When did it happen? 1446 or 1266?
- ◆ Why does it matter?
 - It is the **most important historical event** in Israel's past, when it truly began to be a nation
 - It stands at the **centre** of Israel's faith
 - Many dates before and after **depend** on this date
 - The choice of date reflects our **belief** (or lack thereof) in the **historicity** and **accuracy** of the Bible and thus has an impact on our **faith**





Small Group Discussion

**How does 1 Kings
6:1 help date the
Exodus?**

**(Solomon began
to reign in 971 BC.)**

**How does Judges
11:26 help date
the Exodus?**

**(Jephthah lived
around 1100 BC.)**

An Early Exodus (1446)

FOR

- ◆ *1 Kings 6:1*
480 years from
Exodus to the
building of
Solomon's Temple
(966)

- ◆ *Judges 11:26*
Jephthah assigns
300 years between
his day (c.1100)
and the Conquest

Exodus 1446 BC

+ 480 yrs

Temple = 966 BC

+ 4 yrs

Reign Began = 970/71

70a, 70g

Jephthah versus Ammonites



Gilead

Ammonites

Gad

Reuben

Jephthah 1100 BC

+ 300 yrs

Conquest = 1400 BC

An Early Exodus (1446)



FOR

- ◆ *1 Kings 6:1*
480 years from Exodus to the building of Solomon's Temple (966)
- ◆ *Judges 11:26*
Jephthah assigns 300 years between his day (c.1100) and the Conquest

AGAINST

- ◆ a) 480 means 12 generations. Actual no. of yrs is $12 \times 25 = 300$
- ◆ b) The text is corrupt
- ◆ c) Historian had inaccurate facts
- ◆ This was a generalization or an inaccurate guess as he had no access to historical records

An Early Exodus (1446)



FOR

- ◆ The length of time assigned to the judges in the Bible **cannot be squeezed into the 150 years** required by a late Exodus, even with overlaps
- ◆ Thutmose IV (Pharaoh after 1446 Exodus) **was not the eldest son**, who was possibly killed in the 10th plague

AGAINST

- ◆ With overlaps and a **symbolic understanding of time spans**, it can be fitted in
- ◆ There are many **other possible explanations** for his eldest son not ruling

70g

Merneptah Stela

Lists Israel in Canaan
as a people group in the
13th century

*This is the first mention
of the name “Israel”
outside the Bible*

*Ancient Egypt,
1208 BC*

Arnold/Beyer, 160



An Early Exodus (1446)

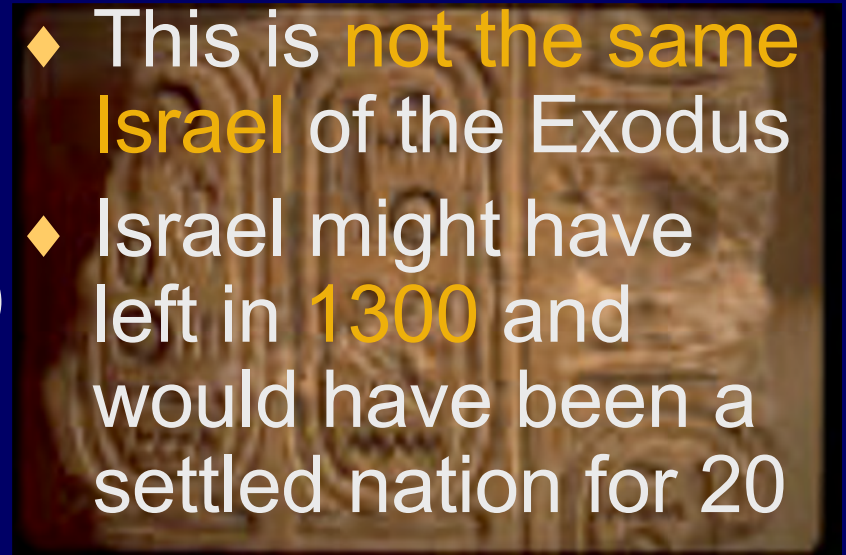


FOR

- ◆ The Merneptah Stela identifies Israel as a people group (not city state or foreign nation) **c.1231**. If Israel had left in 1266, they would still have been **wandering in the wilderness** at that time

AGAINST

- ◆ This is **not the same Israel** of the Exodus
- ◆ Israel might have left in **1300** and would have been a settled nation for 20 years



“Canaan is captive with all woe . . . Israel is wasted, bare of seed”

Merneptah Stela, *Readings from the ANE*, 160

A Late Exodus (1266-1299)



FOR

- ◆ Exod. 1:11 The Israelites built the city of Rameses. It must have been **in honour of Rameses II** (c.1290)
- ◆ Thutmose III was **not known as a great builder** and therefore does not fit into the historical picture

AGAINST

- ◆ The name 'Rameses' was **used much earlier** than 13th century. The city was being built before Moses' birth (**before Rameses II**)
- ◆ He is known to have had some building **projects in the delta region**

A Late Exodus (1266-1299)



FOR

- ◆ Nelson Glueck argued that there is **no archeological evidence** that sedentary civilizations such as Edom and Moab existed **before 1300**. Since Israel had contact with them (Num. 20:14), the Exodus must be later

AGAINST

- ◆ Later excavations showed that many areas were settled throughout **1500 to 1300**
- ◆ There were **semi/nomadic tribes** in existence in the 15th century

A Late Exodus (1266-1299)



FOR

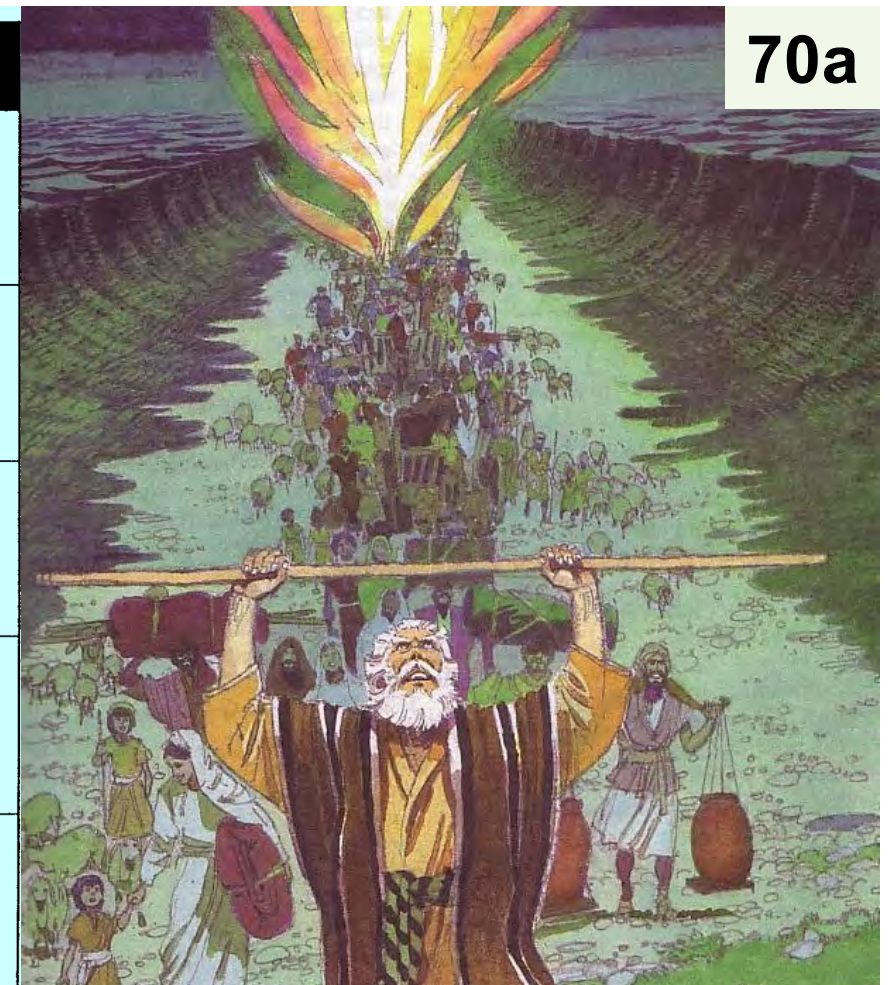
- ◆ There is no evidence of widespread destruction in Canaan in the early 14th century. These cities of Canaan stood.
- ◆ Archeological evidence shows that Bethel, Lachish and Debir in Palestine fell as a result of a violent attack between 1250 and 1200. It must have been the Israelite conquest.

AGAINST

- ◆ Israelites did not cause material destruction during the Conquest, except Jericho, Ai and Hazor (Josh. 24:13)
- ◆ The destruction might have been caused by Egyptian conquests (Pharaoh Merneptah)

15th-CENTURY EVIDENCE

13th-CENTURY REBUTTAL



I Kings 6:1 designates 480 years from the Exodus to Solomon's dedication of the temple. The dedication was 966. That makes the Exodus 1446.

The 480 years is most likely 12 generations ($12 \times 40 = 480$). In actuality, a generation was about 25 years, making the actual figure about 300.

The "Dream Stela" of Thutmose IV on the sphinx gives evidence that Thutmose was not legal heir to the throne. Would be logical that eldest son was killed in the 10th plague.

Only one of many other possibilities. No proof that the biblical plague was involved in the death of the rightful heir.

In Judges 11:26, Jephthah assigns 300 years between his day (c. 1100) and the Conquest. This would seem to indicate a 15th-century Exodus.

This was a generalization or a rough and slightly inaccurate guess by Jephthah who would have had no access to historical records.

To support the biblical chronology of Moses, Pharaoh must have reigned in excess of 40 years. Moses stayed in the wilderness until Pharaoh died. Only possibilities: Thutmose III, Rameses II.

Moses' 40 years with the Midianites is not really a chronological reference.

The Last Level at Hazor, wiped out by Barak and Deborah, contains Mycenaean III B Pottery; this requires, at the latest, a date in the late 13th century. This pushes Exodus much earlier.

The judges overlapped enough to accommodate this.

The Merneptah Stela (C. 1220) mentions Israel by name. They must have been there for a long time for the Egyptians to accept them as a nation.

Fifty years would have been sufficient time.

The Amarna Tablets (1400) tell of the upheaval caused by the "Habiru." This could have been the Hebrews, possibly classified under a general category.

The "Habiru" can in no way be identified with the Israelites.

The length of time assigned to the judges period in Scripture, even with overlapping, cannot be squeezed into the century and a half allowed by a 13th-century Exodus.

With overlaps and understanding of the symbolic nature of time spans, it can be fitted in.

Early Date Evidence

John H. Walton, *Chronological and Background Charts of the OT*, 2d ed., 102-3



Early Date Responses

John H. Walton, *Chronological and Background Charts of the OT*,
2d ed., 102-3

13th-CENTURY EVIDENCE

The civilizations of Edom, Moab, and Ammon were not in existence in the 15th century. Since Israel had contact with them, the Exodus must be later.

The destruction of Lachish, Debir, and Bethel were in the 13th century, as indicated by the layer of ash.

In Exodus 1:11, Israelites were said to have been building the city of Rameses. This must be in honor of Rameses II of 13th century.

The 430 years of Exodus 12:40 cannot fit in with the Hyksos period.

Thutmose III was not known as a great builder and therefore does not fit into the historical picture.

Scripture does not mention the Palestinian invasions of Seti I or Rameses II. Therefore, Exodus must have been in 13th century and Israel was not yet in Palestine.

Pushing the Exodus back means pushing the patriarchs back, and the Patriarchs cannot go back any farther.

15th-CENTURY REBUTTAL

Finds at the Timna temple indicate sedentary civilizations in Negev at least in early 14th century. Tribes were wandering earlier than that.

Lachish, Debir, and Bethel are not said to have been burned at the time of the Conquest. The layer of ash could be due to Egypt's conquests.

(1) Name "Rameses" used much earlier than 13th century. (2) City was being built before birth of Moses; thus, before Rameses II, even with late Exodus. (3) This was a store city, not a capital.

The Hebrews need not be related to the Hyksos. There is much evidence that Jacob went to Egypt almost 150 years before the Hyksos period began.

Though not known as a great builder, Thutmose III is known to have had some building projects in the delta region.

It is very likely that the periods of "rest" during the Judges were the periods of tighter Egyptian control. The Egyptian invasions were against the Canaanites.

There is just as much evidence for putting the patriarchs in Middle Bronze I as there is for putting them in Middle Bronze II.

What Do We Think?

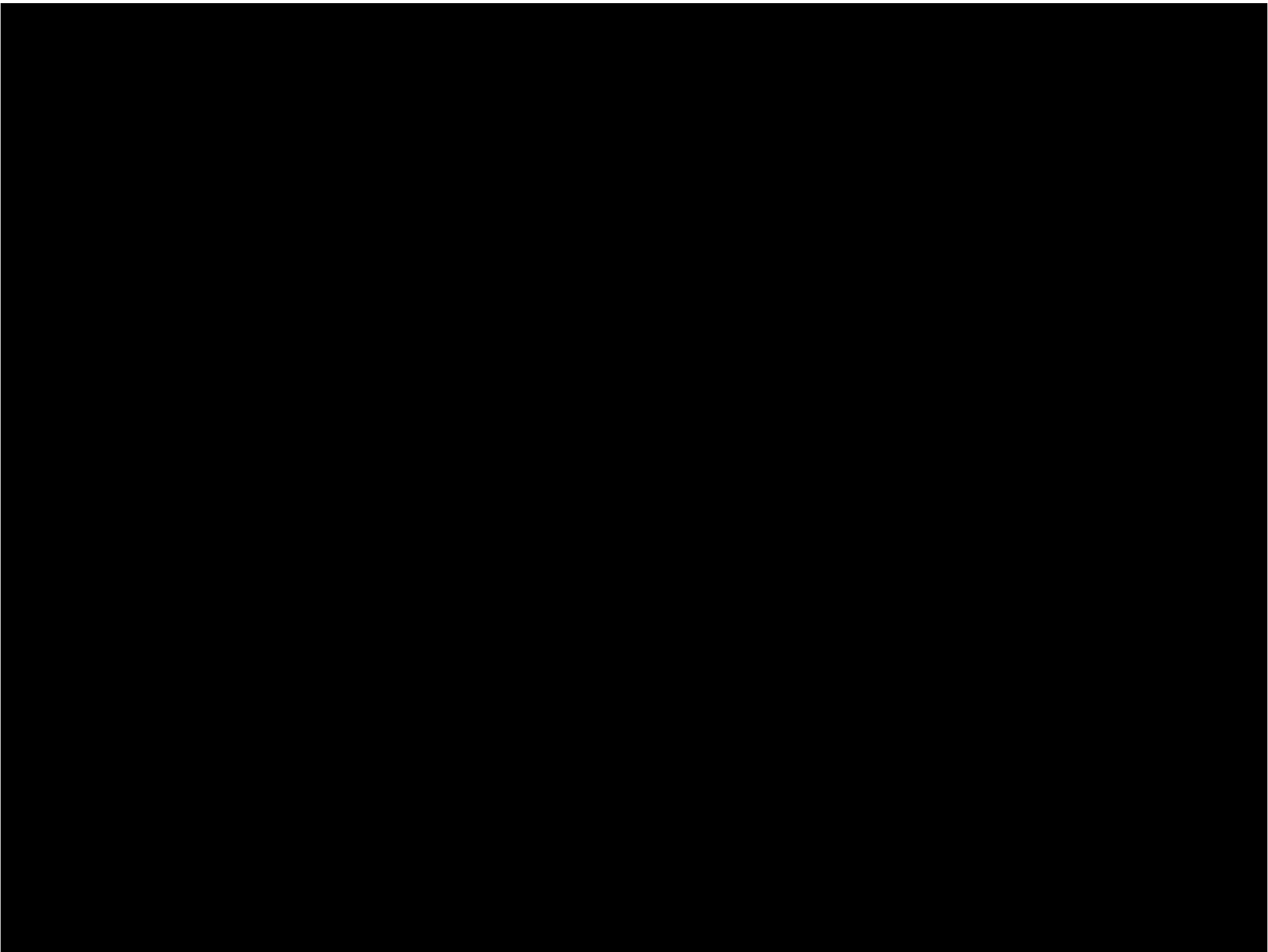
- ◆ Disney's “Prince of Egypt” is historically inaccurate!
- ◆ We support the **early exodus** theory



Conclusions from Findings

- ◆ Accept the biblical dates and references at **face value** unless there is real internal reason to reject them
- ◆ The Bible's historical and chronological information is **accurate** and **reliable**





The Mystery of the Judges



- ◆ We can define the era of the Judges by starting with the leadership of **Moses** and finishing with the crowning of **Saul**
 - 480 (from Exodus to Solomon's temple; 1 Kings 6:1)
 - 40 (Saul's rule Acts 13:11)
 - 40 (David's rule 1 Kings 2:11) = 400 years
- ◆ When the number of years that the Judges and Israel's enemies rule are added up, it **exceeds** the expected value of 400 years: **410+ yrs**
- ◆ **But this doesn't even include the 40-year wanderings, giving only 360 years**

Years the Judges Ruled

1381 BC Mesopotamian rule began

Cycle	Oppressor	Location	Years of Oppression	Deliverer	Years of Peace
1 (3: 7-11)	Mesopotamians	South	8	Othniel	40
2 (3: 12-30)	Moabites	South	18	Ehud	30
Parentesis (3: 31)	Philistines	Southwest	Ñ	Samson	Ñ
3 (chs. 4D5)	Canaanites	North	20	Deborah & Barak	40
4 (6: 1D8:32)	Midianites	North central (Ophrah)	7	Gideon	40
5 (9: 2D9: 55)	Amalekites	Central	6	Samson	Ñ
Parentesis (10: 1-5)	Ñ	Central (Shamir)	Ñ	Samson	23
Parentesis (10: 3-5)	Ñ	East (Kom on, Gile ad)	Ñ	Jair	22
6 (10: 6D12: 15)	Amm on ites	East (Zaph on, Gile ad)	16	Jepht hah	6
Parentesis (12: 8-10)	Ñ	South east (Beth lehem)	Ñ	Izban	7
Parentesis (12: 11-12)	Ñ	North west	Ñ	Elon	10
Parentesis (12: 13-15)	Ñ	Central (Pirath on)	Ñ	Abdon	8
7 (ch. 13Ñ 16)	Philistines	South west (Zora h)	40	Samson	20

Oppression 114 Peace 296

Total 332

Total 410

1049 BC Samson died

Possible Solutions

- 1) **Include the years of oppression** by Israel's enemies within the periods of leadership of the Judges
- 2) **Overlap** the leaderships of the Judges

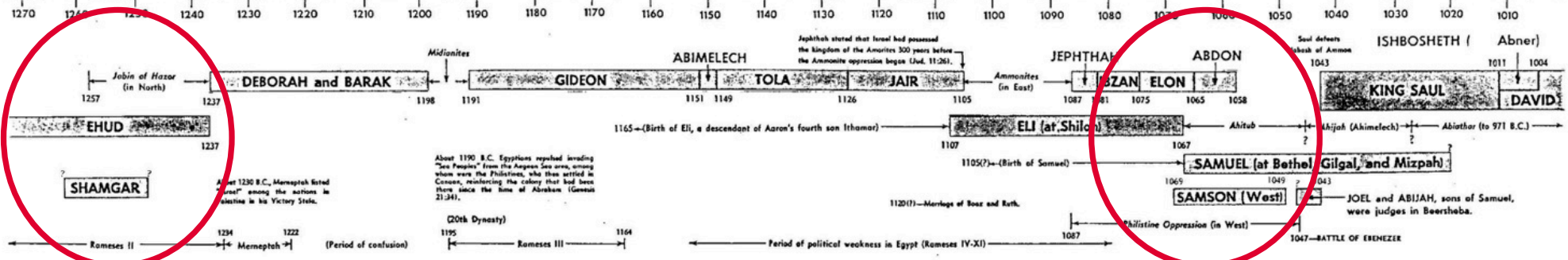
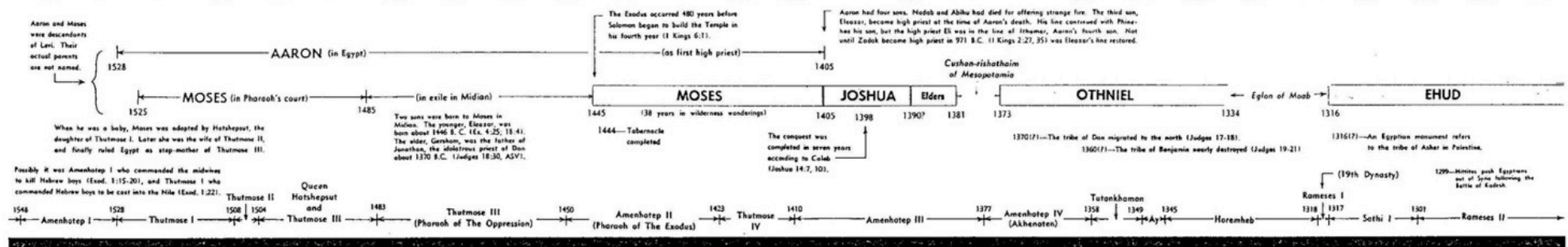
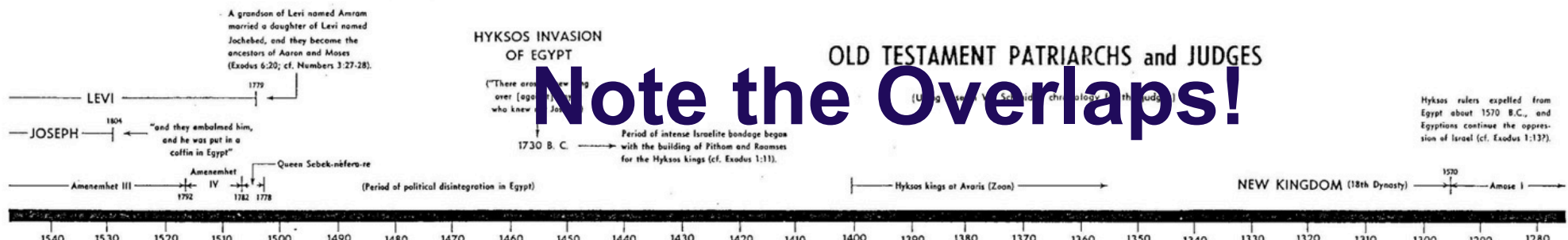
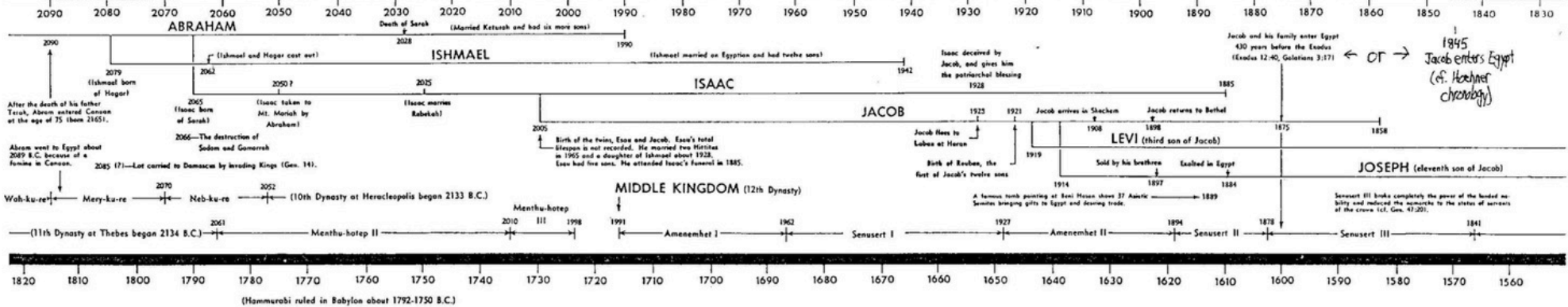


What Do We Think?

- ◆ It is clear from the **Bible** that the period of the Judges spans 410 yrs
- ◆ Closer study reveals that there are some **overlaps**. *For example, the judges Jephthah to Samson overlapped with the 40 years of Philistine oppression and the years of priestly service of Eli and Samuel*

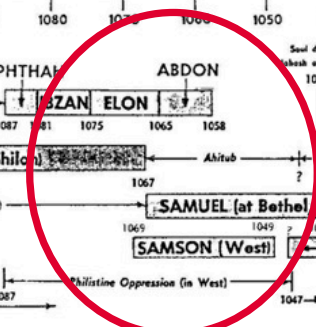
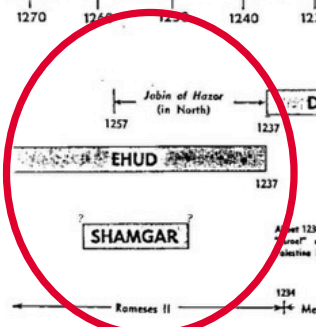


Old Testament Patriarchs & Judges



Note the Overlaps!

OLD TESTAMENT PATRIARCHS and JUDGES



A grandson of Levi named Amram married a daughter of Levi named Jochbed, and they become the ancestors of Aaron and Moses (Exodus 6:20; cf. Numbers 3:27-28).

HYKSOS INVASION OF EGYPT

Period of intense Israelite bondage began with the building of Pithom and Raamses for the Hyksos kings (cf. Exodus 1:11).

Hyksos rulers expelled from Egypt about 1570 B.C., and Egyptians continue the oppression of Israel (cf. Exodus 1:13-17).

About 1190 B.C. Egyptians repelled invading "Sea Peoples" from the Aegean Sea area, among whom were the Philistines, who then settled in Canaan, reinforcing the colony that had been there since the time of Abraham (Genesis 21:34).

Jephthah stated that Israel had possessed the kingdom of the Amorites 300 years before the Ammonite oppression began (Jud. 11:26).

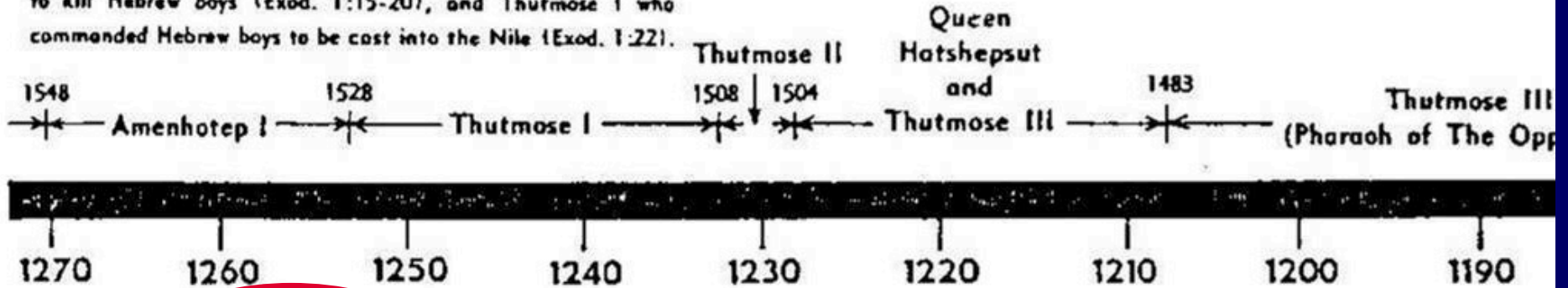
Saul defeats Ishbak of Ammon (1043).

About 1230 B.C., Merneptah listed "Israel" among the nations in Palestine in his Victory Stele.

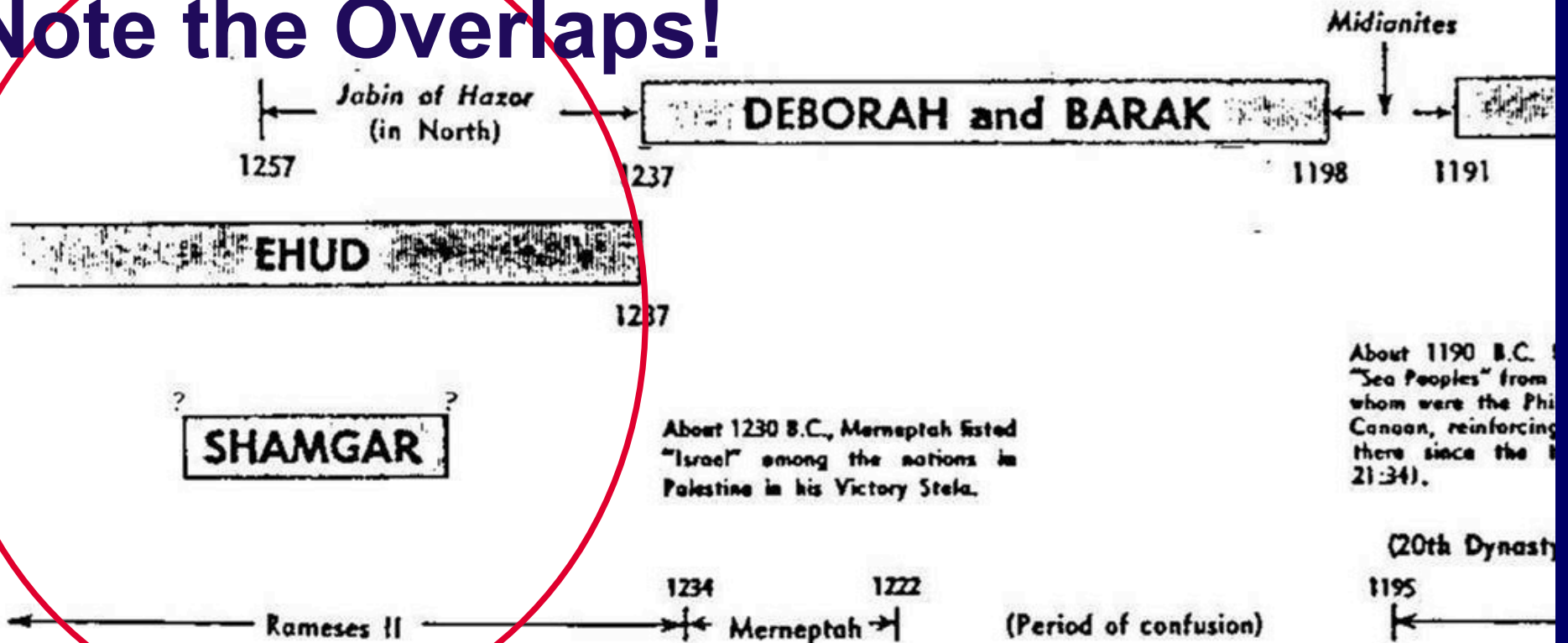
Philistine Oppression (in West) 1047—BATTLE OF EBENEZER

Old Testament Patriarchs & Judges

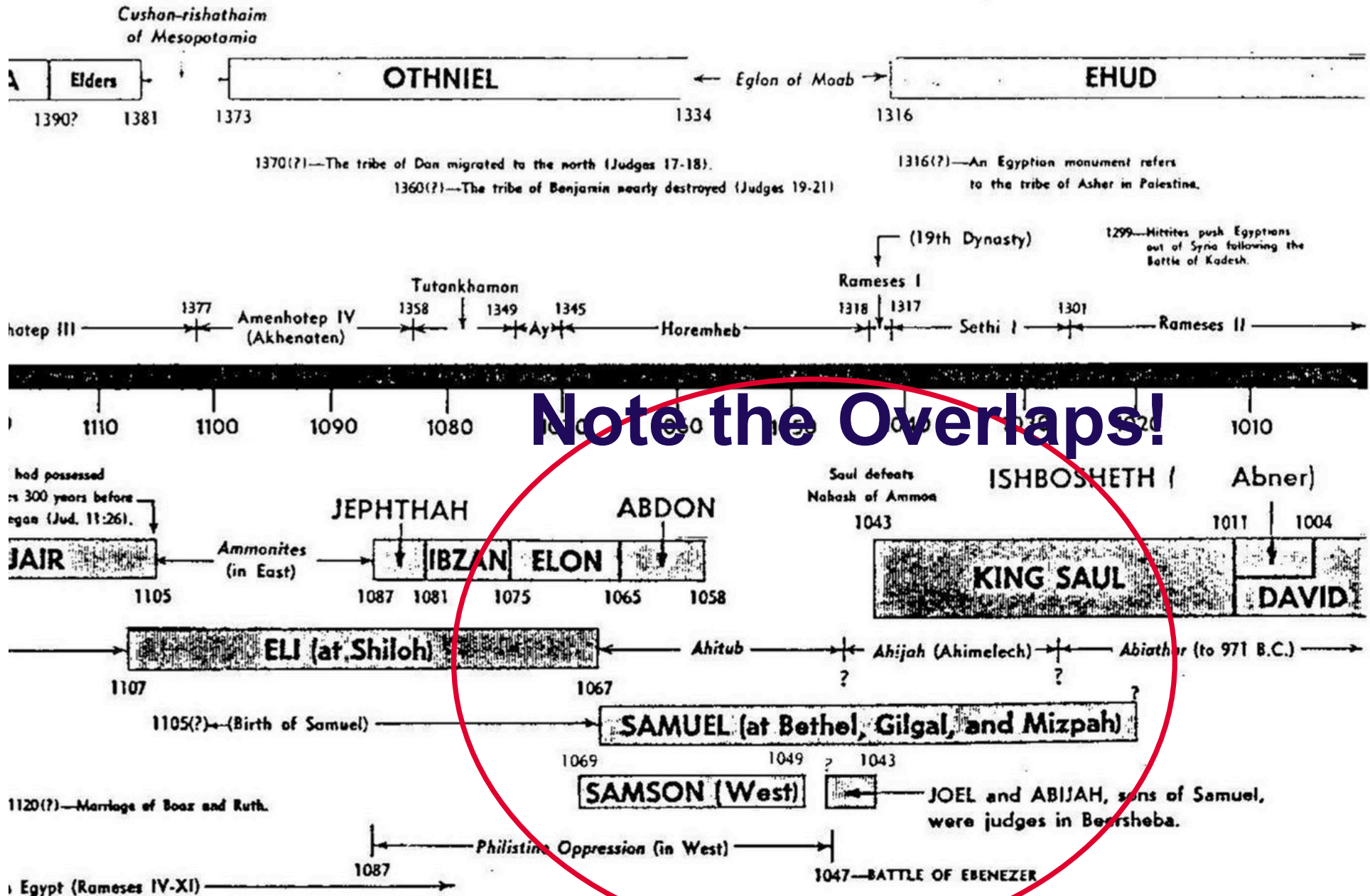
Possibly it was Amenhotep I who commanded the midwives to kill Hebrew boys (Exod. 1:15-20), and Thutmose I who commanded Hebrew boys to be cast into the Nile (Exod. 1:22).



Note the Overlaps!



Old Testament Patriarchs & Judges



Conclusions from Findings

- ◆ There is **not enough biblical information** to determine the exact number of years that each judge ruled alone
- ◆ The years that Israel fell under enemy rule are **not always mentioned**
- ◆ Nevertheless, the Bible is **accurate** in its historical information



The Story of Samson

What was his weakness?

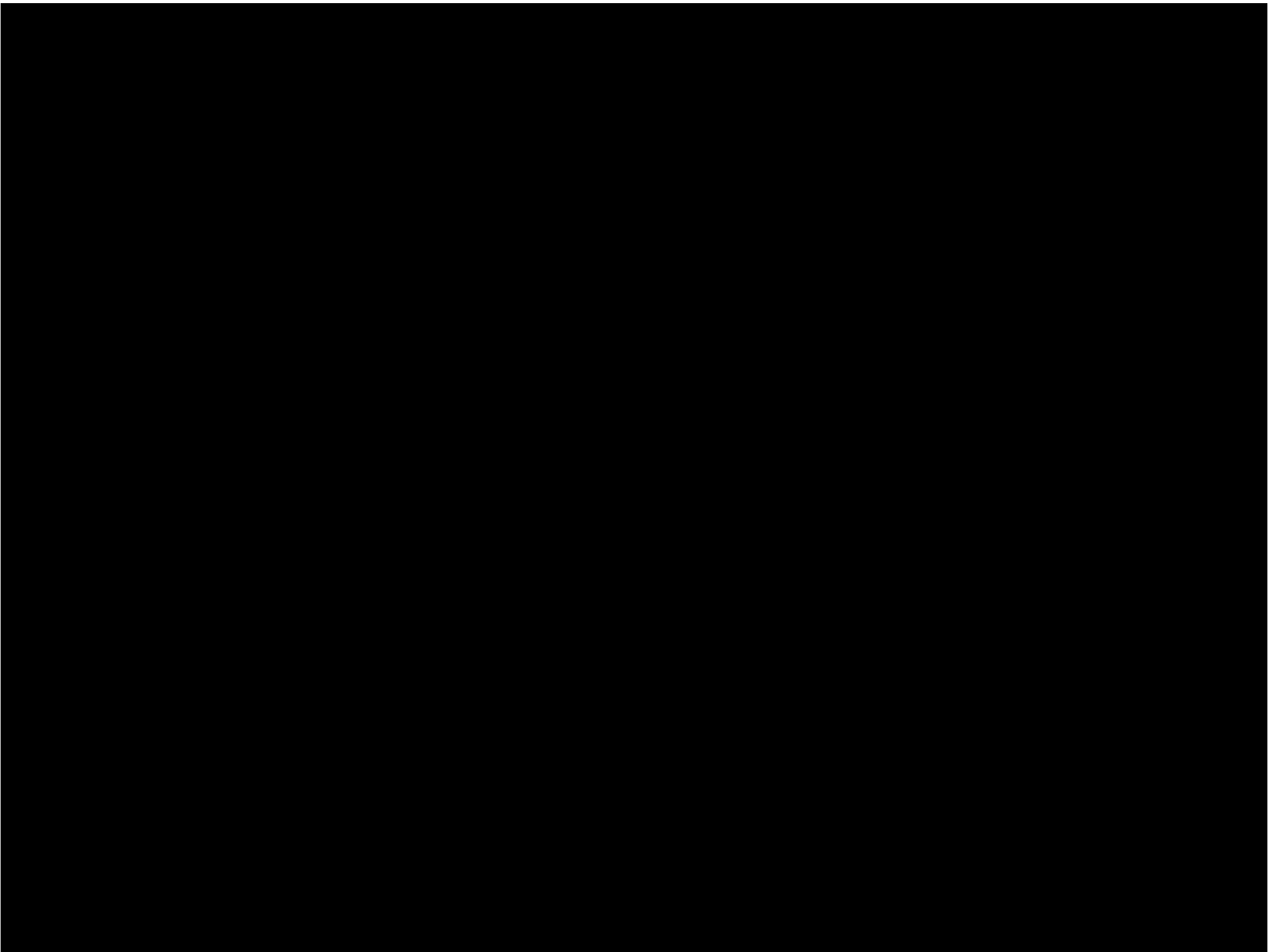
Her?

Hair?

Heart?

*“Samson... the he man
with a she weakness”*

-Chuck Swindoll



The Mystery of the Kings

- ◆ The **total number of years** of the reigns of Israel and Judah in a fixed time span were **not the same**
- ◆ If chronology is worked according to lengths of reign, synchronisms **won't fit** (and vice versa)
- ◆ Seeming **lack of harmony** between OT chronology and that of ANE
- ◆ Why does it matter?
 - It concerns the **historicity** and **reliability** of the Bible and the **accuracy** of its transmission






Is the Chronology of Israel's Kings Necessary?

- ◆ Whether David and Solomon ever even lived was doubted by “Biblical Minimalists” in the July/Aug 1997 issue of *BAR*

Years Kings of Judah Ruled



◆ Rehoboam	17	◆ Jotham	18
◆ Abijam	3	◆ Ahaz	19
◆ Asa	41	◆ Hezekiah	29
◆ Jehoshaphat	25	◆ Manasseh	55
◆ Jehoram	8	◆ Amon	2
◆ Ahaziah	1	◆ Josiah	31
◆ Athaliah	6	◆ Jehoahaz	3 months
◆ Joash	40	◆ Jehoiakim	11
◆ Amaziah	29	◆ Jehoiachin	3 months
◆ Azariah (Uzziah)	52	◆ Zedekiah	<u>11</u>
		◆ Total	398



Years Kings of Judah Ruled

◆ Rehoboam	17	◆ Jotham	18
◆ Abijam	3	◆ Ahaz	19
◆ Asa	41		29
◆ Jehoshaphat	28		55
◆ Jehoram	8		2
◆ Ahaziah	1	◆ Josiah	31
◆ Athaliah	6	◆ Jehoahaz	3 months
◆ Joash	40	◆ Jehoiachin	3 months
◆ Amaziah	29	◆ Zedekiah	11
◆ Azariah (Uzziah)	52	◆ Total	398

Rehoboam began 931 BC
 Zedekiah ended 586 BC
 Total Years 345 years

Why the difference?
 How can we explain this?

Proposed Reasons for Discrepancies



- a) **Inaccurate** systems used by biblical historians
- b) Accidental **errors of transmission**
- c) Largely **schematic** and **artificial** chronology
- d) **Intentional mutilation** of text to cover up various facts

Proposed Solutions

- 1) **Editorial changes** to the chronological data (3rd century B.C. Septuagint)
- 2) **Include periods of political chaos** in which no king sat on the throne
- 3) **Disregard the data** in the Masoretic Text and determine dates with synchronisms with ANE history
- 4) **Discover original method** of dating





Elul/Tishri Months of vintage & oil harvest;

Bul/Kislev Months of sowing;

Tebeth/Shebat Months of spring pasture;

Adar Month of flax pulling;

Abib Month of barley harvest;

Ziv Month of wheat harvest/measuring;

Sivan/Tammuz Months of pruning;

Ab Month of summer fruit.

The Gezer Calendar

10th century Old Hebrew school tablet

The Gezer Calendar

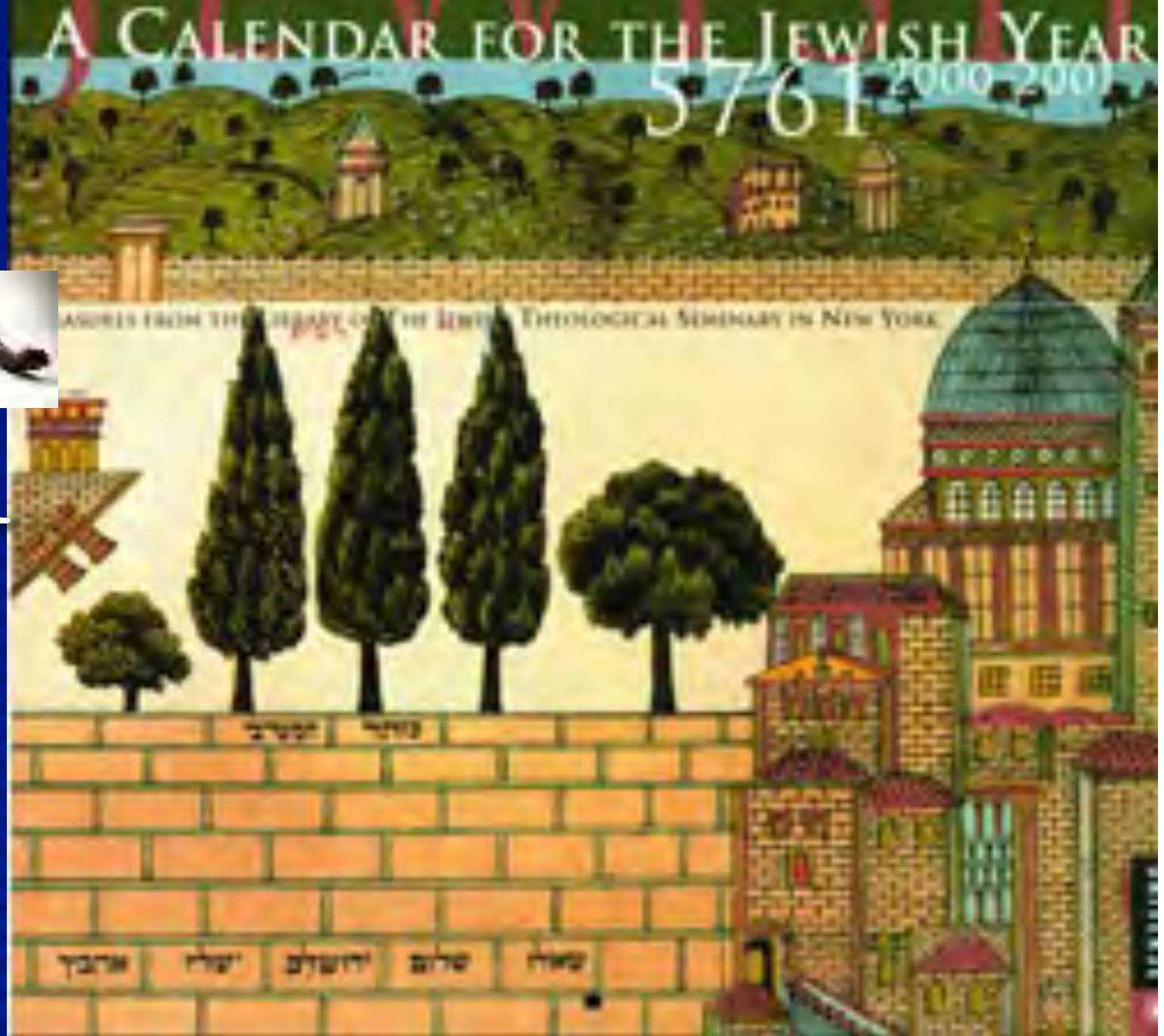


Aug-Sept	Months of vintage & oil harvest;
Oct-Nov	Months of sowing;
Dec-Jan	Months of spring pasture;
February	Month of flax pulling;
March	Month of barley harvest;
April	Month of wheat harvest & measuring;
May-June	Months of pruning;
July	Month of summer fruit.

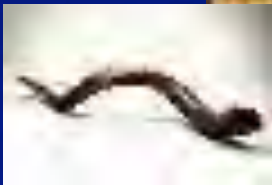
10th century Old Hebrew school tablet

Jewish Calendars

134



- Civil
- Sacred
- Numbered



The Exodus Night:

While the Israelites were still in the land of Egypt, the LORD gave the following instructions to Moses and Aaron:

"From now on, this month will be the first month of the year for you" (Exod. 12:1-2)

180,
290



Hebrew Calendars

180,
290

Israel began with Nisan & didn't count accession year

1 Nisan

Mar-Apr

2 Iy

Did they count the accession year?

Sacred Calendar Begins

Two Key Issues:

Which system did they use to determine the king's reign?

Civil Calendar Begins

4 Tammuz



5 Av

What if the king's reign began here?

6 Elul

7 Tishri

Sep-Oct

Judah began with Tishri & counted accession year

8 Cheshvan

Thiele's Solution

a) Different Dating Systems used by Judah and Israel

Judah	Israel
Accession-year system, beginning with Tishri (931-848)	Non-Accession year system, beginning with Nisan (931-848)
<p>Time of alliance and intermarriage with Israel</p> <p>Non-Accession year system, beginning with Tishri for Judah and Nisan for Israel (848-796)</p>	
<p>Accession-year system, beginning with Tishri for Judah and Nisan for Israel (796-586)</p>	



Thiele's Solution



- b) Some **co-regencies** in Israel and Judah
- c) Two instances of **rival reigns** in Israel
- d) Certain synchronisms in 2 Kings 17 and 18 inserted by a **late hand** out of harmony with original pattern of reigns

Chart of OT Kings & Prophets 65c

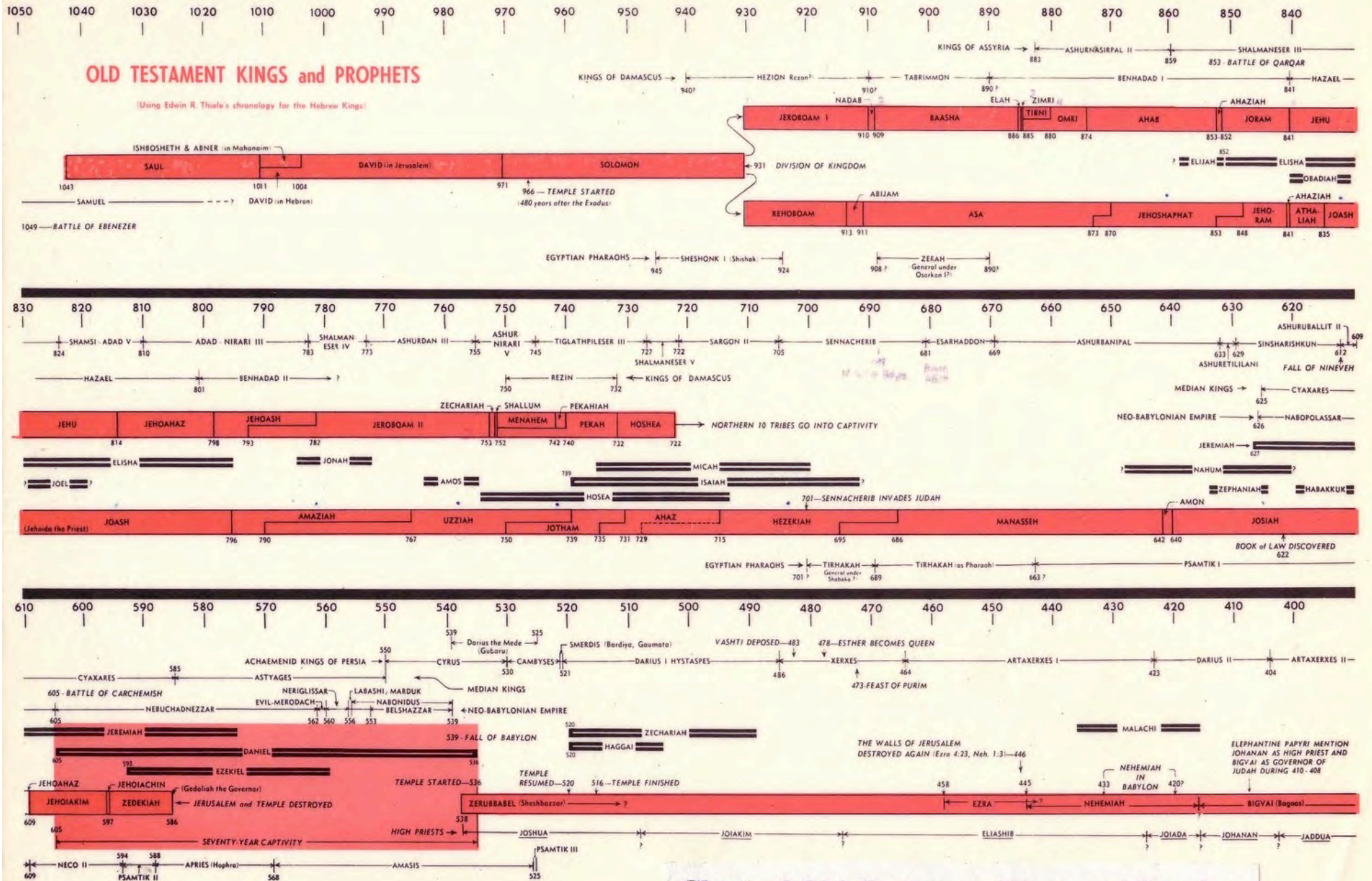
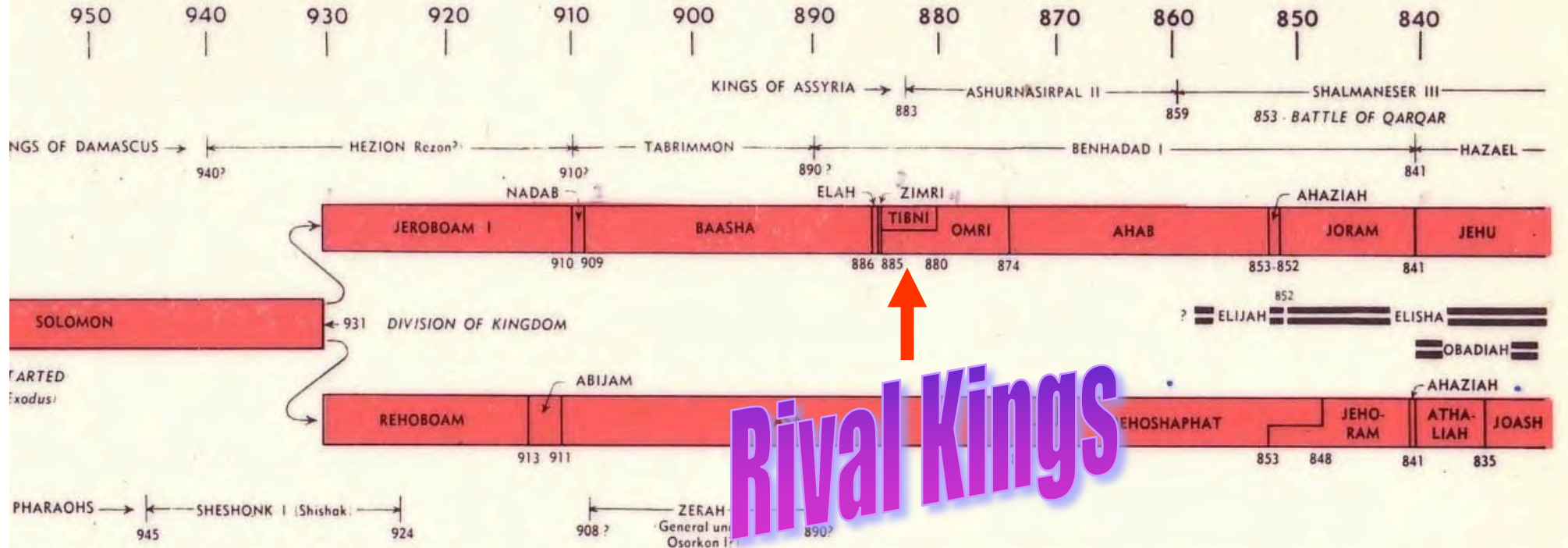


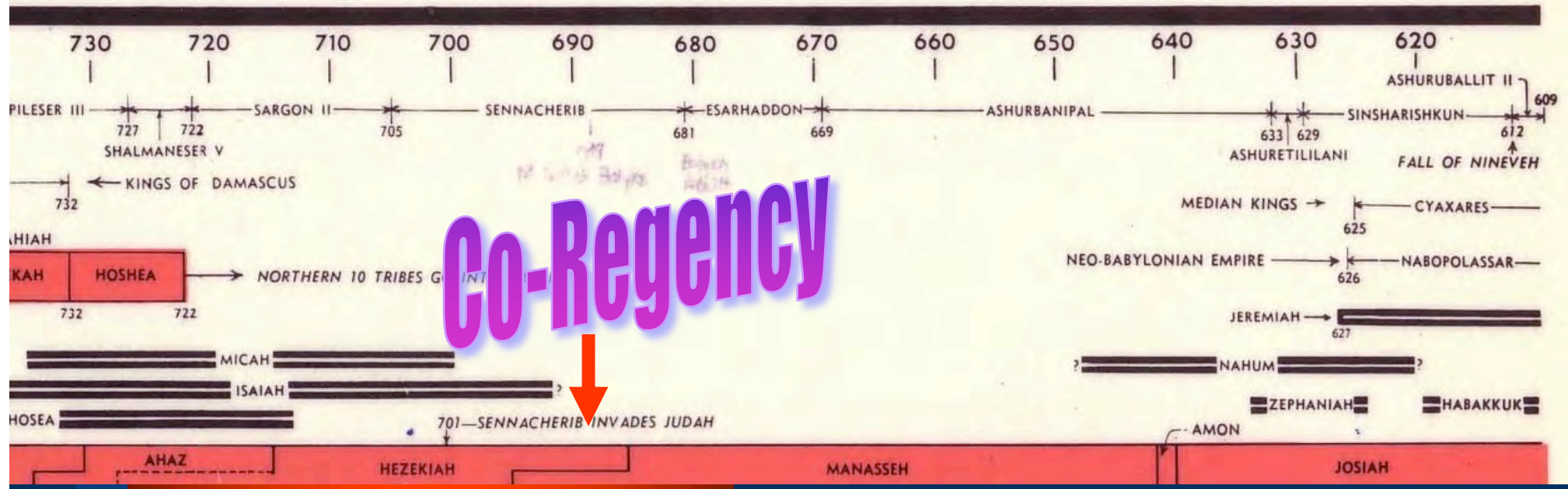
Chart of Old Testament Kings and Prophets
 (John C. Whitcomb, 4th rev. ed., Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1962, 1968, p. 2)

Chart of OT Kings & Prophets

65c



Rival Kings



Co-Regency

What Do We Think?

- ◆ **Sound premise:** Acceptance of biblical data as historical and accurate
- ◆ **Sound method:** Began without any dates and subsequently checked worked-out dates with ANE records
- ◆ **Reliable results:** Arrangement of reigns in harmony with biblical data and ANE history



Conclusions from Findings

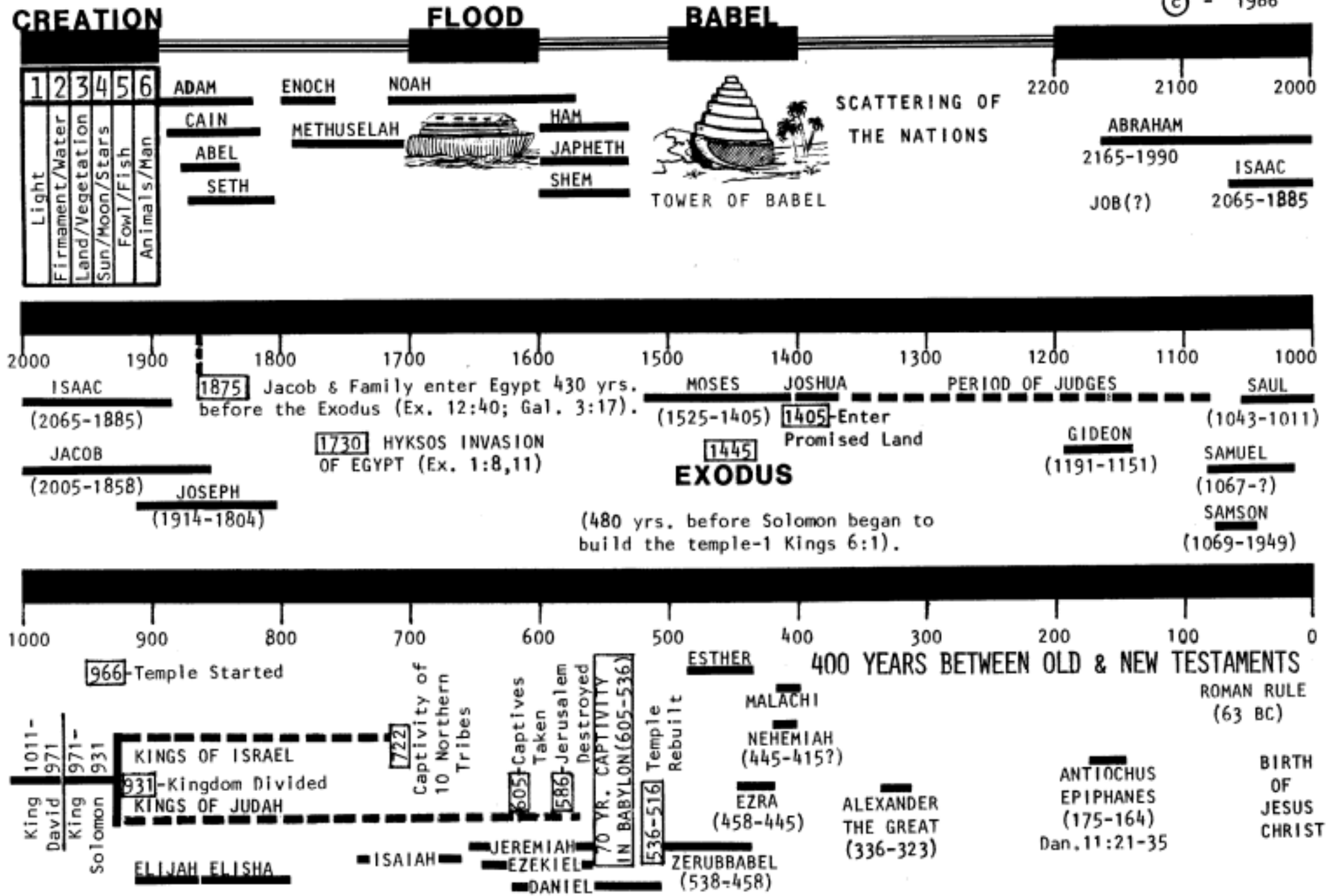
- ◆ High regard for **historical and chronological accuracy** in recording events on the part of the scribes
- ◆ Highly **accurate transmission** of the Bible
- ◆ We have a **reasonable and accurate basis** for our faith



Old Testament Timeline

70m

David Beckwith
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OUR CONCLUSIONS

- ◆ Our God is a God who **acts in history** and deals with us **from generation to generation**
- ◆ We have a rich heritage as we are part of the **spiritual lineage** of all who have walked in faith with God
- ◆ The Bible is **historically reliable**
- ◆ The Bible has a high degree of **accuracy in transmission**
- ◆ Our faith has a **reasonable and firm foundation** in the inerrancy of God's Word



HOW CAN WE APPLY THIS?

- ◆ We should always begin with the assumption that historical information in the Bible is **factual** and **accurate** unless internal evidence points otherwise
- ◆ We can chart our **personal spiritual timelines**
 - As we look back at the dates and sequence of events in our lives, let us **reflect** on how they **relate** to one another so that we **recognize** and begin to **understand** and **appreciate** the **purposes** and **plans of God** in our own histories



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- Walton, John H. *Chronological Charts of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1981.

Some Useful Websites

- ◆ <http://www.biblicalhorizons.com/biblicalhorizons/ch/> *Interesting evangelical articles on Chronology*
- ◆ <http://www.bibarch.com>
Excellent top-rated evangelical Biblical Archeology site
- ◆ <http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/chronology.html> *Many links to reputable and reliable sources*



Why is Chronology Important?

- 
- ◆ **CONTEXT** (Time and Sequence)
 - It indicates the **social, political and economic contexts** in which events took place
 - It tells us where events stand in a nation's **history** and how they **relate** to one another
 - It presents these events in relation to what was happening in **neighbouring countries**
 - ◆ It therefore helps us to **understand** and **interpret** events in the light of history

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