

NTS-101

New Testament Survey

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The Class

Purpose

What is a survey?

Why are we here?

- ✱ - Not to master the Word, but to be mastered by the Word
- ✱ - Grasp the major themes and primary message of each book of the New Testament, as it bears witness to the Gospel
- ✱ - To be thus equipped always ready to proclaim the Good News, and give a reason for the hope in you (1 Peter 3.15)

The Class

Purpose

Jesus prayed: "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.**" ~ John 17:16-17 NAS95

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

~ Romans 12:1-2 NAS95

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. ~ 2 Timothy 3:16-17 NAS95

The Class

Protocols

✱ Be on time

The Class

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- ✱ Be on time
- ✱ No electronics in class

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- ✱ Paper Bibles and paper notebooks

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- ✱ Formal Equivalence translations only (NASB, ESV, NKJV, LSB)

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- ✱ Resist the temptation to use AI tools

The Class

Grades

There will be 3 elements to your grade

1. Homework assignments - to be turned in at the beginning of every class
2. Attendance and Punctuality - get to class, and be there 5 minutes early
3. Engagement and Participation in class - ask questions and share your insights

There may be scheduled tests - I will let you know.

Background of the New Testament

The Promises.

The Preparation.

The Players.

The Promises

The Grand Story. Covenants. Types.

God made us for Himself, for relationship as His beloved children.

We rebelled against Him and lost that blessed fellowship with our Father

The whole history of the world is the Grand Story of God seeking us and calling us back, and making a way for us to return.

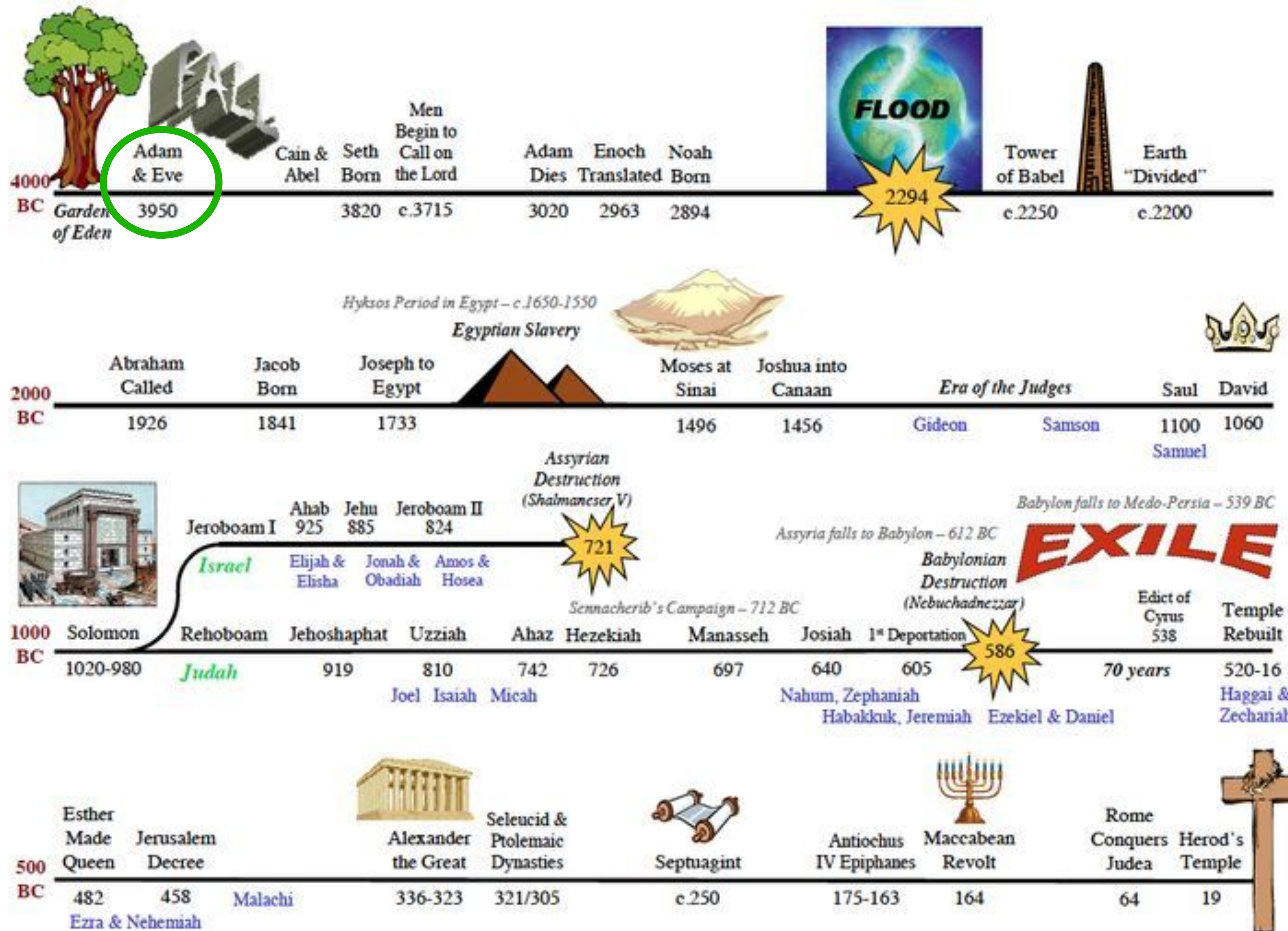
✱ Adam

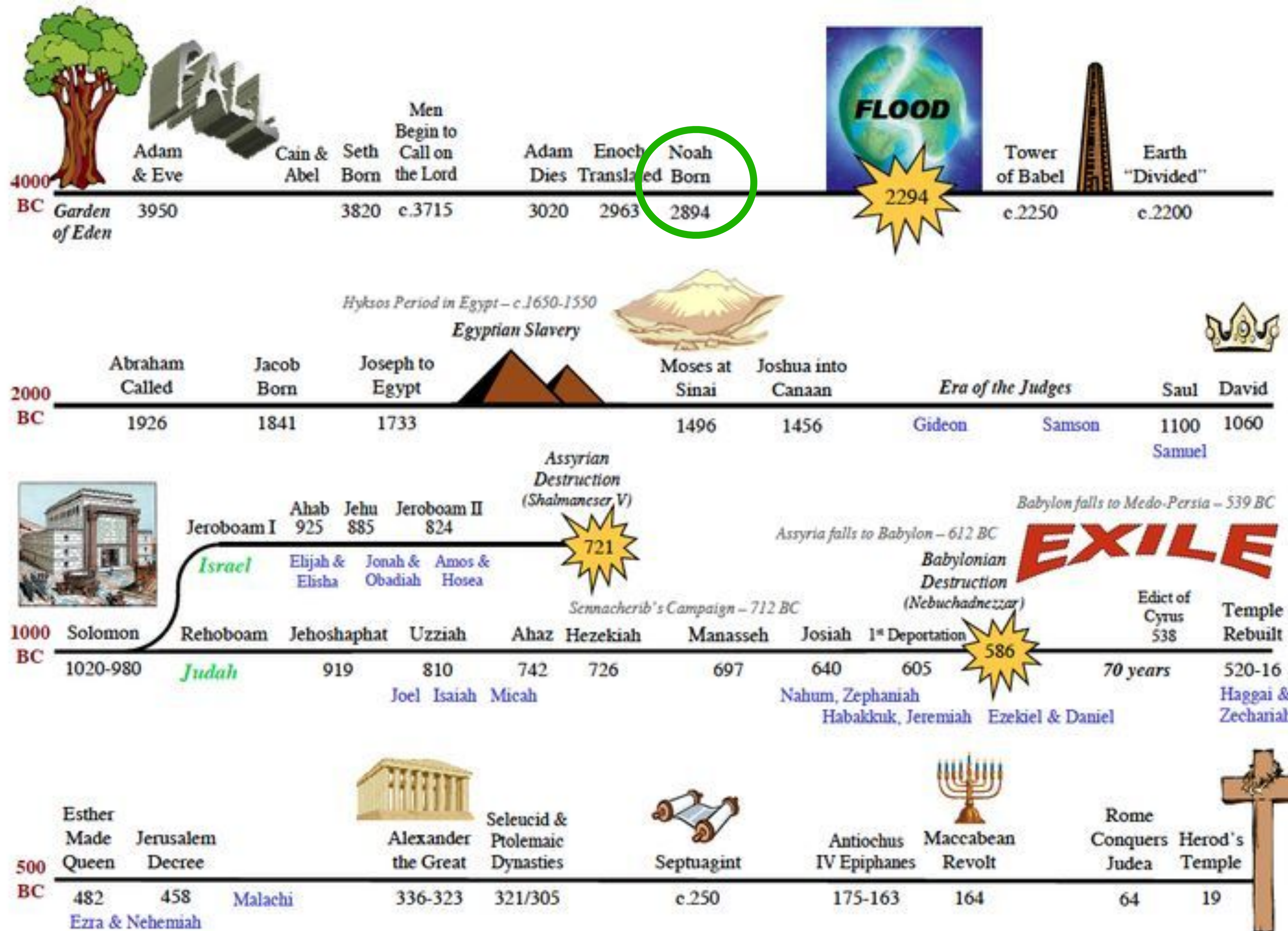
✱ Noah

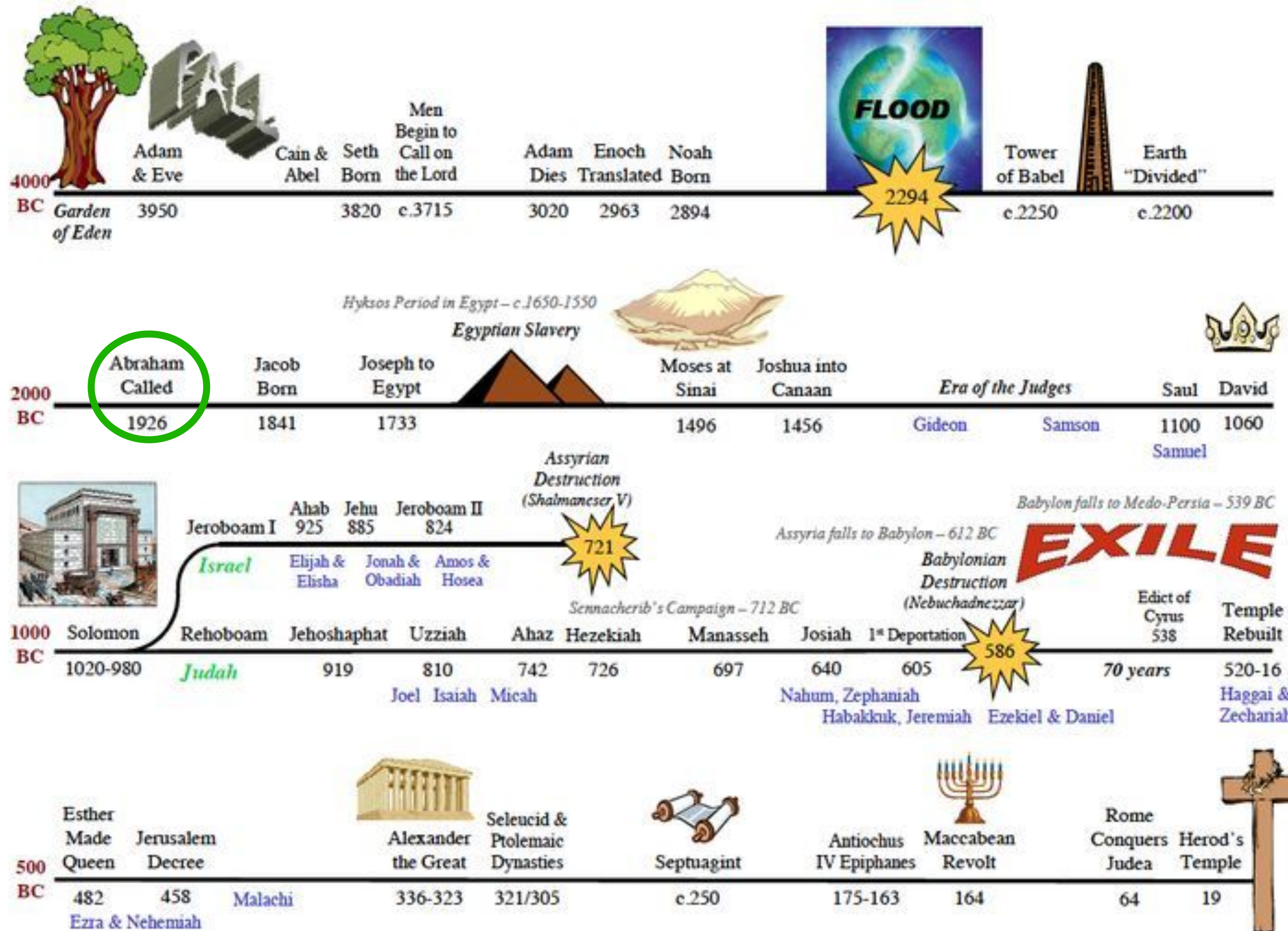
✱ Abraham

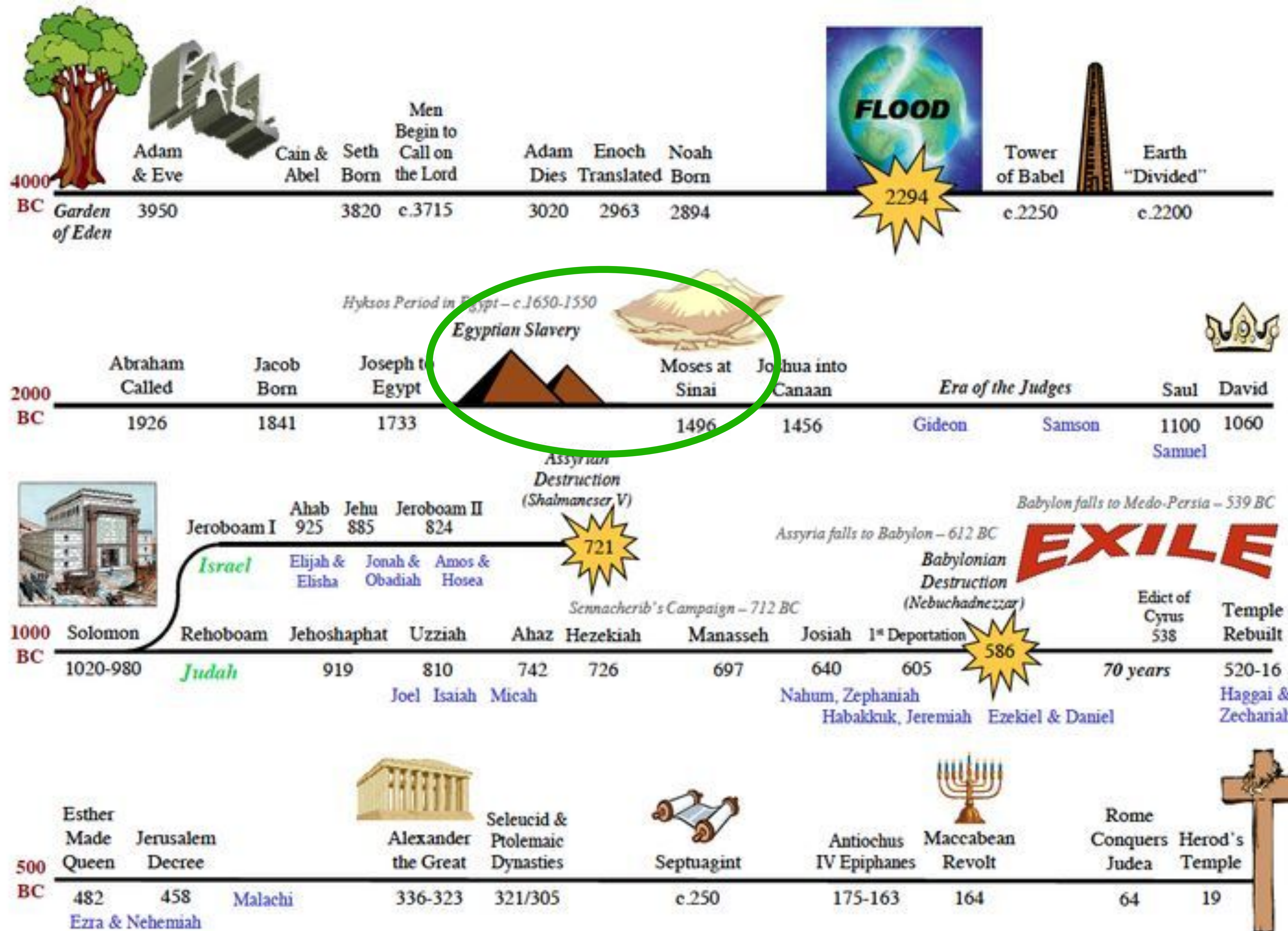
✱ Moses

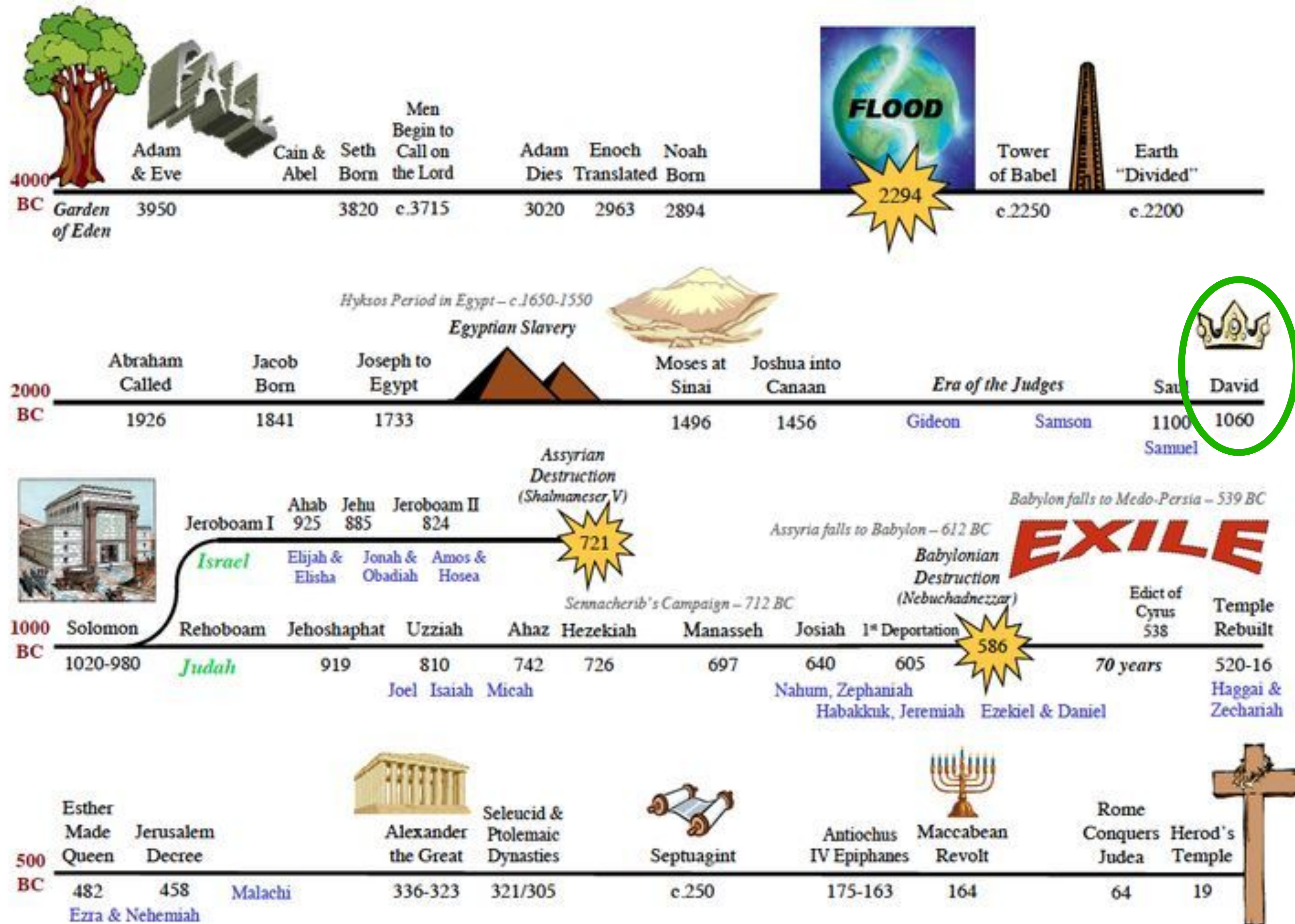
✱ David











The Preparation

The Rise and Fall of Empires

The visions in the book of Daniel

- Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2
 - The Grand a glorious statue
 - The Empires seen through the eyes of the world
- Daniel's vision in Daniel 7
 - Same empires seen as horrible ravening beasts
 - Empires seen through the eyes of Heaven























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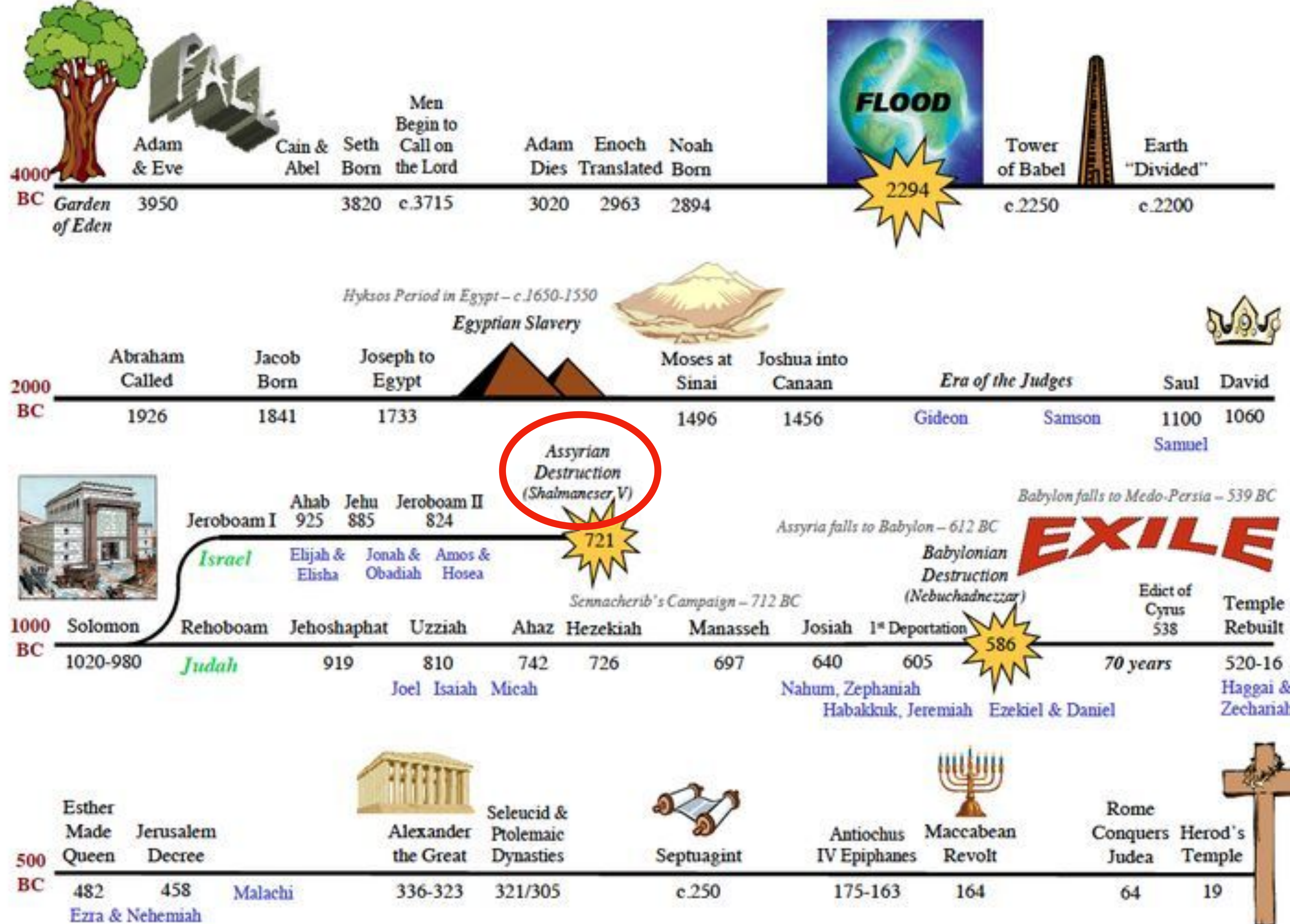


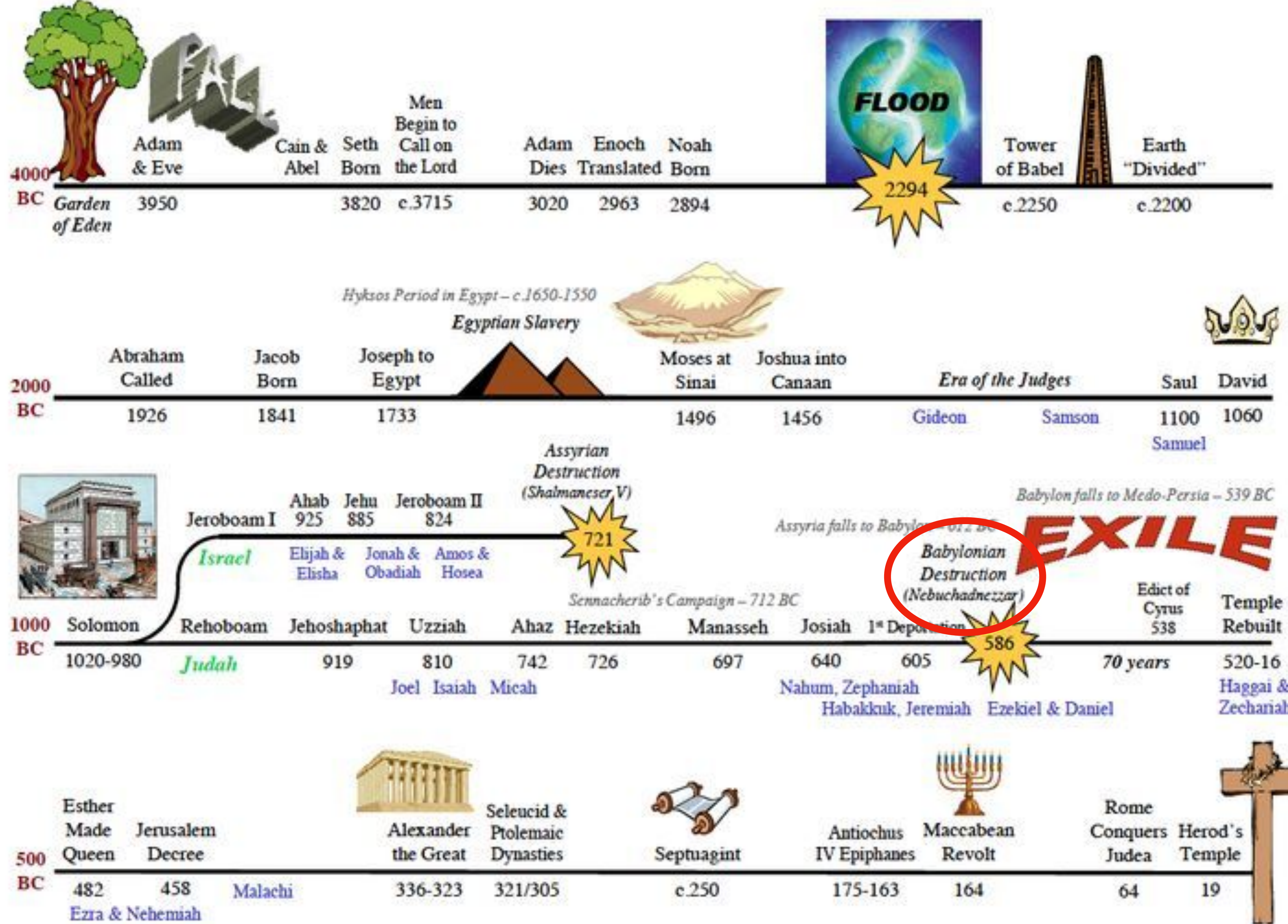
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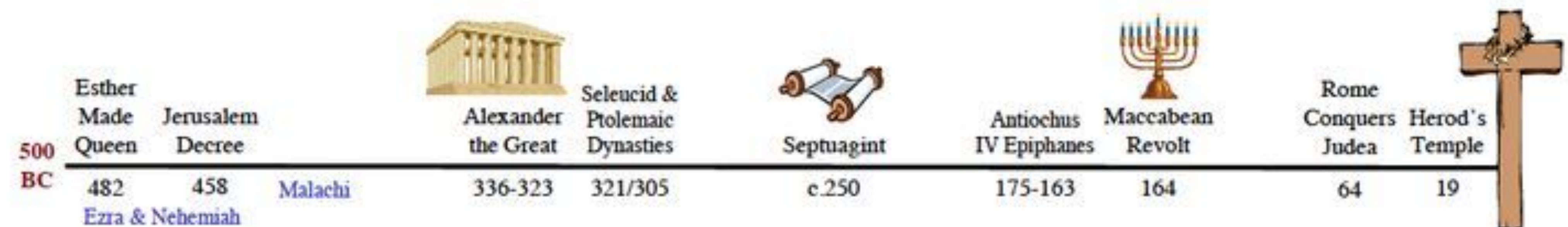
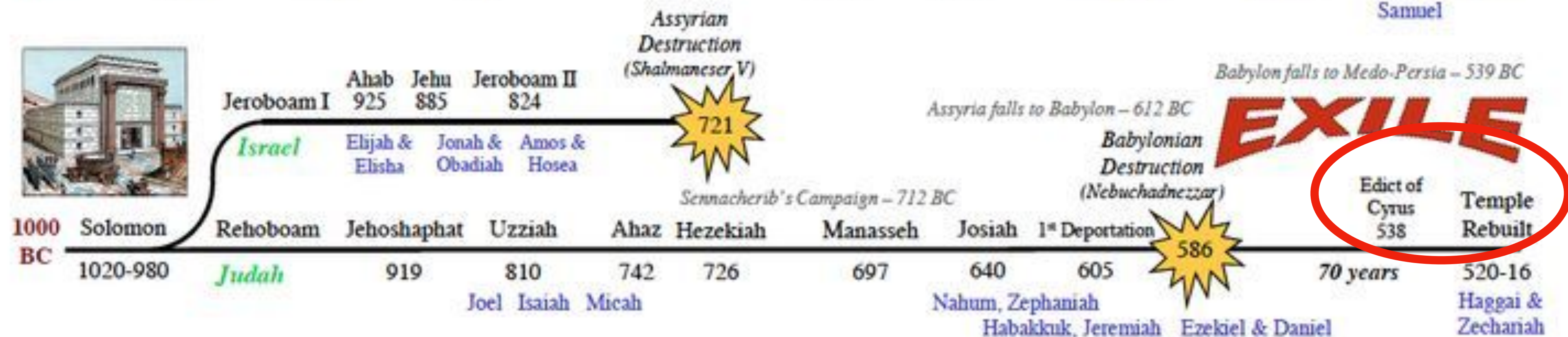
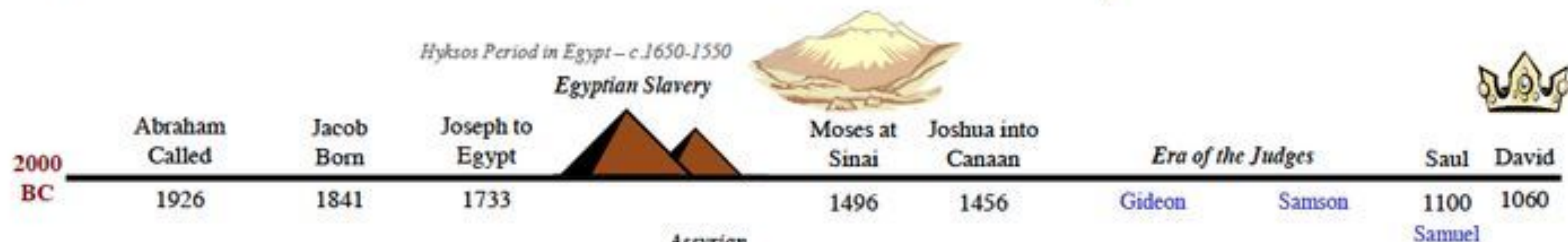
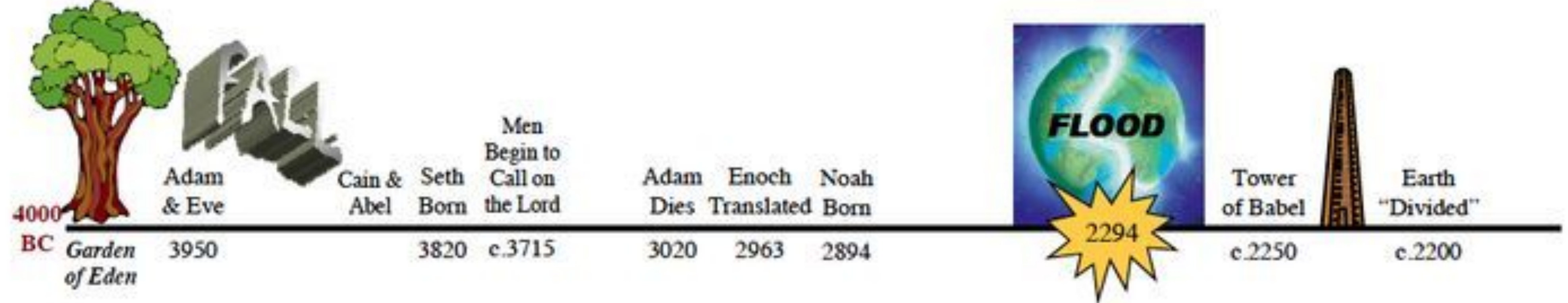
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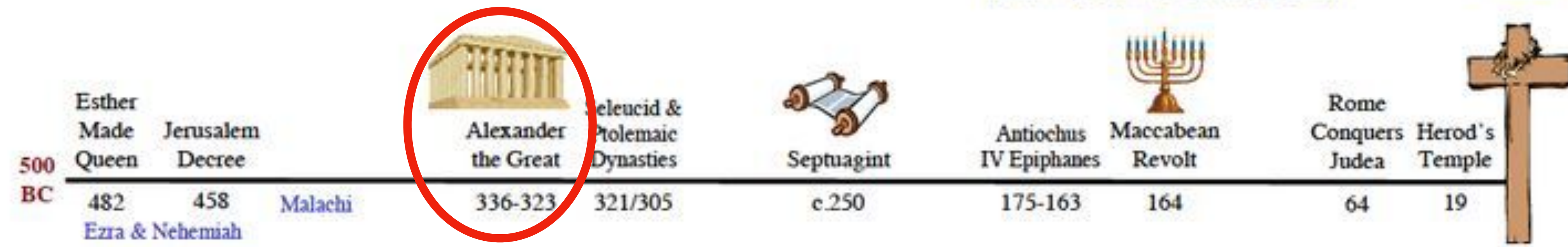
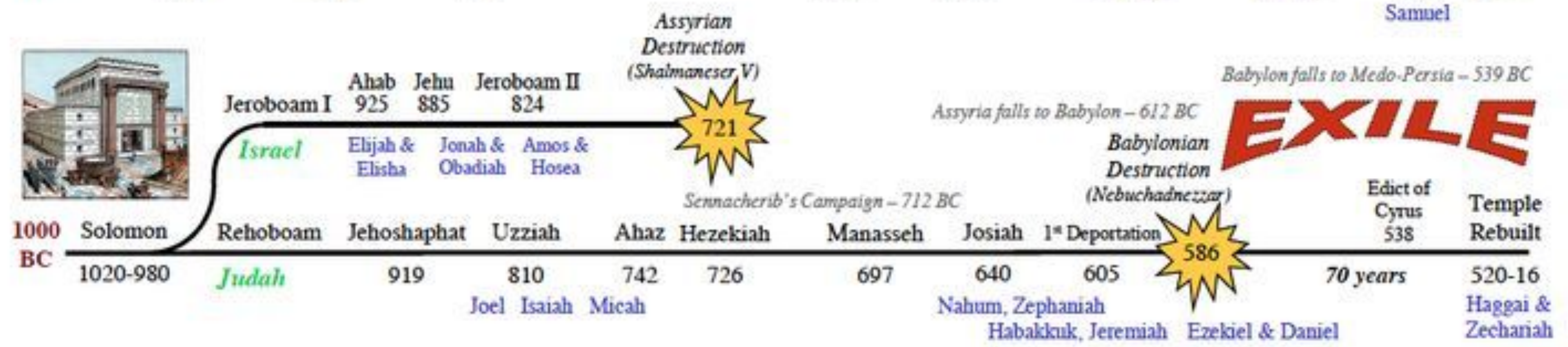
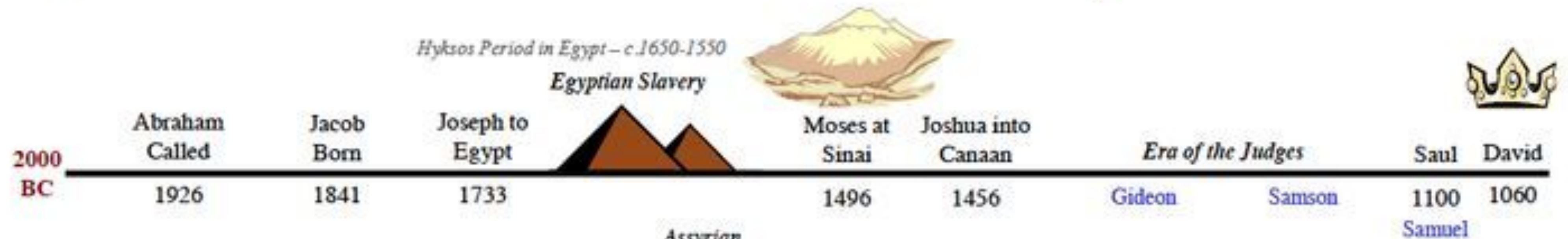
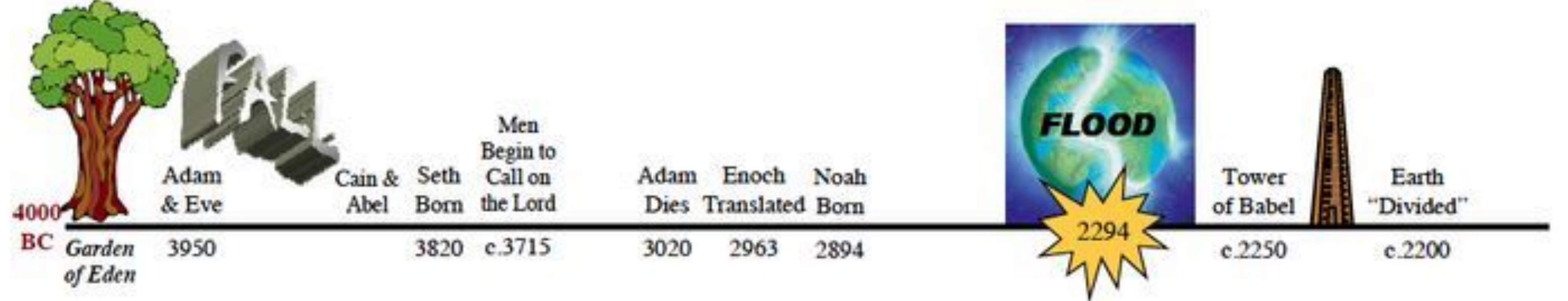


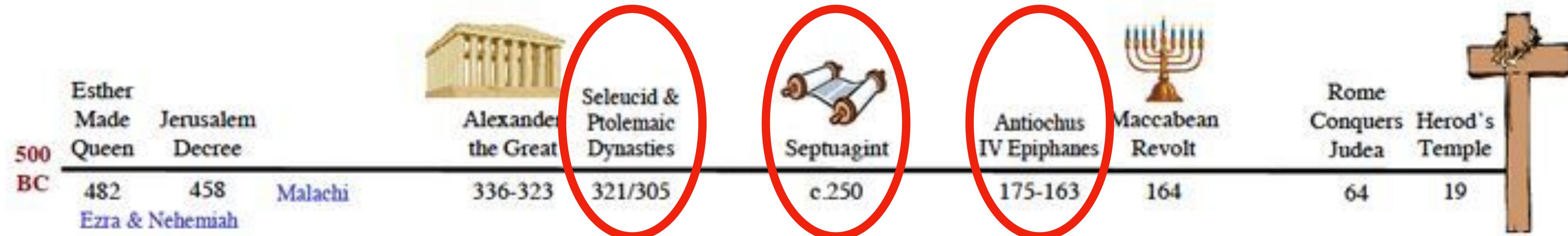
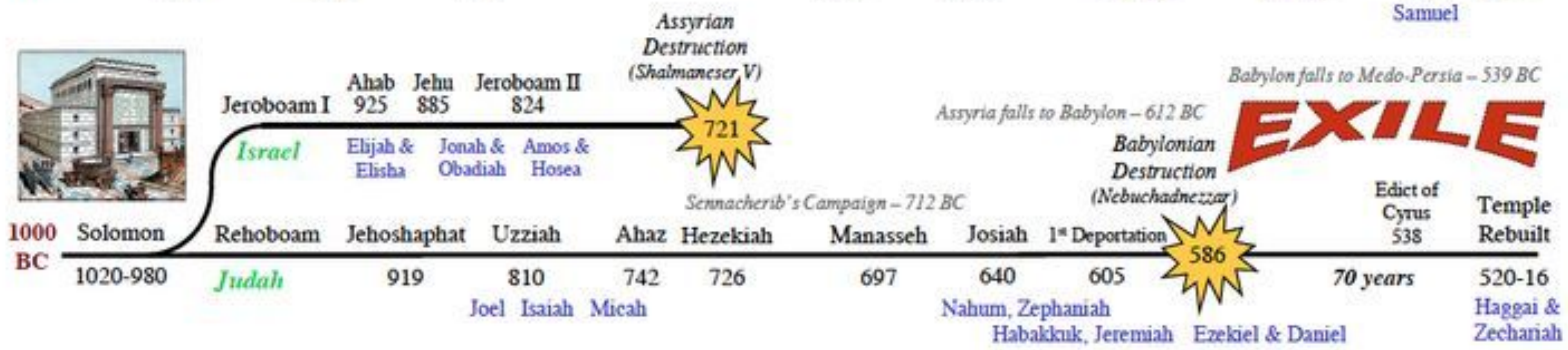
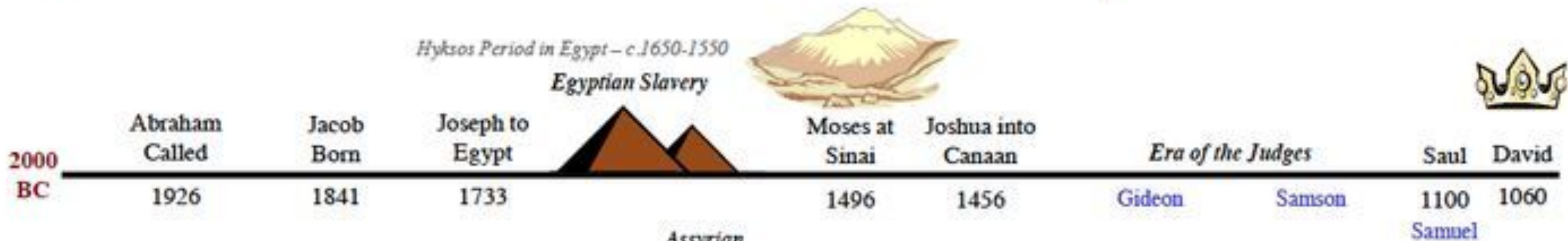
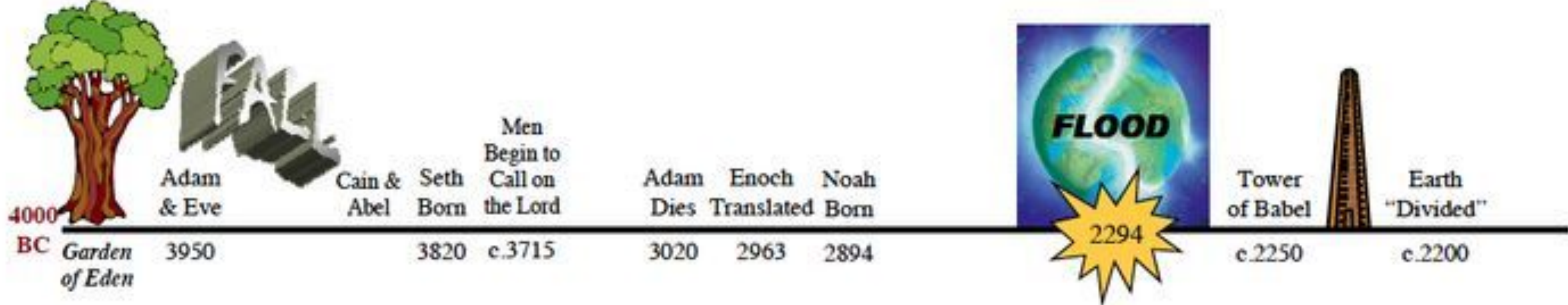
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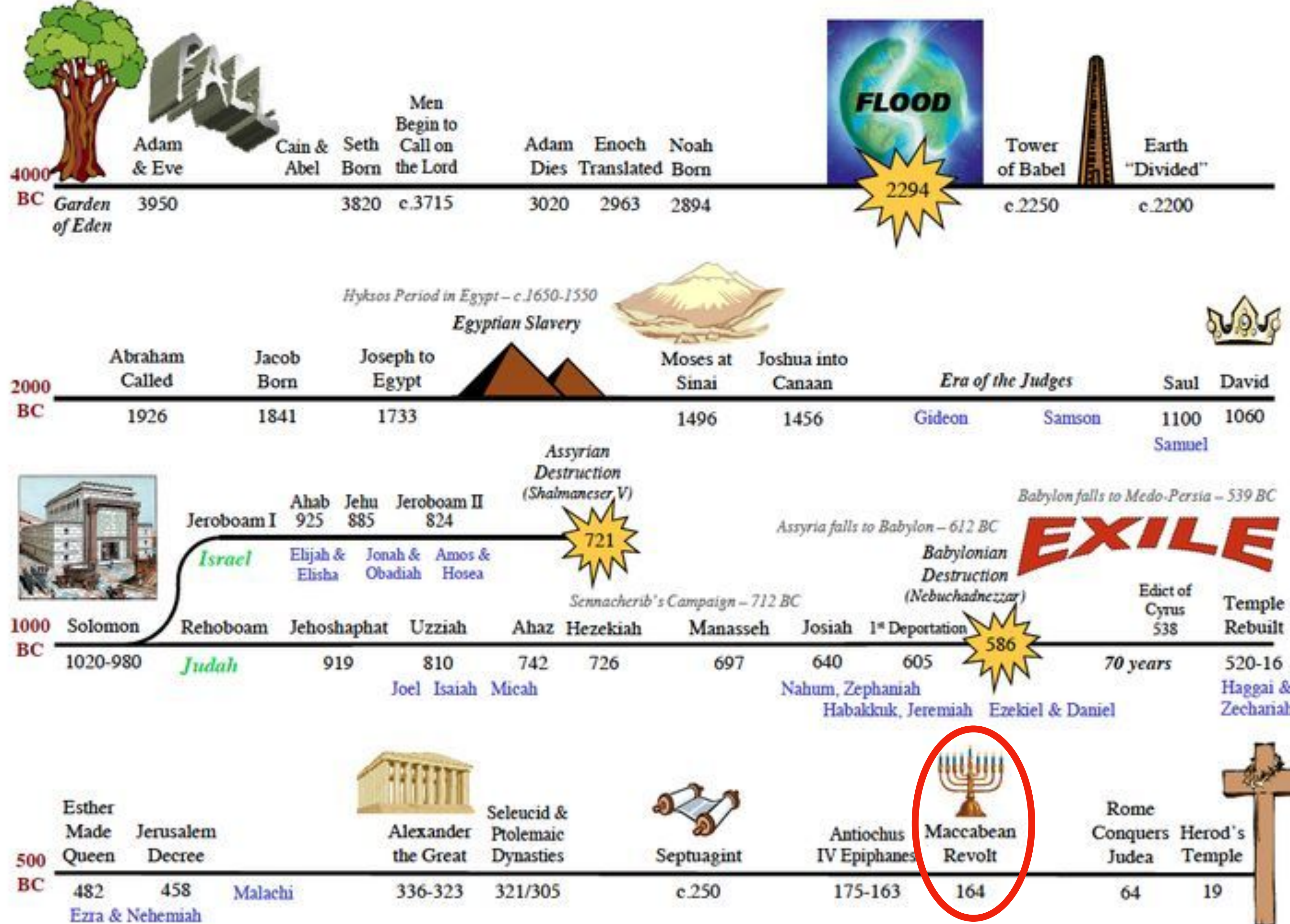


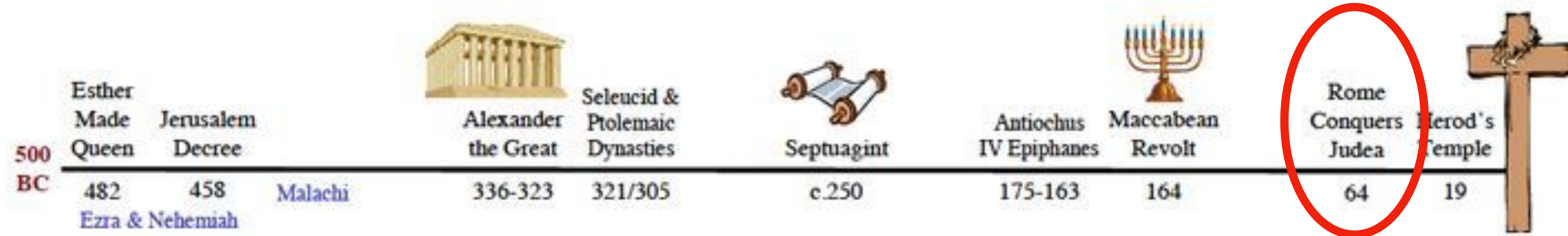
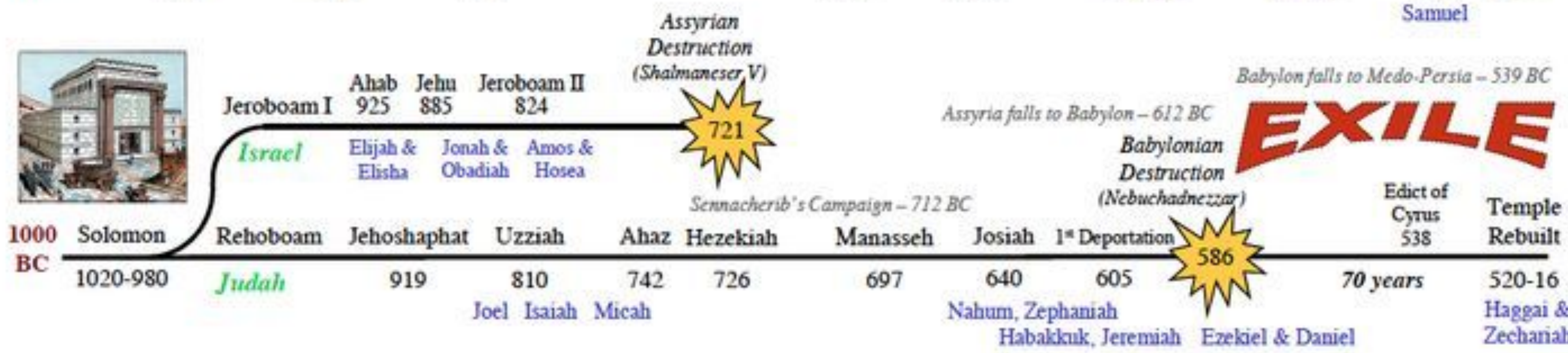
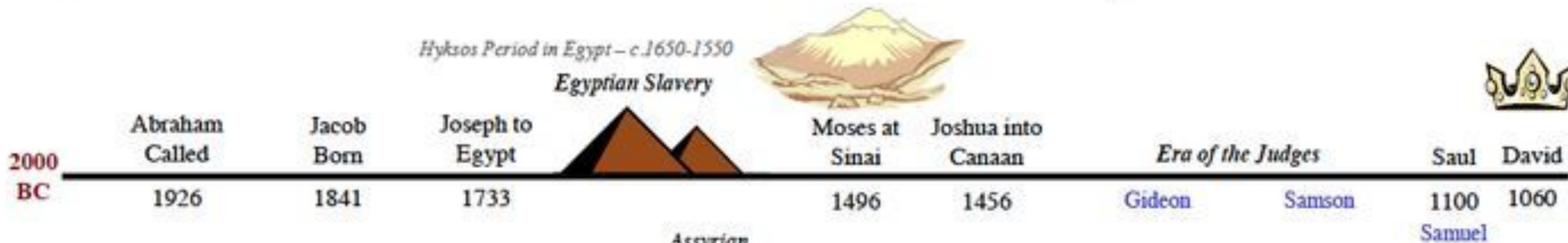
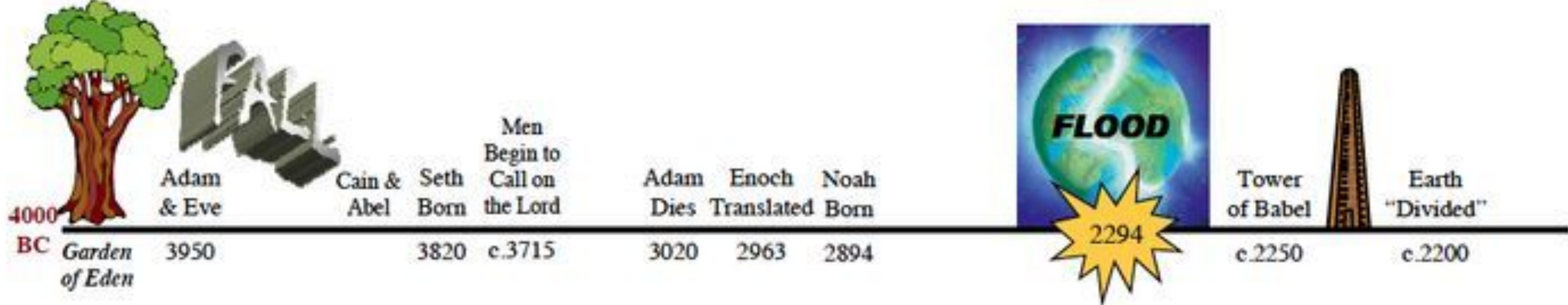












The Preparation

Hellenization

- * - "Hellas" is the Greek word for "Greece"
- * - So "Hellenization" simply means "Greekification"
- * - Result of Alexander's conquest - God used evil for His good purposes
- * - Greek became the language of commerce throughout the Empire, and eventually was spoken by nearly everyone
- * - The New Testament is written entirely in Greek

This prepared the way for the Gospel to be spread to all peoples across the Empire!

The Preparation

Pax Romana

- ✱ - "Roman Peace"
- ✱ - circa 27 BC to AD 180
- ✱ - Established under the rule Julius Caesar's nephew and successor, Octavian, who became Emperor under the name Caesar Augustus
- ✱ - He called for the census which brought about the fulfillment of prophecy
- ✱ - Law and Order prevail across the vast Roman Empire
- ✱ - Roman roads and shipping make travel safe and accessible as never before
- ✱ - Alexandrian ships could carry 200 passengers!

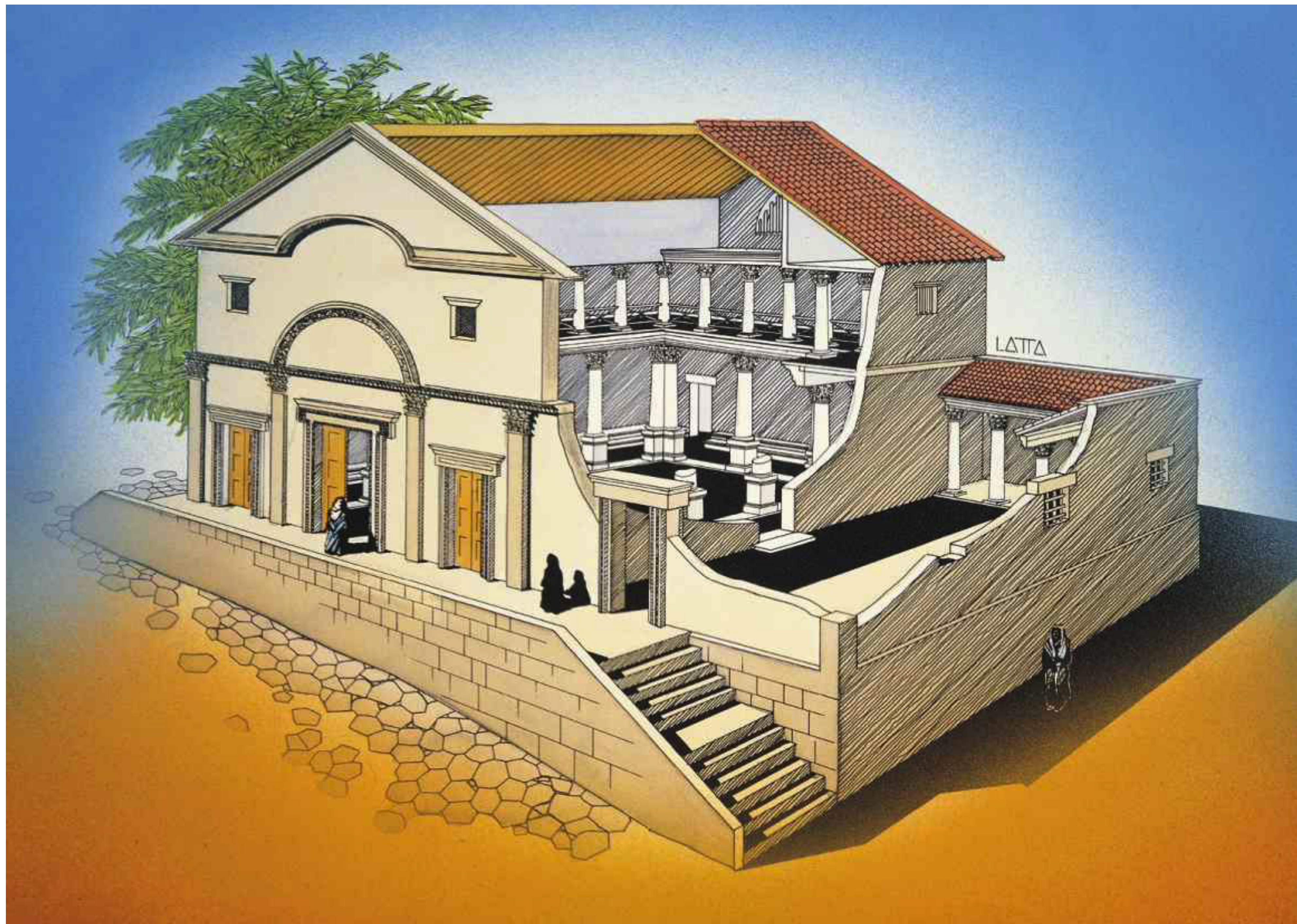
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The Preparation

The Synagogue

- * - συναγωγή = Greek for a "gathering together"
- * - established during the Exile by Ezra and other "teaching priests" after the destruction of the First Temple
- * - Jews were dispersed throughout the world, now there was a synagogue present wherever Jews lived, which was pretty much everywhere
- * - center of Jewish life, culture and worship - focused on the reading of the Torah and teaching of the rabbis
- * - The Septuagint (LXX, Greek translation) was often read, which everyone could understand
- * - Jesus went to the local synagogues to teach and preach, as did the apostles
- * - Everywhere the apostles went the Word was already there!

This prepared the way for the Gospel to be spread to all peoples across the Empire!

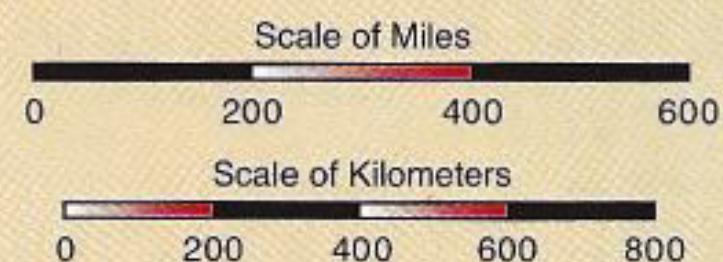


The Players

The Romans

- * - rulers of a vast empire in New Testament times
- * - Generally were tolerant with respect to local religion and gods
- * - Syncretism: The Romans had MANY gods!
- * - Generally allowed conquered countries to have a degree of self-government, as long as they submitted to Roman authority and paid taxes
- * - Herod was one of these rulers appointed to govern under Rome

The Roman Empire



Hispania Name of Roman Province or Region

— Boundary of Roman Empire at A.D. 150

Area of Empire at A.D. 14
(Death of Augustus)

Area Added after A.D. 14
(Death of Augustus)

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The Players

The Herods

- * - a family of political opportunists who ruled over Judea under Rome
- * - Not Jews, rather Idumean (Edomite) - descended from Esau
- * - Herod the Great ruled when Jesus was born
- * - Was given the title "King of the Jews"
- * - Slaughtered the babes in Bethlehem
- * - Sought to please the Jews by beautifying their Temple (2nd temple build after the return from Exile)
- * - So magnificent, it was considered to be one the wonders of the ancient world
- * - Consider the words of Jesus when the disciple were marvelling at the Temple buildings:
"not one stone will be left upon another"
- * - Destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70



The Players

The Tax Collectors

- * - Jews who were hired by Romans to collect taxes from their own people
- * - The Romans put these jobs out for bid, and typically gave them to the lowest bidder
- * - Tax collectors often collected more than required to line their own pockets
- * - Hence they were almost universally despised and hated
- * - The religious people were offended that Jesus hung out with "tax collectors" - since they were viewed as the very dregs of society.
- * - Matthew the apostle, author of the 1st gospel was one before Jesus called him!

The Players

The Sanhedrin

- * - συνέδριον = Greek for "sitting together" as the elders do to preside
- * - the highest court of the Jews
- * - often translated as "The Council"
- * e.g. Acts 5:41: So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.

The Players

The Pharisees

- ✱ - one of the two groups that split off from the corrupt Maccabean rulers c. 150 BC
- ✱ - "Separated Ones"
- ✱ - Diligent students of Scripture and keepers of the Law
- ✱ - Very highly regarded in the community
- ✱ - The forefathers of current Orthodox Judaism

The Players

The Sadducees

- * - mostly wealthy priests who had remained loyal to the corrupt rulers after the Maccabean revolt
- * - tended to be secular and skeptical
- * - in our time they would be the liberal intellectual elites
- * - they were very prominent in the Sanhedrin
- * - after the destruction of the Temple in AD 70, they were no more

The Players

The Scribes

- ✱ - became a band or guild under the oppression of Antiochus Epiphanes
- ✱ - Also known as "lawyers" in the New Testament, i.e. Teachers of the Law
- ✱ - a literate minority in an oral based-culture, copied the Hebrew Scriptures
- ✱ - regarded as experts in the Law of Moses
- ✱ - originators of the synagogue service
- ✱ - some sat on the Sanhedrin, and were called upon to make judgments based on the Law

The Players

The Zealots

- ✱ - a party of political revolutionaries who advocated rebellion against Roman rule
- ✱ - emulated the Maccabees in their resistance to godless tyranny
- ✱ - they opposed payment of taxes to Rome since God is the true king of Israel
- ✱ - In the inner circle of the Twelve apostles, Jesus had 2 who would naturally be bitter enemies: Matthew the Tax Collector, and Simon the Zealot!

Class Information

- * Link to class notes will be posted in Populi
- * Homework assignments will be posted in Populi
- * Homework is due at the beginning of each class - no exceptions