

PANORAMA OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Between the Old and New Testament



Galatians

Galatians 4:4

Although God did not speak during the 400 years of silence He was working to prepare the world for the perfect time for Messiah to come into the world.



Between the Testaments

I. The period between the Old and New Testaments

A. The 400 years of silence

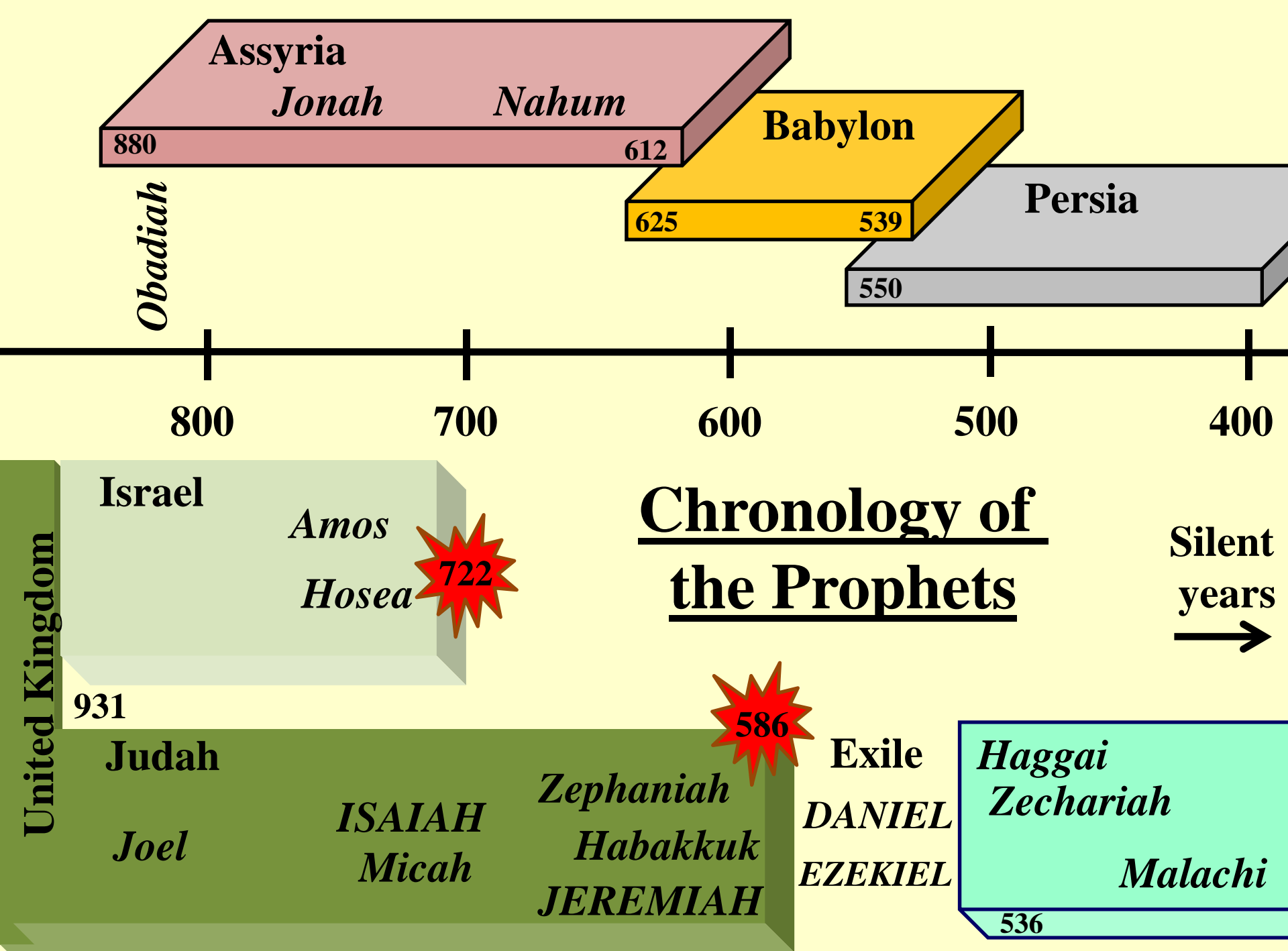
1. The 400 years during which God did not speak through any prophet extended from the end of Malachi to the announcement of John the Baptist's birth in Luke chapter 1.

Between the Testaments

2. During God's 400 year silence between the Old and New Testaments, world domination shifted from East to West.
 - a. At the close of the Old Testament in 435 BC when Malachi wrote his book, the Medes and Persians were the world's dominant empire.

Between the Testaments

- b. By the time Jesus was born, Rome dominated the world.
- c. During these 400 silent years, the Pharisees and Sadducees came into existence, and the nation Judah adopted new traditions that impacted many New Testament teachings.
- d. God worked during these 400 years so that Christ came at the *fullness of time*.
Galatians 4:4



Between the Testaments

3. Several important events reshaped the world during these 400 silent years.

a. Media/Persia Rule – 539 to 330 BC

1) In 539 BC, a two nation coalition called Media and Persia conquered Babylon. Of the two nations, Persia was the stronger. Daniel was an exile in Babylon during this time. Daniel 7

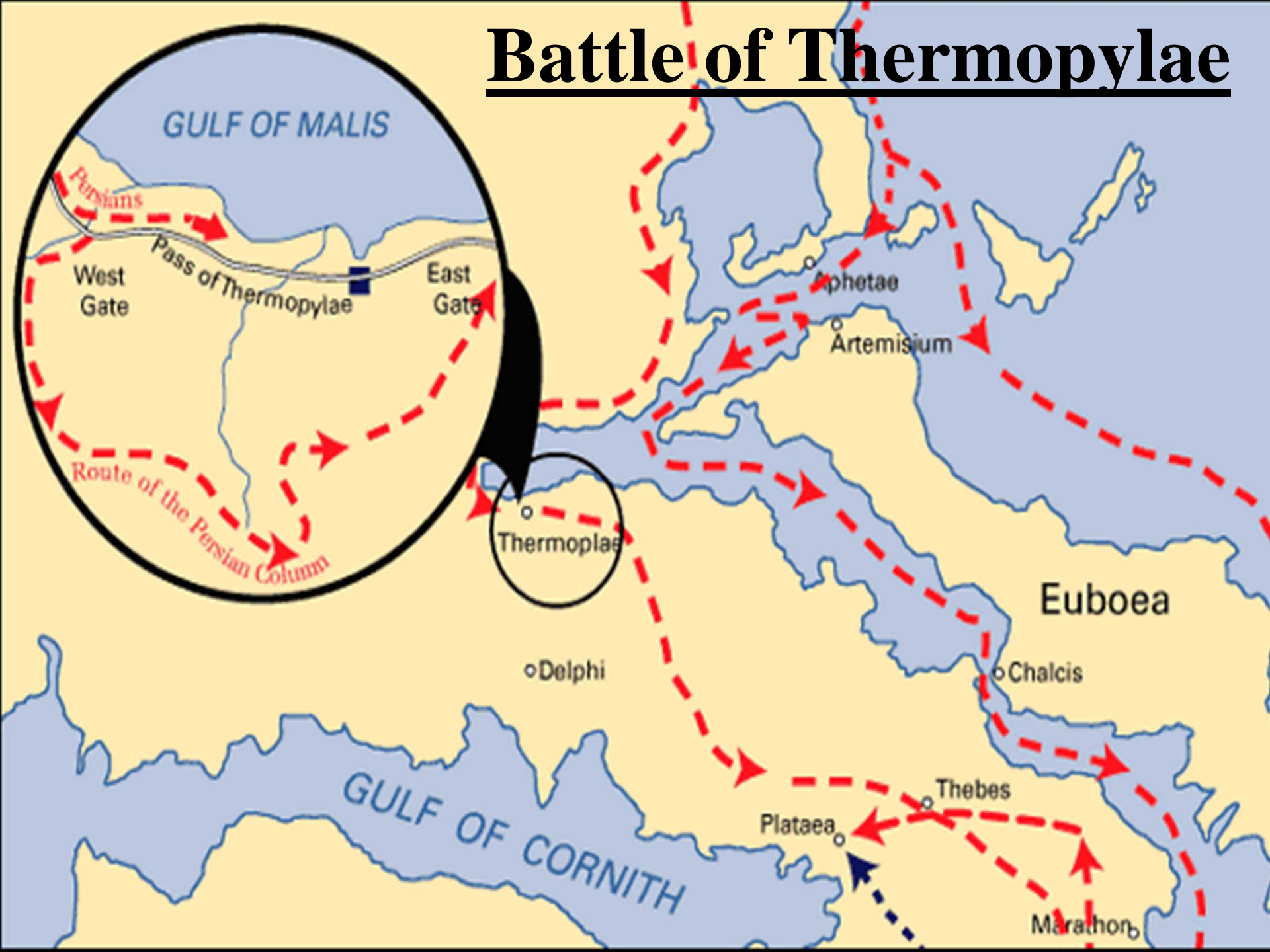
Between the Testaments

- 2) From 500 to 448 BC, Persia and Greece waged war several times.
 - a) Persian King Xerxes (or Ahasuerus, Esther 1:1), the son of Darius I (Daniel 9:1), attacked the Greeks in 480 BC.

Between the Testaments

- b) At Thermopylae, a narrow pass into the Greek mainland, King Xerxes conquered the Greeks. Later, they defeated him at the battle of Salamis.
- c) These wars caused the Persians and Greeks to hate each other.

Battle of Thermopylae





Egyptian contingent sails to block west channel to Salamis.

THE BATTLE OF SALAMIS,

480 B.C.

SCALE OF MILES



Geographic Cell of Excellence

SARONIC GULF

Greece Rises

b. Greek Rule and Influence – 330 to 63 BC

1) The shift in power from east to west began with the rise of King Philip (359 to 336 BC) of Macedonia, a part of Greece.

a) When King Philip came to power, he united the formerly independent Greek cities and islands into one strong nation.

Alexander the Great

- b) After the assassination of King Philip (possibly devised by his wife), his 20 year old son Alexander came to power.
- c) Because of his many brilliant military conquests, Alexander gained the title Alexander the Great.

Alexander the Great

- 2) In 333 BC, Alexander the Great, the goat that never touched the ground in the vision of Daniel 8, advanced into Persian territory from the west and began to drive back the Persians.
- 3) In 332 BC, Alexander the Great began advancing his armies toward Egypt.

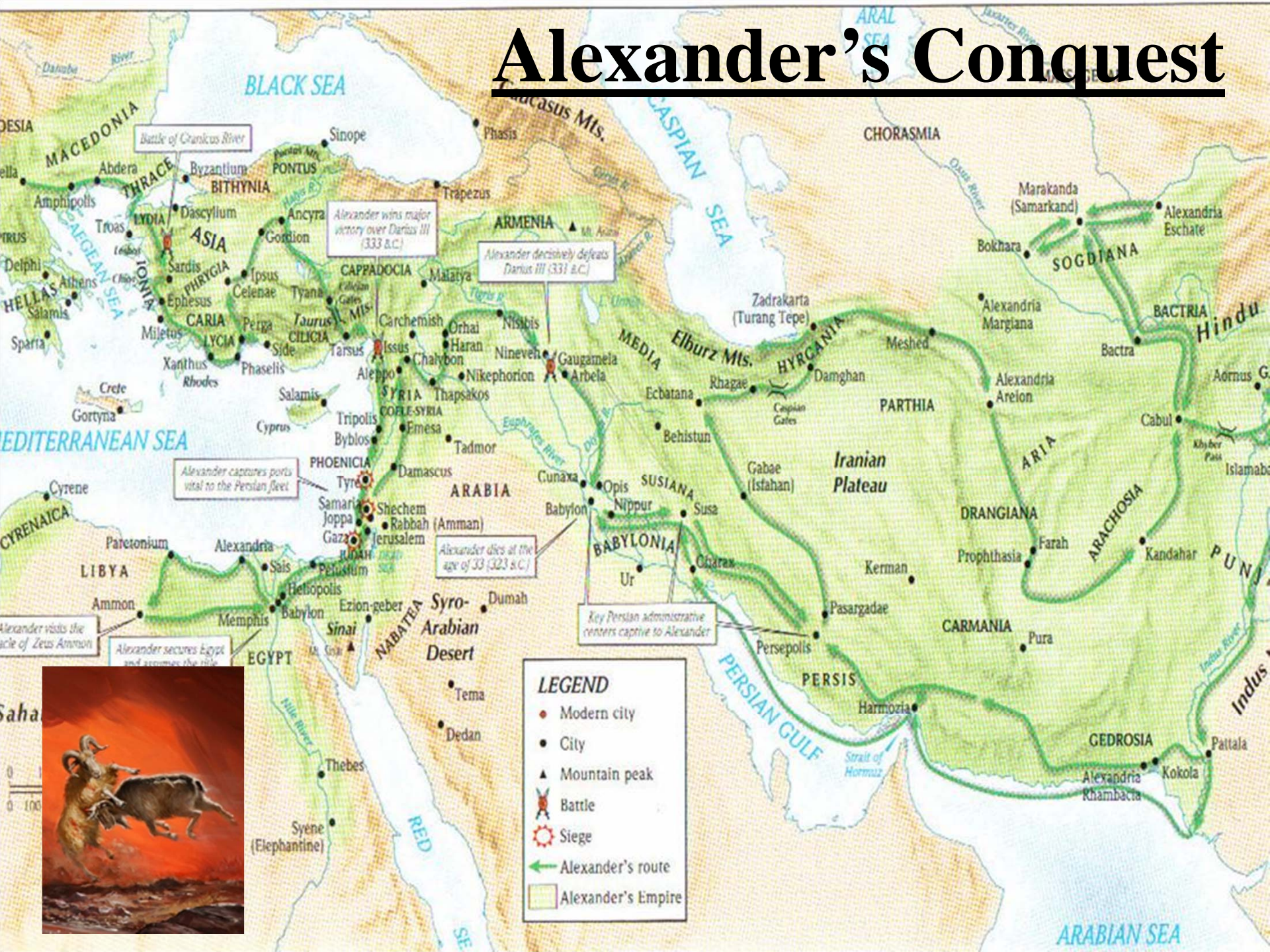
Alexander the Great

- a) Alexander led his army down into Syria, planning to overthrow the Jewish city of Jerusalem on the way.
- b) According to ancient historian Josephus, upon Alexander's arrival in Jerusalem, the chief priest read to him Daniel's prophecies about his rise to power, so impressing him that he left Jerusalem unharmed.

Alexander the Great

- 4) In 330 BC, Alexander the Great, though greatly outnumbered, defeated the Persians at the Battle of Gaugamela and established the vast Greek Empire.

Alexander's Conquest



Battle of Granicus River

Alexander wins major victory over Darius III (333 B.C.)

Alexander decisively defeats Darius III (331 B.C.)

Alexander captures ports vital to the Persian fleet

Alexander dies at the age of 33 (323 B.C.)

Key Persian administrative centers captive to Alexander

LEGEND

- Modern city
- City
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ⚔ Battle
- ⊛ Siege
- ← Alexander's route
- Alexander's Empire



0 100

Alexander the Great

- 5) In 323 BC at the age of 33, Alexander the Great died without an heir.
 - a) His huge empire was eventually divided into four sections, each ruled by one of his military leaders, Lysimachus, Cassander, Seleucus, and Ptolemy. The goat's horn of Daniel's vision was broken, and four smaller horns had appeared. Daniel 8:8,11:3-4



 Extent of Alexander's Empire



OC



Note





BLACK SEA

MACEDONIA

SELEUCID EMPIRE

SYRIA

PERSIAN GULF

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

EGYPT

RED SEA

Note

Greek Rule

- b) Two of these rulers were important during the 400 silent years.
 - i. Ptolemy's dynasty included Egypt, North Africa, and Judea, the former southern Kingdom.
 - ii. Seleucus ruled Syria, which included part of Israel, the former northern Kingdom.

Greek Rule

- 6) In 312 BC, Seleucus attempted to take Judea from Egyptian control, making Judea into a battleground between Syria and Egypt.

Greek Rule

- a) Though Egypt and Syria were both Greek-ruled, they spent 100 years fighting each other because both wanted to control the lucrative caravan routes that came through there, the same routes that God intended the Jews to use to evangelize the world.

Greek Rule

- b) These long wars turned the land of Israel into a constant battleground. (Daniel 11 gave an amazingly detailed prophecy concerning this period.)

Greek Rule

- 7) During this time of Greek rule, many Judean Jews made Greek philosophy their way of life.
 - a) Also, during this time, the sects of the Sadducees and the Pharisees began.
 - i. The Sadducees formed a political/social sect that embraced Greek culture.

Greek Rule

- ii. The Pharisees resisted Greek culture, instead maintaining strict adherence to the Law of Moses as well as to their own arbitrary traditions.

Greek Rule

- b) In 284 BC, because most Israelites had forgotten the Hebrew language, a group of 70 Hebrew scholars translated the Old Testament Scriptures from Hebrew to Greek.
 - i. This translation was called the Septuagint, meaning seventy.

Greek Rule

- ii. Many quotes in the New Testament are from this Greek translation rather than from the original Hebrew.
- iii. Even today, Bible scholars go to the Septuagint when studying the original meaning of the Old Testament Scriptures.

Greek Rule

- 8) In 203 BC, Antiochus the Great of Greek Syria (the Seleucid Empire) took the land of Judea from Egypt (the Ptolemaic Kingdom) and captured Jerusalem, all of which had been prophesied in Daniel 11:10-18.
 - a) One of Antiochus's sons, Antiochus Epiphanes, was a cruel hater of Israel (an anti-Semitic) and a type of the antichrist.

Evil Antiochus Epiphanes

- i. Antiochus Epiphanes destroyed many Old Testament scrolls.
- ii. Antiochus Epiphanes replaced the high-priestly genetic line of Aaron with an unqualified person of his choosing.

Evil Antiochus Epiphanes

iii. He defiled the temple by setting up a statue of the Greek god Zeus inside the temple and offering a pig on the altar. Daniel 11:21-31

iv. Something similar, the abomination of desolation, will be enthroned in the future Tribulation temple. Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15

Maccabean Rule

9) The Maccabean Period – 165 BC to 63 BC

a) In 168 BC, Mattathias, a Judean priest, led a rebellion against evil King Antiochus Epiphanes as prophesied in Daniel 11:32-34.

Maccabean Rule

- b) After Mattathias' death, his son, Judas Maccabaeus, continued the fight against Antiochus in battles known as the Maccabean Revolt.
- c) Even though greatly outnumbered, the Jews won victory after victory.
- d) In 165 BC, Judas Maccabaeus finally reclaimed control of the temple.
- e) The Syrian army continually attacked Judea, but Israel's self-rule lasted from 164 BC to 63 BC.

Roman Rule

- c. Roman rule and influence began around 63 BC.
 - 1) Around 63 BC, Antipater, an Edomite ruler from Idumea, together with two other kings, laid siege against Jerusalem.
 - a) His goal was to take rule of Jerusalem away from the Maccabean rulers.

Roman Rule

- b) Antipater and his league paid Roman general Pompey to join them.
- c) Pompey conquered Judea for the Roman Republic.

Roman Rule

- 2) In 40 BC, the Roman Senate made Antipater governor of Judea.
 - a) Antipater was the first in the Herodian Dynasty.
 - b) He appointed his sons as kings, one over Galilee, the other over Judea.
 - c) The son who ruled Judea was Herod the Great.

Roman Rule

- 3) Later that year, Antigonus, a Maccabean king-priest, regained control of Judea and Jerusalem.
 - a) In 37 BC, the Romans executed Antigonus, thus ending Maccabean rule.

Herod the Great

b) Herod the Great took control of all Galilee and Judea and ruled there when Christ was born.

Matthew 2:1-2

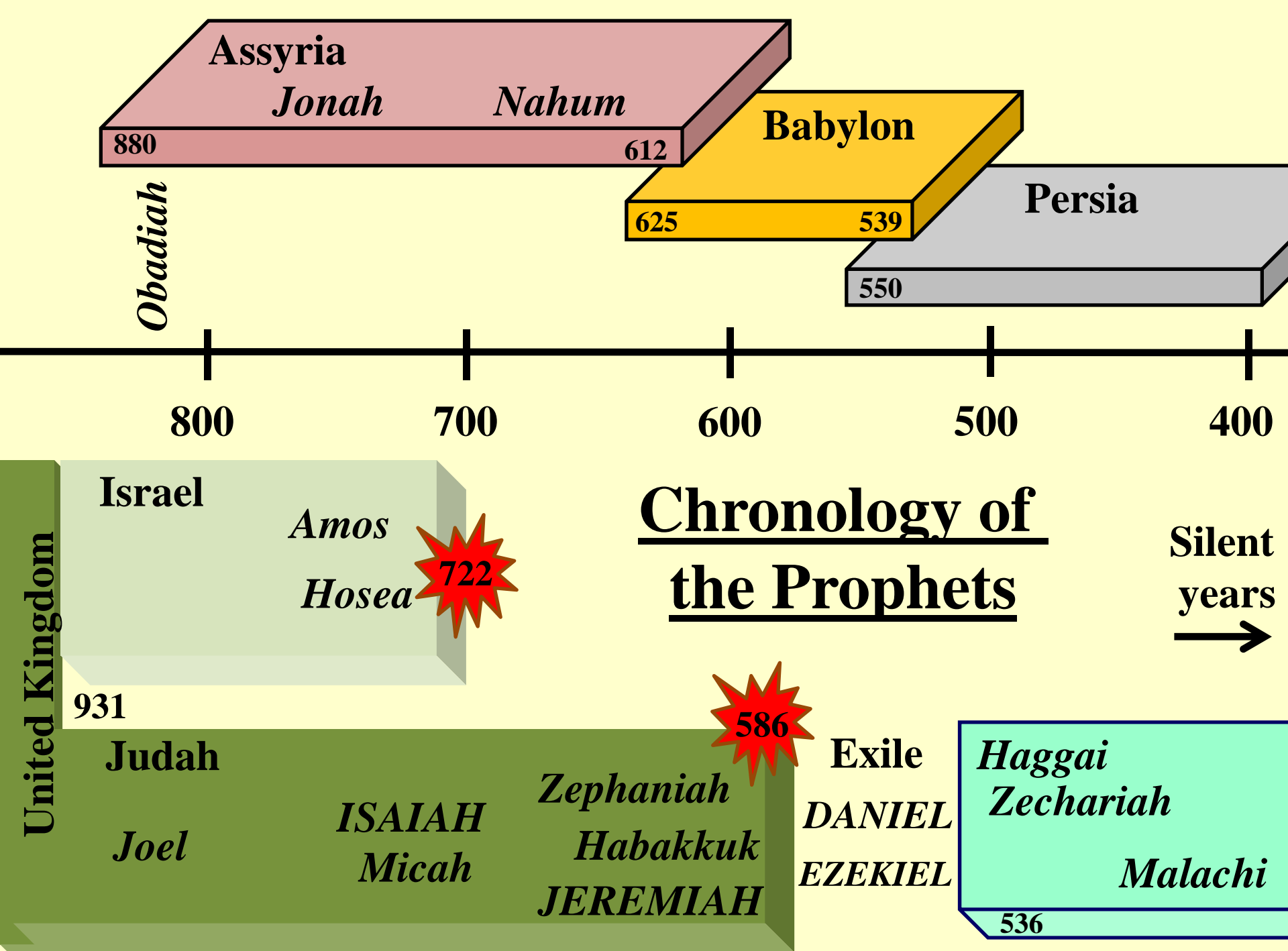
c) The people of Israel were under Roman rule throughout the New Testament period. They looked for a political ruler to free them from Rome's tyranny.

Herod the Great

- 4) In 31 BC, Caesar Augustus became emperor of the Roman Empire and ruled as a dictator.
- 5) In 19 BC, King Herod, an Edomite, started renovating the second temple because he longed to be a Jew.

Herod the Great

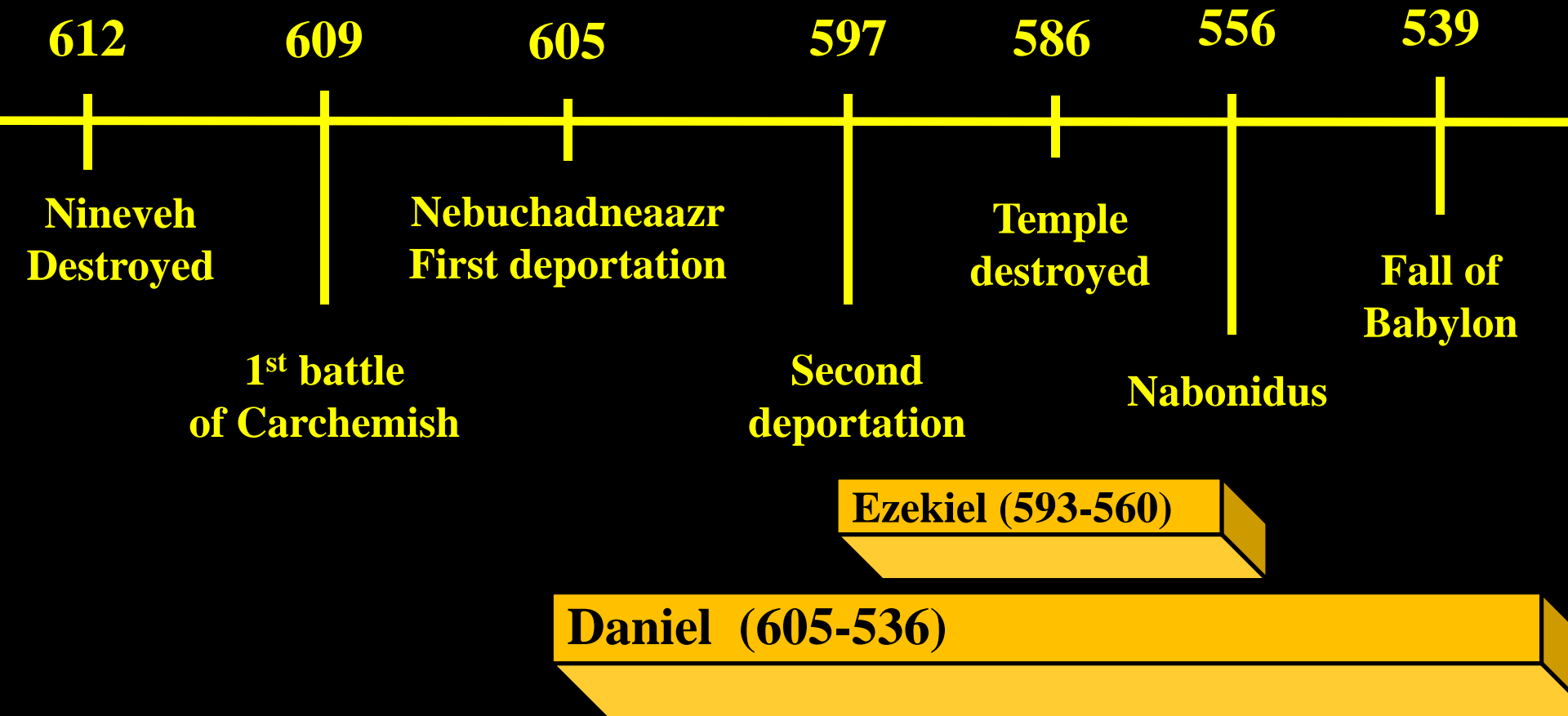
6) Sometime between 4 and 7 BC according to our calendar, Jesus Christ our Lord was born in Bethlehem, the city of David. Luke 2:11



73 Years of Babylonian History



Lion
Dan 7:1-4

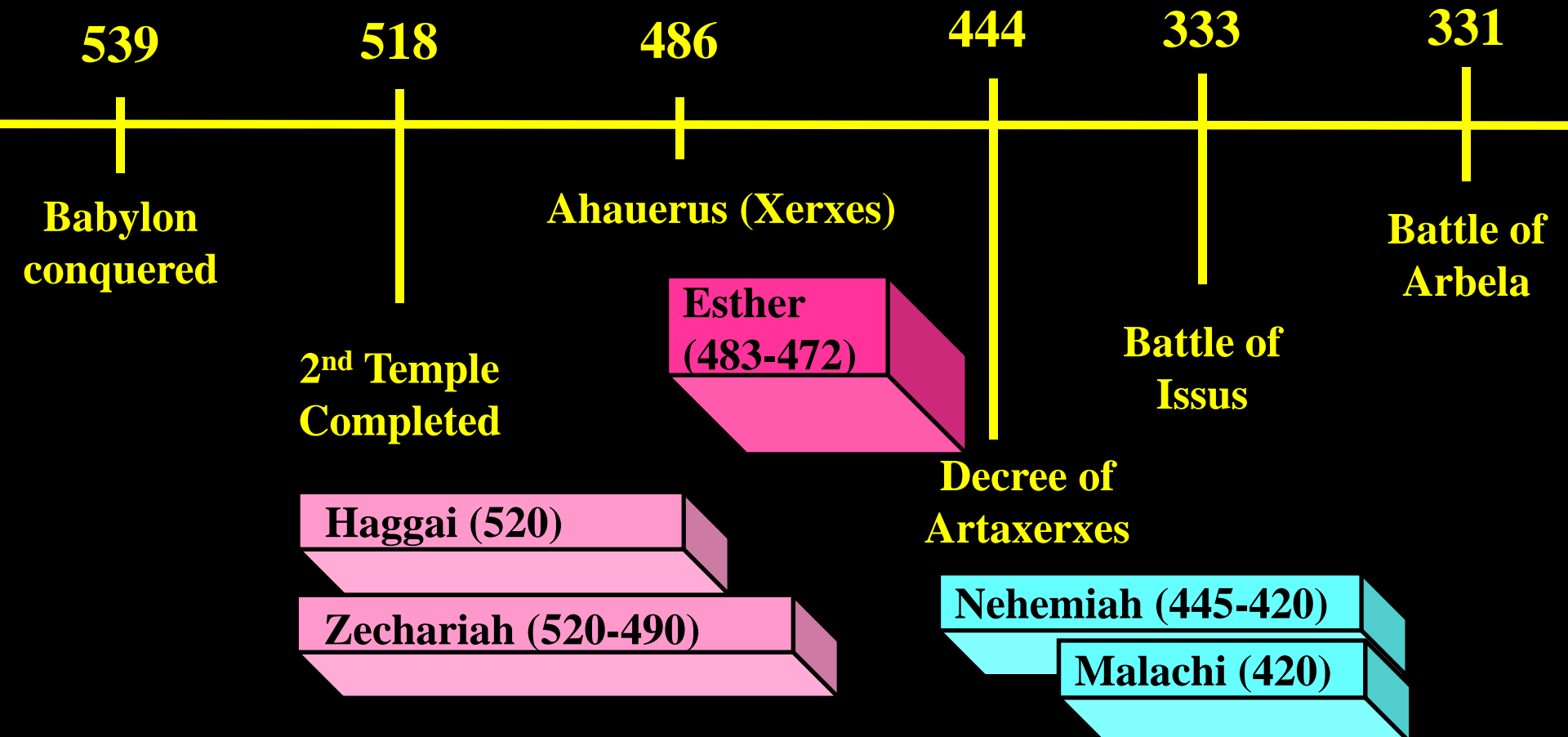




200 Years of Persian History



Bear
Dan 7:5



300 Years of Greek History



Leopard
Dan 7:6

359

King
Philip

333

Alexander
the
Great



Goat of Daniel 8

Dan 8:8-12

323

Alexander
died

Seleucus
tried to
take Judea

312

Septuagint
written

284

Antiochus
the Great took
Judea from Egypt

203

Maccabean
revolt

168

Roman
influence
begins

63



60 Years of Roman History



Beast
Dan 7:7-8

63

40

37

31

19

4

Pompey
took
Judea

Antipater
founded the
Herodian
Dynasty

Herod the
Great came
to power

Augustus
Became
Emperor

Herod began
Temple
renovations

Messiah
was
born

Birth of Jesus
(Birth)
Num 24:17;
Isa 7:14; Mic 5:2

