

Solomon

Rehoboam

Abijah

Asa

Jehoshaphat

Jehoram

Uzziah

Jotham

Ahaz

Hezekiah

Manasseh

Amon

Josiah

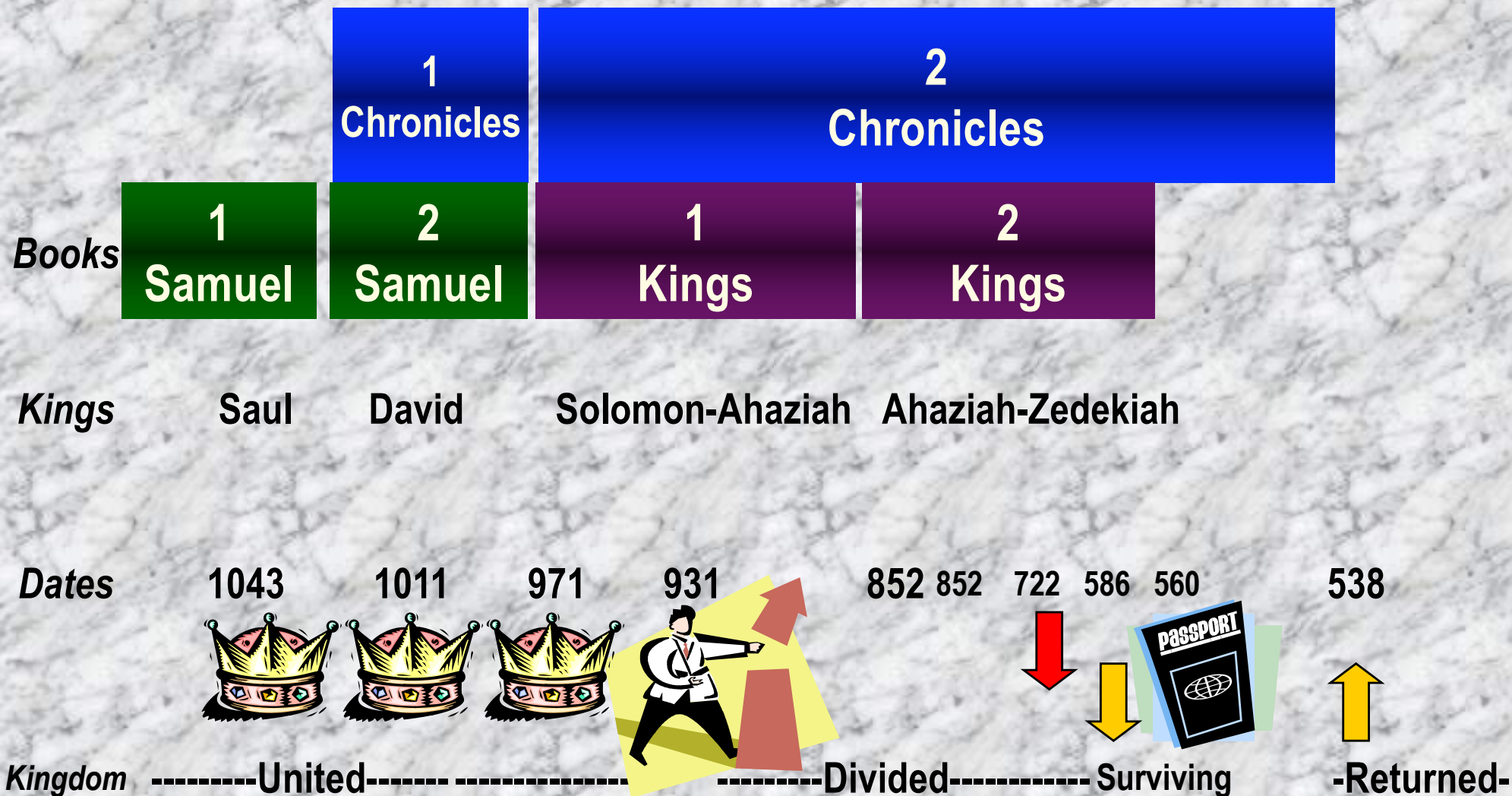
Jeconiah (Exile)

# ***Kings & Chronicles Chronology***

Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary  
BibleStudyDownloads.org

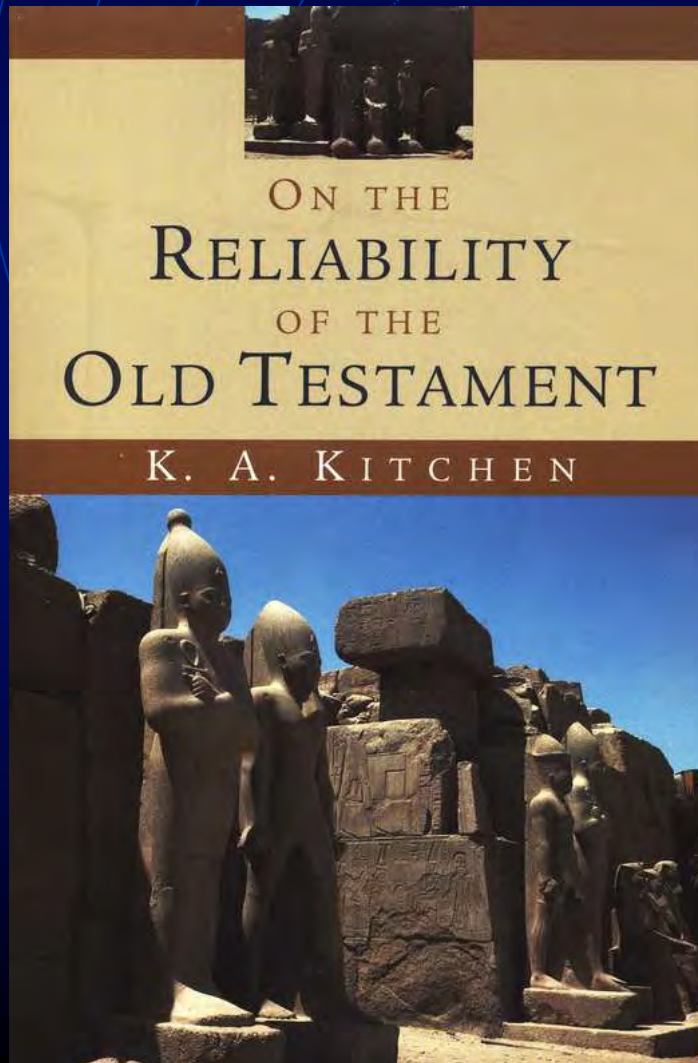
# Making Sense of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles

220  
264



# Why so few mentions of David & Solomon in ancient texts or inscriptions?

*Kitchen has a two-fold answer...*



1. The **survival of artifacts** in Israel is quite unlikely with so many destroyed cities
2. The **policy of the state** was not to mention rival kings (as they typically only talked about themselves)

**But David is noted three times...**

**1. The 841 BC Tell Dan Stele (“House of David”)**



**“House of David”**

**But David is noted three times...**

**2. The ca 840 BC Mesha Stela (“House of David”)**



**“House of David”**



**But David is noted three times...**

**3. · The 926/925 BC Shoshenq I of Egypt**

**Inscription of locations (“Heights of David” =  
Judah)**

**“the heights of Dwt”**

**= “the heights of Dawit”**

**= “the heights of David”**

**Critical scholars point out many places where the chronologies of Kings and Chronicles do not match—and the reigns of the kings of Israel and Judah seem contradictory. So what should we do?**



**Oh, well... The Bible just has those contradictions?**

# 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		29
◆ Jehoshaphat	28		55
◆ Jehoram	8		2
◆ Ahaziah	1	◆ Josiah	31
◆ Athaliah	6	◆ Jehoahaz	3 months
◆ Joash	40		11
◆ Amaziah	29	◆ Jehoiachin	3 months
◆ Azariah (Uzziah)	52	◆ Zedekiah	<u>11</u>
		◆ Total	<u>398</u>

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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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

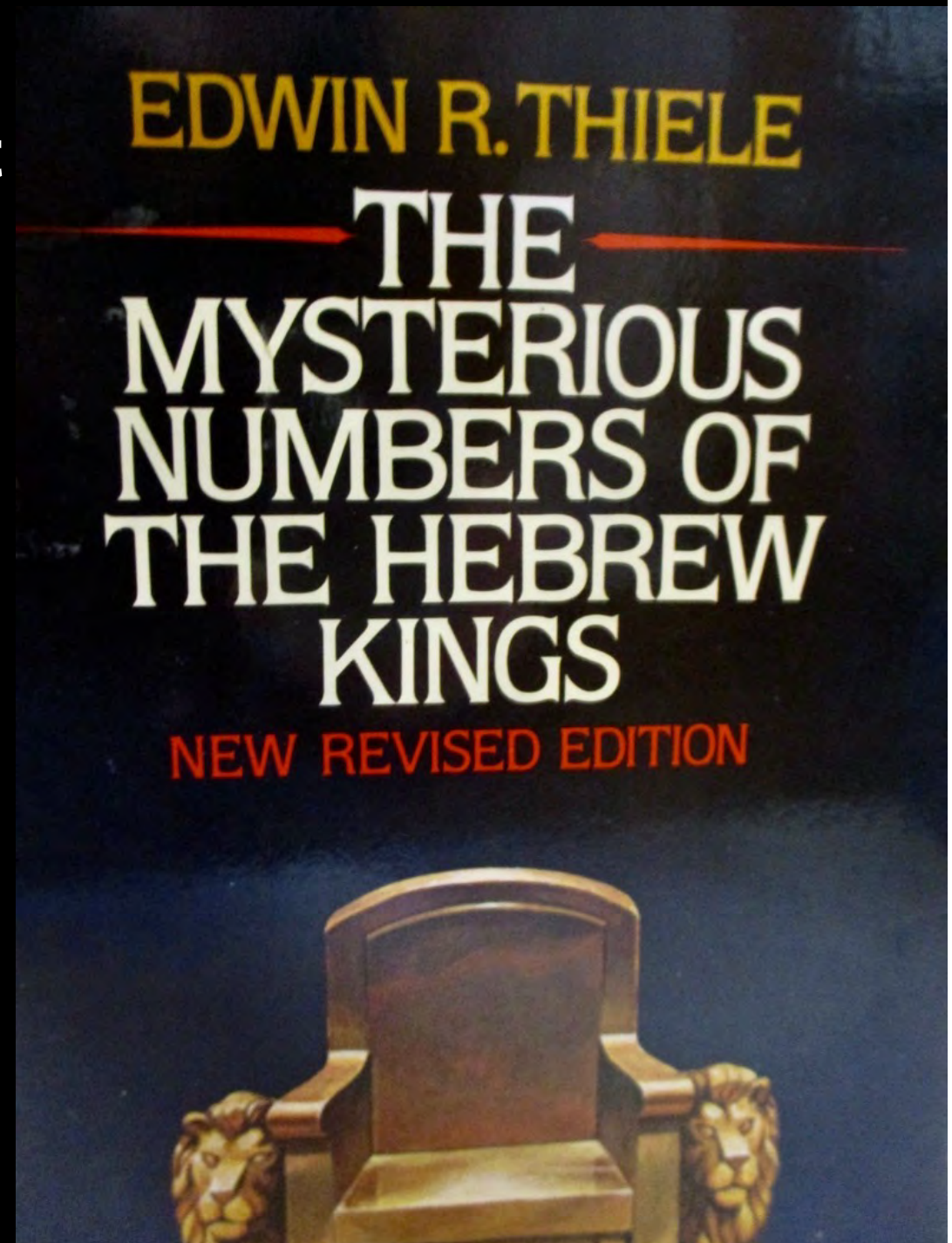


**Enter stage...**

**Seventh-Day Adventist  
OT scholar  
Edwin R. Thiele  
(pronounced TEE-lee)**



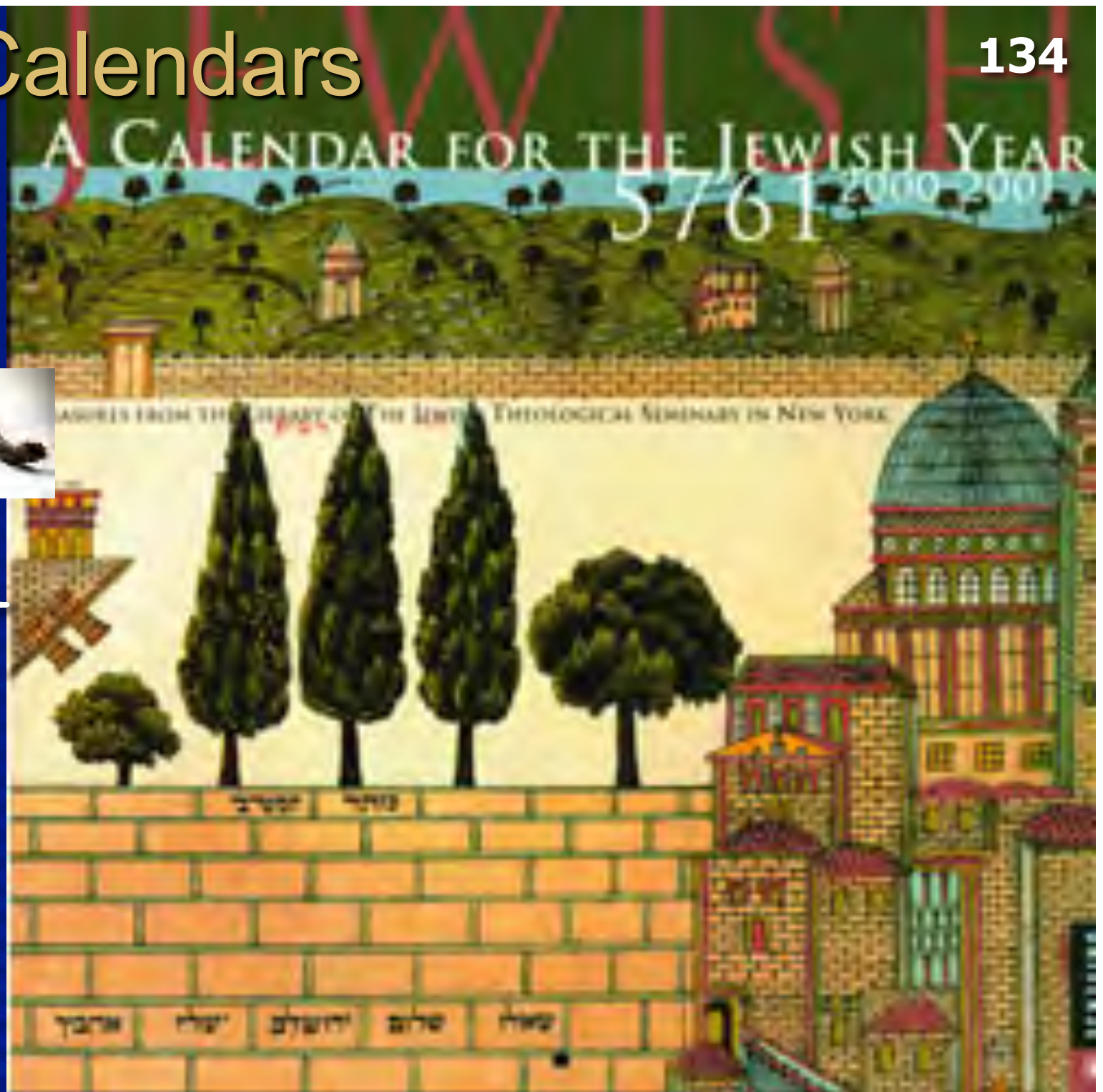
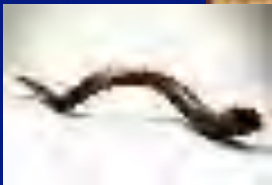
**1924-2006**



# Jewish Calendars

134

- Civil
- Sacred
- Numbered





**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



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

10th century Old Hebrew school tablet

# 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

Civil Calendar Begins

180,  
290

Israel began with Nisan & didn't count accession year

1 Nisan

Mar-Apr

2 Iyar

Sacred Calendar Begins

Did they count the accession year?

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

## Calendar Differences Between Judah and Israel



- When a king's reign began
- When the year began

# Thiele's Solution

## a) Different Dating Systems used by Judah and Israel

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

232 & 342

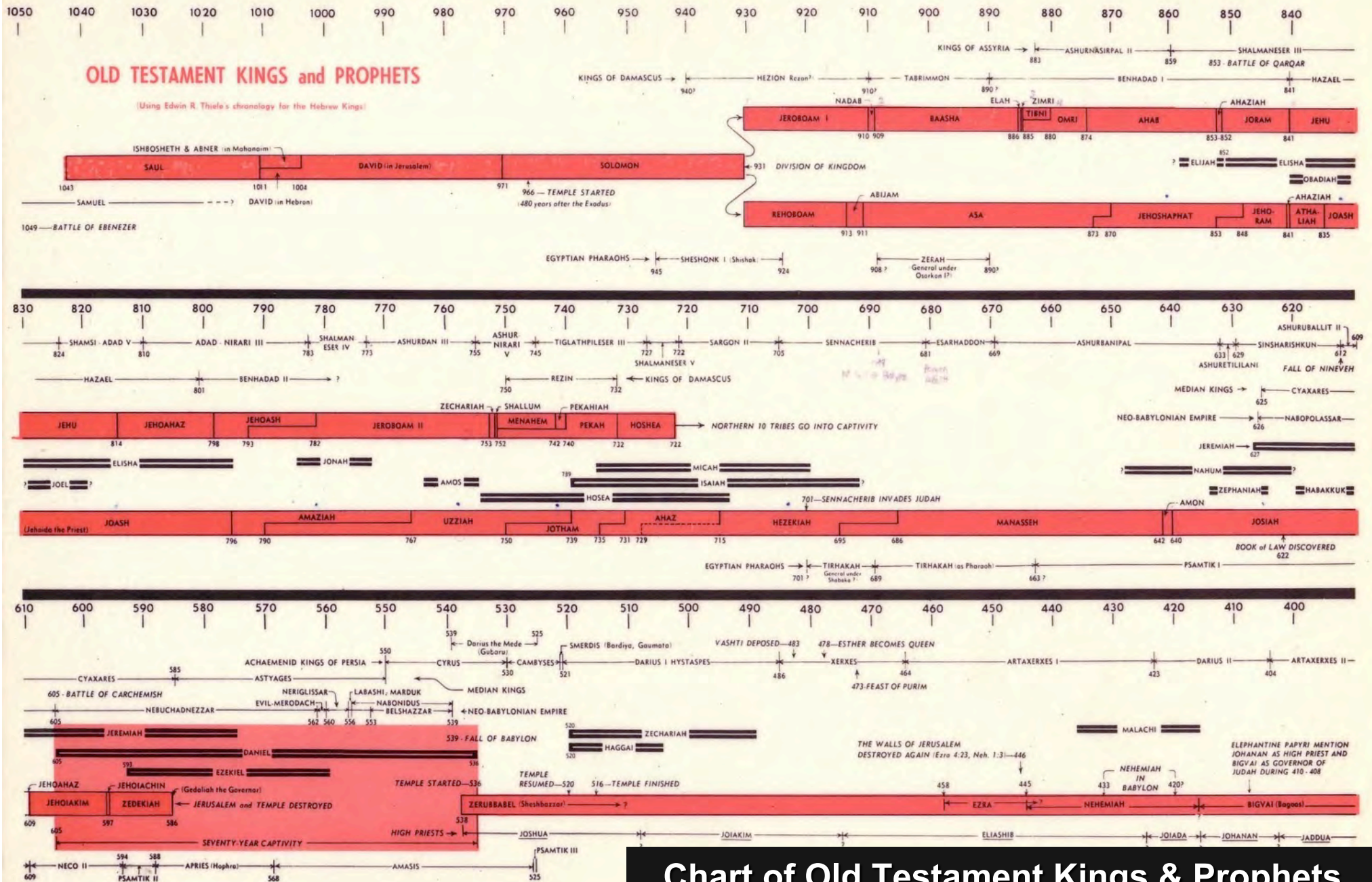
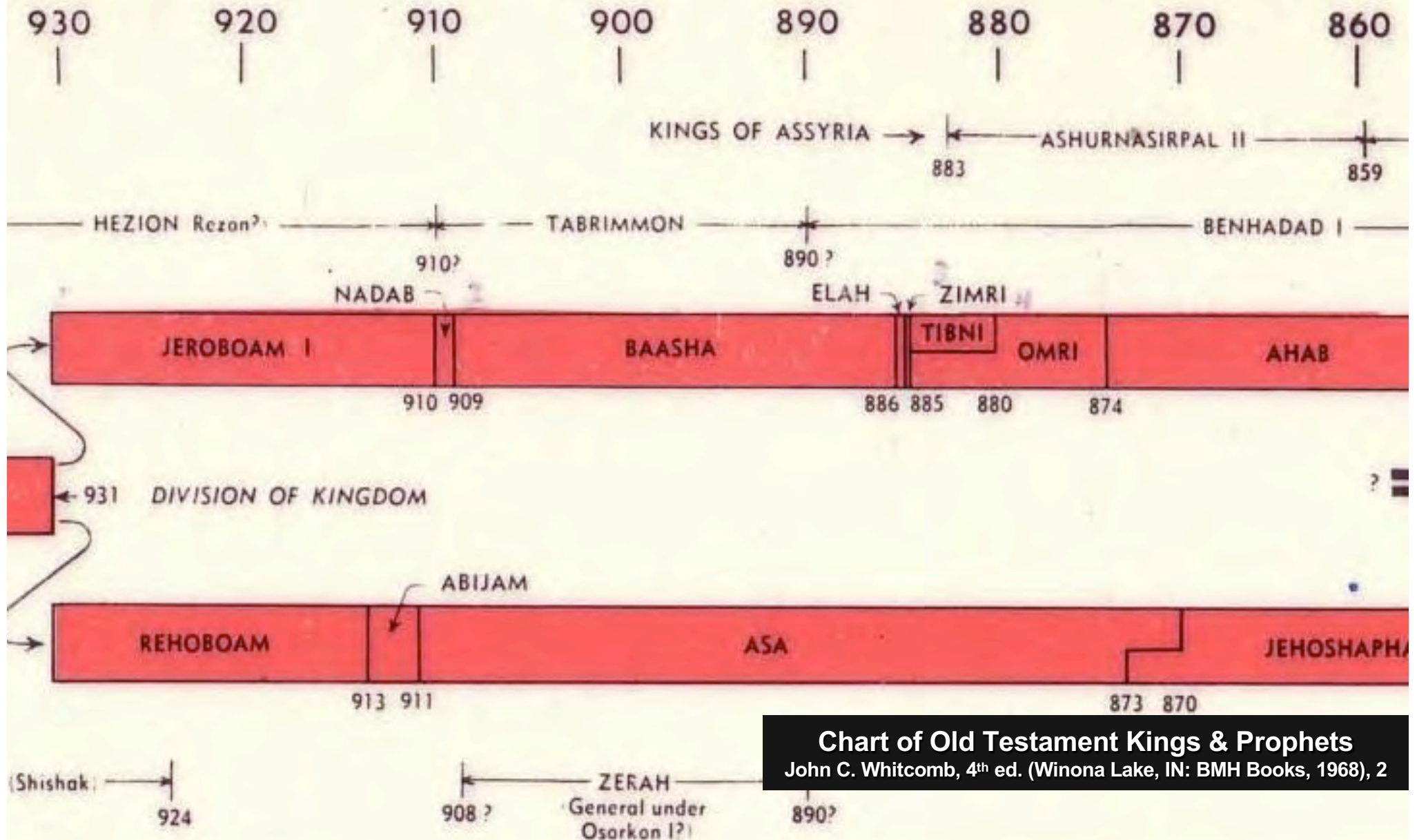


Chart of Old Testament Kings & Prophets  
John C. Whitcomb, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1968), 2

# Chart of OT Kings & Prophets

232 & 342



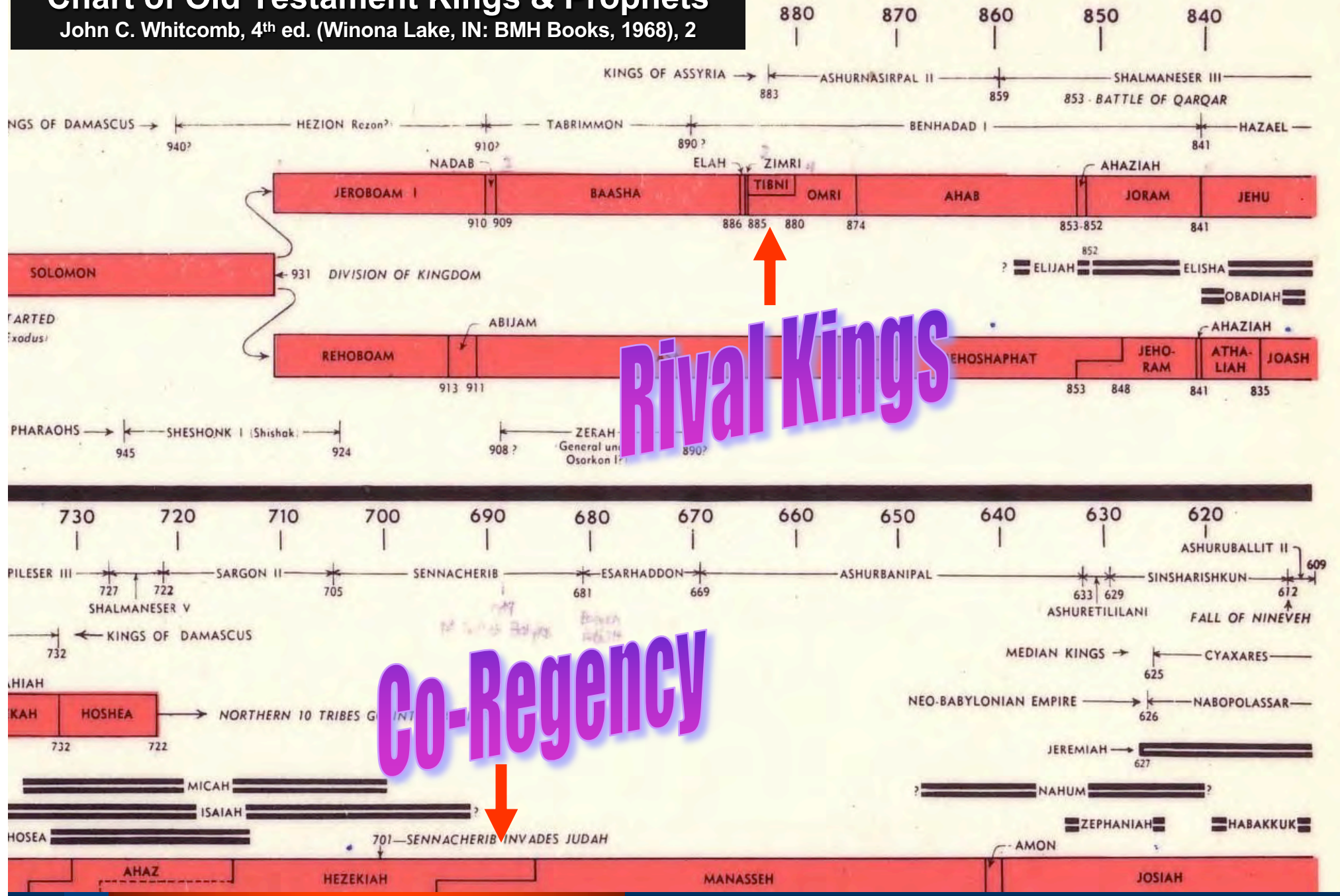
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# Chart of OT Kings & Prophets

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## Chart of Old Testament Kings & Prophets

John C. Whitcomb, 4th ed. (Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1968), 2



# OT Kings (No Animation)

232 & 342

JNBEZOAAJJ

Jeroboam  
Nadab  
Baasha  
Elah  
Zimri  
Omri  
Ahab  
Ahaziah  
Joram  
Jehu

RAAJJAAJ

Rehoboam  
Abijam  
Asa  
Jehoshaphat  
Jehoram  
Ahaziah  
Athaliah  
Joash

U Has Ash 2

ZS MPPH

Jehu  
Jehoahaz  
Jehoash  
Jeroboam II  
Zechariah  
Shallum  
Menahem  
Pekahiah  
Pekah  
Hoshea

Joash  
Amaziah  
Uzziah  
Jotham  
Ahaz  
Hezekiah  
Manasseh  
Amon  
Josiah

JAU JAH MAJ

19 Kings of Israel (all bad)

Has Kim's Chin Zed

Black/Blue = 9 dynasties in Israel

Jehoahaz  
Jehoiakim  
Jehoiachin  
Zedekiah

12 Bad Kings of Judah  
8 Good Kings of Judah } One Dynasty

# OT Kings (Animated)

232 & 342

JNBEZOAAJJ

Jeroboam  
Nadab  
Baasha  
Elah  
Zimri  
Omri  
Ahab  
Ahaziah  
Joram  
Jehu

RAAJJAAJ

Rehoboam  
Abijam  
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Jehoshaphat  
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Ahaziah  
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Jehu  
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} One  
Dynasty

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# Northern Early Kings

232 & 342

Jeroboam Nadab Baasha Elah Zimri Omri Ahab Ahaziah Joram Jehu  
**JNBEZOAAJJ**

Rehoboam Abijam Asa Jehoshaphat Jehoram Ahaziah Athaliah Joash  
**RAAJJAAJ**

Jehu Jehoahaz Jehoash Jeroboam II Zechariah Shallum Menahem Pekahiah Pekah Hoshea  
**U Has Ash 2 ZS MPPH**

Joash Amaziah Uzziah Jotham Ahaz Hezekiah Manasseh Amon Josiah  
**JAU JAH MAJ**

**Kings of Israel (all bad)**

— Line between 9 dynasties in Israel

**Bad Kings of Judah**

Good Kings of Judah

} One Dynasty

Jehoahaz  
 Jehoiakim  
 Jehoiachin  
 Zedekiah

**Has Kim's Chin Zed**

# Southern Early Kings

232 & 342

Jeroboam  
Nadab

Baasha  
Elah

Zimri

Omri

Ahab

Ahaziah

Joram

Jehu

JNBEZOAAJJ

Rehoboam  
Abijam

Asa

Jehoshaphat

Jehoram

Ahaziah

Athaliah

Joash

RAAJJAAJ

Jehu  
Jehoahaz  
Jehoash

Jeroboam II  
Zechariah  
Shallum

Menahem

Pekahiah

Pekah

Hoshea

U Has Ash 2

ZS MPPH

Joash

Amaziah

Uzziah

Jotham

Ahaz

Hezekiah

Manasseh

Amon

Josiah

JAU JAH MAJ

**Kings of Israel (all bad)**

— Line between 9 dynasties in Israel

**Bad Kings of Judah**

**Good Kings of Judah**

} One  
Dynasty

Jehoahaz  
Jehoiakim  
Jehoiachin  
Zedekiah

Has Kim's Chin Zed

# Northern Later Kings

232 & 342

Jeroboam  
Nadab

Baasha  
Elah

Zimri

Omri

Ahab

Ahaziah

Joram

Jehu

JNBEZOAAJJ

Rehoboam  
Abijam

Asa

Jehoshaphat

Jehoram

Ahaziah

Athaliah

Joash

RAAJJAAJ

Jehu  
Jehoahaz  
Jehoash

Jeroboam II  
Zechariah  
Shallum

Menahem  
Pekahiah  
Pekah

Hoshea

U Has Ash 2

ZS MPPH

Joash

Amaziah

Uzziah

Jotham

Ahaz

Hezekiah

Manasseh

Amon

Josiah

JAU JAH MAJ

**Kings of Israel (all bad)**

— Line between 9 dynasties in Israel

**Bad Kings of Judah**

Good Kings of Judah

} One  
Dynasty

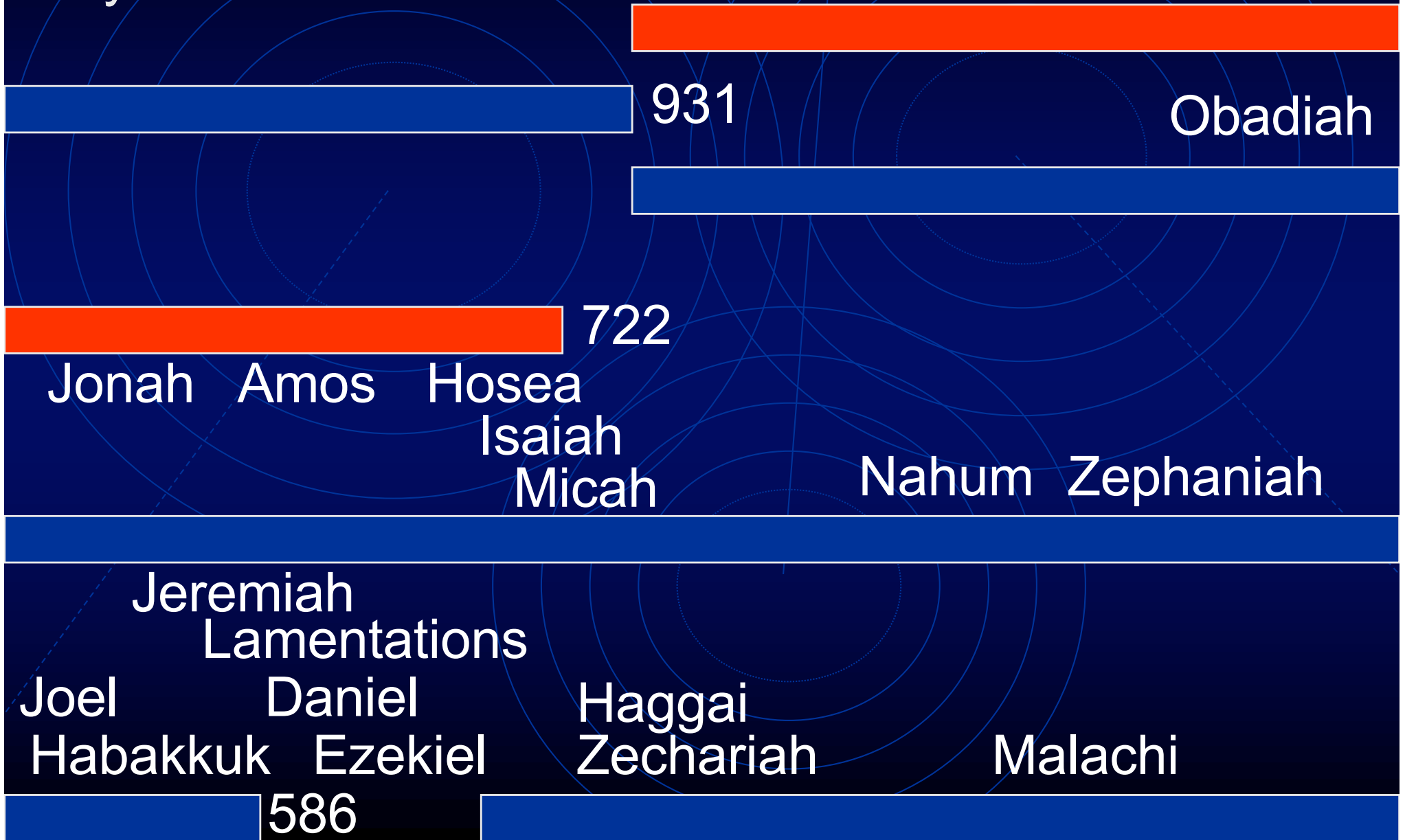
Jehoahaz  
Jehoiakim  
Jehoiachin  
Zedekiah

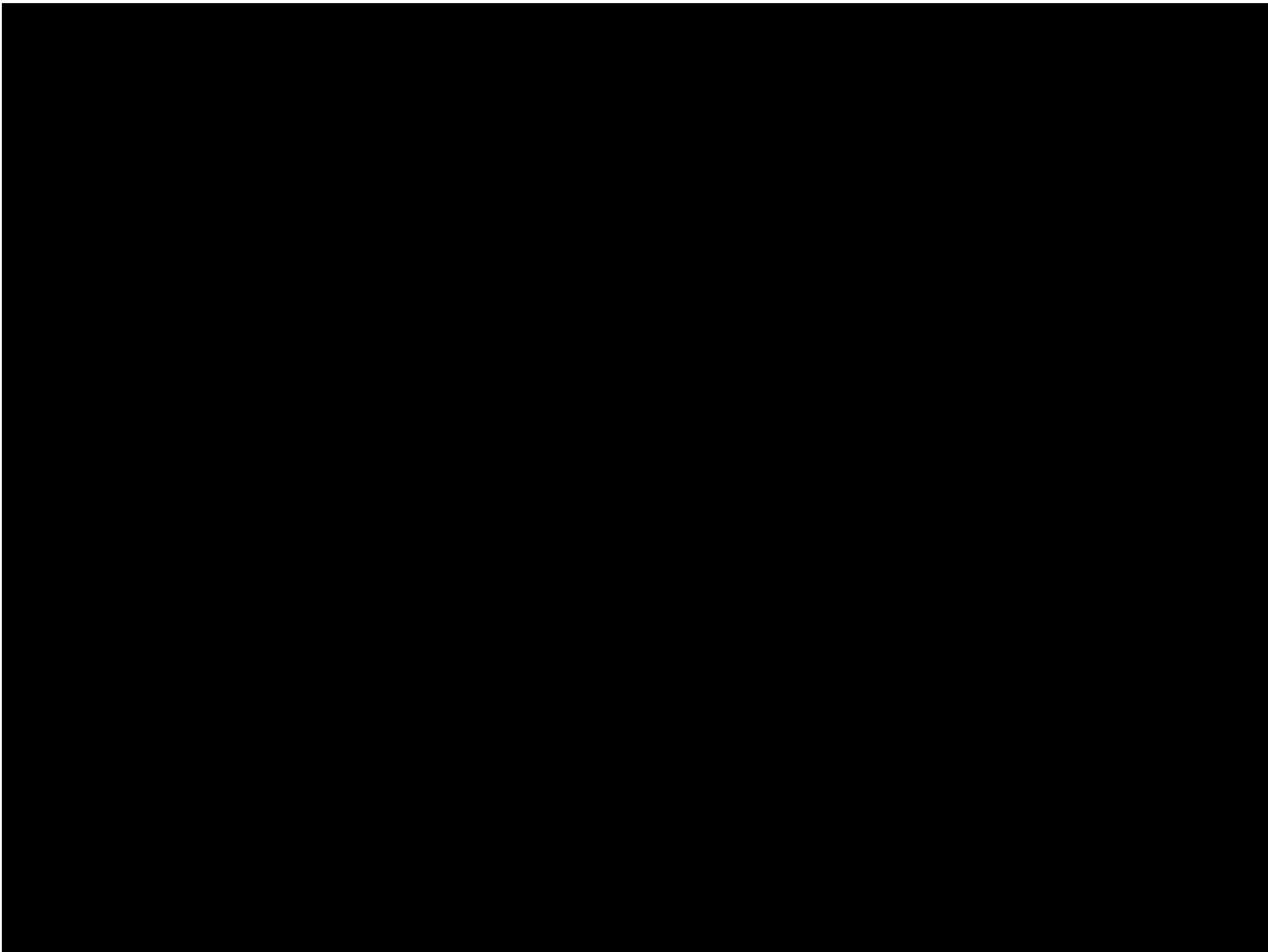
Has Kim's Chin Zed

# Placing the Prophets

342

## Key Dates





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